

**SATTLEMENT  
REPORT PALAMU  
DISTRICT  
1913-1920**



GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR AND ORISSA.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS AND SURVEYS,  
BIHAR AND ORISSA.

No. 3394(a).

FROM

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TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,  
BIHAR AND ORISSA.

*Dated Patna, the 23rd August, 1920.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in the district of Palamau written by Mr. T. W. Bridge, I.C.S. The Cadastral Survey of the district began in November, 1913, with Mr. J. D. Sifton, I.C.S., as Settlement Officer, Mr. Bridge being Charge Officer under him. In 1916 Mr. Bridge succeeded Mr. Sifton as Settlement Officer, and remained in that post, with one or two short intervals of leave, until the completion of fair rent settlement in April, 1920.

2. The report contains as usual a history of the district, a description of its physical features and other characteristics, an examination of its revenue administration from the time of the British occupation, an account of the Settlement operations, the reasons for undertaking them, the opposition raised to them, and the difficulties, due to that opposition, encountered in carrying them through. It also describes the prevalent systems of land tenure, discusses the relations between landlords and tenants, and the effect of these relations on the agricultural development of the district.

3. The total area of Palamau is 4,904 square miles of which only about 27 per cent. or 1,365 square miles, is under cultivation. The greater portion of the land under cultivation consists of uplands which only bear a crop once in three years, the average area of such lands cropped in a year being 750 square miles or 55 per cent. of the total cultivated area. The uplands capable of being annually cultivated measure about 330 square miles, and the rice lands only 278 square miles. Of the uncultivated area, which includes nearly three-fourths of the entire district, 300 square miles are Reserved and Protected Forests. The balance 3,240 square miles consists for the most part of village jungles, of which about 2,000 square miles are reported to be unfit for reclamation.

The population of the district at the Census of 1911 was 687,267 or about four persons to every acre of rice land. Rice is by far the most important crop, the food crops next to it in importance being maize, barley, *gonalli*, *marua*, wheat and *urid*. Oil seeds, chiefly *til*, mustard and *surguja*, are sown on 307 square miles. The district grows only 5,000 acres of sugar cane and 500 of cotton. Forty-seven per cent. of the cultivated area bears a *bhadai* crop, 16 per cent. an *aghani* crop, and 37 per cent. a *rabi* crop.

Irrigation is chiefly from *ahars*, and is practically confined to the rice lands, of which one quarter is efficiently irrigated and one quarter partially irrigated, the remaining half being dependent on the direct rainfall which they receive.

These figures confirm the conclusion of the Irrigation Commission that Palamau is the driest and probably the poorest district in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. In paragraph 275 Mr. Bridge has compared it with the Kolhan Estate in Singhbhum, an estate which has been supposed to bear some similarity to Palamau district, and shows that, although the area open to cultivation outside the Reserved and Protected Forests is more than four times as great in Palamau as it is in the Kolhan, and although the population is twice as numerous, the area actually under cultivation is almost the same in both. Moreover 55 per cent. of the cultivated area of Palamau consists of inferior upland, the area of rice land in the Kolhan being two and a half times the area of rice land in Palamau. In face of these facts the theory which has hitherto prevailed *viz.*, that in Palamau the competition is between landlords for raiyats to bring under cultivation the extensive waste lands of the district, and not between the raiyats for the privilege of being allowed to cultivate them, and that the raiyats, in consequence, do not require the protection of the Tenancy laws, must be abandoned. Mr. Bridge's report as a whole is an exposition of the falsity of this theory, and demonstrates that the failure to enforce these laws has enabled the landholders of Palamau to exploit their position to the utmost, and to raise rents to a pitch unknown elsewhere in Chota Nagpur, with the result that extension of cultivation has been discouraged. The capriciousness of the rainfall and the consequent liability of the district to famine has, by lowering the stamina of the poorer class of cultivators, contributed to this result.

4. For a proper understanding of the problems raised by the settlement operations, a knowledge of the history of the district and of its revenue administration is indispensable. It is fortunate that Mr. Bridge, in writing on these subjects, in chapter III of his report, has had access to documents which do not appear to have been previously examined, documents which throw light on many questions, and explain many facts which were previously in doubt.

Palamau has been occupied by a succession of aboriginal tribes driven from the plains of South Bihar by the advance of the Hindus to seek a refuge in the jungles of Chota Nagpur. Mr. Bridge estimates that 46 per cent. of the present population consists of the descendants of such tribes, who have adopted to a certain extent the religious observances of Hinduism.

In Chapter III Mr. Bridge traces the later history of the Cheros, the race which ruled Palamau at the time of the British conquest. The first British occupation of the district was made in 1771 in order to reinstate a Chero Raja who had been dispossessed by a rival. Neither the restored Raja nor his successors was able to keep order among the *jagirdars* or subordinate chiefs who held a great part of the district, or to obtain from them payment of their customary tribute. In consequence, the Raja himself was unable to pay to Government the revenue assessed on him in 1789, with the result that, in 1813, his estate, Pargana Palamau, was sold for arrears of revenue and purchased by Government. Instead of taking direct possession Government then settled it with the Raja of Deco, but resumed it in 1819 as he also failed to restore order. After the resumption, the *Khalsa* villages, *i.e.* the villages in direct possession of the Raja, or rather so many of them as had escaped misappropriation by the *jagirdars* during the mal-administration of the later Rajas, became what is now the Palamau Government Estate. The remainder of the Pargana was left in possession of the *jagirdars* and the question then arose, what were the rights of the latter? The inquiry into this subject, which was left uncompleted in 1828, was not resumed until about forty years later, and was only finally disposed of in 1895. In the Decennial settlement of 1789, the settlement of the revenue, or more correctly speaking, the tribute payable by the Raja, was based on a rough estimate of his income from the *Khalsa* villages and from the contributions of the *jagirdars*. The information on which this was based was of the vaguest, and it drew no distinction between those *jagirdars* who from long possession (whatever its origin) might be supposed to have acquired permanent rights, and *jagirdars*, or even

*ijaradars*, of a later date. The difficulty of maintaining even a semblance of order in the district at the time when Government purchased the estate forbade any attempt to exercise the power of resuming the *jagirs* given by the purchase, and by the time order had been restored the question appears to have been lost sight of. In 1895 the impossibility of obtaining, after such a long interval, correct information as to the rights of individual *jagirdars*, finally led Government to accept the proposal to treat all *jagirdars* and *ijaradars* as proprietors, and to regard the tributes recorded as due from them in the Decennial Settlement, as the revenue which they should pay in perpetuity. By this decision all obtained a status which few of them could have claimed in 1813. Seeing the manner in which Government allowed its rights over the *jagirdars* to lapse through default, it is not surprising that it made no attempt to interfere between them and their tenants. Mr. N. Smith, the Collector, when asked in 1823 for a report on the rights of the latter, declared that they had none, and that it would be a mistake to give them any. "The terre tenants" he wrote "are from the nature of things destined to live from hand to mouth. To what end and for what purpose, then, give them the little of occupancy on permanent rates? Property in land is only useful to the possessor for (1) improve ment by capital, and (2) accumulation of capital. The terre-tenants do not possess capital and accumulation is equally foreign to their habits. Why then entangle capital with claims hostile to its interest and incompatible with its security"? "It is better" he added "to deliver the terre-tenants over to the monied man than to limit the employment of capital by entangling individuals in dispute with cultivators". Although the Board of Revenue asked for a further report on the subject, and expressed the view that the peace of pargana Palamau could not be secured until something had been done to make the tenantry contented and prosperous, and although Mr. Smith's successor advocated the making of an attempt to give, at least to the raiyats of the Government Estate, some security of tenure, this matter also appears to have been lost sight of. The "terre-tenants" both of the *jagirs* and of the Government Estate were left, as Mr. Smith recommended that they should be left, to the mercy of the capitalists. They were not recognised as having any rights, and, although Act X of 1859 was nominally in force in the district, its provisions, as Mr. Forbes reported in 1864, afforded no protection even to the raiyats of the Government Estate against the extortionate demands of the *thikadars*.

The effects on the district of this policy of *laissez-faire* are described in Mr. Bridge's report, and are precisely what one would expect to find. A tenant who ventured to reclaim jungle and turn it into rice land was only allowed to hold it so long as he paid whatever rent the landlord demanded. If he failed to satisfy the landlord's demands he "surrendered" his holding, which was thereupon either settled with another tenant or added to the lands cultivated by the landlord himself. The prevalence throughout the district, on a scale unparalleled elsewhere in this province, of the system of agricultural serfdom known as "*kamiuti*", and of the system of forced labour known as *begari*, has, by ensuring an unfailing supply of cheap labour, rendered it possible for Palamau landlords to keep in their own cultivation an unusually high proportion of the best lands, and, by so doing, to defeat any combination of raiyats entered into for the purpose of lowering rentals by refusing to cultivate lands for which rack-rents are demanded. The extent to which the *kamiuti* and *begari* system flourish in Palamau is symptomatic of, and is due to, the depressed condition of the agricultural classes, which condition is itself largely the effect of the prevalence of high rents and of the lack of security of tenure. The worst characteristics of the Palamau system actually became, in the hands of the landlords, a weapon for suppressing any attempt of the raiyats to revolt against it. In these circumstances it is not surprising that the district should have remained in its present deplorable condition. The area under cultivation does not produce sufficient food to support the population; the incidence of rent in proportion to the produce of the lands is higher than in any other district in the province, and is certainly many times greater than in the adjacent districts



of Hazaribagh and Ranchi. Agricultural improvements by landlords are mainly confined to the repair of the *bandhs* and *ahars* which irrigate their own lands, lands which, as Mr. Bridge's report shows, have, generally wherever their history can be traced, been found to have been reclaimed by raiyats at their own expense, and to have been taken from them when after repeated enhancements the rent became too high for them to pay.

60,000 of the population consist of *kamias* or their dependents and a large proportion of the remainder is in a state of economic dependence only one degree better than that of a *kamia*.

In 1906 it was proposed by Mr. Jyall, the then Deputy Commissioner, to extend to Palamau the Settlement operations which were in progress in Ranchi district. At the very time when this proposal was made the landlords were themselves, in anticipation of the settlement, putting their houses in order, making further enhancements of rents, and introducing cesses which had not been previously paid. In order to disguise the fact that they were making illegal enhancements of rent, some of them abolished the old methods of rent assessment prevalent in the district, by which the rents were based on a rough estimate of the rice land cultivated by a raiyat, and introduced an assessment based on the application of rates per bigha to the areas of both uplands and rice lands as ascertained by a measurement. Their measurements were generally absurdly incorrect; their rates, which were so fixed that the assessment of the rice lands alone would have produced an enhancement, were applied in a most capricious manner, and the attempted disguise of their infraction of the law prohibiting private enhancements would not have deceived a child. In 1911 as the time for the inception of the settlement operations approached, they presented to the Lieutenant-Governor a memorial protesting against the proposal to prepare a record-of-rights. Their protest was, after discussion with the local authorities, overruled. The correspondence on the subject of their memorial, which is printed as appendix "O" to the report, is interesting reading. Mr. Streatfeild, the then Deputy Commissioner, supported the landlords' protest. The opinion of Mr. McIntosh, the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur, was that the very circumstance which Mr. Streatfeild considered to be a good ground for abandoning the settlement, *viz.*, the non-existence in the district of raiyati right or security of tenure, was the strongest argument for proceeding with it. The operations began in 1912-13 and were carried out on the same general principles as were followed in Hazaribagh and Ranchi. In the seasons 1913-14 and 1914-15, while the rents paid by the raiyats in the first half of the district were being ascertained and recorded, the Settlement Officer disallowed, on the ground that they contravened the provisions of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, all private enhancements of rent made since 1901. At the same time my predecessor, Mr. Reid, called attention in his inspection notes to the absolute disregard by the landlords of the provisions of the Act, and to the effect of this disregard on the economic condition of the raiyats. The landlords, realizing that the very existence of the system which had so long enabled them to ignore the tenancy law was at stake, made a last effort, and presented memorials to the Lieutenant-Governor asserting that the settlement operations were being conducted in a grossly unfair and improper spirit, and in a manner highly prejudicial to their interests. On my appointment to the post of Director in April, 1916, I was directed to make an inquiry on the subject. I found that there was no ground for the charges brought against the Settlement Officer; that the landlords' real grievance was that the Settlement Officer had applied the provisions of an Act which they had hitherto ignored, and that it would have been impossible, while applying that Act, to prepare a record of rights which would have satisfied the memorialists. This opinion was endorsed by the Board of Revenue and by Government. In passing orders on the memorials Government held that the principles followed by the Settlement Officer were in accordance with the law, and that there was no reason to believe that his decisions had been generally other than correct. The memorialists were warned that their opposition to the enforcement of the Tenancy Act was futile. At

the same time Government ordered a general settlement of fair rents to be made in the district, and pointed out that when this was being carried out the memorialists would have an opportunity of obtaining the correction of any mistakes which might have crept into the record.

The effect of these orders is described in the report. The landlords, finding that the major issue, i.e., the legality of their private enhancements of rents was decided against them, made no attempt during fair rent settlement to contest the minor points raised in their memorials, *e.g.*, the correctness of the record of *khunikatti* lands, of landlord's private lands, of the privileges possessed by the makers of rice lands, and of the customs governing the acquisition of occupancy rights. The result of the fair rent settlement was to reduce by 9.66 per cent. the rents recorded during attestation. The recorded rents themselves were, on account of the excision of illegal enhancements, considerably less than the rents demanded by the landlords.

5. In addition to a Government estate of 340 square miles the district contains 253 revenue paying estates with an area of 2,774 square miles and 135 revenue-free estates which cover 861 square miles. The revenue of Tori pargana which appertains to the Chota Nagpur estate is paid in Ranchi. The revenue assessment on the revenue paying estates averages a little over nine rupees per square mile, and represents less than three per cent. of the income on which the proprietors have been assessed to road cess. It represents an even smaller percentage of the rents which they claimed to have been collecting before the settlement operations.

6. A noticeable feature of the statistics given in paragraph 272 is that the landlords, among whom are included the petty proprietors and tenure-holders, hold in their own possession 30 per cent. of the rice-land and 21 per cent. of the uplands, a very much higher proportion than they hold in any other Chota Nagpur district. The explanation is undoubtedly to be found in the prevalence of the *begari* and *kamiauti* systems.

7. In chapter X, Mr. Bridge gives the history of the various settlement made in the Government Estate. This estate which now covers 340 square miles originally consisted of the Khalsa villages of the Raja of Palamau which, after the resumption of Palamau pargana in 1816, came into the direct possession of Government. To these were subsequently added a number of villages confiscated from private owners after the disturbances of 1831-32 and of 1857. Up to 1896, the *pariadari* system prevailed, and the rent payable by each raiyat was based on a rough estimate of the rice-lands cultivated by him and did not take into account his uplands. The villages were periodically leased to thikadars over whom little control was exercised. It was not until Mr. Forbes's settlement in 1870 that Government intervened to the extent of fixing the rents which the thikadars might demand from their raiyats. Mr. Forbes fixed rents for the raiyats, but as he generally accepted the high rates which the thikadars had succeeded in imposing, the settlement brought little relief to the tenants. He did not abolish the *pariadari* system, but attempted to put an end to the system of fluctuating upland cultivation incidental to it by fixing a limit to the amount of upland which a raiyat owning a *paria* of land might cultivate. This attempt also was a failure. After the settlement the thikadars reverted to the old system, enhanced rents at their will, and, provided these rents were paid, allowed the tenants to cultivate as they pleased.

At the next settlement, made by Mr. Sunder in 1896, it was decided to abolish the thikadari system and to take the Estate under direct management. There can be no doubt of the wisdom of this decision, but its effect was spoiled by the method adopted in fixing rents. The raiyati rental fixed by Mr. Forbes in 1870 was Rs. 40,843. In 1896 this was increased to Rs. 74,433 in addition to an assessment of Rs. 10,083 on account of lac and Rs. 3,270 on account of *mahua* trees. The new rent assessment was professedly based on the application of rates per bigha to both uplands and rice-lands, the *pariadari* system of assessing rice-lands only being abolished.

The Settlement Officer at first attributed the increase of rent to an enhancement of rate, but subsequently explained it by saying that the area of rice-land had increased by 32 per cent. and that of upland by 501 per cent. since the last settlement. The point was not cleared up at the time, but the examination of the old records made by Mr. Bridge has shown that these figures are quite imaginary, and has also disclosed the real nature of the settlement and the explanation of the enormous enhancement. The rates sanctioned in 1896 being rates per bigha are not capable of comparison with the *pariadari* rates of Mr. Forbes' settlement. The indefinite nature of the *paria* unit forbids such comparison. Moreover, the *thikadars* had already, before 1896, enhanced by 43 per cent. the rents fixed by Mr. Forbes in 1870, and the rates sanctioned by Government in 1896 were, in practice, applied only to increase these enhanced rents. Where their application would have reduced rents the Settlement Officer accepted the *thikadar's* rents and added to them assessments for lac and *mahua*, items which had undoubtedly, in many cases, been covered by the rents paid to the *thikadars*. The disastrous results of the 1896 settlement were brought to notice by Mr. Lyall the Deputy Commissioner and an account of them is given in paragraphs 342 and 343 of the report. On Mr. Lyall's recommendations considerable remissions of rent were made, and a large sum was spent on improvements to *ahars*. Had the Deputy Commissioner or Government been then aware of the facts about the 1896 settlement which have since come to light, it is probable that the remissions would have been even more generous, and that a more liberal policy would have been subsequently followed when enhancing the rentals of holdings affected by Mr. Lyall's improvements. The result of these later enhancements, based on a reclassification by the mutation staff, and of the assessment of new reclamations discovered by the same staff, was further to raise by  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. the rents fixed in 1896. Mr. Bridge gives convincing reasons for believing that this further enhancement was not only illegal but inequitable. The mutation staff, besides raising the classification of lands which were in no way benefitted by the improvements, reported and assessed increases of cultivation which have been found during the recent survey to be largely imaginary. Mr. Bridge reports that since 1896 the area of upland cultivation has actually decreased, and that the area of rice-land has increased by only  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., astonishing figures for a model estate in an undeveloped district like Palamau. रामेव नयने

During the recent operations the question of again increasing the rental of the estate was discussed. Mr. Forrest the Deputy Commissioner proposed an enhancement of Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 30,000, but after much discussion it was decided that no further enhancement could equitably be taken. Fair rents were settled, as in the private estates, by the application of maximum and minimum rates. The rates sanctioned for the Government estate were, however, much lower than in the private estates and the net result of their application was to reduce the existing rental from Rs. 84,828-1-5 to Rs. 78,332-15-3, a reduction of seven per cent. This reduced rental exceeds by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. the rental fixed in 1896. Government at the same time made substantial concessions to the *raiya*t in respect of the assessment of lac trees and *mahua* trees standing on their holdings, and, struck by the remarkable failure to extend cultivation in the estate during the last 24 years, gave to the reclaimers of rice-land concessions which, although commonly granted in private estates in Ranchi and Hazaribagh, must, to Palamau landlords, appear almost revolutionary. The careful examination of the history of this estate and its previous settlements made by Mr. Bridge, and his account of the prolonged discussion which preceded the settlement of fair rents, will not be wasted if they help to prevent a repetition of the mistakes of the past. The management of a Government Estate is often influenced by the local *Zamindari* traditions in which the subordinate officials have been reared, and it is difficult for the head of the district to eliminate entirely this influence. The task should be easier now that the methods of Palamau zamindars have been subjected to a searching examination, and their effect in hindering the development of the district exposed. It is worthy of note that whereas the rental

of the Government estate represents  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the value of the gross produce, the rents recorded in the private estates, after excising illegal enhancements, represent 20 per cent. of the value of the produce.

(8) The *Kamiauti* system of agricultural serfdom, discussed in paragraphs 281 to 284, flourishes in Palamau to an extent unknown in the other districts of this province. *Kamias* and their dependants number 60,000 out of a total population of 700,000 and a considerable proportion of those who are not actually *kamias* are but one degree removed from it.

The Agricultural Labourers Act of 1920, which now awaits the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, was introduced by Government with the object of putting an end to this system, which, as Mr. Bridge's special report to Government shows, is on the increase. It remains to be seen whether the Act will achieve its purpose. It imposes no new penalty on those *kamia* owners whose agreements with their *kamias* are so oppressive as to be opposed to public policy. It merely emphasizes the principle on which the Courts have, I believe, invariably acted that these agreements are unenforceable in law. The danger is that the ignorance and poverty of the *kamias* will continue to prevent them from claiming their legal rights, and that they will still be compelled by their owners to carry out the conditions of their bonds. Should this happen the advisability of more stringent legislation on the subject will have to be considered.

Whatever the origin of the system may have been, it has probably grown out of the slavery to which the Aryan invaders reduced the aboriginal inhabitants of the edges of the Chota Nagpur plateau, its continuance is perpetuated, and its evils enhanced, by the system of high rents, forced labour and lack of security of tenure which prevail in the district, and the consequent discouragement of all agricultural development. The average holding of the Palamau raiyat is totally inadequate for the maintenance of his family, and until extension of cultivation is encouraged by the enforcement of the Tenancy Law and the recognition of the rights of the cultivators shown in the record of rights, it is hopeless to expect any improvement.

(9) In chapter XI, Mr. Bridge deals with the estates managed under the Encumbered Estates Act VI of 1876.

These estates are thirty in number and cover 1,197 square miles. They are scattered over the district and combine, in Mr. Bridge's opinion, the maximum of difficulties in direct administration with the minimum of resources for the maintenance of an adequate establishment. In 18 of them the collections from tenants are less than Rs. 2,000 per year. Their proprietors are nearly all of high caste, or wish to be considered as such. Most of them live on their estates and still hold possession of the best lands, which they cultivate by forced labour. They interfere in the management, and are constantly endeavouring to supplement, by exactions from their raiyats, the allowances made to them by the manager. Mr. Bridge is of opinion that the administration of these estates imposes an unjustifiable burden on the district authorities, and demoralizes the proprietors, without any countervailing advantages to the raiyats.

10. The Settlement Officer has found that a custom exists practically in every village in the district whereby all raiyats paying cash rents possess a right of occupancy in their holdings irrespective of the period of their occupation. This finding has been questioned by the landlords on the ground that it is opposed to his declaration that occupancy right as described in the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act is non-existent in Palamau. The answer to this contention is that whereas the raiyats are completely ignorant of their statutory rights, both they and the landlords know that although the latter can and do summarily and arbitrarily eject cash-rent-paying raiyats from their holdings, it is wrong to eject them. The theory that every raiyat is entitled to remain in possession of his holding so long as he pays the village rate of rent is, in fact, as well recognised in Palamau as it is in Ranchi and Hazaribagh, and its validity is not lessened by the fact that, like all other rights, statutory or customary, possessed by Palamau raiyats, it is frequently ignored in practice.

11. In chapter XII of his report Mr. Bridge deals with the question of the rights in jungle possessed by raiyats. In the memorials presented by the landlords to Government the Settlement Officer's findings on the subject of these rights were vigorously attacked. It was asserted that he has conferred on the raiyats rights which they never before possessed, and that the effect of doing so will be to encourage them to destroy valuable jungle. Mr. Bridge, however, shows clearly in his report that the record of these rights is based on actual facts; that the rights which the raiyats have been recorded as possessing are identical with those which raiyats have been found to exercise in the neighbouring districts of Chota Nagpur, and that the landlords have never, except in their memorials, seriously denied that the raiyats exercise these rights. He also shows that while the landlords have made little or no endeavour to prevent their raiyats from wasting jungle, he himself has, in preparing the record of jungle rights, recorded them as subject to limitations which the landlords have not, in practice, attempted to impose. To the objection that the recognition of these rights, subject even to the restrictions now placed upon them, may lead to the destruction of the forests, and that they ought to have been recorded as exerciseable only with the permission of the landlords, his answer is that the landlords have never shown the least desire to preserve their forests, and that a refusal to recognise these rights would merely allow landlords to put pressure on the raiyats in order to compel them to pay rents higher than those settled as fair. I have no doubt that Mr. Bridge is correct, and that if the landlords were to succeed in nullifying the record of rents they would allow the raiyats to use the jungle with as little supervision and as little care for its preservation as in the past. It is true, however, that the existence of a formal record of the raiyats' rights will render it more difficult for any landlord to undertake forest preservation, should he wish to do so. It was suggested that, in Palamau at least, where there is still a very large area of forest, this difficulty could be got over by partitioning the jungle and forming large reserves in which the raiyats' rights should be totally extinguished.

In paragraph 402 of his report Mr. Bridge gives an account of his attempt to create such a reserve in the Chainpur Estate. The late Raja was approached on the subject, and it was suggested to him that he would be assisted in forming a forest reserve of 120 square miles provided he gave certain guarantees to ensure the introduction of an elementary form of forest preservation. He declined to give any such guarantee and, as an excuse for his refusal, he alleged that it would be unfair to the raiyats to debar them from the exercise of their customary rights over such a large area. In using this argument he seems to have forgotten that he was one of those who signed the memorial in which the existence of these rights was strenuously denied. Mr. Bridge's account of this transaction shows the improbability that Palamau landlords, believing, as they do, that forest preservation does not pay, will ever be induced to undertake it, or that it will be in any way furthered by denying the raiyats' right to take wood and other forest produce for domestic and agricultural purposes except with the landlord's permission.

12. The settlement of fair rents made in Palamau was on a much more extensive scale than those made in Ranchi and Hazaribagh. As a resettlement of revenue was due in the Government Estate a settlement of fair rents was naturally ordered to be made for all its tenants, but in the remainder of the district fair rents would in normal circumstances have been settled only for the holdings in respect of which applications were instituted by landlords or tenants. At an early stage of the operations, however, the Settlement Officer drew attention to the excessively high pitch of rent prevailing in many villages owned by private landlords, and proposed a fair rent settlement with a view to its reduction. During the discussion of the landlords' memorials, the Deputy Commissioner made the suggestion that a fair rent settlement might enable them to recover a portion of the reduction of their rent roll caused by the excision of illegal enhancements. When passing orders on the memorials, Government, in February 1917, issued orders for a general settlement of fair rents on the grounds quoted in paragraph 294 of Mr. Bridge's report, *viz.*, that it would help to put the relations of landlords and tenants on

a satisfactory basis, and that it would give to the landlords an additional opportunity of pointing out and of obtaining the correction, if found to be wrong, of any entries in the record to which they objected. These orders directed a general settlement of fair rents in the second half of the district, the records of which had not then been finally published. As regards the half of the district previously dealt with, the Deputy Commissioner was directed to submit proposals in consultation with the Settlement Officer, and to select villages in which the pitch of the rents indicated that some reduction was desirable, or in which the landlords' representations showed that an enhancement might reasonably be expected. As the settlement operations progressed it became increasingly evident that a general fair rent settlement must inevitably result in a reduction of the recorded rents, since the average incidence was so high that a restoration, even in part, of the illegal enhancements excised during attestation could be expected in very few villages. The preparation of the instructions for fair rent settlement was found a difficult problem. As Mr. Bridge explains in his report, paragraph 296, the method of settling fair rents previously followed in Chota Nagpur was to take the average pitch of existing rents in a thana or similar homogeneous area as a standard, and to reduce or enhance the rent of each holding according as it exceeded, or was exceeded by, this standard. It had been ruled by a former Commissioner that where a fair rent is being settled on the application of a landlord, the existing rent cannot be reduced even though it greatly exceeds the standard. As practically all the fair rent settlements previously made in Chota Nagpur were made on the application of landlords, fair rent settlement had become a process by which the Settlement Officer, after making an examination of the incidence of rent in holdings selected by the landlords, increased those rents which were below the general average of the area and settled the remainder, however high they might be, as fair and equitable. Applied to districts like Ranchi and Hazaribagh, where the incidence of rent is at present comparatively low, this method has not, hitherto at least, produced the inequitable results which might have been expected. To apply it in Palamau was out of the question. It is true that in the latter district, as most of the rents were being settled by orders of Government and not on the application of the landlords, reductions as well as enhancements would be allowable, but the average pitch of the rents in many parts of the district was clearly much too high to permit of its being regarded as the standard of a fair rent. After much consultation between the Settlement Officer, the Deputy Commissioner, myself, the Commissioner and the Board, the principles of rent settlement explained in paragraph 305 of the report were agreed on. Maximum and minimum rates were determined for each class of land, and it was decided to leave untouched all rents between these limits, to reduce to the maximum those exceeding the maximum, and to enhance only those less than the minimum. These principles, which are really in the nature of a compromise, received the approval of Government. A compromise was necessary, for it would have been impossible, in a district with the zamindari traditions of Palamau, to secure the assent of the landlords to the application of rates which would have been considered fair in other Chota Nagpur districts. The net result of the fair rent settlement was to reduce the total recorded rental of the district by about ten per cent. It was anticipated in some quarters that the landlords would revive during fair rent settlement, all the objections which they had raised in their memorials, *viz.*, objections to the entries of existing rent and status, to the correctness of the Settlement Officer's findings on the subject of *khuntkatti* and jungle rights, renew their claims to *zirat*, and demand the restoration of the enhancements which the Settlement Officer had excised. It was also expected that the landlords of the first half of the district would exercise freely the option given to them of asking for a general settlement of fair rent in any villages they thought proper. These anticipations were not realized. The landlords of the first year's area only asked for a settlement of rents by notification in 92 villages, and in the vast majority of these their request was not for a general settlement of rents, but for the enhancement of the rent of a few holdings. When rents were being settled, objections by the

landlords to the record prepared during attestation were exceedingly rare. They also made little or no protest, either before the Settlement Officer or on appeal before the Commissioner, as to the fairness of the rates adopted, the only exception being the Zamindar of Mahuadanr, who not content with the enhancement of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. given him by the rates specially sanctioned for that area, asked for the application of the higher rates sanctioned for the remainder of the district.

13. The total cost of the operations works out to about Rs. 12,40,000 and the net cost to Rs. 11,84,242, of which Rs. 3,84,881 has been borne by the Government of India, the remainder Rs. 7,99,354 being recoverable from the landlords and tenants, including the Local Government as landlord of the Government Estate. The net cost rate works out at Rs. 256 per square mile which is slightly higher than the cost of the operations in Hazaribagh district. Having regard to the difficulty of the Settlement, and to the fact that fair rents have been settled for about 1,20,650 tenants the cost does not seem excessive. Up to the date of writing this review a sum of Rs. 7,75,816 has already been collected from the landlords and tenants and a further sum of Rs. 94,895 is to be collected in the coming field season. It is probable that a portion of this amount, estimated by the Settlement Officer at Rs. 20,000 will have to be remitted as irrecoverable, but after allowing for this, and after setting aside a sum of Rs. 17,633 for the maintenance of boundary marks, there will probably remain an excess collection of about Rs. 30,000. This is due to the fact that the rates assessed on the landlords and tenants were fixed at a time when it was expected that the work of fair rent settlement would be much more costly than it has actually proved to be. The rate at which the cost was levied varied, as usual, with the class of land, and ranged from three annas an acre for the lowest class of upland to Rs. 2-8-0 an acre for the best rice land. In the second half of the district, where a general settlement of fair rents was made, the rates for rice land and for the first class of upland were increased by four annas an acre to cover the extra cost of the fair rent settlement.

14. The report, which runs to 179 pages, exceeds in length the standard fixed for settlement reports, but it would have been difficult for Mr. Bridge to condense into a smaller space the extremely interesting and valuable description which he has given of the district, its past history and administration and its present economic condition, with a full account of the most difficult settlement operations yet carried out in Chota Nagpur. Merely to say that the report will be useful to the local officers is insufficient. I cannot imagine that any officer can possibly hope to administer Palamau District efficiently without having studied it closely. It is not to be expected that those who objected to the settlement will abandon their opposition now that the operations are over. On the contrary, there is only too much reason to fear that on the departure of the Settlement Officer and his staff they will renew their efforts to nullify the record-of-rights. Should their attempts fail the credit will be largely due to Mr. Bridge, who has not only, with the help of the assistants whose co-operation he has acknowledged in paragraph 427, brought to a successful conclusion, in the face of determined opposition, settlement operations of unusual intricacy, but has written a report which, if the information contained in it is properly assimilated and utilized, should defeat any attempt to revert to the conditions prevailing before the settlement.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

P. W. MURPHY,

*Director of Land Records and Surveys,  
Bihar and Orissa*



No. 17-109—2.  
BOARD OF REVENUE.  
BIHAR AND ORISSA.

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FROM

E. R. J. R. COUSINS, Esq., I.C.S.,  
OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,  
BIHAR AND ORISSA,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR  
AND ORISSA, REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

*Dated Bankipur, the 24th January, 1921.*

SIR,

UNDER Rule 615, Part II, Chapter XVI, page 162 of the Bengal Settlement Manual, 1908, I am directed to forward the Final Report of the Survey and Settlement Operations in the district of Palamau, prepared by Mr. T. W. Bridge, I.C.S., late Settlement Officer of Chota Nagpur, together with a copy of a review written by Mr. P. W. Murphy, I.C.S., the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Bihar and Orissa, for the information and orders of Government, with the following observations.

2. There is little to be added to Mr. Murphy's review which covers the necessary ground. The report is of exceptional interest, and the Board has much pleasure in commending to the notice of Government the services of Mr. Sifton in initiating, and of Mr. Bridge in carrying through a settlement of unusual intricacy, signalized by differences of view which added materially to the labour of the task. The burden of the work fell upon Mr. Bridge, to whom the credit of its successful completion is due. The Board wishes to acknowledge the assistance rendered by the Director of Land Records in advising from time to time upon the vexed issues involved. It recognizes that a tribute is also due to those whose strenuous advocacy of views which were ultimately disallowed contributed not a little to a reasoned elucidation of the result. But it trusts that the issues having been decided and the proceedings having attained finality, the Government may feel every confidence that the loyal co-operation of all officers will be assured in giving effect to the record and to the obligations of the Tenancy law.

3. The Board agrees that the report should be studied by all officers concerned with the administration of the district, and commends the note explaining the Settlement record and procedure in Appendix X as of special interest. The suggestions with regard to costs in frivolous cases in paragraph 147, with regard to the establishment and improvements in Government Estates under Chapter X, and with regard to the policy in respect of Encumbered Estates under Chapter XI, have been noted for consideration. The Settlement Officer's comments on Kamiati and the conditions of the cultivation have been met in some measure by recent legislation.

4. The Board endorses the Settlement Officer's commendations of the officers employed under him.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. R. J. R. COUSINS,  
*Offg. Secretary.*



No. 959-R.T.—S.-5.

GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR AND ORISSA.  
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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FROM

J. A. HUBBACK, Esq., I.C.S.,  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE,  
SIMLA.

*Dated the 23rd September 1921.*

*Subject :—Final Report on Settlement Operations in Palamau written by Mr. T. W. Bridge,*  
I.C.S.

SIR,

WITH reference to the correspondence resting with Mr. Holme's letter No. 866-263—2, dated the 19th July 1912, in which the Government of India sanctioned the inception of Survey and record-of-rights operations in the district of Palamau, I am directed by the Governor in Council to submit for the information of the Government of India the Final Report on the operations written by Mr. T. W. Bridge, I.C.S., late Settlement Officer of Chota Nagpur together with the forwarding letters of the Director of Land Records and Surveys and the Board of Revenue. A copy of the resolution recorded by the Local Government on the report is also enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. A. HUBBACK,

*Secretary to Government.*

GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR AND ORISSA.  
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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R E S O L U T I O N

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*Ranchi, the 23rd August 1921.*

READ—

The Final Report of the Survey and Settlement Operations in the district of Palamau, with the forwarding letters of the Director of Land Records and Surveys and the Board of Revenue thereon.

The operations covered the period from November 1913 to April 1920 and cost Rs. 12,40,000. To this cost the Government of India contributed Rs. 3,85,000, while the balance, after deducting receipts, has been recovered or is being recovered from the landlords and tenants including the Government of Bihar and Orissa as landlord of the Government estates. The recoverable amount is roughly Rs. 8,00,000. It represents about 12 per cent. of the annual value of the agricultural produce of the district, and is certainly not an excessive price to pay for an accurate record of the land held by the landlords and tenants of the district and for a clear definition of their rights and obligations in respect thereof.

2. The first and most striking impression gathered from the report is that Palamau is an extraordinarily poor district, where the struggle for existence is exceptionally severe, where even the small landlord classes find it hard to make two ends meet, and where the lowest agricultural classes have gone to the wall perhaps more remorselessly than in any other district of the Province. The hard economic facts of the area have hitherto been obscured by the veil of picturesque feudalism which has surrounded the relations of its landlords and tenants, and by the imagined potentialities of its extensive forest tracts. Now that the veil has been withdrawn as a result of the investigations made by the Settlement Department and the conditions of the problem are known, it behoves all concerned, Government qua-proprietor as well as general guardian of the public interest, the proprietary body now more enlightened than before, and the tenantry, to whom the protection of the settlement record has at last afforded hope, to consider how they can best co-operate to secure more stable economic conditions and a larger measure of prosperity for the district as a whole.

3. The Report gives a full account of the political history of the district which might with advantage have been somewhat condensed, although it is of great value in explaining the genesis of the present economic condition of the tract. The jagirdars, who were for the most part chiefs subordinate to the Chero Rajas, remained in possession of their jagirs when the Rajas were dispossessed, and were by gradual steps admitted to the full rights of proprietors of permanently-settled estates, a process which was only completed by 1895. Whatever may have been the necessity, legal or political, for this recognition, the result has been the creation of a numerous class of petty landholders, few of whom have had the means or capacity to develop their estates. Even the richest agricultural tract can ill afford to maintain from its produce a body of mere annuitants, and Palamau with its small proportion of fertile soil and precarious rainfall could only hope to attain prosperity by the combination of

enterprising landlords with industrious and contented tenants. Although there are not wanting in the district landlords who realize their duty towards their tenantry, the policy of a considerable number has hitherto been to secure for themselves the maximum profit from such meagre application of capital as they have made and to absorb at the earliest possible moment the fruits of such labour as the tenantry have spent on reclamation and improvement.

4. Unfortunately the large extent of land capable of reclamation has obscured this tendency and led past administrators into the erroneous belief that there was a demand for tenants which effectively protected them from rack-renting and other forms of oppression. To two Deputy Commissioners, Messrs. Lyall and Hignell, and to Mr. McIntosh as Commissioner, belongs the credit of realizing that the facts did not wholly fit into that theory, and of pressing for the early inception of settlement operations which alone could bring adequately to light the true conditions of the agrarian problems of the district and show where protection was most needed. The investigations carried through by the Settlement Officer and his staff have fully exposed the fallacy of the view that the tenantry were sufficiently protected by the law of supply and demand. They have shown that as long as the protection, which the law affords against arbitrary enhancement of rent and ejection on refusal to pay such enhancements, was not brought home to the tenants and vigorously upheld by the administration, their insecurity of tenure was constantly depressing them either to the status of *kamia* (agricultural serf) or at least to the position where they were obliged to supplement the income from their own fields by competing for work on those of their landlords in a market weakened by the supply of serf labour and by the ill-defined rights of landlords to demand *begari*. The report has clearly brought out, by comparison with other districts of Chota Nagpur, to what an extent the best land of the district is cultivated by free or forced labour for the benefit of the landlords, leaving to the tenants, who make up the mass of the population, areas which in many cases are grossly inadequate for their support.

5. Now that the record has been framed, the problems that remain are of an administrative character. The first and foremost need is a vigilant determination to protect the tenantry in the rights secured to them by the law and rendered definite by the settlement operations. On this duty of the local officers the Governor in Council will insist, and in order to render its performance easier, he has ordered that steps be taken for the early creation of a new subdivision at Latchar. Particular attention must be paid to the enforcement of the obligation resting upon landlords to give receipts for rent realized. But while such measures should prevent a further depression of the tenantry, they will not by themselves remedy their economic condition, nor help to restore to a decent place in society the great class, estimated by the Settlement Officer after very detailed enquiry at one-tenth of the population, who have already sunk into serfdom. For them the Kamiauti Agreements Act (Bihar and Orissa Act VIII of 1920), has been passed, to secure that by no stress of circumstances can they be driven to bind themselves or their families to work for a particular master at a particular wage for longer than one year. It is hoped that the introduction of the practice of annual hiring will operate to raise their wages and consequently improve their economic condition and at the same time raise the wages of all classes of agricultural labour which includes the bulk of the tenantry who are at present obliged by the smallness of their own holdings to work on the land of others. The complete abolition of *begari* should also operate in the same direction. It will be the business of the local officers to watch very closely the effect of these measures. Should it be found that in the absence of special punitive provisions the Kamiauti Agreements Act is incapable of restoring to the agricultural labourer the power to sell his labour for a reasonable wage, it is the declared policy of Government to strengthen the Act.

6. The enjoyment of a larger part of the income derived from the soil by the raiyat and the labourer will not however completely solve the economic problems of Palamau. Greater security of tenure will, it is hoped, encourage the tenantry to extend cultivation and improve by the provision of better

irrigation facilities the existing cultivation. This will involve to some extent at any rate the application of capital, which neither the smaller landlords nor the tenants can command. The situation appears to call for liberal distribution of loans under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, not only in seasons of threatened scarcity, but also in years where good harvests have raised the spirits and stimulated the enterprise of the population. But before embarking on such a policy it will be necessary to make reasonably sure that the loans will be utilized for the general improvement of the land of all classes. Hitherto there is reason to fear that loans granted under the Land Improvement Act have been spent mainly on improving the land in occupation of the landlords. It will be for the district staff to consider whether the raiyats can be brought to organize themselves so that loans can be usefully given out to them for making their own improvements. The note of caution sounded in paragraph 11 of the report should not be forgotten.

7. Again there is evidently a possibility of a considerable increase in the yield of the staple crops by the introduction of improved strains of seed, specially suitable for the different classes of land. The third class rice land producing a *bhadoi* paddy yields on the average only eight maunds of paddy per acre, while it accounts for 127,000 acres or nearly 15 per cent. of the cropped area and three-fifths of the area under rice. The yield may well be capable of a substantial increase by the introduction of an early variety of paddy, which would not be liable to failure from an early cessation of the monsoon. But probably the most immediately profitable improvements, which the Agricultural Department could introduce, are those which should raise the produce of the uplands, especially of the third class uplands, which cover 479,000 acres or 54 per cent. of the cropped area. The Settlement Officer has estimated that the net monetary yield from such lands is only Rs. 2 an acre annually, *i.e.*, they are on the very margin of profitable cultivation. Even a small increase in their productivity either by the introduction of more valuable crops or improved methods of cultivation would make an enormous difference to the total crop outturn of the district, and the prosperity of the tenantry. The attention of the Agricultural Department will be invited to the special problems of the district set for the above.

8. Although the tenants of the Government Estates have not suffered from the insecurity of tenure that has prevailed in many other portions of the district, the report shows that their economic condition is not so satisfactory as might have been hoped. The Settlement Officer has given in Chapter X a full account of the past history and the present condition of these estates which cover an area of 340 square miles. Up to 1896 the estates were let out to thikadars, though from 1870 onwards Government recognized their obligations to the raiyats sufficiently to fix the rents payable by them to the thikadars. In 1896 it was decided to adopt the usual plan of direct management, but unfortunately the settlement of rents was conducted on a new basis. The *paria* system by which rice lands only were assessed and the raiyats left free to cultivate as much or as little upland as they liked was altered into the system of assessing all lands to rent. No sufficient consideration was apparently given at the time to the difficulties created by the change of system in comparing the areas under cultivation, and the assessment had to be markedly reduced a few years afterwards on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Lyall. Enhancements were however sanctioned in the succeeding period both on account of the very considerable improvements effected under the inspiration of Mr. Lyall and on account of assessment of new reclamations which were in fact largely counterbalanced by surrenders. These brought the demand to  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. above that adopted in 1896, although the rice land had only increased by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and the upland cultivation had remained stationary since 1896. The Settlement Officer rightly resisted a proposal to make a further enhancement now, and in following the principles approved by Government for rent settlement he actually reduced the demand by 7 per cent., leaving it at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in excess of the 1896 demand. This is of course a great lightening of the burden on the raiyats seeing that the value of the produce has in the interval risen by at least fifty per cent. while a considerable area has benefitted by

Mr. Lyall's improvements. The rent now absorbs about 12½ per cent. of the gross produce, while in the private estates it absorbs 20 per cent. Substantial concessions have been made in order to encourage the making of *korkar*, i.e., land artificially terraced and embanked for the cultivation of rice. There is evidently still plenty of scope in the Government estates for well-devised irrigation schemes, for stimulation of the raiyats' enterprise in extending and improving their holdings, and for seeking to increase the yield of the land by selected seed or improved methods of cultivation, or by the introduction of more profitable crops. The local officers should see to it that the Government estates set an example to the rest of the district in these respects. The Settlement Officer has questioned whether the elaborate but ineffective methods of maintenance of records now in use should be continued and has made out a *prima facie* case for their abolition. This part of his Report is specially commended to the attention of the Board of Revenue for early action.

9. It appears that, while economic conditions in the Government Estates do not rise much above the general level of the district, in the Encumbered Estates they fall definitely below it. These latter consists mainly, as might be expected, of the worst estates in the district, and present practically insuperable difficulties to successful management. The proprietors who have obtained the protection of the Act, have succeeded in retaining much of the best land in their own possession, which they have hitherto cultivated by making exorbitant demands of *begari* on the raiyats. Now that *begari* is no longer permissible they clearly can no longer count on this source of income. The case put forward by the Settlement Officer is that a drastic change of policy in administering this Act in Palamau is called for and the Governor in Council trusts that the Board of Revenue will give this question the early attention which its importance warrants.

10. Palamau still contains some 3,240 square miles of uncultivated area besides 300 square miles of Reserved or Protected Government Forests out of a total area of 4,904 square miles. Of the 3,240 square miles still uncultivated, about two-thirds is unculturable and one-third culturable. It is an evident economic ideal to bring the latter under the plough while preserving as far as possible the existing jungle on the former and indeed encouraging its growth. In Chapter XII the Settlement Officer has discussed the problems that beset the realization of this ideal. The rights of tenants to extend their cultivation have been clearly expressed in the record-of-rights and the possibility of helping them to do so has already been discussed. The existing rights of landlord and tenants as regards the jungles and their produce have also been defined, but there is no certainty that the natural development will necessarily tend towards the greatest benefit to all concerned. It is of great importance that the local officers of Government should keep themselves fully informed of the manner in which the jungles are being treated. It was partly to enable them to do this that the power of deciding claims as regards jungle rights and of regulating the dues demandable for the exercise of such rights was conferred on the Deputy Commissioner by the amendment of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, an amendment which has yet to be introduced into Palamau. The efforts of Government to persuade landlords to place portions of their jungles under control by virtue of section 38 of the Indian Forest Act, have met with little success, since the landlords are not prepared to forego immediate profits for the sake of benefiting their successors. It is clear that neither the landlords nor the tenants are interested in the preservation of jungle to supply the needs of future generations and it may be necessary hereafter for Government to intervene both on this ground and for climatic reasons.

11. The Settlement Officer has shown that in the zamindari area the raiyats have lost in many places their rights to grow lac except subject to arbitrary and frequently extortionate demands, which are beginning to discourage all enterprise. Government have now granted their own tenants liberal terms in this matter, and the new legislation when it is brought into force will enable the Deputy Commissioner to some extent at least to secure the raiyats

reasonable exactions. There is good reason to believe that there is a commercial future for lac and it is in that belief that Government have recently established a lac station under the Forest Department at Kundru some ten miles from Daltonganj. It will be regrettable if landlords by attempting to secure to themselves an unfair proportion of the profits, while taking little or none of the risks, prevent their tenants from participating in an industry which if properly regulated is certain to bring considerable advantages to all classes.

The position as regards *mahua* in the zamindari estates is evidently more favourable to the raiyats. The importance to the raiyats of this tree as a supplementary food supply is great and their rights which appear to have been curtailed within a comparatively brief period should be zealously protected.

12. The Governor in Council fully endorses the commendation of the Board on the work of Mr. Sifton who initiated, and of Mr. Bridge who completed, these difficult settlement operations and is glad to acknowledge their services as well as those of the officers in subordinate positions who have been mentioned for good work. Mr. Bridge has written a report which is worthy of the closest study by all concerned with the administration of the district as well as by non-officials who are, or desire to become, interested in its development and the welfare of its population. Not the least interesting of the documents accompanying the report is the able review of the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Mr. Murphy, whose valuable contributions to the difficult problems raised by this settlement occupy also a prominent place in the pages of the report.



By order of the Governor in Council,

J. A. HUBBACK,

Secretary to Government.

MEMO. No.  $\frac{700-02}{8-5}$  R.T.

Ranchi, the 23rd August 1921.

Copy together with a copy of the Final Report forwarded to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue Appointment Department Director of Agriculture, Bihar and Orissa with special reference to paragraphs 8, 8, 9, 10, 12 of the Resolution.

By order of the Governor in Council,

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# FINAL REPORT

OF THE

## SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS

IN THE

### DISTRICT OF PALAMAU.

1913 — 1920.

#### CHAPTER I.

##### PHYSICAL ASPECTS.

1. *Area, Population, and Boundaries.*—The district of Palamau lies between parallels of latitude  $23^{\circ}20'$  and  $24^{\circ}39'$  north and longitude  $83^{\circ}22'$  and  $85^{\circ}00'$  east. Its greatest length from north to south is 89 miles and breadth from east to west is 99 miles. The total area of the district including the Reserved and Protected Forests as obtained by the summation of fields is 4,904 square miles. It has according to the last Census of 1911 a population of 6,87,267 souls of whom 3,41,613 are males and 3,45,654 females. There are altogether 3,599 villages in the district, and 262 square miles of Reserved Forests which are excluded from these.

Various theories have been put forward, to account for the name Palamau, in the reports of Messrs. Forbes and Sunder and in the Gazetteer. All these must be regarded as highly conjectural but in support of Mr. Forbes's suggestion, which associated the name with the word *palayun* flight, it may be noted that the Muhammadan writers sometimes referred to the district as Palayun, and that this name is given to it in a very old *sanad* possessed by the *malik* of Lukumkar in police-station Kerh. Such a significance would be by no means inappropriate in regard to a district which has received and sheltered, at least temporarily, a long succession of aboriginal tribes, such as the Mundas, Oraons, Kherwars and Cheros, driven by superior power from the rich lands of the Ganges valley. Chapter III will fully illustrate this fact.

2. *Boundaries and Headquarters.*—It is bounded on the North by the river Son which separates it from the district of Shahabad, and by the district of Gaya, on the East by the districts of Gaya and Hazaribagh, on the South by the Gumla and Sadr subdivisions of the Ranchi district, and on the West by the tributary state of Sarguja and the district of Mirzapore in the United Provinces. It occupies the North-Western portion of the division of Chota Nagpur.

The district headquarters are at Daltonganj, which has been named after Colonel Dalton, who was long associated with Chota Nagpur as its Commissioner, and who, as such, in 1861 selected it as the site for the headquarters of the Palamau subdivision.

3. *Subdivisions, Thanas, Police Stations, Parganas, Tappas.*—At present there is no subdivision in the district, but the establishment of one at Latehar is now under the consideration of Government.

The following is a statement of the Revenue thanas and police stations included in the district :—

##### Revenue Thanas.

1. Balumath.
2. Latehar.
3. Mahualanr.
4. Ranka.
5. Garhwa.
6. Husainabad.
7. Chhattarpur.
8. Patan.
9. Daltonganj.

##### Police-station

- Palumath and Chindwa.  
Latehar and Kerh.  
Mahualanr and Gann.  
Ranka and Bhanderiya.  
Garhwa and Nagar Untari.  
Husainabad and Bhawanipur.  
Chhattarpur and Harihangaj.  
Patan and Barampur.  
Daltonganj, Parli, Ledegani.

These again comprise the 4 parganas of —(1) Palamau (2) Tori, (3) Japla, (4) Belaunja.

Of these, Palamau pargana is subdivided into over 30 tappas, the more important of which are: Mankeri, Sima, Baresand, Tappa, Goawal, Sirhe, Meral, Untari, Amhar, Chhapparbar, Taleya, Durjag, Pundag, Chhechari, Bari, Kot, Imli, and Deogan. Belaunja has 4 tappas, namely, Paraura, Pahari, Dema, and Khaira, and Japla has the single tappa of Mahul Mahal. There are no tappas in Tori.

4. *A Map showing Police Stations, Thanas, Tappas.*—One of the maps attached to this report shows the present arrangement of the police stations and their jurisdictions, and the approximate position of the main roads. It shows at a glance how inconveniently many of the stations are situated, with a result that villages near and accessible to one station, are placed under the control of another which is distant and hard to reach. Attention is drawn particularly to parts of Balumath which are close to Latehar, and more particularly to the parts which are traversed by the Ranchi Road. Parts of Manatu are close to Panki, of Daltonganj to Ranka, of Husainabad to Bismampore, and of Kerh to Garu. Hariharganj, Husainabad, Kerh, Garu, Bhandariya and Latehar are not centrally situated in respect to their charges.

Another map shows the parganas and tappas of the district. The history of the parganas will be found in Chapter III; the origin of the tappas is lost in obscurity. Mr. N. Smith, a former Collector, reported in 1823, that originally they had been more numerous but that many had been lost sight of, or amalgamated at the time of the Decennial Settlement. The Land Registration cases, the Tanzi registers and the Khasmahal records have hitherto been arranged by tappas. It may be doubted whether the continuance of this system offers any advantages.

A third map shows the distribution of the district among the big zamindars. The Sonapura Estate in the North-West and the Tori Estate which occupies the whole pargana of that name have not been distinctively shown.

5. *Physical Features.—Hills and Valleys.*—Palamau lies where the plateaux of Chota Nagpur and Sarguja,—the North-Eastern extremities of the Great Central India System,—break up into hills and basins, and forms a meeting place of the mountains and the plains, just as it is the meeting ground of the aboriginal and the Hindu.

Isolated peaks are numerous and the configuration of the district is very confused; nevertheless, in its main features, it resolves itself into a series of ranges running roughly east and west, the highest being towards the south. The intervening valleys contain most of the cultivation of the district. These ranges are chiefly noticeable to the east of the river Koil and form the watershed of the Auranga, the Amanat, the Banki and the Kanhar; but the Saidope Range continues to the west of the Koil, where it runs parallel to the most Northern hills of Sarguja, and to the ranges which fringe the north and south of the Garhwa-Untari valley. Similarly, the Northern range runs right across the district from tappa Deogan in the east to its western boundary.

The Japla-Sonapura valley and the lower Amanat valley contain the highest proportion of cultivation in the district, but generally speaking rice and upland cultivation are much more evenly distributed over the district than was formerly supposed; the figures for the 4 years areas being as follows, in acres :—

	Riceland.	Upland.
	Acrea.	Acrea.
1st year (covering the whole south of the district) ...	47,140	1,94,120
2nd year (west of the District) ...	32,140	1,50,581
3rd year (north of the District) ...	43,603	1,62,704
4th year (east and centre) ...	55,271	1,87,936

The following passage concerning hills is taken from Major Thompson's (the Revenue Surveyor) report on Palamau :—

"The Palamau country generally is of a very broken and hilly nature particularly the Southern and Western portions which may be said to consist of detached groups

from the Chōṭa Nagpur and Sirgoojah elevated plateaux. One portion of the south-west boundary of Palamau (Tuppeh Chhechhari) runs along the top (eastern edge) of the 'Jumnera Pat', elevation upwards of 3,400 feet above the sea. The Jumnera and Mynce Pat are two very extensive plateaux in Sirgoojah which reach an elevation of nearly 4,000 feet above the sea. The Neturhat Range in Tuppeh Seemah of Palamau, on the top of which there is a plateau or table land measuring about 4 miles long and two and half miles broad, is considerably over 3,300 feet in height above the sea. There are many other high ranges of hills in the pargana, the most conspicuous peaks of which may be noted as follows:—

'Bulbul' on the south-east boundary 3,329 feet; 'Booree' on the south-west boundary 3,078 feet; 'Kootam' (Tuppeh Seema) 2,791 feet; 'Kumandee' (Tuppeh Barce) 2,530 feet and Toogaree (Tuppeh Khamee) 2,108 feet'.

Neterhat is now an official hill station.

6. *Rivers*.—The rivers Son, Koil, Amanat, Auranga, Burhee, Kanhar and the East and West Bankis, and all their tributaries, form the river system of the district. The Son flows along its northern boundary and the Kanhar along the west, separating it from the tributary state of Sarguja. The banks of the Kanhar are mountainous and covered with jungle and the bed is rocky. Except for drainage it is of no great economic value to the district.

The Koil takes its rise in the district of Ranchi and entering Palamau from the south, passes right through it, in broad curves, and falls into the river Son on the north. Till it reaches the central part of the district its bed is rocky and its banks steep and mountainous; from the central part onwards, however, the bed is generally sandy, and the banks are level and more or less cultivated. It is spoiled for all navigation except rafts of bamboos even in the rains by the rapids of Sigsigi between Garhwa Road and Untari Road; and is almost dry in the hot weather. With the help of its tributaries—of which the Amanat, the Auranga, the Burhee, the Danro, the Tahleh and the Bankis are the most important—it drains almost the whole of the district.

The Auranga rises in the south-east of the district near the hills of Bulbul and Gotag, and, passing through very hilly and broken country, flows into the Koil at Ketchkee about 7 miles to the south of Daltonganj. It drains the south-eastern portion of the district.

The Amanat takes its rise in the hills of pargana Kunda in the Hazaribagh District, and flowing westwards through an open, long-cultivated and populous valley, about 600 feet above sea level, falls into the Koil, 5 miles to the north of Daltonganj. The Burhee and its numerous feeders, drain the Chhechhari valley. Like all the other large rivers of Palamau, it is not made use of for irrigation. The Tahleh and the Danro running from west to east drain the Ranka and Garhwa thanas, while the two Bankis which come into the Koil from the east and west drain respectively the valley between the ranges of Deogan and Patna and the country between Utari and Manjiawan.

None of the rivers except the Son are navigable, and all are fordable except when in flood. None of them is bridged except for two railway bridges over the Eastern Banki and the Amanat, but a road bridge over the river Auranga has been sanctioned and is in the course of construction. Bamboo is floated down the Koil in the rainy season, but as the time taken by the journey is considerable, this method of transport is not very popular. The rivers are not very productive of fish.

7. *Jungles*.—The district contains very extensive jungles, scattered all over the face of it, but most notably in the south and west. Very little of the jungle is preserved in any way, and the amount of valuable timber is, and has been from the time of our earliest records, comparatively small.

There is no evidence to indicate that the denudation of the jungle is going on more rapidly now than it was at any time within the last century. On the contrary the cotton cultivation with its wasteful *daha* system, which attracted the attention of every writer 50 years ago, has now almost disappeared, and the tapping of *sal* trees for resin is much less common than formerly. Nevertheless in their methods of use both the raiyats and zamindars are very wasteful and improvident.

The jungle area is still so vast that the bad effect of this wastefulness for many years is likely to be marked by no more serious consequences than the continued absence of valuable timber. If, however, the raiyats enlarge their

holdings and the population increases under improved agrarian conditions, it will be necessary to anticipate the appearance of the physical evils which Mr. Sifton has described in the 6th paragraph of the Hazaribagh Report.

8. *Climate*.—The climate of the district is healthy except in the south and west where malarial fever is prevalent during the rains and early cold weather. The variations of temperature in the different seasons are very marked, the temperature rising to 110°, or higher, in the hot weather, and going down to 40, or lower, during the cold season. Frosts are common during the winter and do a great deal of damage to crops, especially to the lac crop. It is said that *rabi* cannot be profitably grown in some parts of the south on account of them. The winter though cold is very pleasant, but the hot season, with its dry, scorching winds, is trying.

The rainfall in various parts of the district is shown in the following statement:—

Stations.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Paleman (Daltenganj) ...	62.00	69.10	20.11	7.53	38.05	58.00	30.27	40.22	31.23	37.00	42.10	57.03	30.36	39.7
Balumath ...	47.73	68.25	40.39	43.26	49.47	63.52	33.04	40.22	40.27	39.58	47.42	65.40	30.44	47.04
Husainabad ...	24.00	50.00	15.10	2.00	27.53	31.53	28.55	30.59	33.72	43.46	40.20	54.55	30.82	31.39
Garhwa ...	40.03	50.05	35.17	40.02	38.44	51.11	54.33	51.35	40.41	48.45	30.33	49.71	37.09	45.7
Michaudanr ...	49.73	59.75	38.03	57.22	30.45	58.14	12.00	35.53	33.03	30.41	45.40	41.37	45.68	41.4
Panki ...	21.30	21.35	24.35	43.3	43.35	30.53	32.01	55.40	26.53	30.51	36.60	64.92	25.50	31.9
Latehar ...	51.25	64.14	41.50	50.53	0.14	21.47	28.07	42.06	43.14	35.91	39.45	00.80	31.23	41.3
Nagarutari ...	38.68	41.73	37.49	58.83	41.77	47.02	20.33	38.02	34.22	50.94	41.80	54.67	41.01	43.3
Ranka ...	61.76	60.84	47.52	47.09	38.22	31.53	47.03	24.19	30.13	44.30	51.91	50.23	32.09	45.2
Chhatapur ...	41.03	45.35	3.00	57.09	42.11	41.01	20.55	31.07	27.20	43.79	45.28	57.92	40.35	39.3
Dhawanthpur ...	49.70	51.78	26.03	45.29	45.31	52.20	23.91	42.23	31.40	35.03	38.03	49.89	9.04	33.1
Patan ...	58.10	51.39	10.33	42.94	41.63	41.13	31.36	37.20	35.30	38.46	36.11	53.14	31.25	39.4
Maneta ...	26.67	30.33	30.00	40.23	43.02	26.42	25.27	47.58	26.79	32.12	27.37	76.50	36.78	36.7
Lesiganj ...	46.14	64.46	43.90	50.77	22.52	45.5	20.33	30.84	27.04	32.79	30.66	53.73	21.91	30.6
Koch ...	00.56	08.06	45.09	41.70	42.00	50.54	45.11	35.04	20.37	28.43	41.14	35.85	30.16	42.4
Gara ...	48.50	56.34	57.21	49.97	57.30	41.10	35.04	51.00	37.30	36.16	53.50	71.63	50.42	55.08
Chandwa ...	...	...	...	21.02	42.28	58.41	38.23	40.05	40.63	37.82	33.48	56.81	31.98	32.06
Harihariganj ...	...	...	...	19.02	40.67	46.25	31.06	20.10	...	31.37	45.04	46.74	31.55	24.4
Chandaria ...	...	...	...	18.11	00.02	42.07	23.54	38.12	30.22	41.35	41.22	52.87	45.14	31.9
Lisrampur ...	...	...	...	0.80	37.74	33.73	30.04	34.32	35.38	21.52	20.26	51.03	30.80	24.06
Nitarhat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49.71	04.03	56.44	55.08	30.70	3.07	20.3

It will be noticed that the distribution of the rainfall is very capricious, both from year to year and (within the same year) from station to station. Gara gets the heaviest rainfall with an average of 55.08 inches, while Balumath and Ranka come next with 47.04 and 45.9. The smallest average rainfall, namely, 31.33 inches, was registered at Husainabad.

9. *Diseases and Medical Relief*.—Although the district is generally healthy, malaria and cholera have to be dealt with annually.

For the medical relief of the people there are dispensaries at Panki, Balumath, Latehar, Mahuadanr, Garhwa, Nagar Utari, Hydernagar and Ranka. These are maintained by the District Board. In addition there is a dispensary and hospital at Daltenganj. The Bengal Coal Co., maintains a dispensary at Rajhara, and the Chainpur Estate another at Chainpur.

An urgent need at present is the provision of a more wholesome supply of drinking water in the villages. The subjoined table compiled from the Annual Administration Reports of the District Board shows the steps taken towards this object within the last six years. It would appear desirable gradually to improve the condition of the 130 unwholesome tanks and the 2,385 unwholesome wells shown in the district. The District Board appears to have constructed up to date 1 tank and 44 wells, including the wells constructed in inspection bungalows and dispensary compounds. The *dary* water, which, in the absence of any other source of supply, is used by both man and beast, is often very impure and unfit for human consumption; being

situated in the lowest rice land in the village, and not having any protecting wall, washings and refuse of all sorts constantly find their way into it.

Statement showing the sources of water-supply in the Palamau District during the year 1915-16.

Date.	Villages supplied from River, Khal, Canals.	Supplied from tanks or wells.	Population by last census.	Sources and character of water-supply.									Ownership or control.					
				Wholesome tanks.	Unwholesome tanks.	Total tanks.	Wholesome wells.	Unwholesome wells.	Total wells.	Total sources.	Perennial.	Intermittent.	Government.		Local.		Private.	
													Tanks.	Wells.	Tanks.	Wells.	Tanks.	Wells.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1915-16 ...	760	3,222	687,257	42	13	172	6,429	2,339	8,768	8,900	7,156	1,784	21	120	1	44	150	8,600
1916-17 ...	760	3,222	687,257	42	130	172	6,455	2,333	8,794	8,963	7,192	1,784	21	120	1	44	150	8,600
1914-15 ...	760	3,132	687,267	42	130	172	6,421	2,339	8,760	8,231	7,141	1,784	21	120	1	35	150	8,610
1913-14 ...	760	3,132	687,207	42	130	172	6,404	2,339	8,743	8,015	7,131	1,784	21	115	1	24	150	9,604
1917-18 ...	804	9,912	687,207	20	1,319	1,349	6,300	1,617	8,568	9,937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

10. *Classification of Fields.*—The cultivated lands admit of a broad division into upland and rice-land; the latter is low-land, terraced and bounded with ails for wet cultivation, and the former is high land where the fields are not intended to retain water or detain the natural drainage.

Rice-land is locally distinguished into two broad classes, high rice-land and low rice-land, and upland into three, *bari*, *bitha* and *tanr*; but it was decided to classify both into three classes in accordance with the established practice.

The different divisions of upland and rice-land have been described in the circulars which were issued to classifying officers (Appendix N).

The poorer raiyats, having little or none of *bari* and *bitha*, sometimes try to grow crops proper to these classes on 3rd class *tanr*, and thus *makai* and *rahar* are sometimes found on 3rd class *tanr*; but the crop is invariably poor, and to classify such lands higher than third would be a greater mistake than that made by the owner in the selection of his crop. Good *dub* land (land in the bed of a reservoir) and riverside lands which are fertilized by alluvial deposits from a river and can grow a *rabi* crop without the aid of manure, and good sugarcane lands, are classed as first class *tanr*.

The subject of classification has been further discussed in the chapter on fair rent settlement.

11. *Irrigation.*—Irrigation in Palamau is effected almost entirely by *ahars* or reservoirs. The efficiency of an *ahar* depends chiefly upon its (1) position, (2) catchment area or source of supply and (3) retentive capacity; and a field benefits from an *ahar* in greater or less degree according as it has a prior, or a deferred, claim to its water. Well-irrigation is practised on a small scale, chiefly by Koiris, very near some of the big rivers. About one-fourth of the total rice-land receives either complete or fairly efficient irrigation, while another quarter gets a precarious benefit from it. There is exceedingly little irrigation of the upland.

There is much unoccupied land which should lend itself to petty works of irrigation, but it is not safe to build too much on first appearance in such matters, as is proved by experience in the Government Estates and by the hundreds of unsuccessful works in the district which are not even worth being maintained. It is very desirable to encourage the construction of sound *ahars* but there is a grave danger that too enthusiastic a policy may multiply the area of precariously served rice-land,—the form of cultivation which is above all others the most calculated to expose those who depend upon it to famine in unfavourable years; for an *ahar* with an insufficient catchment area, or capacity to retain water, is no more reliable than a blind guide; while the desire to convert comparatively *level* stretches of country into rice-land, without the initial expense of heavy terracing, frequently exposes the inexperienced to the temptation to construct such *ahars*.

A further discussion of irrigation and of the claims of the landlords to have been philanthropic in respect of it, will be found in Chapter X and elsewhere.



12. *Liability to Famine.*—Palamau was characterized by the Irrigation Commission as the “driest and probably the poorest district” in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. It has been shown elsewhere in this report that the bulk of the people, who are nearly all agriculturists, are not supported by the produce of their own holdings, but depend also on labour, *mahua* and jungle produce. Neither *mahua* nor jungle roots and fruits are nutritious or wholesome food but fortunately they are fairly abundant. The three crops *aghani*, *rabi* and *bhadai* are much more evenly represented in Palamau than elsewhere in Chota Nagpur. The raiyats, therefore, seldom have all their eggs in one basket. But as they always live near the margin of subsistence, any shortage has the effect of reducing them from mere want to semi-starvation. This is more especially the case because such a shortage not only reduces their own crops but makes it impossible for their employers to give them an adequate daily ration in return for each day's labour. Such employment as is available is almost exclusively agricultural and is itself affected by the unfavourable conditions. The collieries at Rajhara employ only a very small number of labourers even in normal years.

Palamau is a rice importing district depending annually upon outside sources for about 100,000 maunds of rice, as the figures in paragraph 72 of the rate report show. More than 50,000 maunds of other food-grains are also annually imported into the district by rail alone, exclusive of the supplies obtained by cart or pack-bullock from Ranchi, Gaya, Mirzapur and Sarguja. The same conditions prevailed a century ago as the old records show. Thus Major E. S. Broughton, writing in 1803 to Captain Palmer, who was deputed to defend the frontier of Palamau, had to remind him of the “total failure of this year's crops and the general scarcity of grain in Palamau in the best season”, and to instruct him to be particularly careful of the consumption of his stock of grain while there. During the military operations in the earlier years of the nineteenth century when outposts were stationed in Palamau to keep away the Pindaries and the Marhattas, it was always found necessary to import all their grain for the troops, as supplies were unobtainable in the district itself. Since 1857 there have been famines in 1859-60, 1868-69, 1873-74, 1896-97, 1899-1900 and 1918-19 and there have been years of scarcity as well within the same period.

The rainfall in Palamau is not only scanty but very capricious in its distribution. Ideal conditions postulate some premonitory showers in May or June to enable the land to be prepared; abundant rain in the end of June and at intervals during July and August, to allow transplantation and the growth of seedlings; and after an interval of comparatively fair weather, during which weeding may be done, enough rain in September to allow the grain to develop and mature fully. The weather should then shade off to fair in October to allow harvesting to be done. For the *rabi* crop periodic showers from December to February are essential to a good crop. The rainfall statistics given in paragraph 8 show in how few years these conditions are fulfilled. The \*statement below shows, thana by thana, the area of land under *bhadai*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops. A consideration of this statement with the year's rainfall statistics will give the District Officer an idea of where famine or scarcity is to be apprehended :—

Serial No.	Name of Revenue Thana.	Population.	Elec-land.							
			Bhadai.		Aghani.		Rabi.		Total.	
1	2	3	4		5		6		7	
			Acre.	Dec.	Acre.	Dec.	Acre.	Dec.	Acre.	Dec.
1	Balnath ...	72,907	29,156	11	3,743	00	1,050	18	25,260	27
2	Mahadaur ...	32,247	9,569	52	2,004	08	143	19	11,707	30
3	Latehar ...	52,051	7,991	61	2,051	31	726	62	11,069	64
4	Raota ...	47,255	5,296		1,860	83	164	77	7,325	62
5	Garhwa ...	107,671	18,101	88	6,363	80	5,248	85	29,709	62
6	Husainabad ...	110,689	22,090	81	6,112	05	10,964	71	41,493	60
7	Chhatrapur ...	48,037	8,336	93	2,540	71	4,396	24	15,273	84
8	Pata ...	91,480	17,934	10	9,005	28	10,997	71	33,927	69
9	Daltonganj ...	124,870	17,469	34-4	7,880	10-5	11,268	73-1	33,061	18-0
	Total ...	637,710	1,17,275	33-4	44,868	69-5	45,620	68-1	2,17,134	71

\* Note. —In this statement *do jasta* areas have twice counted, see columns 7, 8, 13, and 14 of Appendix C.

Serial No.	Name of Revenue Thanas.	Taor.										Total.	Remarks.
		Bhadra.		Aghani.		Rabi.		Total.					
1	2	3		4		5		6		7		8	
		Acre.	Dec.	Acre.	Dec.	Acre.	Dec.	Acre.	Dec.	Acre.	Dec.		
1	Balamath	57,771	41	13,045	67	22,421	45	99,294	73	1,21,553	66		
2	Mahuadanr	48,105	02	7,105	09	8,720	33	61,321	31	73,039	73		
3	Latehar	21,842	94	10,529	59	21,572	12	53,911	89	85,914	20		
4	Rauka	20,043	62	9,203	07	16,980	75	47,191	01	54,126	67		
5	Garhwa	37,417	82	16,475	37	69,456	89	1,23,351	65	1,50,991	41		
6	Husainabad	44,551	50	11,841	61	74,819	94	1,31,473	05	1,72,929	69		
7	Chhatarpur	23,308	09	7,353	19	30,216	50	61,827	79	76,101	63		
8	Patan	34,856	01	17,932	07	41,293	94	95,082	05	1,36,199	11		
9	Daltonganj	51,893	22-8	23,617	05	43,241	64-5	1,23,652	52-3	1,66,316	70-3		
	Total	3,13,973	59-8	1,22,263	01	3,20,810	58-5	7,00,033	07-3	10,13,187	70-3		

**13. Communications.—Railways.**—The Daltonganj branch of the Grand Chord Railway, which enters the district between the stations Nabinagar and Japla and ends at Daltonganj, gives 55 miles of railway to the district. The important stations on the line are Daltonganj, Garhwa and Japla. There is no other railway in the district. The railway was opened in 1902.

**Roads.**—The district is not sufficiently provided as yet with roads and in many parts communication is very difficult and very slow. Most of the roads are unbridged, and cut by numerous streams, big and small, which when in flood hold up traffic effectively till the flood subsides. Wheeled traffic is not yet used in many parts for want of suitable roads.

The most important of the roads of the district are the inter-district roads which are as follows :—

(1) *The Daltonganj-Ranchi road* is a provincial road looked after by the District Board who are compensated for it by Government. It is unmetalled but fully bridged and passes through Satbarwa, Mankah, Latehar, and Chandwa, which are important villages and have *hats*. From Chandwa to Ranchi the road is metalled and very good.

(2) *The Road from Daltonganj to the Mirzapur District.*—Passes through the important trade centre of Garhwa, and through the villages Meral, Ramna and Nagar Untari. It is a *kacha* road and generally in poor condition; it is partially bridged but has some bad river crossings.

(3) *Daltonganj to Aurangabad*—This road goes through Kanda, Chhatarpore and Hariharganj. Unfortunately it is very bad on the Gaya side, and in Palamau is interrupted by the Amanat and several other rivers.

(4) *Daltonganj to Hazaribagh.*—The important places on the road are Lesliganj, Konwai and Panki. It is cut by many rivers west of Panki and is impassable east of it.

(5) *Daltonganj to Gaya border*—Branches off from the Daltonganj-Hazaribagh road at the 17th mile. The only important place on this road is Manatu, up to which the road is still kept up. Beyond this the old culverts and bridges may be seen derelict.

(6) *Chandwa to Chatra.*—Balumath is on this road; it is unbridged and very bad, even for carts.

(7) *Garhwa to Dinapur.*—Majhiawan, Muhammadganj, Hydnagar and Japla are on this road. It crosses the Koil, and is hardly a road at all over most of its length from the Koil to the district border.

Nos. (2) to (7) are unmetalled and partially bridged only. The other important local roads are :—

(1) *Garhwa to Rauka and the Surguja border*

This road is mostly bridged but in bad order.

(2) *Daltonganj to Patan.*—The road is cut by the Amanat and several streams.

(3) *Daltonganj to Mahuadanr via Kerh and Garu.*—Under construction.

(4) *Japla to Chattarpur*.—A good road but not very much used. The length of each class of road is shown below :—

	Miles.	Furlongs.	Yards.
IA Metalled roads, bridged and drained throughout ...	6	2	78
I B Metalled, partly bridged and drained ...	6	4	0
II A Unmetalled roads, bridged and drained throughout	18	5	26
II B Unmetalled roads, partially bridged and drained	158	7	150
III Roads banked and surfaced with Muram or similar material but not drained	113	4	58
V Banked but not surfaced; partially bridged and drained.	128	0	120
V Cleared, partially bridged and drained ...	51	5	76
VI Cleared only... ..	50	6	157
Total ...	544	1	665

The expenditure of the District Board on communications has been as follows on an average for the past 5 years (1914—1919) :—

Year.	Average annual expenditure on repairs.	Average annual expenditure on original work.	Total amount allowed to lapse unexpended in 5 years.	Percentage of lapses on the total allotment.
1914—1919 ...	Rs. 40,320	Rs. 1,15,303	Rs. 1,37,253	21.30

14. *Camping Grounds*.—On behalf of the Deputy Commissioner camping grounds, for troops on the march, were claimed in the following roadside villages :—

Manka, Chandwa, An (Ankita in the Route Book), Tarhasi, Pokhaha, Daltonganj, Latchar, Satbarwa, Banpurwa, Garhwa, Meral, Ramna, Nagar Untari, Loharsi, Konwai, Lesliganj, Manatu, Rajhara, Nawa, Chhattarpur, Sultani, Majhiawan, Muhammadganj, Husainabad, Dingwar, and Balumath. They were found to exist and were recorded, in the first six of these places only.

15. *Postal and Telegraphic Arrangements*.—There are four postal sub-offices and 25 branch offices in the district. A list of them is given below :—

*Head office*.—Daltonganj.

*Sub-offices*.—Garhwa, Japla, Rajhara, Latehar.

*Branch offices*—Daltonganj Bazar, Bistrampur, Garu, Kenr, Lesliganj, Mahuadanr, Manatu, Nawa Bhandaria, Nawa Jaipur, Panki, Patan, Rehla, Rajchampur, Ranka, Satbarwa, Bhaunathpur, Majhiawan, Nagar Untari, Sillidag, Haidarnagar, Muhammadganj, Sonpura, Balumath and Chandwa. There are three telegraph sub-offices at Garhwa, Japla and Rajhara, in addition to the office at Daltonganj. These all lie in a line between Daltonganj and the north of the district, along the railway.

16. *Markets and trade*.—Garhwa is the most important trade centre of the district and next to it comes Daltonganj. The whole of the surplus produce of the Sarguja State, and a portion of that of the Mirzapur district find their way into the Garhwa market, and a large quantity of lac, ghee, and oil seeds are exported from it every year. The same articles are exported from the Daltonganj market in lesser quantity. The total quantity of lac and oil seeds exported during the years 1911 to 1915-16, as obtained from the East Indian Railway Company, are given below :—

				Garhwa Road Station Mds.	Daltonganj Railway Station. Mds.
Lac ... ..	...	...	...	3,97,616	2,14,362
Oil seeds ... ..	...	...	...	4,99,412	4,87,245

The chief articles of import sold in these markets are : kerosine oil, salt, rice, brass utensils, cloth of European manufacture, tobacco, spices and glass and metal ornaments. These are distributed from these places to other markets and *hats*, which are held once a week in many of the important villages in the interior.

The market at Garhwa is under the management of Government, though Government holds only a 2 anna share in it. The Daltonganj market until recently was also under Government management but has been made over to the Municipality. An urgent need of the market of Garhwa is a bridge over the Keil between the town and the railway. Unfortunately the bridge would have to be one of unusual magnitude and expense.

The weights in use in the district are local (*kachi*), weights, the *kachi* seer being 9/16 of the standard seer. The weights used are rough stones supposed to have been broken to represent the true weight, but are seldom so; it is commonly stated that many *baniyas* keep two sets of weights, one for purchasing articles and the other for selling them, the former being as much above, as the latter is below, the true weight.

Several fairs are held in the district at different times of the year. The more important of these are the fairs of Daltonganj, Nagar Untari, Hirhinj, Balumath, Chakla and Mahuadanr. They are only *hats* on a large scale the most important feature being the number of cattle brought to them for sale.

#### VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

17. *Headmen*.—Village headmen, in the true sense of the word, are less numerous in this district than in Ranchi and Hazaribagh, only 94 headmen being found in the whole of the district. The system of headmanship will be described later. As in Hazaribagh, headman tenures have been found among both semi-aboriginals and non-aboriginals, in some cases Goalas and Muhammadans and Mallahs have been found to be the headmen of their villages. They are, as in the cases of many other classes of tenants, called *thikadars* by the landlords, but the incidents of a headmanship tenure in them are unmistakable.

18. *Village Priests*.—The village priests are called *Baigas* throughout the district, except in pargana Tori where they are called *Pahans*. Every village must have a *Baiga* to perform the *pujas* and sacrifices which are necessary before the sowing and harvesting of crops, and at other appointed times in the year, as well as on the outbreak of diseases and epidemics among men or cattle. His duties are the same here as in the other districts of Chota Nagpur. The *Baiga* as a rule holds service lands (*baigai*) which appertain to his office. These lands are the property of the village community for whose benefit the office of *Baiga* subsists, and cannot be resumed or given in settlement by the landlord. Whenever possible an aboriginal is selected for the post and if he be the descendant of the original clearer of the jungle, who founded the village, he succeeds to the office as a matter of right, following a long line of ancestors who had done the work before him. In some cases the same *Baiga* has to officiate for a number of villages. In a very few cases only have non-aboriginals been found to be *Baigas*; they were Kahars, Brahmans and Muhammadans. Women of aboriginal classes are sometimes found officiating as *Baigas*.

*Dewars*.—In the southern portion of the district there are *Dewars* (or *Pujars*) in some villages whose duty it is to assist the *Baiga* generally in performing *pujars* and sacrifices, and especially to propitiate the village spirits in case of an outbreak of sickness; the *Dewar* holds *deorai* lands which are similar in incidents to *baiga* lands.

19. *Jeth Raiyats*.—There is no official *jeth raiyat* in most villages, but the most intelligent and influential raiyat is sometimes called by this name.

*Gorais* are to be found in a very few villages, the duties of summoning the raiyats to the landlord and of keeping him informed of all that goes on in the villages being performed by *Barahils* and *Ohdars*. These functionaries also look after the cultivation of the malik's *bakast* lands which has been carried on hitherto under the *begari* system.

*Chaukidars.*—There are 1,215 chaukidars in the 20 police stations and 3,599 villages which make up the district. Until recently the chaukidars in some areas were governed by Regulation XX of 1817 and instead of being paid in cash by Government were supported by the villagers, by contributions in grain and money. These chaukidars caused hardship in many cases by realizing much more than they were entitled to get; happily this system has now been abolished; but a few of the chaukidars still hold *chakaran* holdings of land and *mahua* trees.

20. *Patwaris.*—Patwaris were found only in the two parganas of Japla and Belaunja, which were originally in the district of Gaya. Their number is decreasing as they are not much sought after. They keep the village accounts of settlements and of payments of rent, in money or in kind. The accounts are rarely trustworthy and favour the landlord whose servant the patwari is.

The village servants, the blacksmith, the carpenter, the potter, the barber, and the *dhobi*, are all paid in kind for their services. The scale of payment varies from place to place; but it has generally descended unaltered from a distant past.

## CHAPTER II.

### POPULATION.

21. *Population.*—Major Hunter Thompson in 1866 estimated that the population of Palamau Pargana was then 156,876 only, or 43 per square mile. This was clearly an under-estimate. At each of the subsequent census operations the population of the District was found to be as shown below :—

		1872.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.
Males	...	213,584	273,311	294,320	306,203	311,613
Females	...	210,211	277,764	302,450	313,397	345,654
Total	...	423,795	551,075	596,770	619,600	657,267

The increase shown in 1881 over the figure of 1872 was 127,280 or 30.03 per cent. In view of the great famine of 1873-1874 which occurred in the interval, this increase, if correct, would have been phenomenal. But as both Mr. Reid and Mr. Sifton have shown in their reports, there is abundant reason for regarding the census of 1872 as incomplete and inaccurate. The increase in the subsequent decades worked out as follows :—

1881-91	...	...	...	+ 8.29 per cent.
1891-1901	...	...	...	+ 3.83 „
1901-1911	...	...	...	+ 10.92 „

The diminished rate of progress between the years 1891-1901 may be attributed to the failure of crops and famines in the years 1896 and 1899, on account of which the district was denuded of its population to an unusual extent just at the time when the census of 1901 took place. This fact also accounts in some measure for the apparent increase of 10.92 per cent. in 1911. The first six years of the decade ending in 1910 were on the whole prosperous, for though the crops in 1904-1905 were not a great success, the new Barun Railway improved trade and lac was exceedingly successful. The years 1907 and 1908 were years of short rainfall and deficient harvest and an epidemic of cholera supervened. But these circumstances did not seriously diminish the population and the district had recovered before 1911.

22 *Distribution of population.*—The table below shows the population of each thana :—

Revenue Thana.	Area in square miles excluding Reserve and Protected forests.	Area of cultivated land in square miles.	Population.	Density of population.	
				With reference to the total area in col. 2.	With reference to cultivated area in col. 3.
Daltonginj ...	557.85	206.80	124,870	223	603
Garhwa ...	552.86	205.22	107,674	191	524
Patan ...	488.64	173.21	91,480	183	528
Husnaabad ...	651.67	221.76	110,589	169	493
Chhatrapur ...	312.5	100.1	48,637	141	486
Latchar ...	413.95	91.29	51,605	124	165
Balumath ...	66.81	176.32	72,907	109	413
Mahuadaur ...	333.38	109.10	32,247	96	291
Ranka ...	615.64	80.27	47,255	76	188
Total ...	4642.00	1364.88	687,267	145	500

The population of the southern portion of the district, comprising thanas Latehar, Balumath, Mahuadaur, and Ranka, though it appears from the figures given above to be thin when compared to the total area of these thanas, is not so when considered in respect of the total cultivation contained in them. The population of the district is 145 per square mile as against 184 in Hazaribagh, and 500 per square mile of cultivation as against 624 in the neighbouring district. According to the last census of 1911 the population is made up of:—586,917 Hindus, of whom 10,271 are literate, 57,669 Muhammadans, of whom 1,448 are literate, 7,783 Christians, of whom 129 are literate, 34,883 Animists, of whom 69 only are literate.

Thus there were 11,917 only out of a population of 687,267 or 1.71 per cent. of the whole, who could pass the simple test of literacy. Unfortunately, the tables are inaccurate in the matter of including Animists among the Hindus. In the census, according to the instructions given, every person who called himself a Hindu was entered as such. It is naturally fashionable in a district where Hindus or Semi-Hinduized aboriginals hold all the positions of riches and honour for those who are really aboriginal or semi-aboriginal to call themselves Hindus, and the great majority of them got themselves entered as Hindus instead of as Animists. This accounts for the fact that the number of Animists is no larger than 34,883 although the number of Oraons alone in the District is 36,611. Similarly all the Bhogtas (15,197) and all the Parhaiyas (8,739) have entered themselves as Hindus.

23 *Principal castes.*—The principle castes found are:—Brahman 30,883; Chamar 32,123; Dusadh 31,872; Ahir 48,109; Kahar 30,848; Lohar 13,184; Koiri 22,543; Mallah 11,491; Rajput 27,083; Teli 19,194; Barhi 8,051; Dhobi 6,771; Bhogta 15,197; Bhuian 81,461; Chero 16,602; Kharwar 53,331; Korwa 11,863; Oraon 36,611; Binjhas 1,414; Kisan 5,108; Munda 3,724; Parhaiya 8,739; Gareri 6,635; Hajam 9,123; Kandu 7,120; Kayastha 3,987; Kumhar 8,976; Kurmi 5,516; Rajwar 7,005; Rauniar 6,962.

The aboriginal and quasi-aboriginal tribes of Palaman are Bhogtas, Bhuians, Binjhas, Birhors, Bedas, Chiks, Hos, Karmalis, Kharias, Mahalis, Mallahs, Oraons, Mundas, Cheros, Kharwars, Korwas, Parhaiyas, Kisans, and Rajwars. These castes contain 254,044 persons or 40 per cent. of the total population. Along with the Dusadhs and Chamars who are on about the same intellectual plane and stand in the same need of protection, they total 318,039 or 46 per cent. of the whole. The Santhals and Nagesias found in the District in 1901, and then numbering respectively 1,953 and 5,115, have disappeared altogether and the Mundas seem to be in the process of disappearing. There were 9,697 in 1901 and only 3,724 in 1911. The number of Oraons on the other hand rose from 21,920 in 1901 to 36,611 in 1911. Among the rarer castes found in the District, are:—*Binds*—a non-aboriginal cultivating class,

fond of reclaiming cultivable land from waste *Kisans*.—an aboriginal cultivating class *Mallahs*.—a semi-aboriginal class many of whom officiate as *baigis*. Cultivation and the manufacture of sacks for loading pack-bullocks are their principal occupations. *Korwas*.—an aboriginal people who formerly used to keep to the jungles, but are now gradually taking to cultivation. *Parhaiyas*.—a wild hill tribe. *Mirshikars*.—professional bird-catchers. *Patwas*.—the same caste as were found in a small number in Hazaribagh. There are only 369 of them in the district.

24. *Muhammadans*.—The Muhammadans of the district are mostly Jolahas of whom there are 34,827; they are cultivators and weavers of cloth for the use of the common people. They are mostly fairly well-off according to Palamau standards. But Muhammadan *Kamias* have been met with. They fraternize freely with the Hindus, except in the North East of the district where relations have recently been strained. There are 7,734 Pathans who have acquired a reputation among the people for violence. They do not favour cultivation as a means of livelihood but many of them are engaged in the cattle trade. There are also 4,971 Sheikhs, to be found mostly in thana Husainabad; they are either landholders or cultivators. Most of the Charars and Bhuiyans and Dusadhs have been reduced to *Kamiauti* or to that free sweated labour so common in Palamau, which is very little better than it.

25. *Displacement of aboriginals by Hindus*.—In paragraphs 31 and 32 of his final report on the Survey and Settlement operations in Hazaribagh, Mr. Sifton has given some very interesting figures to show that Chota Nagpur is suited pre eminently to the Chota Nagpuries and that real economic progress and development are to be found only in tracts occupied by aboriginals, in contrast to those which have been permeated by the Hindus. A comparison of the conditions prevailing in the two districts of Ranchi and Hazaribagh has demonstrated that Hazaribagh has not been marked by the same progress as Ranchi owing to the larger grip of the Hindus on it.

Palamau is the road by which the aboriginals have successively reached Ranchi and Hazaribagh. Its original peoples have been crushed by successive conquests; the Cheros and Kharwars who were the last invaders to settle down in it had already before their arrival become raiders and free-booters rather than reclaimers of the wilds. The same line of development was not therefore to be expected here as in Hazaribagh and Ranchi, nevertheless a study of the Palamau figures side by side with those given by Mr. Sifton in his 31st paragraph will confirm his results

(1) Increase in population—

(a) from 1891 to 1901, Ranchi 5.2 per cent., Hazaribagh 1.17 per cent., Palamau 3.83 per cent.

(b) from 1901 to 1911—Ranchi 16.80 per cent., Hazaribagh 9.39 per cent., Palamau 10.92 per cent.

(2) Increase in density during the last decade :—Ranchi 16.8, Hazaribagh 9.4, Palamau 11.1.

(3) Emigrants in the year of the last census :—From Ranchi 305,000, from Hazaribagh 144,500, from Palamau 37,481.

Immigrants to—Ranchi 33,600, Hazaribagh 41,500, Palamau 25,930.

(4) Increase of natural population during the decade (after allowing for emigration and immigration) :—Ranchi 15.9 per cent., Hazaribagh 8.2 per cent., Palamau 14 per cent.

(5) Increase of houses per square mile between 1891 and 1911 :—Ranchi from 24 to 35, 50 per cent., Hazaribagh from 26 to 32, 23 per cent. Palamau figures for 1891 are not available. But the increase from 1901 to 1911 is from 23.4 to 26.3.

(6) The area of rice-land and upland per head of the cultivating population recorded in class A order I of the Census Table :—

			Rice-land	Upland
Ranchi ...	...	...	... 89	... 17
Hazaribagh ...	...	...	... 49	... 78
Palamau ...	...	...	... 34	... 13

or on the total population of the district—

			Rice-land	Upland
Ranchi ..	...	...	... 55	... 149
Hazaribagh	...	...	... 78	... 61
Palamau	...	...	... 26	... 101

The comparatively big area of upland cultivation per head of the population is due to the exceptionally high proportion of bad upland in Palamau which is cultivated only once in a period of years.

The figures show that though Hindu methods and standards of living have long been established all over the district, its population is still thinner, and its cultivators poorer than in the aboriginal district of Ranchi. There is not therefore even the plea of efficiency and development to justify the degradation of the aboriginal cultivator in Palamau.

26 *Distribution of population by professions.*—Palamau district contains only one town, Daltonganj. Garhwa which is sometimes called a town, though a big trade centre, is really only a village. The population of Daltonganj has risen from 5,837 in 1901 to 7,179 in 1911. The population of Garhwa was 3,610 in 1901 and 4,918 in 1911. Many of the residents however are temporary dwellers carrying on business there, but having their permanent home and their families elsewhere. The villages in the district are small, containing mostly under 500 inhabitants; there are only 169 villages which contain a population of between 500 and 1,000 and 30 which contain over 1,000.

27. *Occupations.*—There is no important industry in the district, except perhaps the collieries at Rajhara which give employment to about 1,000 people. Consequently almost the whole of the population is dependent upon agriculture. The last census shows that 5,29,966 or 77 per cent. of the total population are agriculturists and their dependants. The total is made up as follows :—

Rent receivers and their dependants	...	...	13,390
Cultivators and their dependants	...	...	3,34,097
Farm servants, field labourers and their dependants	...	...	1,68,882
Agents and rent collectors	...	...	1,526
In addition to these agriculturists there are 12,071 stock raisers.			
Besides these classes, the principal occupations are :—			
Those employed in textile industry with dependants	...	...	8,281
Wood cutters, charcoal burners and carpenters and their dependants	...	...	4,464
Agricultural implements makers and workers in metal with their dependants	...	...	6,334
Potters and their dependants	...	...	2,861
Other occupations of some importance are :—			
Traders in food stuffs, such as fish dealers, grocers, and dealers in grain, pulse, vegetables, oil, milk, sweetmeats, tobacco, spices and fodder, (with dependants)	...	...	12,279
Domestic servants (with dependants)	...	...	9,057
Religious avocations	...	...	1,779
Law (including clerks and petition writers)	...	...	192
Medicine (including vaccinators, compounders, nurses, etc.)	...	...	290

These followers of non-agricultural occupations for the most part minister to the needs of the agricultural community and depend indirectly upon the produce of the land for a living.

28. *Movement of the Population*—According to the last census the immigrants to Palamau in 1911 numbered 25,930 and the emigrants 37,481. The interchange of population with neighbouring districts is shown below :—

	Immigrants to Palamau from	Emigrants from Palamau to
Gaya ...	11,809	4,460
Shahabad ...	2,913	3,408
Hazaribagh ...	2,832	2,589
Ranchi ...	2,511	3,519
Manbhum ...	46	3,310
Singbhum ...	4	324
Tributary and Feudatory States ...	1,825	7,254
United Provinces ...	1,577	3,112
	<hr/> 23,530	<hr/> 24,005

There is a very small interchange of population also with some of the other districts in the province and the emigrants to the Assam tea-gardens during 1901—1911 numbered about 9,000.



## CHAPTER III.

## History.

29. *Early History.*—Little is known of the early history of Palamau, but there is no doubt that it was originally peopled by wild tribes, such as the Brijias, Korwas and Parhaiyas, with a few colonies of Mals in central places, more particularly in the neighbourhood of Garhwa. The Mundas, Oraons, Kharwars and Cheros all claim to have occupied Rohtas and ruled the south of Shahabad. They were all probably descended from a common stock and all migrated in turn into Palamau,—the Mundas and Oraons to pass on again to different parts of Ranchi; the Kharwars and the Cheros to make their home in the district. In evidence of the passage of the Mundas, Mr. Dhan Masih Panna prepared at my request a list of more than 300 names of Palamau villages which are undoubtedly Mundari; there are still more than 36,000 Oraons in the district. The Cheros were the most powerful of the four tribes and the last to yield to the pressure of the Hindu and Muhammadan civilizations. Their arrival at Rohtas seems to have taken place at a very early date; and there is reason to believe that they were at a remote period temporarily conquered by the Hindus. It appears from the traditions of the Cheros and Kharwars, and from the evidence of a few inscriptions that have been found in Shahabad, that about the twelfth century A.D. the north of Palamau was ruled by a powerful line of Chiefs, either Kharwar or, perhaps more probably, Chero, who also held the fort of Rohtas and exercised dominion over the south of Shahabad. By the middle of the sixteenth century the Cheros were undoubtedly established in the leadership in that region, for in the *Tarikhi Sher-shahi*, the *Makhzani Afgani* and the *Wahiat-i-mustaki*, are references to the exploits and final destruction of Maharta Chero, a Chief who entirely closed the road to Gaur and Bengal, and used to descend from his hills and jungles and harass the tenants round Bihar. This man's overthrow was reckoned as one of the three great achievements of Sher Shah.

30. *The Chero incursion.*—There are various legends of the conquest of Palamau by the Cheros which differ from each other mainly in respect of the share in it assigned to the Kharwars. One version represents that tribe as having been conquered by the Cheros, but conciliated by them and allowed to remain in the more remote and hilly parts of the country, which border on Sarguja; while another describes them as active participants in the invasion. Tradition also gives differing explanations of the fact that the Cheros were called *barahazar* (the 12,000) and the Kharwars *athara-hazar* (the 18,000) but it agrees that the rulers displaced by the Cheros were Raksel Rajputs, who promptly in their turn, possessed themselves of Sarguja.

31. The version of the legend which is generally accepted in the district has been described at length by Mr. Forbes in his final report on the settlement of the Government estates. It is briefly as follows:—The Cheros, it is said, ruled in Kumaon for several generations; and thence they moved, in great force, to Bhojpur (*i.e.* Shahabad), and took possession of the country, which they held for seven generations, until their leader Shahabul Rai invaded Champaran, drove out the Raja and wasted the country. This audacious conduct provoked the intervention of Jahangir. Shahabul was defeated, and taken captive to Delhi where he died, fighting a tiger for the amusement of the Emperor. Undeterred by his father's fate Bhagwat Rai, the next Chero ruler, continued to make predatory raids until he was attacked by the imperial forces. He then took refuge with Deo Sahi\* of Dhaundar, a fort near Sasaram, whence he subsequently migrated to Palamau, taking with him Puran Mal, a son of Deo Sahi, and a small following. There he entered the service of the Raksel Chief. During his master's absence in Sarguja, Bhagwat Rai treacherously murdered his family, and assumed control of the country, appointing Puran Mal as his hereditary Diwan (A.D. 1613).

\*The Tradition generally describes this man as a Surwar Rajput, but Mr. Forbes believed that he was a Raksel and conjectured that he was a relative of the Raksels of Palamau. The Surwar branch is said to be superior to the Surajbansis of Sonpur and Untari. The name Deo Sahi suggests some sort of relationship of the Thakurais with the ~~Raj~~ Sahis of Sarguja and with the Nagbansis of Chota Nagpur.

Bhagwat Rai, who thus became the first of the Chero Chiefs of Palamau, reigned for 17 years. He was succeeded by his son Anant Rai (31 years), and two grandsons, Bhupal, who ruled only a few months, and Medni Rai, surnamed the Just, who reigned for 13 years. This Raja is by far the most famous of the whole line. He is said to have extended his sway over south Gaya and large parts of Hazaribagh and Sarguja, and to have defeated the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur and sacked his fort at Doisa. He built the lower fort of Palamau, and his name is still well remembered in that part of the district where a saying is even now current that "in the time of Raja Medni Rai, no house was without a churn and butter ("Raja Medinia ghar ghar baje mandhania.")" This fortunate circumstance must, it is feared, be attributed rather to successful depredations than to widely extended cultivation. His son and successor, Pratap Rai, built the second Palamau Fort, but never finished it. The tradition appears to assign to him a short and uneventful reign of only six years. Pratap's son, Saheb Rai, was subdued by the troops of the Emperor and from that time onwards the Rajahs paid occasional revenue to Delhi. During the reign of the next Raja (Ranjit Rai) the Babuan (the descendants of Bhupal Rai, the elder brother of Medni Rai) set up a claim to the throne, and secured the support of the Diwan, Thakurai Ummar Singh, a descendant of Puran Mal and the common ancestor of both the Ranka and Chainpur families. (See Appendix Q.) The Raja was defeated and murdered, and Jai Kishan Rai, the leader of the Babuan, ruled in his stead.

32. *The Babuan Raj.*—After some years Jai Kishan quarrelled bitterly with Sainath Singh of Ranka, the second\* son of the Diwan who had helped him to the *gadi*, and caused him to be murdered by Gajraj Rai, an ancestor of the present zamindars of Bistrampur. The relatives of the murdered man, led by Jainath Singh of Chainpur, nephew of Sainath, entered into alliance with the grandsons of their former victim, Ranjit Rai, and collected a large force to avenge Sainath. Thus it happened that after a reign of 48 years Jai Kishan was shot by a matchlockman in a skirmish at Chetma near Satbarwa. Thereupon his family fled for refuge to the house of the official Kanungo of Palamau, Akhauri Oodwant Ram, which, with his service lands, was situated in Pargana Shahrghati in Bihar. They thus left Jainath Singh to assume the Diwani, while Chitrajit Rai, the grandson of Ranjit, became Raja. Oodwant Ram soon went to Patna to secure for Jai Kishan's family the assistance of Captain Camac, but found that officer little disposed to support him on account of Jai Kishan's contumacy on some former occasion. At this juncture, however, Jainath Singh, not content with "committing great oppressions on the people, in collecting supplies for his troops" went to Aurangabad and openly flouted the British authority, and thus turned the scale against himself.

33. *The British Conquest*—The British troops invaded the district and after some fighting drove Chitrajit and his supporters into the Palamau forts and besieged them there (1771 A. D.). But the walls withstood all the bombardment of their artillery until a weak spot, which had been made and cunningly camouflaged by Medni Rai, as a secret means of re-entry in the event of his ever losing the fort by treachery, was pointed out by Oodwant Ram. Here a breach was effected. The fort was stormed, and Chitrajit fled to Ramgarh while Jainath, the Diwan and his relations, including Shiva Prashad Singh his nephew (the son of the murdered Sainath), escaped to Sarguja, whence he never returned. Such is the traditional history.

34. *Inconsistencies in the Chero Legend.*—In substance it contains a great deal of the truth with respect to the regime of the Chero Rajas. But there is much which the story of Bhagwat Rai's treachery leaves unexplained. The Cheros came into the country in a body which was called the 12,000. The Britias still frighten their children with a song of the dreaded achievements of Deo Sahi. These circumstances, perhaps, suggest that there was an invasion on a large scale, in which Deo Sahi took an active part, rather than a peaceful penetration, just as his name "Sahi", suggests relationship with the Chiefs of the Kolarian tribes of Chota Nagpur, Sonapura, Sarguja, Chhechhari, etc.

\*It was acknowledged by Raja Govinda Prashad of Ranka, who supplied a genealogical tree to Mr. Bright nearly thirty years ago, that the Chainpur branch is descended from the elder son; but the present Ranka family claim that Sainath was the eldest son of Ummar Singh. Sainath is called Sakat in some of the old records.

Another fact which the story leaves unsolved is that the descendants both of Bhagwat and the Diwan, when in difficulties, constantly sought and received an asylum in Sarguja; indeed so closely were the Palamau families affected by the affairs of Sarguja that for 30 years after the establishment of the British authority in Palamau, it was necessary to undertake constant military operations for the tranquillity of Sarguja. If there was historical truth in the story of Bhagwat Rai's acquisition of Palamau, this would not have been the case. Moreover it is likely that the true explanation of the downfall of the aged Raja Jai Kishan should be sought in the ambitions and rapacity of his nephews—Gajraj Rai and Soogand Rai. In the later years of Jai Kishan's rule while the Raja himself was too old, and his heir, (his grandson), too young, to restrain them, these two managed to get into their possession by means which are not recorded but may be guessed, the ancient and great *jagirs* of Deogan and Bisrampur. It was Gajraj himself who killed Sainath, and it is probable that it was the aggression of Gajraj and Soogand which first led to the quarrel between Jai Kishan and his old supporters, the Thakurais. If this conclusion is correct, it is easy to imagine that the outraged relatives of Sainath would have had little difficulty in rallying many interests to their cause such as (1) the injured claimants to the two big *jagirs*, (2) the apprehensive occupants of the remaining tenures of the pargana, and (3) the supplanted grandsons of the Raja Ranjit Rai—a combination sufficient to expel the aged Jai Kishan along with his youthful grandsons and restless nephew.

35. *The Muhammadan Histories.*—The Muhammadan historians supplement the Chero legends, and on the whole confirm them. They represent that three invasions of Palamau by the Imperial troops took place in the years A. D. 1641, 1643 and 1660 respectively, and record that Pratap Rai was on the *gadi* at the time of each attack. If these dates\* are correct, it is possible that the acquisition of Palamau by the Cheros took place much earlier than 1613 A.D.; and that the Imperial invasions were directly occasioned by the widespread aggression of Medni Rai. It will be noticed that one historian refers to the long established rule of Pratap's ancestors and speaks of a "customary *peshkash*" payable by them to the Governor of Bihar, at a date anterior to 1641.

"Pratap" says the Padishah Namah "whose family generation after generation had ruled over the country, an infidel like all his ancestors, had neglected to send the customary *peshkash* to Abdullah Khan, the Former Governor of Bihar." The Governor was engaged in other operations and took no immediate steps against him. "This made the Chero so haughty that he disobeyed Shaista Khan, the new Governor." Accordingly Shaista Khan invaded Palamau, acting under an imperial mandate "to clear the country of the filth of Pratap's unprofitable existence".

36. *Shaista Khan's invasion.—Intrigues of the Babuan.—Invasion of Zabbardast Khan.*—His campaign was commenced in October 1641 and conducted with extraordinary caution; every halting place was fortified and months were spent in clearing jungle along the line of advance. Finally after an action in front of the Palamau Fort Pratap offered Shaista Khan a *peshkash* of Rs. 80,000, which the latter accepted on the 12th February 1642, "in consideration of the heat and the approach of the rains."

Almost immediately after the departure of Shaista Khan, Darya Rai and Tej Rai, brothers of Medni Rai and uncles of Pratap, secured the approval of Jahad Khan, the successor of Shaista Khan, for a project of imprisoning Pratap and seizing the *gadi* for themselves. In this enterprise Tej Rai, the younger of the two brothers was successful; but he neglected to surrender Pratap to the Governor, and gave no share in the spoil to Darya Rai. That disappointed aspirant once more appealed to the Governor, to whom he made over the fort of Deogan. Thereupon Zabbardast Khan was despatched with an army to enforce his claims (October 1643). During the absence of Tej Rai on a hunting expedition, his followers at the Fort, declared themselves in favour of Pratap whom they released from prison. At the same time the

\* They have been quoted in the Gazetteer from the Muhammadan historians but are almost certainly too early by about 30 years as Shaista Khan's rule in Bengal did not begin till the death of Mir Jumla in 1663 A. D.

leaders of Tej Rai's army facing Zabbardast Khan, including Thakurai Madan Singh the Diwan, "fled in the night with a great number of their men." Pratap finding that he was not in a position to resist, surrendered to Zabbardast Khan, to whom as well as to the Governor of Bihar he made a present of an elephant. He was obliged to pay a *peshkash* of a lakh of rupees and to go in person to Patna, where he was ultimately made a Commander of a thousand horse, and given a grant of Palamau as a military tenure upon a *jama* of Rs. 2,50,000.

37. *Daud Khan's invasion*—"But" says the Alamgir-namah, "the heathenish zamindars of Palamau, trusting to the inaccessibility of their country, not only showed neglect in paying the stipulated *peshkash*, but also encroached upon imperial lands adjacent to their country". Aurangzeb therefore ordered Daud Khan, Governor of Bihar, to invade Palamau early in 1660\* A.D., Daud Khan's march was attended with all the usual caution. The forts of Kothi (near Imanganj in the Gaya District) and Kunda (in Hazaribagh) were successively approached with the utmost care, only to be found unoccupied. The Raja offered complete submission and a heavy *peshkash*, but without avail. Finally an obstinately contested battle was fought under the walls of the Palamau Fort, in which the Raja was defeated. He escaped with his family and valuables into the jungles. The estate of Kunda was taken from the Cheros and granted by Daud Khan to the ancestors of the present zamindar. Mankli Khan was appointed Faujdar of Palamau until 1666 A.D. when it was placed directly under the control of Lashkar Khan, the new Governor of Bihar. Except for a mention of Jai Kishan Rai as a participant in a successful invasion of Ramgarh (apparently that of Kamdar Khan in 1747), which was interrupted by a Marhatta incursion, there is, I believe, no further account of Palamau in the Muhammadan histories, but among the records of the Commissioner's office are 7 *parwanas* (*waquf* and *dakhil-klarij*) granted by the Emperors at Delhi and bearing the dates 1680 A.D. to 1730 A.D. by virtue of which the three villages Panki, Konwai and Harbhanga were made over for various periods to Thakurai Kirit Singh and his successors. Possibly this may have had some connection with the flight by night of the Thakurai's army before the second Muhammadan invader, as recorded in the tradition.

38. *Maharaja Shitab Ray's account of the Muhammadan period*.—There is however in the office of the Board of Revenue an interesting account of the dealings of the Mughals with Palamau (or Palaoon as they called it) and the rest of Chota Nagpur. This document was compiled from the Subahdari registers in the possession of the "Comptrolling Council of Revenue" at Patna in the year 1771 A.D. by Maharaja Shitab Ray, the Rai Rayan, who is described in the Oxford History of India as being at this time "nominally the Deputy of the Nawab, but in reality the Governor of Bihar." The story opens in Akbar's reign—probably in 1574†, when Rajah Man Singh invaded Bihar and took Rohtas from the zamindars who had recovered it after Sher Shah's death in 1545. He then attacked Palaoon and forced the passes, inflicting heavy losses on the defenders, but treating all who submitted with consideration. By degrees, he settled his troops over the country. During the disturbances which preceded and followed Akbar's death—30 years later—the local zamindars rebelled and drove out the King's garrison. In 1629 Ahmad Khan was appointed Subahdar of Patna by Shah Jahan and given Palaoon, etc., as a Jagir. The term 'etc.,' is significant in this case for it includes Japla, Belaunja Deogan, Bodam, Sarguja, Sher and Sherghati. Upon all this territory, Ahmad Khan imposed an annual tribute of Rs. 1,36,000. This was doubtless the customary *peshkash* of the Muhammadan histories, which Shaista Khan, attempted to enforce. In 1688 Ibrahim Khan succeeded Shaista Khan, Aurangzeb's maternal uncle, (1663-1688), in the Subahdari of Bengal and Bihar and the Jagir of Palaoon, etc., and his Fouzdar, Bihari Das increased the tribute from Rs. 1,36,000 to Rs. 1,40,000 by imposing an additional *peshkash*

\* This date too, appears to be incorrect: Daud Khan, Mankli Khan, and Lashkar Khan were apparently officers subordinate to Shaista Khan. The true date of these transactions and of the grant of Kunda to the present zamindars is probably about 1686.

† The translation recorded in the consultation gives the date as 1539. This is a mistake as Sher Shah did not die till 1545, nor Akbar succeed till 1556. Man Singh reduced Bihar in 1574-75.

of Rs. 4,140 on the Jagirdars of Palamau. It has already been shown in the preceding paragraphs, however, that the Subahdars had not been able to realize this demand with any regularity. The same difficulty was experienced after 1688 and so in 1720, in the reign of Muhammad Shah (1719-48), one of the feeble successors of Aurangzeb, the Subahdar Sarballand Khan, after reducing Bhojpur, found it necessary to invade Palaoon. This invasion must have coincided in time with the death of Ranjit Rai and the rise to power of the Babuan; and it is possible that it was in some degree accountable for these happenings. Nagbundy Singh of Nagpur, who is stated to have had at that time control over Palamau and Hazaribagh, as well as Ranchi, finally paid Sarballand Khan a lakh of rupees—Rs. 45,000 in cash and the balance in diamonds—and thereby induced him to return with his troops to Patna. During this expedition, Sarballand Khan separated Sher and Sherghati and “the parts below the Ghauts” from the remainder of the *Jagir*, and settled them with Mir Aziz Khan, a Rohilla adventurer, for Rs. 35,000. The succeeding Subahdars were unenterprising and failed to realize their *nazarana* from the hill tribes, until in 1730 one Fughyr-ul-Dowlah’ marched to Kunda and sent the Rohilla renter of Sherghati in advance of him into Palamau. This force was stopped in the passes by “felled trees and people in the pass throwing darts and shooting arrows from the rocks.” The Rohilla himself was killed and his son subsequently met a similar fate in a later affray. Upon hearing of this, ‘Fughyr-ul-Dowlah’ accepted a compromise by which the Palamau people agreed to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 5,000 and the Ghatwal of Ramgarh of Rs. 12,000 on behalf of the Raja of Nagpur. These revenues were paid for three years. In 1734 Ali Vardi Khan the new Subahdar after reducing the zamindars of Tikari and Sonaut, marched to Kunda, dismantled the Chatra fort and compelled the Ramgarh and Palamau Ghatwals (as they were then called) to renew their engagements. He soon pardoned and restored the Rajas of Tikari and Sonaut and rented Palamau and Ramgarh to them. These zamindars immediately invaded Ramgarh and captured Bissun Singh, the Ghatwal, whom they compelled to disgorge Rs. 80,000 by way of arrears of revenue. From that time onwards, Rs. 12,000 were regularly realized from Ramgarh and Rs. 5,000 from Palamau. The details of the tribute claimed by Ibrahim Khan in 1688 are given below and are not without interest :—

					Rs.
Sher	...	...	...	...	18,356
Sherghati	...	...	...	...	6,043
Jappella (Japla)	...	...	...	...	3,895
Belannja	...	...	...	...	7,728
Deogan	...	...	...	...	3,513
Currumpur or Cohtee	...	...	...	...	9,120
Paloon	...	...	...	...	6,197
Coyra Orissa (Nagpur) with Currumpur or Bodam	...	...	...	...	40,505
Soorgoteha	...	...	...	...	20,000
Sayer of Paloon, etc.	...	...	...	...	10,963
Duty on the hill merchants	...	...	...	...	4,000
Peshkash of Jagirdars of Paloon	...	...	...	...	4,140
Salami, etc.	...	...	...	...	5,550
Total	...	...	...	...	1,40,919

39. *Conquest of Tori by Ranjit Rai.*—*Invasion of Palamau by Ramgarh.*—*List of Chero Rajas*—It appears from other evidence (see the record of the Tori Resumption appeal 1819) that Ranjit Rai with the help of the Ramgarh Raja conquered Tori and held it for three years, probably up to the time of his death at the hand of Jai Kishan. Ranjit Rai's family sought and received an asylum in Ramgarh, both at this time and in later years after the defeat of Chitrajit by the British. This fact may have been responsible for Jai Kishan's subsequent attack, in company with the Nawab, upon Ramgarh. The Ramgarh Raja, however, appears to have taken revenge on Jai Kishan for his aggression; for it is stated in a letter from the Collector of Ramgarh dated the 30th April 1823, that before the British annexation “the Ramgarh Raja had conquered Palamau”, and created “great confusion in the affairs of the country.” The succession of Chiefs from the death of Pratap to the

British conquest appears to have been Drigpal Rai, Saheb Rai, Ranjit Rai and Jai Kishan Rai. A genealogical tree will be found in Appendix Q. There are still in existence three original *sanads* granted respectively by (1) Drigpal Rai in 1685, (2) Saheb Rai 1698, and (3) Ranjit Rai 1720 A. D.; and 12 *sanads* of Jai Kishan ranging from 1722 to 1768.

40. *The condition of Palamau under the Cheros.*—From the foregoing accounts it may be concluded that the Chero Chiefs depended for their prosperity on raids and forays rather than upon cultivation and settled rule. The face of the country in those days is said to have been for the most part covered with jungle. The town of Palamau itself, the capital of the country, was hemmed in on all sides by jungle into which the defeated Cheros always seemed able to make an escape from their enemies at the eleventh hour. Mr. Forbes has stated in his report that the town of Palamau was not situated near the fort of that name, but at Kot near Lesliganj. He has not cited any authority for this statement, and it seems to be opposed to the description of the town given in the Alamgir-namah, which represents it as something of a city, situated near the Auranga, protected by two forts, one being on a hill top, and surrounded by hills and dense jungle.

41. *Captain Camac's account of the conquest of Palamau.*—Detailed accounts of Captain Jacob Camac's conquest of Palamau are contained in the copies of his letters preserved in the "consultations" of the Patna Controlling Council of Revenue, now in the Board's office at Bankipur. Captain Camac was appointed in 1768 to command the southern Frontier Detachment, which watched over a stretch of country extending from Kharagpur, in Monghyr, to the Son near Dehri. In 1769, he had to rescue Kharagdiha from the depredations of Ramgarh and in the end of 1770 he was sent to repress the activities of the same people and to subdue and arrest Amar Singh, the Raja of Gidhaur, who was ravaging the Company's territory. This he did successfully. At this time, both Jainath Singh, the Thakurai, who was supporting the claims of Chitrajit Rai to the Palamau Raj, and Gajraj Rai, on behalf of Gopal Rai, were in negotiation with the Patna Council. The southern Cheros, whom Camac described as a wealthy and independent set of Rajputs, were in possession of the Palamau fort but they were believed to have come to an understanding with Jainath Singh and they justified this suspicion soon afterwards by joining him openly and by admitting Shiva Prashad Singh and Diljit Rai into the Fort. The country, had been mercilessly ravaged by three years of civil war, during which, according to Captain Camac, the Raja's own estates extending for nearly 30 *kos* from the fort almost to Kunda, were completely devastated and depopulated. The Patna Council, having been much troubled by defaulting zamindars, who made a practice of retiring to the hills with their money when called upon to pay their revenue, and being also unable, during the Palamau disturbances, to realize the Palamau contribution of Rs. 5,000 a year, decided that whatever settlement they might eventually make in the quarrel between Gopal and Chitrajit, they must at any rate obtain and keep the fort for themselves as a guarantee against similar defaults in the future. But Jainath Singh was not ready to surrender it and consequently in December Captain Camac was ordered to prepare to attack Palamau, if necessary, while Lieutenant Barland was moved with two companies from Shahabad to Nauranga (Aurangabad). At length in January 1771 Jainath who was negotiating through the Fouzdar Ghulam Hussain Khan, a gentleman who though in the Company's service was a secret supporter of Jainath, stated that he would not surrender the fort, nor give an estate worth Rs. 6,000 to Gopal Rai, nor attend in person at Patna, nor give security. At the same time he professed that he could only agree to a revenue of Rs. 4,000 to be fixed in perpetuity. Upon this Camac wrote: "I have now no room to doubt which side to take and shall therefore go about to bring everything to a crisis as soon as possible". The Council in reply offered to confirm Chitrajit as Raja and to fix the revenue at Rs. 5,000 for 10 years but insisted that the fort of Palamau should be surrendered and that Gopal Rai "having come to Patna and requested our protection shall receive lands to the amount of Rs. 8,000 a year as a rent-free Jagir on resigning all further claims to the zamindari".

An answer was demanded within 10 days. On the 21st, no answer having been received, Captain Camac marched from Patna to Nauranga in 22 hours, meeting Gajraj Rai on the way, and next day pushed on to Sher where he was joined by Lieutenants Barland, Keating and Pemple and by Gopal Rai. Thence he reached Kunda in two marches. The total strength of his detachment was normally 10 or 11 companies of infantry. At this time, it was only 10. Of these, he had to leave four in permanent posts and so the force available for the invasion of Palamau was only 6 companies. In addition to these he was given one heavy gun and a couple of tumbrils, and expected to receive irregular levies from the principal zamindars of the Company's territory. But the zamindars held back. Camac observed: "I find on sounding the zamindars that they are not very hearty that Palamau should be the Company's. It has afforded a hiding place to those of Bogepur, Siris Kutumba, Sherghauty and many others, who in the Hindustan Government were nearly independent, but now when they have disobeyed are obliged to secure themselves here. This fort now lying behind them (and being in our hands) will be a great check, which they foresee."

Leaving Kunda on the 26th January, Camac got through the first three passes before the Thakurai discovered that he was not coming by the straight road from Sher. Then by making a feint against Chainpur, where the Thakurai's grain supplies were kept, he drew his opponents from the remaining pass and arrived before the fort "without a shot fired". This was, however, accomplished only by leaving his artillery and supply columns to follow later. The enemy abandoned the upper fort, which is on top of a hill, for want of water, and Camac was able to occupy it and overlook the lower fort from its walls. Thence he observed that its defences were of very uneven strength and thickness. A day or two later, he rescued his first supply column which was being escorted by matchlock men and a few irregular cavalry and had been severely attacked in a *ghat* four miles from the fort.

or the next few days, he could only maintain a blockade, while he awaited the arrival of his heavy gun. During this interval he beat off two night attacks from outside and suffered the loss of the greater part of a foraging column which had gone out under the guidance of Gajraj Rai and Budhan Singh—"a principal man of the country." Provisions now became very scarce. When the force had left Khunda, each man had carried only 4 days' food. The first supply column brought in only 3 days' rations; the country yielded almost nothing. Ghulam Hussain Khan and Narain Singh of Siris and Cutumba had failed to send the promised supplies; nay, more, Camac discovered that 400 of the best of the Thakurai's fighting men were actually supplied by Narain Singh. Ramgarh and Sarguja were also helping the Thakurai with men and money. The troops had therefore to be put on short rations—every Hindu getting  $\frac{1}{4}$  seer of rice and every Muhammadan a fixed amount of beef. From the 5th, the camp followers and servants received no food at all. On the 7th having only one day's ration left, Camac tried to escalate the walls but his ladders were too short and too weak, and on the 8th he fell back to Jainagar where he met Ghulam Hussain Khan with a company of sepoy, 20 or 30 horse, 100 matchlock men, 116 pack-bullocks loaded with grain and Camac's own bazaar cattle. Here Gajraj succeeded in rejoining the party. Next day, Camac's Sergeant Major came in from Sherghati after overcoming opposition in the passes on his way. He had the heavy gun, two tumbrils, two hackeries, 50 bullocks loaded with munitions and over 100 loaded with grain. Camac considered this march to be a first class military achievement on the part of the Sergeant Major. Meanwhile Camac had been trying unsuccessfully to negotiate with Jainath who killed a messenger sent to him with a letter, and demanded that the invaders should retire from the country leaving him the fort and the district at the former revenue, to be paid in money and kind. In reporting these demands to the Council, Camac observed that the Thakurai, though possessing a very fine force, had very little strength of his own and recommended that Narain Singh and others of the Company's zamindars should be made to join his camp in order to prevent them helping the enemy.



Ten days later (18th February), Camac having again appeared before the walls of the fort, set up his heavy gun 150 yards from the wall, where it was made of brick, and as he was informed, was thinner and less planked than elsewhere. A breach was effected by a bombardment lasting for two days and on the 3rd day storming parties advanced against this breach as well as against the Nagpur gate. The garrison did not wait for the assault but abandoned the fort in a body with a wild discharge of matchlocks and fled across the river (Auranga) with such speed that a company stationed only 80 yards away were unable to intercept their retreat. At this point, it may be noted that there is no mention of Odwant Ram in any of the records, though he figures so largely in the Chero legend,\* and that Captain Camac's first failure to take the fort was due not to the resistance of the walls to his artillery but to complete absence of guns and shortage of food. The capture of the **fort on the 20th February, 1771**, was the decisive event of the campaign, but guerilla warfare, in which Camac found the country impossible for mounted troops, followed for four months, until on the 2nd of June the Thakurai having ventured to make a stand in an entrenched position in a pass was attacked in the rear by Lieutenants Mackenzie and Keating while Camac engaged him frontally, with the result that he was severely defeated. After this, the Bhokta (Bhogta), "one of the most formidable men in this country", who was probably the chief of the Bhogtas in the south-west of the district and an ancestor of the mutineers, Nilambar and Pitambar, came in and made his submission. By the 21st June, the Thakurai had entirely quitted the country, and Camac established a couple of outposts (Tannahs) on the Sarguja border to guard against his return. The people were already beginning to come back to their villages. "The greatest part of the country," wrote Camac, "is inhabited. The people are repairing their burnt and despoiled habitations for the reception of their families from the rainy weather; till their women and children come and they plough the ground there is little dependence to be had of them". Ten days later "the Ghatwals and headmen of Palaman had all come in, except one or two left without followers, and the country may be looked on as fully reduced". Gopal Rai was made Raja; and on the 16th July, his brother was sent to Patna to conclude the settlement with Mr. Vansittart on a revenue of Rs. 12,000 a year which had already been agreed to. It was considered that the country could not pay more on account of its devastated condition. The term of the settlement was 3 years. The fort was retained by the Company and supplied with 2 months' reserve provisions.

42 *Camac's illness.—Return and final defeat of Thakurai Jainath.*—After these events, the attention of the English commander was occupied immediately by Mukund Singh of Ramgarh whose contumacious behaviour has already been noticed. Not content with making incursions into Bihar, helping the Thakurai and falling into arrears of revenue, this chief proceeded in July, 1771, to invade Nagpur. It was necessary, therefore, to protect that country. Though Camac advanced to within 10 miles of Ramgarh, Mukund Singh, encouraged by a Survey Officer called Captain Carter who had entered into correspondence with him and sheltered one Umrao Sahi, 'a pretender' to the Nagpur Raj, met him with persistent evasions. Meanwhile, in February 1772, the Thakurai's emissaries began to stir up trouble in the south-west of Palaman where it borders on Sarguja. But it was not until Camac fell ill and had to go to Patna in April that he himself ventured to return to the district. A rumour spread through the country that the Captain was dead and the whole district was soon in confusion. The Thakurai, who was strenuously supported by Sarguja, quickly collected a large following. Lieutenant Thomas Scott moved out with two companies against him to the Ghat of Oodeypur on the 24th of April 1772. His men were dispirited by the rumour of Camac's death and consequently when the two forces stumbled on each other on the 26th, in Scott's words, "After a severe and obstinate dispute

\* There is however no reason to doubt that he played a part in all these affairs. It is natural that an English writer should not attach much importance to one who was merely an intermediary.



my people broke, Sergeant Pelvin killed and I am shot through the (leg)". After this Scott had to retreat to Manatu on the extreme eastern boundary of the district. The Palamau fort, however, was securely held. Rajah Gopal Rai had not even awaited the result of the battle. At Manatu, Scott was reinforced by convalescents from Sherghati and thence returned to Jainagar to keep up communications with the fort. Meanwhile the Thakurai took Ranka from Gajraj's people and "burnt and plundered the loyal parts of the country". But his success was of short duration. In May, Lieutenant Bateman joined Scott with three companies and the latter officer being already convalescent, they attacked the Thakurai in a strong position near Bistrampur where he was doubtless pursuing his special enemy Gajraj Rai—and routed him on the 5th of June. Next day, they pursued him vigorously as far as Kaparnanda whence he fled into Sarguja. This was Jainath Singh's final exit from Palamau, but he continued his intrigues vigorously with Mukund Singh and succeeded in inducing a marauding host of Marhattas to attack Captain Camac's ally, the Raja of Nagpur. Camac thought that this attack had been intended to synchronize with the Thakurai's own appearance in Palamau but that the latter was made prematurely owing to the rumours of his death. Captain Evens was sent to defend Nagpur and the Marhattas eventually tried their fortune in an attack on Lieutenants Scott and Campbell in Palamau. They were severely repulsed and pursued, whereupon they betook themselves off having put Mukund Singh's emissaries into irons. The Thakurai just escaped their wrath by fleeing hastily from them without his baggage. The following month witnessed the overthrow of Mukund and the conquest of Ramgarh and there was no further attempt at serious or organized resistance to Captain Camac in Palamau, though in 1773 there was a rising against the Raja and his relations which Camac suppressed.

43. *Necessity to revise the three years' settlement.*—But the Thakurai's depredations had made it impossible for Raja Gopal to pay his revenue, even though Camac considered the country to be in a much better state than it was at the beginning of the year 1771. He observed that "an increase of revenue was not the object of the expedition but to form a barrier to the province by getting command of the hills and passes and attaching the natives to our interest, to secure our rich parganas from depredations and to prevent our fugitive zamindars from finding an asylum there with the Government balances." He found it necessary, too, to induce the raiyats to settle down by offering low rents and advances to buy bullocks. Experience had shown that the Raja himself was not a success. "He has not the cleverness nor activity" wrote Camac, "to conduct and restrain a frontier country such as Palamau is, especially as for some late acts he wants the confidence and attachment of the people." Finally it was deemed expedient to conciliate the southern (Chero) chiefs who had grown very powerful through holding aloof from the recent Palamau civil war, and to keep their quota of revenue very low. A revision of the three years' settlement had thus become necessary. In October, at the Raja's request, Camac proposed to associate Gajraj Rai and Soogand Rai, his relations, with Gopal Rai in the new settlement, and the Council gave him full discretion in the matter and expressed a hope that his arrangements "will improve Palamau". On the 8th February 1773, the new *Kabuliyat* for a five years settlement (1180-84 F.S.) was approved. This document describes the country as Poondag *alias* Palamau and Deogan. The revenue was fixed at Rs. 6,000 for the first year, Rs. 8,000 for the second and Rs. 12,000 for the remaining 3 years. Almost the first act of Gajraj in his new capacity was to attempt to enforce, in the following June, a claim to possession of Deogan and Kataya by driving off the cattle of Narain Singh of Siris and Kutumba, who had seized them. Captain Camac reported the dispute to the Council in November. As these tracts are now in Palamau, it may be assumed that the decision was ultimately in favour of Gajraj. In December, Camac, as has been noted above, had to quell disturbances against the settlement holders. On the 15th of October, Warren Hastings recommended to the Council that Palamau, Ramgarh and Nagpur should be transferred from the charge of the Patna Council to the Presidency, and observed that the administration of justice and the collection of rents from the raiyats *should*

be left entirely to the zamindars. This change took place in the following year, the Burdwan Council exercising control for a few months during the process. From the Calcutta Council Camac obtained a remission of Rs. 6,800 of the Palamau revenue on account of severe floods which occurred during the rains of 1774.

44. *Transfer of control to Mr. Heatley.*—In 1775, anonymous attacks were made on Captain Camac on account of which a civilian named Sherburne was temporarily suspended. At the end of the year Philip Francis wrote a minute urging that in order to improve the country and increase the revenue, the administration should be transferred to a civilian, and Mr. Heatley, the Collector of Pachete, who had got into trouble in 1773 for sheltering the fugitive, Mukund Singh, was appointed "Collector of Ramgarh" with Mr. Ramus as his assistant. The southern frontier force, however, continued to be stationed at Hazaribagh until quite recent times. The revenue of these districts (called the Balagaut) stood as follows at the time of the change (1775 A. D.)

						Rs.
Ramgarh	...	...	...	...	...	30,000
Nagpur	...	...	...	...	...	12,000
Palamau	...	...	...	...	...	12,000
Kendy	...	...	...	...	...	2,000
Total						56,000

"This sum" wrote Mr. Francis, "does not deserve the name of a revenue if compared with the extent and population of the country. I look upon it rather as an assessment or contribution than as a reasonable rent arising from a regular valuation of the lands." "The Collector to be appointed, should" he continued, "be instructed to consider of a plan for forming a regular and impartial *bandobast* for the districts and including the *Jagueerdarry* and *Chowkydarry* lands granted originally in lieu of services which the present holders do not perform". The Jagirdars apparently did not like this scheme for we have the authority of Mr. N. Smith for the statement that Mr. Heatley was removed for falling foul of them. Possibly his removal marks the recovery of control by Warren Hastings and a consequent reversal of policy after Colonel Monson's death in September 1776 had reduced his opponents in the Council to impotence. The annual cost of the upkeep of Captain Camac's battalion at this time was over Rs. 150,000, or nearly three times the revenue. By a regulation of April the 6th, 1781, a Civil Court of Judicature was established for all these districts at Chittra (Chatra) for the administration of criminal and civil jurisdictions. As the country was "poor and jungly", it was not given a separate officer to preside over the new court; but the "officer entrusted with the revenue" became the judge in addition to his other work, subject to an injunction to keep his two duties distinct. "Tannahdars or Faujdars" were abolished but the zamindars were allowed to retain many of their powers "concurrently with the Adalat". Faujdari *Narogahs*, independent of the court, were still retained and it was ordered that all Faujdari details should be reported monthly to the Governor-General through the Remembrancer of the Criminal Courts. The gradual curtailment of his judicial powers, as will be seen later, hampered the Palamau Raja considerably in his efforts to resume Jagirs whenever he found it convenient to do so. In the same year, the failure of the zamindars to stop levying "Chokies" and other imposts exhausted the patience of the Government to such an extent that the offence was made liable to corporal punishment and confiscation of the zamindari. But in spite of the new court and the new laws, it was not till many years later that anything like settled order and organized administration could be introduced. "In consequence of the wild state of the country, consisting chiefly of hills and forests, the regulations could not be said to have more than a nominal operation in the interior. In fact, the realization of the revenue partook more of the nature of voluntary contributions than of that active and punctual enforcement of the rights of Government which was practised in all the other districts, and from which the zamindars of Palamau had no peculiar claims to exemption."—(Hamilton's description of Hindustan).

45. *Defects of Captain Camac's arrangements.*—Captain Camac and his successors had many urgent calls elsewhere and Palamau was, except for the garrison at the fort, generally left very much to its own destinies. The **'five years settlement'** can hardly have appeared even to its author a satisfactory arrangement, or likely to be the basis of a permanent administration; but it is unlikely that he fully appreciated the restless and mis-directed energy of Gajraj and Soogand. He had in fact expelled one Raja—the descendant of a long line of rulers—in favour of the grandson and two nephews of a man who had come into power by the murder of the ruling chief, and had maintained his authority by the murder of his hereditary Diwan. He had expelled the Thakurai and entrusted Palamau to three joint Rajas, one of whom was known to be feeble and unpopular and another a murderer. The third son showed himself a turbulent and unprincipled adventurer. Except for the Cheros in the south, there were none left strong enough to hold them in check; the flight of the Thakurai placed Chainpur and Ranka at their mercy. Mr. N. Smith writing in 1823 observed that "there now followed a series of iniquities which probably have no parallel in the whole revenue history of the Company's Provinces." Gajraj and Soogand at once began to play for their own hands. But Oodwant Ram, the Kanungo, appears to have acquired at first complete ascendancy over Gopal Rai, and the first year or two of the settlement witnessed a struggle between **Gopal and Oodwant on the one side and Gajraj and Soogand on the other.** Oodwant, however, abused his influence and alienated the affections of Gopal. It is said by Mr. N. Smith that he, on one occasion, actually presumed so far as to punish Gopal for some act of extravagance by making him stand bare-foot upon an inverted earthen pot which had been previously heated by the sun. Here was an opportunity for the family of the Thakurai. Though Jainath Singh himself came back no more, his nephew Shiva Prashad Singh not only returned but succeeded in winning favour with Gopal. From this time for nearly 20 years, he was one of the most important persons in the district and was even appointed by Government some years later as guardian of the minor Raja Churaman Rai. His first desire was to obtain revenge against Oodwant Ram. This unfortunate individual, having alienated Gajraj and Soogand, had no protector. He was invited about the year 1775 to join **Gopal at his new chateau at Shahpur, near Daltonganj, and murdered in circumstances of brutality and treachery abnormal even for Palamau in those times.** But this was too much for the British Government. A small detachment was sent against Gopal who with his brother, Kurrupal, was arrested in 1776, tried at Chatra and imprisoned in Patna where he died in 1784. Thus the 5 years' settlement, like the one which preceded it, was not suffered to complete its course.

46. *The Managership of Gajraj Rai.*—After Gopal's removal a veritable scramble for power took place. Gajraj assumed the role of Manager, but Soogand Rai and the Thakurais headed by Shiva Prashad resisted him by force. Gajraj called in the Collector of Ramgarh, Mr. Ramus, who arrived with two companies of sepoy. He found that the country had been "terribly ravaged and the cultivation almost entirely neglected" during the struggle, but was soon able to report (1778) that "Soogand Rai and Shiva Prashad Singh were the only jagirdars who continued in a rebellious state."

Gajraj was confirmed as Manager, but disputes and difficulties continued and later in the same year the Collector proposed to cut the Gordian knot by making Gajraj Zamindar and Raja of Palamau. Next year another Collector reported that "the influence of Gajraj Rai appears insufficient to curb the refractoriness of several of the Jagirdars." He, therefore, opposed his claim to be Raja. After visiting the pargana this officer attributed most of the difficulties found in collecting the revenue to "Soogand Rai, who possesses a most **extensive jagir in the country.**" "His refractory conduct" added the Collector "has often been complained of to the Honourable Board."

47. *Rising of Diljit Rai.*—*Accession of Basant Rai*—*Campaign of Major Crawford* At this moment, Diljit Rai the brother of Chitrajit, thought proper to attempt once more to re-establish the fortunes of the house of Medni Rai. The Collector thereupon patched up terms with the refractory

*jagirdars* and induced them to join him with their followers in a campaign against Diljit. Shortly after this an order of Government dated 1780 was issued to the effect that Basant Rai, the third brother of Gopal, was alone to succeed to the *gadi*, to the exclusion of Gajraj and Soogand. The order was of course resisted and Major Crawford was sent into Palamau at the head of a military force to restore tranquillity. This he had apparently succeeded in doing in April 1781 when after clearing Palamau, he captured Gajraj in Belaunja, and drove his sons, along with Soogand and his family, into Singrawli. Major Crawford wrote "I apprehend that a final period is put to the disturbances." But this was not to be; the rebellion of Cheyt Singh in Benares which nearly proved fatal to Warren Hastings, caused the country to be divested of troops, and shortly afterwards, the Collector had to press for 300 matchlockmen because "Soogand Rai, a late rebellious jagirdar of Palamau, has been seen in force at Mankheri in Palamau as well as Chhatarpati Rai the son of Gajraj Rai, now in confinement, on whose detention chiefly depends the preservation of tranquillity." Matters did not improve during the next two years, and again in 1784 the Collector wrote that "the ravages committed in Palamau by Soogand Rai have hitherto prevented the Raja from sending in his Diwan to adjust the Settlement. The return of the troops however has induced him to retire to Sarguja and I hope he will discontinue his incursions."

48. *The rise of Shiva Prashad Singh.*—It was during Major Crawford's campaign in 1780 that Shiva Prashad Singh, who was clearly an adroit intriguer, finally recognised that the British would prove the winners, and set himself to gain favour with them. From having been in open rebellion, he became a zealous supporter of their cause, and maintained a body of 400 troops. He won from Major Crawford a letter calling him "by far the most meritorious of the Palamau landlords," and at the same time he had the satisfaction of contributing to the down-fall of his old enemy, Gajraj Rai. In 1783, Raja Basant Rai had died at the age of seventeen years, after an unshared incumbency of only three years. It appears from such old papers as are available that although he was too young to manage his own affairs, yet no manager was appointed, and matters were left in the hands of the "*amla*." This was an opportunity for Shiva Prashad and the Thakurais of which they seem to have taken full advantage. For the next three years (1783-1786) the mother of Basant Rai appears to have maintained an active struggle against them, although her title to do so had disappeared with the death of her son and the succession of her step son Churaman Rai. The period was known as the "*amildari* of the Tikaiten." But in 1786 Mr. Leslie, the Collector, made the settlement direct with Thakurai Shiva Prashad Singh. Mr. N. Smith has recorded the opinion that Shiva Prashad was thus made Raja for three years, but this opinion is contrary to the terms of the orders of Government, passed at the time of the Decennial Settlement, 1789, in accordance with which the estate was "to continue as heretofore in the management and responsibility of Shiva Prashad Singh" (see Resolution of the Governor-General in Council, Dated 18th April 1879) on behalf of the minor Raja Churaman Rai.\* From this it appears that although there is no mention of Churaman's name in the sanad of 1786, the grant was nevertheless made to Shiva Prashad merely in the capacity of manager for him. Even if this interpretation be accepted as correct, the recognition of Shiva Prashad by Government remains a remarkable example of the hand to mouth policy so long adopted in this district. Shiva Prashad had been involved in the murder of the old Raja Jai Kishan and a principle supporter of Chitrajit Rai. He had fought as a rebel against Gopal, the claimant whom the Government had elected to support. He had been implicated, and in the nature of the case implicated as a much more active agent than Gopal Rai, in the murder of Oodwant Ram. Gopal and his brother died in prison for his crime but Shiva Prashad defied the Collector and resisted him in arms. To mitigate the record, there is handed down not one single incident, or virtuous quality, beyond the rendering of help to Major Crawford in over-

\* In Hunter's manuscript Records of Bengal the Settlement of 1787 is described as made "with the renter of Palamau; that of 1789, 'with the Raja.'

throwing Gajraj Rai—a particular personal enemy. Such was the man to whom was delivered the administration of the estate, and the care of the minor grandson of Jai Kishan, his foe. It is perhaps not to be wondered at, that the Thakurais recovered all their lost property and added to it, while Churaman Rai grew up neglected and incompetent, the owner of a smaller property than many of his own principal under-tenure holders.

49. *The terms of Shiva Prashad Singh's appointment as Manager of the Raj; and of the Decennial Settlement.*—Having made such a questionable selection for the post of manager, Mr. Leslie attempted by the terms of the grant to guard against a recurrence of some of the misfortunes of the past. Shiva Prashad bound himself in 1786 to satisfy the raiyats, to maintain specified kinds of tenures, to abstain from collecting *abwabs* to repair bridges, to police the country and to give rent receipts. A copy of the *sanad* granted in 1789 (the Decennial Settlement) is not forthcoming, but from the correspondence of the period it seems likely that these conditions were all repeated in the later grant, which was, as is known, supplemented by a list of the under-tenure-holders then in possession of tenancies in the estate. For persons classed as old *jagirdars*, Mr. Leslie fixed the amounts to be paid to the Raja; but he declared the others to be liable to settlement. In deciding whether *jagirs* were ancient or not, Mr. Leslie seems to have adopted no higher criterion than present possession. Acting on this principle he confirmed Deogan to Soogand Rai notwithstanding its recent and doubtful acquisition, and the constantly refractory behaviour of that gentleman; while Gajraj Rai, being in prison as an outlaw, Mr. Leslie gave his eldest son, Chhatarpati Rai, the Bistrampur estate which had been acquired by Gajraj, and to the second son Dharni Rai was confirmed the Baraon jagir whose former holders had not unnaturally, **been unable to pay their revenue during the troublous times in 1778 when Gajraj was manager, and had suffered the resumption of their property at his hands for that insignificant default.** At the same time the Thakurais were established in all that they had previously held, or had within the last few years been able to acquire. When the fortunes of Shiva Prashad Singh were in the ascendant, Ram Baks Singh, the son of the defeated Diwan Jainath had returned from Sarguja and was now accepted and confirmed in the tenure of all the land that he was able to take possession of.

50. *Effect of the Decennial Settlement.*—*Income of the Raja inadequate.*—Whether the Decennial Settlement of 1789 was a just one or not, it marks an important stage in the history of the district, which is henceforth chiefly concerned, first, with the gradual failure of the Raja to keep his position under the limitations then imposed upon him, and, secondly, with the slow development of the under-tenures of the district into independent estates. The revenue payable to Government by the Raja was Rs. 12,182 after commutation of *sayer* charges; but the Raja had also to pay for the police. Of the total estimated assets of the pargana there is some uncertainty.

Mr. Parry who revised the Settlement in 1812 stated that they were as follows in 1789:—

			Rs.	a.	p.
Revenue payable by the <i>Jagirdars</i>	...	...	9,217	13	5
" " " <i>Ijaradars</i>	...	...	2,659	10	6
Lump sum payable by the tribes for <i>jungle</i> cultivation...	...	...	1,585	8	0
Revenue from <i>kou</i> and <i>kath</i>	...	...	1,216	8	3
Value of <i>khas</i> villages	...	...	3,942	6	0
Total	...	...	18,621	14	2

But this appears to be an under statement. The Raja himself in a petition to Government put the total amount down as being in 1812 a little over *sonat* Rs. 20,000. Mr. Parry reported that the value of the estate had increased since 1789 as the collection from the *khalsa* villages had risen to Rs. 7,000, but Captain Roughsedge denied that it rose at all and said that Mr. Parry had by mistake included the *Ijara* rents twice in his calculation. It is certain, however, that there were considerable changes in the villages held *khas* during the interval. In his long report of the 6th March 1814, Captain Roughsedge stated that the assets in Mr. Leslie's time were Rs. 19,985.

The Government letter of the 6th November 1813 puts down the rents of the *jagirdars*, by which apparently was meant all collections except those relating to the khas villages, at Rs. 13,296, while Mr. Cuthbert in 1827 asserted that the total sum was Rs. 12,619. Perhaps the figure contained in the letter of the Board to the Governor-General dated the 13th March 1812 may be accepted as correct. According to this account Mr. Leslie computed the entire assets of the estate at Rs. 19,724. In the same letter the expenses of the police were set down at Rs. 2,500 per annum, but the local officers were unanimous in declaring that the amount did not fall short of Rs. 3,000. The net income of the Raja was therefore Rs. 4,542, *i.e.*, the difference between his gross assets and the total of his revenue and police payments. Out of this he had to defray also the expenses of collection. It will be seen that he had to exact a cent. per cent. collection as a condition precedent to securing for himself an adequate income; but as a matter of fact he never succeeded in collecting the greater part of the *koa* and *kath* charges at all, nor most of the contribution from the tribes.

51. *Sayer*.—The assessment of Palamau in 1788, the year before the Decennial Settlement, was *sonat* Rs. 16,029. Out of this *sonat* Rs. 901-11-7 were deducted on account of *sayer*, but I have not been able to find what kind of *sayer* this deduction referred to. In the Board's letter, dated the 4th January 1790, a further deduction of *sicca* Rs. 2,300 was ordered on account of "*Ghautwari, gunjeaut and haut*" duties, which were no longer permitted to the Raja. The Board noticed that no part of this deduction arose from "duties levied at *hauts* not held within *ganjas* or bazars" but later in the year another remission was made of *sonat* Rs. 349-1-3 on account of these markets and of *sonat* Rs. 236-1-2 for *abkarry*." The *sayers* which were thus commuted were expressly stated to *exclude* all previously prohibited *sayers* (letter of 3rd September 1791). The orders of the Board continued:—

"With regard to the '*ghautwari*' or '*tolls*' collected at the '*ghauts*' you will forthwith abolish them in conformity with the resolutions of his Lordship in Council under date the 18th September last; and we direct that you retain in your hands the amount of the duties levied in the '*ganjas*,' bazars and '*hauts*' held within them, and that you propose such regulations for the future management of them as may appear to you advisable, as required by the orders above mentioned."

No trace of these proposals is forthcoming. But in a letter of 27th April 1823, the Collector of Ramgarh (Mr. Cuthbert) informed the Board that he had leased the "*sayer*" for one year for Rs. 1,708. In its modern significance the term *sayer* includes cesses for lac, *mahua*, *koa*, etc., and it was so used by the landlords in their Memorials of 1916; but there is some uncertainty whether or not Mr. Leslie's arrangements were intended to include "*sayer*" of this kind. It is, however, significant that for more than half a century Government claimed the sole right to collect fees for *koa* and *kath* in the *pargana*, while no charges for *mahua* or lac were recognized.

52. *Mutafaraka*.—About the same time the miscellaneous charges known under this designation appear to have been abolished. Mr. Cuthbert reported thirty years afterwards that *mutafaraka* was still being collected. He wrote that it was "a most arbitrary and oppressive tax; many people have left their habitations on account of these undue vexatious exactions." He wished therefore to abolish it. Mr. N. Smith, who held the Ramghar Collectorate between Mr. Cuthbert's first and second incumbencies, took a different view. The tax was an old one, he wrote. The objection to it, he contended, arose from its uncertainty. "It consisted chiefly of a capitation tax on herdsmen, oilmen and weavers." It was imposed "upon professions and not upon the land or locality of habitation." "It was once abolished by the Board of Revenue many years ago, but like all other orders, this has been totally disregarded in Palamau." Mr. Smith was, therefore, inclined to retain the collection in moderation; but he added that "it will be necessary to reduce the custom to a certainty for at present I cannot discover that there is any certain rule to fix the amount but that it is levied in an arbitrary manner." The result appears to have been that the tax was again abolished. It is still claimed to-day in many private estates, but, as it is not a charge on land, it has not been admitted in the Record-of-rights.

53. *History of Churaman Rai's reign.—The management of Thakurai Shiva Prashad Singh.*—About 1793 Raja Churaman Rai came of age. But before this had happened his manager, Shiva Prashad Singh, had commenced a policy of commuting a portion of the rents payable by under-tenure-holders to the Raja in return for a lump sum. Seven such transactions took place during the minority, as a result of which the annual assets of the Raja had decreased by over Rs. 400. It was during the time of the minority, too, that the jagirdars in Ramgarh had accepted an arrangement by which their services, being by this time already obsolete, were commuted in return for an enhanced rental equivalent to  $\frac{2}{3}$ ths of the gross annual value of their interests. In Palamau, as in Hazaribagh, these services, which were the *raison d'être* of the jagirs, had become unnecessary after the British occupation, but the manager, being himself one of the most influential of the jagirdars,—was not interested in a general enhancement of jagirdari rents. Thus it was the tenure-holders who in Palamau gained the whole advantage of the new conditions. To this fact the Raja himself in a large measure attributed his ultimate failure to pay his Revenue. It may be said that because active military operations were still necessary in Palamau until the ultimate suppression of the Pindaris and the defeat of the Marhattas there was, therefore, good reason for not commuting the services of the jagirdars, but the truth is that most of these military operations were directly caused by the turbulence of the jagirdars themselves: Moreover, when any military services were accepted from them, the expenses were paid or refunded later by Government in almost every case. The following extract is taken from a letter written by Captain Roughsedge in 1814:—"Mr. Leslie's object was to restore peace to the country and secure the welfare of the minor and orphan, Raja Churaman Rai. But as the Diwan Shiva Prashad Singh and all the head servants of the Raj were themselves the principal jagirdars their interest was at variance with their duty, and each took advantage of the youth and incapacity of the Raja to reduce the rent of his own lands, and increase their extent, whenever feasible, by placing in the list of jagirs villages that were held at will."

54. *The Raja's personal rule up to the revolt of 1800 A. D.*—For the first 8 years of his personal management (1793-1800) Churaman Rai was able to meet his public obligations, but not without difficulty. During and after this period he continued the policy of commuting rents for lump sums, until by about 1812 he had reduced his annual rent roll by as much as Rs. 2,564—a sum which represented the greater part of his personal income. Meanwhile he had resorted to other devices to keep his coffers full. But here he sometimes found himself restrained by the courts, which were now for the first time making their power generally felt. For example he resumed the Deogan estate in 1797, on the death of Soogand Rai, and held it for two years, but was compelled by the Collector to restore it to Soogand's son. Similarly he resumed the Lokeya estate (now known by the various names of Pathra, Lokeya, Narainpur and Narsinghpur). It appears that this property had been held on service conditions by the family of one Pati Singh, but that the Raja had always bestowed it on whom he pleased within the family. The family brought a suit against the Raja and recovered the estate. The resumption of 35 villages, which the Raja himself has previously bestowed upon the Kanungo Akhowri Sheo Charan Ram, was not allowed by the courts, but the sale for Rs. 3,035 to the same person of the right to appropriate in perpetuity annual revenue amounting to Rs. 2,254 was held to be invalid. There is little doubt that such resumptions had been freely made by all the Rajas before Churaman Rai.

In spite of these set-backs the Raja appears to have pursued a successful policy of resumption against his weaker tenants. Mr. N. Smith states that between 1789 and 1820 one-third of the Chero Jagirs were resumed: and it is on record that the Manatu estate was taken from its former owners on account of arrears and sold (on a *bai-patta*) to its present proprietors. The greater part of the Nawagarh jagir and several other tenures went the same way. Discontent became widespread, and in 1800 the whole country rose in revolt led by one Bhukhan Singh, a Chero. Colonel Jones with two battalions aided by Raja Fateh Narain Singh of Deo, (and for 6 months by



Shiva Prashad Singh of Ranka), spent two years campaigning in Palamau and Sarguja, where the insurgents had found active support, and in 1803, although Bhukhan Singh had died on the gibbet the year before, Lieutenant Higgott had still to keep a force in Belaunja to drive out the last of the rebels.

55. *The system of collecting Government revenue through a Sazawal prior to 1800 A.D.*—From this time on, the Raja was continually in arrears of revenue. Up to 1799 the system followed in realizing the Government revenue had been that the Raja granted an *imdad* to a *sazawal* appointed by Government, assigning the revenue of specified estates and villages in liquidation of the demand. Mr. Cunningham the Collector of Ramgarh in 1799 was very satisfied with this arrangement, and wrote to the Board on 25th June 1799 that "the punctual discharge of the revenue payable by the Raja and Zamindar of Palamau through the *sazawal* stationed therein, is a strong proof of the benefit to be received from this plan; and for my own part I wish it were extended to the Ramgarh estate of the Raja Mani Nath Singh." It would appear, however, that some of the responsibility for the insurrection must have been attributed to the proceedings of the *sazawal*, for the system was at once ordered to be discontinued, and a proposal made by Mr. Parry, Assistant Collector in 1811, for the re-appointment of a *sazawal* to collect the revenues in Palamau "was not by any means approved of" by the Board (see Mr. Thackeray's letter of 26th April 1811).

56. *The difficulty of realizing revenue after the revolt.*—Thus left, after the suppression of the revolt, to make his collections as best he could from a dissatisfied tenantry, and deprived of the help of a *sazawal*; having, moreover, already reduced his resources by his ill-advised commutations of rents, and being now debarred from exercising the arbitrary powers of resumption formerly enjoyed by his predecessors, Churaman Rai had the additional misfortune of encountering a famine year at the very outset (1803). The country had been cruelly ravaged and the jagirdars were both unwilling and unable to pay their quotas. The final loss of the estate, therefore, became inevitable. It was only deferred by further compositions of annual rent for lump payments; and by occasional levies on the jagirdars and tenureholders, who were sometimes made to understand by the Raja that the sale of his estate must mean also the avoidance of their tenures.

57. *Changes in jurisdiction.*—*Appointment of an Assistant Collector to realize the revenue.*—Meanwhile Palamau, which had been previously administered along with Chota Nagpur, Ramgarh, Kendi, Chakai, Kharagdiha and Shahrghati by the Judge-Magistrate-Collector of Ramgarh, was transferred in 1800, along with these places, to the *revenue jurisdiction* of Bihar. The civil and criminal jurisdiction still remained in the hands of the Magistrate of Ramgarh, and the political control was divided between that officer and the Commandant of the Ramgarh Battalion. As was to be expected the arrangements of 1800 did not prove satisfactory in practice, and in 1808 Government "resolved with the view of facilitating the collection of revenue of the hill and jungle estates on the western frontier of the provinces of Bengal and Bihar, that the Registrar of the Zilla Court of Ramgarh shall likewise be Assistant to the Collector of Bihar" (Letter of 29th July 1808.) Mr. R. Walpole accordingly took charge at once. In the following year (1809) the Board, remarking that the local officers were strongly opposed to the sale of Palamau on account of its arrears, recommended the deputation of R. Walpole to that estate, as "the means best calculated to effect the realization of the arrears." The deputation was sanctioned in January 1810, and it was ordered that the question whether a settlement should be made direct with the jagirdars or the zamindar should be supported against them "will remain for further consideration".

58. *Deputation of Mr. Parry to Palamau.*—(1811-12) *His report.*—It was not until early in 1811 that Mr. Parry, who had meantime succeeded Mr. Walpole, was able to visit Palamau. His report was submitted after a second prolonged visit, on February 20th, 1812. His proceedings may best be described in his own words:—"That treacherous and consummate villain Akhauri Sheo Charan Ram" (the Kanungo, and a relative of the murdered Oodwan)



Ram) 'whose narrative, told with all the semblance and plausibility of truth, fixed my attention and gained my belief, is the author of the distress and misfortunes of the Raja, and the distracted state of affairs in the pargana. He was in the habit of receiving presents from the jagirdars, closeting himself with the Raja, and of drawing up *sanads* for a smaller sum than that assessed.

"To prevent a recurrence of similar circumstances, I have taken from each jagirdar and *malguzar* separately a *kistbandee* on stamped paper binding them to pay annually to the Raja according to the instalments of the pargana, the amount assessed on them at the Decennial Settlement. I have taken upon myself to annul by proclamation the *sanads*, of the Raja, and to re-establish the settlement of Mr. Leslie. The new *kistbandees* are now superscribed with that gentleman's name to indicate that I am not forming a new, but renovating the old settlement. The jagirdars and *malguzars* readily executed *kistbandees* to pay into my treasury (at Chatra) agreeably to the terms of the Decennial Settlement. Bikramajit Singl (of Chainpur) and Babu Chhattarpati Rai (of Bistrampur) two of the most wealthy but least respectable jagirdars have by their pernicious example and advice greatly protracted my stay in this pargana, and nearly frustrated all my attempts to re-establish the Decennial Settlement. They are the most refractory and turbulent natives I have ever met with, both equally notorious for a determined and obstinate resistance to all orders and process of our courts. . . . .

"I intended taking agreements from the *jagirdars* and *malguzars* who have had their *jama* reduced, to pay up according to their will or ability the *arrears due from them under the terms of the original settlement*. This though strictly conformable to the regulations would be a heavy and burdensome tax on many. The profit on their lands has been exhausted by presents in the first instance for a reduction of the *jama*, then by demands under the various denominations of a sale, with which they have complied as often as solicited. The Raja has already made over to me a portion of the rent equal to the amount of the annual revenue and promises to make over a further portion. The whole will be answerable for the sum of Rs. 16,000; the surplus will gradually reduce the arrears due to Government. Perhaps this method, *as less likely to create a disturbance*, may be deemed preferable."

59. *Nature of Mr. Parry's arrangements.*—I have quoted this passage at length because it is important to make clear the nature of Mr. Parry's proceedings, for all papers concerning them were for a long time mislaid, and they were for many years the object of great uncertainty. It was frequently represented that he had made a new settlement with all the tenure-holders, granting them titles stronger than they had held previously, and valid against the Raja and Government. In truth, however, he merely made a summary investigation of the state of the rent-roll as it existed in 1811, and induced the tenure-holders, wherever possible, to forgo abatements of Mr. Leslie's rents which they had bought from the Raja. Mr. Parry gave no titles—he could not have given away the Raja's rights—and even his arrangements to restore the old rent-roll were not confirmed by Government. Mr. A. D. Lindesay, the Assistant Collector, writing to the Board on the 10th July 1816, expressed the opinion that "it would appear that Mr. Parry confined himself merely to the *malguzaree* and he does not seem to have made any investigation into the *rights* by which many of the jagirs were held by later jagirdars, and many of the jagirs are held by very doubtful tenures". It appears further from Mr. Lindesay's letter of the 18th September 1816 that Mr. Parry only allowed enhancements affecting four tenures amounting in all to a total of Rs. 21-15-2 while he accepted reductions for which reason was shown, in respect of the jagirs of Nawagarh, Manatu and Padma. In the case of Nawagarh Churamin Rai had appropriated several villages during the minority of the jagirdar, reducing the revenue from Rs. 501 to Rs. 301. Eleven villages of Manatu having been depopulated, and some encroachment made upon the estate by the Raja, the assessment was decreased from Rs. 242 13-3 to Rs. 137-6-3. The jagirdar of Padma being unable to pay his revenue of Rs. 367-12-0 surrendered all his villages to the Raja except one, for which he undertook to pay Rs. 56 annually; but he failed to do this and fled the country. As Chhattarpati Rai

refused to appear, Mr. Parry was unable to investigate his claims to an abatement of Rs. 750 of the annual rent of the Bistrampur estate. There was thus in 1812 very little alteration made in the assessment of 1789; but by annulling all Churaman Rai's *sanads* which had decreased his collections and by taking over direct collection himself Mr. Parry went very far beyond his instructions.

60 *Criticism by the Board of Mr. Parry's procedure.*—The Board in their address to Lord Minto, dated the 13th March 1812, called attention to this fact and expressed their surprise that Mr. Parry “had taken upon himself to do acts not only unauthorized but irregular”. They nevertheless proposed to confirm Mr. Parry's arrangement as an accomplished fact and to attach the Palaman estate, and collect the revenue in accordance with Mr. Leslie's settlement, allowing 10 per cent. to the Raja for subsistence, and applying the balance (after defraying the charges for management, Government revenue, and police), in liquidation of the arrears due to Government. They afterwards sought further to justify this proposal by arguing that the *sanads* which had been annulled by Mr. Parry were collusive and might therefore be disregarded under Regulation VII of 1799, section 23 (3).

61. *The orders of Government.*—The Government of India took a different view of the law, and in a revenue letter, dated 9th May 1812, signified their rejection of the Board's proposals. In a letter of the 26th May 1812 the Board informed the Collector of Gaya that “as the Governor-General in Council entertains considerable doubts whether the engagements subsisting between the zamindar of Palaman and his jagirdars can be deemed invalid the Board desire that you will instruct the Assistant Collector to revoke any measures which he may have taken to cancel the engagements which had been entered into by the jagirdars, unless they shall of their own free will consent to the annulment of those engagements and to the conclusion of an adjustment on equitable principles, calculated for the discharge of the public revenue and the gradual liquidation of the heavy arrear which has accrued upon the estate”. This correspondence seems to show that the assessment of under-tenures made by Mr. Leslie in 1789 had considerably less binding force as a permanent settlement than has generally been attributed to it.

62 *No action taken to carry out the orders of Government, or cancel Mr. Parry's arrangements.*—The Board afterwards called for a report concerning “the arrangement which may be made in conformity with these instructions” but no steps appear ever to have been taken. Mr. Leslie's settlement; as re-affirmed by Mr. Parry, was subsequently declared by the Collector to have been always the basis of the collection; Mr. Parry's cancellation of abatements of revenue made subsequent to 1789 was not revoked, and it was not until 1852 that the Bistrampur Zamindar, at that time a minor and heavily in debt, succeeded in obtaining from Government a confirmation of the remission of revenue which his father had obtained from Churaman Rai, but which had been left under investigation, though not actually cancelled, by Mr. Parry. The revenue officers, on the contrary, appear to have represented the impossibility of collecting the annual revenue due to Government, or of reducing the arrears due from the estate, if the abatements were recognized as valid in accordance with these orders. At the same time Captain Roughsedge, the Commandant of the Ramghur Battalion, and the most influential adviser of Government on political questions affecting this part of the country, was pressing vehemently for the sale of the estate. He complained that the Raja had done nothing to provide supplies and transport for Captain Higgott's force which was operating in the district at the time. The year (1812) was admittedly a famine year, but the Raja apparently had no allowance made to him on that score.

63. *Proposal to sell the estate.*—Captain Roughsedge insisted that by selling the estate and granting it to his capable and very loyal friend Raja Fateh Narain of Deo, who had accompanied him on campaigns against the Pindaries as well as against Sambalpur, Nawagarh, Sarguja, and Rewa, Government would at once secure three very desirable results; namely—(1) good internal administration and prosperity for Palaman (2) a suitable

acknowledgment of the services of a distinguished and loyal Raja, and (3) the establishment of an influence which might prove of very great military advantage, in that outlying frontier province. The final result was that the Governor-General in Council on 14th November 1812 authorized the sale of the pargana for arrears amounting to Rs. 55,000 and sanctioned its purchase on behalf of Government. The intention of Government to buy was kept a secret, and the limit up to which bids might be made was fixed at Rs. 1,05,000. The estate was sold in the following year and purchased by Government for Rs. 51,000.

64. *Fall of the Chero Dynasty.*—So fell the Chero dynasty. Ever since the death of Medni Rai it had been a house divided against itself. For the last century of its authority, almost every Raja and every Diwan had been a murderer, and many of them had in their turn been murdered. The last of the Rajas was thus described by Hamilton. "He had long been a mere cipher in the management of his estate, and nearly an idiot in understanding, dissolute, extravagant and thoughtless—a character which unfortunately applies with too much justice to almost all the jungle zamindars. He was so indolent as wholly to abandon his station and responsibility, and was always ready to give *carte blanche* to any person who would undertake to supply him with 5 or 6 rupees daily for his personal expense. This miserable Chief of a distracted territory had no lineal heirs and the collateral pretender was utterly unfit for the vocation." On the last point Hamilton was mistaken. Churaman Rai left a son, Ran Bahadur Rai, who received a life pension of Rs. 300 a month. This young man tried to take possession of village Shahpur, the home of his fathers but was ousted by Mr. Cuthbert who wrote:—"He has suffered himself to be led away by the bad example of low associates, and has involved himself in pecuniary difficulties notwithstanding he is in the receipt of a most liberal pension from Government. To allow the Raja then to retain possession of so populous a village as Shahpur would be tantamount to delivering over the population to the scourge of a rack-renter whose necessities must be relieved by exactions from the people." It is pleasant to think that the last recorded episode in his career was his gallant participation on the side of Government in the battle in which the insurgents of 1833 were defeated near the town of Latehar.

*Criticism of the Raja unduly severe.—His difficulties.*—While it is impossible to represent Churaman Rai as a wise and capable administrator, there is yet no doubt that Hamilton's description is much too harsh. The Raja's settlement was not an easy one at the best, and it had been made still more difficult during the years of Shiva Prashad's management. There is the authority of Captain Roughsedge for the statement that the jagirdars were habitually Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 short in their payments; and if this is true no balance whatever remained over for the Raja's expenditure. If he failed in his collections so did Government in the years which followed the sale, and so did Ghansham Singh during his administration. In fact the Government, which sold up the Raja for arrears in 1813, had to remit to the jagirdars, in 1819, the amounts still due from them on account of the years before the sale, although in the words of Mr. Lindesay they defaulted "not from want of assets but from their refractory nature". They absolutely declined, for instance, from the very beginning, to pay the charge assessed by Mr. Leslie for *koa* and *kath*, and it ceased to be demanded from them. The loss of this item greatly reduced the margin which had been left as profit for the Raja. Churaman's ancestors had very wide powers of resumption, and it is likely that many of their grants were made subject to that understanding; but he was the first to feel the restraining power of the British courts. He paid the revenue till 1800 A.D. During the next two years his estate was ravaged from end to end. A famine followed in 1803 and another just preceded the sale in 1812. Captain Roughsedge wrote in 1813 that several of the jagirdars had always lived more expensively than the Raja, and the same officer, after a special local investigation, reported in 1814 that he had "found it proved that it was not possible for the late Raja to pay his revenue and exist on the gross collections of estates. Perhaps, after all, any average zamindar

of the Palamau type, would have failed as completely as the last of the Cheros. He survived the sale for eight years, and received a pension of Rs. 360 a month; which was continued after his death to his son Ran Bahadur Rai.

65. *Discussions about the future management of the estate.*—The two or three years which followed the sale were occupied with discussions as to the future of the estate; and the conditions of the grant which had been proposed in favour of Raja Fateh Narain and his son Ghansham Singh. Mr. Money, the Collector of Bihar, wrote on the 3rd September 1813, strongly advising against *Khas* management. "There is no instance upon record," he asserted, "of Government deriving any benefit from land held *khas*, even in the most peaceable parts of this country. It cannot therefore, be expected in a pargana notorious for its riotous inhabitants. The period of holding lands *khas* is always looked upon as a fine harvest by the native officers appointed to collect the revenues; and where their inclinations to defraud the Government will be so well seconded by the Palamau jagirdars, I fear that a very losing account will be transmitted at the end of the year." As no one was in favour of *khas* management, Captain Roughsedge's proposal to confer the estate on Fateh Narain Singh of Deo prevailed. The great question for decision next was, what should be the rights of the jagirdars and the tenure-holders in future? The papers of the period throw very interesting light on this problem, but unfortunately they were not available during the discussions on the subject which took place at intervals afterwards for nearly three quarters of a century.

66. *Protection of old jagirs.*—In the ordinary course of law the sale of the pargana had avoided all the tenures and *jagirs*. But Government in 1813 were very nervous of causing disturbances in an important but, at the same time a turbulent and lawless frontier district. For this reason the following conditions had been inserted in the sale proclamation just before Government bought the pargana:—

"Whereas there are several tenants in the pargana of Palamau who have for a long time held their lands at a fixed and easy rent, it is hereby notified that the above mentioned persons are to be considered in possession by the purchaser and his heirs or by whatever person the estate may be hereafter possessed in consequence of private or public sale or any other kind of transfer, on their agreeing to such an equitable jumma as may be determined by the Assistant Collector at Ramgarh. Should the proprietor of the estate and the jagirdars dispute as to the terms of the settlement.....subject to an appeal to the Courts of Justice."

67. *Captain Roughsedge recommends a low revenue and summary power to oust defaulting tenure-holders*—*Assessment of the estate reduced to Rs. 9,000 when granted to Ghansham Singh.*—On the 6th November 1813 Government called for an opinion from Captain Roughsedge concerning the terms of the grant to be made to Fateh Narain; and expressed the view that the revenue might be fixed at Rs. 13,237 subject to the conditions that the rents hitherto paid by the jagirdars or *ghatwals*, should on no account be augmented and that "the charge of the police should be vested in the Zamindar so long as he shall continue" to discharge its duties zealously and faithfully. In the following March Captain Roughsedge submitted a long report in which he explained that he had originally recommended the grant of the estate to Fateh Narain in the firm belief that all the under-tenures would be avoided. He had since visited the pargana and gone into all the accounts, showing that not more than 70 per cent. of the assets had ever been realized; and gave it as his opinion (1) that the jagirdars would only pay up punctually under military pressure, and that (2) the assessment was more than the estate would bear. "The ruin of Churaman Rai," he wrote, "is clearly attributable in a great measure to the jagirdars' misconduct in withholding or making away with the revenue, and I must confess that I see no prospect of safety to any future occupant who did not possess better means of compelling them to an obedient and regular conduct than he had." Accordingly he recommended that the Revenue payable to Government be fixed at no more than Rs. 8,800, and that a regulation be passed "providing for the summary

dispossession of these jagirdars who continue to withhold the moderate rents imposed on them". Failing some such changes he apprehended that Raja Fateh Narain would find "that embarrassment, vexation and pecuniary distress were the only results of his acquisition." Upon this, in a letter addressed to the Board on the 14th October 1814, the Government of India directed that the estate should be granted to Ghansham Singh, son of the late Fateh Narain Singh of Deo, that the annual revenue payable by him should be only Rs. 9,000, that he was to pay no part of the purchase money, but that the rights of the jagirdars were to be maintained. "From the best view that he can take of this subject," the letter proceeded, "His Excellency in Council is of opinion that this class of people have an indisputable right to hold their lands at the rents fixed so far back as the year 1789, and that justice and the maintenance of the public tranquillity require that they should be supported in the possession of their lands so long as they may faithfully discharge the conditions of their tenure." There is no suggestion here or anywhere else that the *jagirdars* were to be treated as proprietors or have any stronger position than they held before the sale of the estate. It was further directed that the police duties, if any, to be demanded from them should be regulated by the usages of the country.

68. *The conditions of the grant to Raja Ghansham Singh.*—A deed of grant was drafted to give effect to these provisions. At the risk of repetition I think it is worth while quoting its terms so far as they concern the under-tenure-holders. "Certain persons usually denominated the *jagirdars* of *pargana Palamau* having held their lands for a long period upon a fixed rate of assessment it is hereby declared that Raja Ghansham Singh, his heirs and successors shall not be at liberty to demand or levy a higher revenue than was assessed in the Settlement formed with these persons in the year 1789 by Mr. Leslie nor to refuse concluding a settlement with any *jagirdar* of the above mentioned description on his agreeing to that *jumma*. In all other lands not held under jagirdari tenures existing in the year 1789 the zamindari rights and privileges of the said Raja Ghansham Singh, his heirs and successors, will not differ from those of any other zamindar under the general laws and regulations of the country." A provision was inserted that on the infringement of any of these conditions the estate should be liable to resumption by Government. Thus the old jagirdars were the only people who were especially confirmed in the possession of their tenures; and in thus providing that Mr. Leslie's settlement was to be the test for the validity of the jagirs Government adopted the same procedure as had been applied by Mr. Parry, and subsequently condemned. Early next year military precautions had to be taken in Palamau against the Pindaris, and Ghansham Singh joined Captain Higgot's detachment with 112 irregular cavalry and 600 matchlock men.

69. *The ancient jagirs were not sufficiently defined, when the grant was made.*—The next developments are explained in a letter from the Board, dated the 14th June 1816, and addressed to Mr. Ländesay.

"With the view of securing the jagirdars in possession of their rights and immunities, it was proposed that the revenue payable by them should be endorsed on the Raja's *sanad*. The difficulty, however, which occurred in collecting the information necessary to determine this, occasioned considerable delay, and political considerations rendering it necessary that Raja Ghansham Singh should be put in immediate possession of the pargana, the *sanad* was forwarded some time ago to Major Roughsedge to be delivered to the Raja (who, the Board suppose, is in possession of the pargana) without the specification proposed. This duty still remained to be completed, and on the 11th of August last (1815) you were required through the Collector of Behar to furnish a statement of jagirs as they stood at the time of Mr. Leslie's settlement in 1789, and at present. This statement was received on the 21st of January last. It was intended that the settlement formed by Mr. Leslie should be assumed as the basis for fixing the *jumma* of the jagirs, but as it would appear from the statement furnished by you that many changes have taken place since that period, as well with respect to the jagirs as the *jumma*, and that a new Settlement was formed with respect to the greater part of the jagirs by Mr. Parry in 1812, it would appear doubtful whether Mr. Leslie's settlement can now be assumed as a correct and equitable criterion, and that possibly it would be more advisable to adopt this arrangement (scil. Mr. Parry's settlement) than Mr. Leslie's. On this, however, the Board wish to have your sentiments."

Meanwhile Captain Roughsedge had marched into Palamau at the head of his battalion and duly installed Ghansham Singh as Zamindar, and the latter had opened his tenure of the zamindari by taking steps for the resumption of 107 villages.

Mr. Lindesay replied on 18th September 1816 to the effect that Mr. Parry had merely prepared "collection accounts" which could not validate bad titles acquired since 1789; that his departures from Mr. Leslie's assessment had been small and of little importance, "no dismemberment of jagirs, decrease of assets or other changes having taken place from the period of Mr. Leslie's settlement to the present time, of sufficient magnitude to cause any difficulty in its adoption as the standard of revenue to be *paid by the ancient jagirdars to Raja Ghansham Singh*"; he added that by the terms of the *sanad* granted to Ghansham Singh Government were already irrevocably pledged to accept the year 1789 as the "era of validity" in respect of the jagirs. With respect to the 107 villages already mentioned Mr. Lindesay stated that Ghansham Singh had dropped proceedings in connection with 56 villages which were found to have been restored to the heirs of the former holders; but that his claims were perfectly correct as regards the other 51. Finally he reported (1) that "the heavy arrear in the jagirdari lands of the pargana does not arise in any material degree from the want of assets, but from the refractory and extravagant conduct of the occupants;" (2) that in pursuance of their traditional policy some of the greater jagirdars had refused to enter into any engagements with Ghansham Singh, and (3) that "it would be difficult, if not impossible, to furnish any materials sufficiently correct for the completion of another *sanad*, having endorsed upon it the names of the jagirdars and the amount of the *malguzari* each individual is permanently to pay, as these particulars could only be obtained from the parties themselves, but I regret to say that without violent measures there would be no chance to obtain the presence of many of them."

About the same time Ghansham Singh addressed a petition to the Governor-General through Captain (now Major) Roughsedge protesting against the recognition of invalid jagirs which must occur, if to Mr. Parry's settlement were attached a sacro-sanctity which it had never claimed, and giving specific instances in which the Raja alleged that he was entitled to make resumptions

**70. The rising of 1817.**—Further discussion was interrupted by a great rising in which the smaller Chero tenure-holders appeared to take the leading part, but which was really organized by the great jagirdars\*. Some correspondence captured by Major Roughsedge showed that Thakurai Rambuks Singh of Chainpur was one of the participants. The jagirdars invoked the help of Sarguja but do not seem to have received much active assistance. After the disturbances had been put down, Mr. Lindesay and Major Roughsedge were appointed Commissioners to investigate the causes of the disturbances and were employed on this duty from May 1817 till February 1818.

They attached the estates of Bikramajit Singh, son of Rambuks of Chainpur, Shiva Prashad Singh of Ranka, Chhatardhari Singh of Lokeya (Pathra-Narainpur), Gajpati Rai of Bistrampur (Taria), Jeet Singh of Obra, Seoraj Singh of Koorha, Palwan Singh and Puran Singh, for various periods, mostly of very short duration but Jeet Singh and Seoraj Singh were sentenced, as *sardars* of dacoits, to life imprisonment in Alipur Jail.

**71. Resumption of the Pargana by Government.**—No report of the special Commissioners has been found, but on the 24th March 1819 Government ordered the whole pargana to be taken under Government management. Ghansham Singh was ultimately given a reduction of Rs. 3,000 in the revenue payable by him for his estates in Gaya, by way of compensation for the loss of Palamau

The Assistant Collector was told to "make collections on the principles adopted during the period in which the pargana was held *khas* by the officers of Government, previously to its being made over to Raja Ghansham Singh." Mr. Lindesay asked for further orders as these rather vague instructions left

him in uncertainty whether he was to restore the rent-roll of that period, or to collect in respect of jagirs which had been subsequently resumed or re-assessed, at the rates at which they were re-assessed. The latter alternative was, it appears, accepted by Government. It will be remembered that according to the principles now laid down it was only the old jagirdars to whom were assured fixity of rent and permanency of tenure.

In 1819 the Board ordered the collections for the year to be made at the rates which were "habitual", and in September of the same year Government remitted all arrears due from the jagirdars and *malguzars* which had been outstanding since before the accession of Ghansham Singh.

72 *The failure of Ghansham Singh discussed.*—Thus in 1819 the *jagirdars* had succeeded in abolishing the Raj. It has been customary to blame Ghansham Singh for his failure; but it is very doubtful whether this attitude is altogether just. All the local officers of Government, when the grant was made, were unanimous in the opinion that the great jagirdars would oppose him to the utmost. Later opinion was equally agreed that the big jagirdars had engineered the rising which caused his removal. Mr. Lindesay declared that the claims which he had pressed were just and were authorized by the conditions of his grant. It is true that it was stated in the Government Resolution of March 1818 that "Raja Ghansham Singh should have known that it is not the loose denomination of an interest that regulates its real quality but the customs of the pargana, the length of the prescription and the recognition, or otherwise of the asserted rights at the time of the *perpetual* settlement. The peculiar laws and usages established in each district must be impartially weighed"; and again in 1822 the Collector (Mr. N. Smith) wrote that "independent of the increases assessed upon certain landholders, the Raja had the wickedness to resume a number of villages from the smaller jagirdars. These villages (now designated *Chukook*) appear to have been what are called in the revenue language *dakhli* or unregistered dependent hamlets and were no more the right of the zamindar than of the celestial Emperor. To the illegal resumption of *dakhli* villages may be traced all the affairs in Tamar and Palamau". At the same time Mr. Smith retained the *Chukook* villages in the possession of Government and leased them out for a small amount. It is clear that the Raja had demanded strict proof of their titles from his tenure-holders, but there is nothing to indicate that his resumptions or enhancements were very extensive, or inconsistent with the conditions of his *sanad*. Ghansham Singh was regarded as a very successful zamindar in his own estates, and it is possible that the task of establishing a well-ordered zamindari in what Mr. Smith called "this vile, rebellious and intriguing district" was not within the reach of practical realization.

73. *The Zamindari of Government.—Changes in the Revenue jurisdiction.*—Since 1819, that is, for exactly a century, the Government has stood in place of the Zamindar of Palamau. The first step to be taken was to pacify the district; the second to obtain further information of its conditions. In effecting the latter object, the local officers were for nearly 100 years much impeded by the inconveniences which arose out of the changes which had been made in the revenue jurisdiction.

It has been noticed above that Palamau was under the revenue jurisdiction of Ramgarh up to 1880, when it was transferred to Bihar. In 1809, an Assistant Collector, stationed alternately for 6 months at Chatea and Shahrghati, took charge of it. Up to 1816 this officer corresponded with the Collector of Bihar. In that year he was ordered to write direct to the Board. In 1817, a regulation was passed establishing a Board of Commissioners for Benares and Behar. The Assistant Collector was placed under it and the chain of correspondence again included the Collector of Bihar. In 1819 the Ramgarh Collectorate was re-established and Palamau was attached to it. In 1831, the Ramgarh Collector became a joint Commissioner and the Assistant Collector administered Palamau for three years. In

\*Mr. Smith, Mr. Cuthbert and Major Roushedge all expressed the opinion that there had been no permanent Settlement in Palamau. Mr. Sifton in paragraph 70 of the Hazaribagh Report shows that the Settlement in that district which was probably the same as the Palamau Settlement was not permanent. None of the officers mentioned above were aware of any declaration of permanence such as there was in Sazaribagh in 1793. Had there been one, it would, in Palamau, have effected only Raja Churaman Raj.



1834, the South-West Frontier Agency was created and Palamau was incorporated in it, as a part of the district of Lohardaga. As a result of all these changes, the officer, who wanted them, could never find the records relating to the district; thus in 1838 Dr. Davidson, the 1st principal Assistant to the Agent, who was then in charge of the pargana, reported that he could not find any of the English correspondence of the period about 1818 because it was, he believed, at Gaya, and so intermixed with the Shahrghati papers that it could not be disentangled from them. Similarly it was not till 1876, after he had been 12 years in charge of the subdivision, that Mr. Forbes first saw Mr. Cuthbert's well-known reports of 1827, and even then he had access to none of the very important papers connected with them. It is necessary to bear these facts in mind, for the absence of the old documents had very important consequences in the later history of the district.

74. *The Collector was ordered in 1821 to make a report upon the state of the pargana.*—On the 13th of April 1821 the Collector was directed by Government to furnish a report on a number of points affecting the district, and it was ordered that an officer was to be sent there “to make a detailed *mufassal* settlement.” This work was entrusted to the Kanungo Silwant Ram, but two years later Mr. Cuthbert found that he had done nothing, and got him dismissed in favour of his cousin Akhauri Gauri Charan Ram, the son of Sheo Charan Ram and grandson of Oodwant. This man, although he was said to be “alone in possession of the ancient records and authentic documents of the Kanungo's *sarishta*” proved to be no more helpful than this predecessor. Accordingly Mr. N. Smith himself paid a short visit to Palamau and submitted a long report on the 27th September 1823, in which he discussed the history of the years which preceded the Decennial Settlement, arguing that most of the jagirs were then held on bad titles and that Government, in its capacity of zamindar, should not merely scrutinize all later grants and transfers but should even go behind that Settlement itself.

75. *Mr. N. Smith's proposal to re-open the Decennial Settlement.*—For the purposes of the investigation which he proposed Mr. Smith classified all the under-tenures into two main classes of jagirs and *ijaras*, and many sub-classes. The sub-classes of jagirs are hardly worth detailing, although they figured largely in all discussions for 70 years, for the classification was based on differences of origin rather than of incidents or character. By *ijaras* were meant all tenures other than jagirs and rent-free tenancies (*minhai*), and they included mortgages, some religious grants, *mukarraris*, sales, permanent leases (probably originally of an enhancible nature) and even short-term ordinary leases. The *minhai* or rent-free tenancies were numerous and generally small, being mostly gifts to Brahmans, doctors and the like. The original list included a great many villages which are now in Gaya, as well as the great estate of *ghat Kunda* in Hazaribagh. In addition to these even the Thikadars of the *khalsa* villages claimed permanent and non-enhancible tenures.

76. *The Board call for further information. Mr. Cuthbert's reports of 1827.*—The Board while expressing general disapproval of this proposal to re-open the Decennial Settlement, “inclined to the opinion that Government was still entitled to take advantage of the regulations enacted in favour of *auction purchasers*,” and appear to have vetoed the claim of the *khalsa* Thikadars. They asked for further local investigation and report; but it was not until 1827 that Mr. Cuthbert, who had succeeded Mr. Smith, was able to comply. Meanwhile Mr. Smith had in 1822 ordered the *tahsildar* for the present to make collections from the jagirdars according to Mr. Leslie's settlement and had let out the pargana “including the demesne lands *seer* and *deoree*, *sayer* and *chukook*”, for one year for Rs. 7,987/2/- “being an increase compared with the settlement of the last year of Rs. 2,022/5/6.” In 1824-25 he made another settlement of the same lands for a term of 5 years on a total rental of Rs. 11,629. During this period the Collector did not find it at all easy to realize the revenue from the jagirdars. Among others, the Ranka estate had to be attached, but the jagirdar still managed to evade payment. The sale of the estate was advocated because “notwithstanding the sale of the rights of the Raja himself a concert obtained amongst these savages”, and it was only upon receipt of the notice of sale that the jagirdar



discharged his debt. At the same time the jagir of Tarhasi was sold up, and the great jagir of Bistrampur, which Gajraj Rai had created for himself also had to be advertised for sale despite the fact that the jagirdar had finally been allowed the reduction of Rs. 750 in his assessment which Mr. Parry had wished to refuse. According to Mr. Smith "the proprietor was always drunk with opium and notoriously incapable of managing his estates". Nevertheless he paid off his arrears in time.

77. *Mr. Cuthbert's reports.*—Mr. Cuthbert acknowledged in his report that "the jagirdars and others, who possess no greater rights than subordinate *talukdars* and *patnidars* in other parts of the country", had forfeited all their privileges when the whole estate was put up for sale, and that their lands became open to a new settlement. Nevertheless he argued strongly that it was now too late for Government, having been at the time of the sale induced from political considerations to forego their special privileges under the sale-laws, to attempt to annul the under-tenures. He pointed out that the jagirs were specially protected in the *sanad* granted to Ghansham Singh, that that person himself was ejected for coming into conflict with the jagirdars, that after the Government had remitted much of the arrears due from them, and that the Assistant Collector had been instructed to collect the revenue for 1818 "agreeably to what they had been in the habit of paying". He disputed Mr. Smith's view that Government as Zamindar could go back beyond the year 1789 in search of more extensive rights; for their predecessors, the Chero Rajas, had "exhibited such a total disregard of all those rights and usages recognized by every civilized Government," that it would be unthinkable to claim on the strength of precedents established by them "privileges which law, justice and reason would equally disallow." He concluded, therefore, that already "the perpetual settlement had been fully and virtually confirmed to the jagirdars," and he added that since the British never "spare the proud and wage war upon the weak" Government should now extend the same advantages to all the other *malquzars* of the pargana. The weakness of the last plea will be apparent if it remembered that by "proud" Mr. Cuthbert meant men who had "a good title" and by "weak" those whose title was an uncertain quantity. But though Mr. Cuthbert thus used the term "perpetual settlement" he evidently did not mean to imply a proprietary settlement like that of 1793; nor did he mean to suggest that the jagirdars should have no further liability in addition to their existing rents, for he proposed definitely in the same report to impose the expenses of policing the pargana upon them, in lieu of the obsolete services which were originally incidental to their tenures. In a previous letter he had written "I beg leave to observe that a settlement made, as Mr. Leslie's was, under particular circumstances, at a time when rebellion and disaffection were at their height, when the local authorities were necessarily ignorant of the capability and value of the pargana, could not have been considered by the Government of that day as coming under the Decennial or permanent Settlement"; and in the present report he made it perfectly clear that he did not regard the jagirdars as "proprieters" in the sense now generally attributed to the word. It is necessary to dwell on this point as it was a misunderstanding of Mr. Cuthbert's views which in the absence of other relevant papers, led the law officers of the Crown in 1880 to advise that Government should not claim the minerals of the pargana. The following passage from Mr. Cuthbert's report will suffice to establish my assertion :—

"In whatever light the perpetual settlement may be viewed as regards the pargana, it can in no way affect the rights of Government as *proprietor*, the sale having transferred to Government all the immunities, privileges and interests possessed by the former Zamindar. I consider Government entitled to all lands liable to escheat, as well as those held under insufficient and illegal documents." Again Mr. Cuthbert, who manifestly over-estimated the differences between Mr. Leslie's settlement and Mr. Parry's rent-roll, stated that the latter had in fact superseded the former, and wrote "on every principle, then, I consider myself justified in recommending an adherence to the present system" in preference to the Decennial Settlement.

What lands he considered to be "liable to escheat" was duly explained in the report. In effect the jagirs were inalienable, and though many *sanads* had

no words of inheritance and the Raja sometimes resumed them "at his pleasure", they were according to his view generally heritable by male heirs of the original grantee (whether by the rule of primogeniture or not, the latter is self-contradictory). On default of such male heirs they were all resumable by Government. Among lands held on illegal titles Mr. Cuthbert believed that there were many villages of which the tenure-holders had possessed themselves, on the pretext that they were *dakhli*, although their grants gave them no title to them. But he acknowledged that it would be very difficult, in the absence of any previous measurement or definition of boundaries to adduce adequate proof of these encroachments. Mr. Cuthbert protested against the practice of selling tenures for arrears which had been introduced by Mr. Smith in place of the former method of attachment. Mr. Cuthbert thought the sales illegal, as the tenures were inalienable, and likely in the long run to prejudice the interests of Government.

78. *The views of the Board.*—The Board of the Central Provinces in addressing Government in connection with Mr. Cuthbert's report said "The express and repeated declarations made by Government of its determination to maintain these tenures, and the fact of Ghansham Singh having been deprived of the pargana for an attempted interference with them, must be held as quite sufficient to set the question (of the exercise by Government of the rights of auction purchase) at rest."

An enquiry into each tenure was, however, advocated by the Board on the ground that "Government as proprietor of the pargana has a clear title to all lands that may have been alienated surreptitiously or without due authority or grant and to all tenures that may be found to have escheated. Government may also exact from the occupants of tenures specifically granted on condition of service, the same service or an equivalent."

79. *The orders of Government.*—The following was the reply of Government:—"It may be laid down as a principle that although the Government is not bound to take exactly the same amount of revenues from the entire pargana which was assessed at the time of sale for arrears, nevertheless increase of the public resources is not the principal object of the arrangements to be made."

In connection with the local enquiry which the Board had recommended and Government sanctioned, the decision was announced not only to maintain "the jagirs and hereditary *ijaras*, recognized by Mr. Leslie and brought into direct relations with Government by Mr. Parry's arrangements founded on Mr. Leslie's settlement", but further to allow them "to hold free of any further demand any new villages subsequently established on the lands of the jagir by redemption of waste or otherwise". Moreover "proved *khalsa* villages in their possession at the time in question (1813)" were to be left to them on an assessment at the *khalsa* rate of settlement.

All encroachments subsequent to 1813 were to be set back, and invalid titles were to be exposed. In deciding disputed successions, possession in the year of the Government purchase was laid down as the criterion to be followed, "and" continued the letter "from that date forward the test is to be inheritance according to the customs of the pargana for the particular tenures; but as it seems to be agreed on all hands that the jagirs are not alienable, but lapse in default of heirs, a stipulation to that effect should be introduced into the new *pattas* (to be given after the enquiry) and it will not be proper to recognize any title founded on purchase made subsequently to the establishment of Government in the place of the former Raja." All these principles were expressly extended to the jagirs, (*Babuan* service, *Cherwan*, *Kharwar*, *inami* and *Kanungo*) and to the *ijaras* of the classes *khairat*, *mukarrari*, *baipatta* and *brit*. "The further application of the same principles to the remaining *ijaras*, to the *mutafarka* jagirs and to the jagir and *inami* *ijaras* must depend on the character these may be found to possess."

80. *Mr. Prinsep's deputation, and death.*—Mr. A. Prinsep was appointed to carry out the enquiry. He commenced a very rough survey of the pargana but does not appear to have made very much progress. In May 1828 he reported to the Board "many instances of jagir villages having been sold by the jagirdars since the year 1813" and explained that the jagirdars in these

particular cases claimed the right to alienate, and pointed out that the Rajas had occasionally in the past permitted such transactions,—a fact which in Mr. Prinsep's opinion indicated that they had insisted on controlling transfers. In some cases, he added, these transfers affected whole jagirs, in others only portions. He asked what was to be done in these cases.

In letter No. 679, dated the 24th July 1828, Government called for a further report upon the alienations of complete jagirs enquiring specially whether the characters of the purchasers were such as to be conducive to "the public good and the tranquillity of the country". As regards the partial transfers it was determined not to take cognizance of them, so long as the jagirdars retained enough of their tenures to enable them to pay their quit rents and discharge the obligations of the tenures. After about a year's work Mr. Prinsep had to take furlough through ill health. The tenure-holders filed lists describing their properties in accordance with Mr. Prinsep's orders in 1830, but his death prevented the completion of the enquiry, or the submission of a final report.

81. *The Rising of 1832.*—In 1824 the Board had expressed apprehension that the pargana would never be peaceful until all agrarian questions were set at rest. The prophecy was well founded. Once again the people rose in 1832—a year of serious disturbance also in the Ranchi district. The insurgents seem to have checked near Satbarwa a small detachment of the Company's troops which had marched against them from Leslieganj, with the result that Mr. Cuthbert and Captain Wilkinson sent four companies of infantry, a squadron of cavalry and a gun, from the right wing of the Ranchi forces, while other additional troops were moved from Shahrghati. Upon this show of force some of the *jagirdars* and the son of the late Raja joined the authorities, and the insurgents were defeated and dispersed in an engagement which took place near Latehar;—but not before the pargana, and more particularly the *khalsa* villages, had been badly devastated.

82. *The South-West Frontier Agency.*—The suppression of the rising was followed by a re-organization of the administration. For some time, as Mr. R. Trotter, the Assistant Collector in charge of Palamau, has stated, "the propriety of restoring the estate to the Raja was under the consideration of Government", but ultimately the pargana was retained by Government, and included within the scope of Regulation XIII of 1833, by which the present division of Chota Nagpur was constituted as a non-Regulation Agency. It was called the South-West Frontier Agency and was placed under the administration of an Agent to the Governor-General. Palamau was incorporated in the Lohardaga district. Fully occupied as they were with the work of re-organization which attended this change, and with the imperative necessity of tranquillizing Ranchi, the Agent and his assistants found no time to complete Mr. Prinsep's investigation, and except for a number of resumption cases, and several settlements of the *khalsa* villages, Palamau seems to have been left to its own devices for the next 30 years. The resumptions made during this period numbered about 30 and affected chiefly rent-free (*minhai*) tenures; the *khalsa* settlements have been described in the chapter on the Government estates. It may be noticed in passing that it appears from the records of the cases themselves that some of these resumptions were made in a very summary manner, on grounds which seem to have been somewhat arbitrary. But they were accepted without any serious opposition and the right of Government to enforce them was never questioned. Being exceedingly remote from the district headquarters, which were first at Lohardaga (1834-1844), and then at Kishenpur (1844-1852), from the *sadr* Amin's court at Gola and (most inaccessible of all) from the Subdivisional Officer's office at Koranda (1852-1860), the pargana became the step-child of the Agency, and its people got out of the way of seeking redress for their grievances from the established authorities, as quite too inaccessible.

83. *Administration of the Agency.*—A full account of the administration of the Agency has been given in the Ranchi Settlement Report (paragraph 52 *et seq.*). Here it will be sufficient to insert a summary: In 1834, the Courts of the Diwani Adalat of Ramgarh and the jungle *mahals* were abolished, and the regulations, along with the rules for the administration of civil and

criminal justice, and the collection of the revenue, were suspended, but the Agency was directed to conform generally to the orders of the Sadar *Diwani* and Nizamat Adalat and the Sadar Board of Revenue.

*Civil, Criminal and Revenue.*—The officers of the Agency in the absence of any sanctioned rules to the contrary were “to be guided by the laws and regulations” until 1859 and 1861 when the Procedure Codes were introduced. A Code of Civil rules had been drawn up by Sir Thomas Wilkinson, the first Agent, but was never formally approved by Government. It was, however, followed in practice by the courts until the introduction of the Civil Procedure Code in 1859. No code of revenue rules was ever sanctioned and “the officers were thrown back on the general regulations for their guidance in disposing of civil suits and rent suits”. This virtually meant that the general revenue laws of the province for the time being were in force in Palamau. Up to the passing of Act X of 1859 arrears of rent were recovered under Regulation VII of 1799 and Regulation V of 1812, but in Manbhum only was distraint allowed. In a letter No. 70 of 1st August 1859, Colonel Dalton reported that “with the exception of protection from sale of all kinds of immovable property, the law as administered at present in Manbhum and Hazaribagh districts is *that of the Regulation Provinces*, but the cultivators of the Lohardaga district are exempted from distraint otherwise than by order of Court.” After 1859 there was, as Mr. Webster has remarked in his report on tenures in Lohardaga, for many years a controversy between the High Court and the Board whether Act X was fully in force in Chota Nagpur or only partly so. The Board held that the distraint and sale sections were not applicable. The High Court held that the Act was fully in force. (*Hijain Sahi versus Anand Singh*). Whatever may have been the rights of the case, it is beyond dispute that the Act in most of its features was the acknowledged, and only tenancy law of the division. Thus in letter No. 60 of 17th August 1860, the Board directed the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur to enter rent suits under Act X in future in his returns. Their letter continued “Now as Regulation VII of 1799 (the summary suit law) ceased to be the law in 1859 when Act X of 1859 came into force, it is incorrect to enter suits instituted subsequent to August 1859 as “summary suits” under a law which had then no existence.” Again in 1862 (letter No. 40 of 30th July 1862) the Board held that the Civil Courts could not question a certain decision passed by the Deputy Commissioner under Act X. Both the Commissioner and Mr. Forbes wrote of occupancy rights in the Government estates in Palamau about 5 or 6 years later as being legally regulated under Act X, and in another letter Col. Dalton expressed doubts whether the tenants received sufficient protection under that Act (letter No. 2975 of 23rd December 1871). Mr. Oliphant, the Deputy Commissioner, wrote in the same strain. Act X of 1869 was passed because it was held that Government had no longer authority under Regulation XIII of 1833 to regulate agrarian claims in the manner adopted during Lal Lokenath Sahi’s Bhuinhari enquiries. Many more references might be cited to support a proposition, which has been laid down in the text books, and would require no discussion if it had not been for a passage in Mr. Forbes’s tenure report which has been quoted in Hunter’s Statistical Account and which asserts that Act X, in so far as it regulated substantive rights was not in force in Palamau; it will be sufficient to mention that all the annual returns of the Subdivision during the period show that the Act was followed there, and to draw attention to the following decision of the Judicial Commissioner dated the 19th June 1871, by which Mr. Forbes’s contention was definitely over-ruled. “From a remark in the judgment of the Assistant Commissioner (Mr. Forbes) it appears that that officer considers he *has no law to guide him* in the decision of claims of this nature, the rent law, Act X of 1859, not having been extended to pargana Palamau. In entertaining such an opinion the Assistant Commissioner appears to be in error. There is no saving clause as in the Limitation and other laws declaring that the Act is not to take effect in non-regulation provinces till extended thereto by public notification, and since the Act in question extends to the entire Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, it is the only law by which our courts can be guided in determining claims for rent.”

84. *Transfer of landed property.*—Sales of land were in theory prevented in Palamau by the Revenue authorities as in the rest of Lohardaga but owing to its remoteness the theory never developed into practice, and it was found in the enquiries of 1893-94, just as it had been found before by Mr. Prinsep, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Ainslie and many other officers, that they had been of very common occurrence and had been *enforced in the courts*. In fact very few tenures in the district remained unaffected by either whole or partial transfers. The history of Palamau in this respect differs entirely from that of Ranchi, where the prevention of alienation of estates was perhaps the outstanding feature of the administration for half a century.

85. *Changes of headquarters.*—In 1842, the district headquarters were removed to Ranchi (Kishenpur) and the courts, already sufficiently remote, thus became still more inaccessible. Next year an officer was appointed to relieve the Agent of most of his judicial work and styled as Deputy Commissioner. In 1854 the Agent was subordinated to the Local Government and called a Commissioner. In 1861 the principal assistants became known as Deputy Commissioners and the officer who had hitherto borne this title became a "Judicial Commissioner."

86. *Koranda Subdivision.*—In 1852 one of the Agent's junior assistants was stationed at Koranda, on the Jamira Pat, within the Sarguja border, from whence he exercised jurisdiction over pargana Palamau as well as Sarguja and Udaipur. But Koranda was according to the old maps on the south-western boundary of Sarguja and very remote from Palamau. In his letter No. 92 of the 20th April 1859 Colonel Dalton reported to Government—

"that it was in every respect a most unfavourable position for the junior assistant. Perched on a barren hill and difficult of access, far from any bazar or village from which supplies could be obtained, no population near but the scanty and wild inhabitants of one or two small hamlets, and as remote as it was possible to be from the parts of the jurisdiction, where the chief business of the office lay, it was some idea of its value as a sanitary position that could alone have led to its selection, and in this respect it never came up to the expectations that had been formed of it, as statistics collected showed that it was by no means a healthy locality either for Europeans or for natives.

The Palamau people complained not only of the long journey that they had to make, which could only be undertaken during the favourable seasons of the year, but the poverty of Koranda and its neighbourhood was such that they had to take with them provisions to last them during the whole period of their sojourn, and though Koranda, or Jamira Pat, was within the limits of Sarguja, it was for its inaccessibility, not more patronized by the Sarguja people than by the Palamau people."

87. *The Mutiny.*—When in August 1857 the Ramgarh Battalion mutinied there was no representative of the administration other than a *tahsildar*, nearer to Palamau than distant Koranda. The mutiny commenced at Hazaribagh where two companies of the battalion rose. Lieutenant Graham was sent from Ranchi against them, but a large part of his force mutinied *en route*, and returned to Ranchi. Meanwhile Lieutenant Graham went on with those that remained loyal—and it should not be forgotten to them that 237 officers and men of the battalion as well as almost all the light cavalry attached to it, adhered to us from start to finish—while the two mutinous companies at Hazaribagh retired into Palamau. After the defeat of the main body of Ranchi mutineers by Major English near Chatra in October 1857, many of them found their way into the same district. Impressed by the stories of these people, by the temporary expulsion of Government officers from Ranchi, and by the absence of any of the appearances of administration, the Cheros and Kharwars of Palamau rose against their landlords and attacked Chainpur and Ranka. Nilambar and Pitambar Singh, two Kharwars from the south-west of the district became, with Permanand of Kunda and Debi Baksh Rai, the most influential leaders, and the mutineers of the Ramgarh Battalion made common cause with them. Raghubar Dyal Singh of Chainpur and Kishan Dyal Singh of Ranka managed to repulse the attacks on Chainpur and Ranka, but the *tahsildar's* establishment having retired, the office of Leslieganj was burnt by pillagers.

88. *Lieutenant Graham sent to Palamau.*—Meanwhile Ranchi and Hazaribagh having been tranquillized Lieutenant Graham was given temporary charge of the unoccupied Koranda Subdivision, and sent to Palamau

with a small force not exceeding 50 men. He made his way to Chainpur where he joined Raghubar Dyal Singh, but being unable to follow the insurgents into their fastnesses, had to await reinforcements.

By the end of November the whole country appeared to be up in arms and Lieutenant Graham was shut up, with his small party, and besieged in the house of Raghubar Dyal; while Messrs Grundy and Malzar of the Bengal Coal Company, having defended themselves as long as possible, made their escape with difficulty, leaving the mines at Rajhara to suffer such injury that they were not again re-opened for 10 years.

89. *Arrival of Major Cotter.*—*The Deo and Sarguja contingents.*—In December Major Cotter at the head of two companies of His Majesty's 13th L.I. reached Shahpur where he relieved Lieutenant Graham and took prisoner Debi Baksh Rai, one of the principal insurgents. The retreating rebels looted Manika and destroyed the house of Bhikari Singh, a Zamindar who had helped Lieutenant Graham. Major Cotter then marched to Shahrghati and cleared the ghats in that direction as he went. Meanwhile Lieutenant Graham was joined by 600 matchlock men and 100 *sawars* who had been raised by the Raja of Deo. He thereupon left Major Cotter and returned towards Chainpur clearing the Patan Ghat and again relieving Chainpur. The rebels were further disheartened at this juncture by the failure of another attack which they made on Kishan Dyal Singh at Ranka. A contingent of 600 men having been sent by the Raja of Sarguja Lieutenant Graham took the offensive and surprised Premananda, who is described in the Lieutenant-Governor's minute as "*ilakadar of Kunda* the most influential leader of the Kharwar tribe". I have not been able to discover who this man was. Kunda the old fortress of the Palamau tribes, which had been taken by Daud Khan and was granted in jagir by him to another family was under the management of the Court of Wards at the time of the mutiny.

90. *Col. Dalton's arrival.*—In spite of these failures the insurgents continued to hold their ground, until, on the 21st of January 1858, Colonel Dalton, the Commissioner, arrived at Manika on his way from Ranchi, with 140 men of the Madras Native Infantry commanded by Major McDonnell, a small party of Ramgarh Cavalry, and a body of matchlock men raised by Parganait Jagat Pal Singh of Pithoria, near Ranchi. Here having been joined by Lieutenant Graham, and finding the Palamau Fort occupied by the enemy, he attacked and took it, capturing the guns, ammunition, cattle, supplies and baggage of the rebels. After a fortnight's delay during which Babu Bhawani Baksh Rai of Bistrampur, whose attitude had previously been very doubtful, was compelled to come into camp, Colonel Dalton again defeated the insurgents in a small engagement at Hunamand and destroyed the villages of Chemo and Saneya (the homes of Nilambar and Pitambar), after first dislodging the rebels from masked stone breastworks which had been erected on the hill which overlooks Chemo. In March another body of rebels collected in the Nawagarh hills under Biswa Nath Sahi and Ganpat Sahai, two Ranchi Zamindars who had been the first to join the mutineers in Ranchi, and had since been fugitives at large. They were surprised and surrounded by a force under Captain Oakes, and surrendered without resistance. Their leaders were subsequently tried and executed, as were Nilambar and Pitambar. The estates of the leading rebels were confiscated: the greater part of them was granted as *jagir inamis* to the Zamindars of Chainpur, Ranka and Manika; while the remainder was incorporated in the Government Estates.

91. *Palamau Subdivision.*—These events had demonstrated the necessity of a closer administration. Next year it was decided to establish a permanent Subdivision in Palamau, and a committee selected a site for the headquarters at Bhuree on the Amanat, near Tarhasi and Sagalim. This site was approved by Government, but afterwards given up in favour of Leslienganj, which was more central. But before any buildings had been undertaken, Leslienganj was found to be unhealthy, and the site now occupied by the station of Daltonganj was finally adopted by Colonel Dalton in 1861 (letter No. 20 of 8th January 1861).

92. *Transfer of Japla and Belaunja.*—The next change of importance was the transfer of Japla and Belaunja to Palamau. In 1869 Mr Grant the

Magistrate of Gaya, proposed that the Police thana Manjhiawan, comprising parganas Japla and Belaunja, should be transferred from Bihar to Palamau. His reasons were stated as follows :—

"It seems to me clear that it ought geographically to belong to Palamau. For other reasons also I think it ought to be transferred to it. The country and inhabitants are precisely like the country and people of Palamau, and are not like those of Gaya. Palamau is the land of cattle stealing, and Shahabad is the country of cattle receiving. If these two districts touched one another, nothing would be more easy than for the police of the two places to work together. But this is not the case at present. As if for the very purpose of making things easy for the criminals, we have even a tongue of land in between the two which we have placed in a third jurisdiction. The Magistrate of that jurisdiction can only get to that tongue of land in the cold weather. The Magistrate and Superintendent are upwards of 100 miles away, the nearest Assistant Superintendent 80 miles, and the nearest Deputy Magistrate 60 miles. Supervision of the police therefore becomes excessively difficult and yet, we make the thana so large and unwieldy that we cannot hope that the police will not try to burk some of their work.

The consequence is that Belaunja becomes an utter nuisance to the officers in Palamau and Sassaram; all their efforts are thwarted there; the thieves revel in it, all the crime centres there, and there all clues to it are lost; and thus it goes on unchecked because the other *zillahs* naturally believe that Gaya understands the case, but Gaya is so far off as to be easily blinded to the facts of it."

The Government's orders approving of the proposal were conveyed in Mr. Mackenzie's letter No. 655, dated the 16th February 1871, and further orders were issued in Mr. Harrison's letter No. 2611, of the 5th June of the same year, directing that it was to be administered on the non-regulation system. This order is of interest and is therefore inserted here :—

"In reply I am to say, that as the only point in which the non-regulation system, as it prevails in the *Chota Nagpur Division*, differs from the regulation system is in the matter of the sale of real property for debt, and as the non-regulation revenue laws on that point are less severe than those in the regulation districts, the Lieutenant-Governor considers that you may safely apply them to the transferred parganas."

93. *Later discussions on the status of the tenure-holders.*—It has been stated above that during the 40 years which followed the death of Mr. Prinsep, little or nothing had been done to complete his investigation into the rights and status of the tenure-holders of Palamau. In 1854, the Subdivisional Officer at Koranda (Mr. Rivers Thompson) had been directed to carry out a similar enquiry but does not appear to have found time for it. The mutiny was followed, as has been explained above, by large confiscations. Thirty-nine such resumptions took place between the years 1858 and 1863; and eight more were completed before 1880. But it was not till the passing of the Land Registration Act in 1876 and of the Chota Nagpur Landlords and Tenants' Procedure Act in 1879, that the great practical difficulty which was constantly felt in collecting the revenue, focussed the attention of the local officers upon the necessity of effecting registrations and mutations in respect of the tenures of Palamau.

94. *The need for registration.*—*Discussions of 1882-92.*—In spite of the fact that the tenures were regarded as inalienable, it was known that they had, in the absence of opposition from the landlord (*i.e.*, Government), been transferred to an enormous extent. But the officers of Government did not admit, nor did the tenure-holders claim that these transfers could affect the right of Government to resume the tenures on the failure of male heirs of the original grantee. Mr. Power, Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga wrote in 1882: "All the dependent tenures without exception may be resumed by Government as superior landlord on failure of legitimate male issue of the original grantee. Such is the undisputed custom of the country, acted on and established by judicial precedents. In none is there any right of assignment valid against Government. No register of mutations used to be kept up."

Mr. Forbes, the Subdivisional Officer of Palamau, had expressed a similar view, as the result of his own experience six years earlier, but had observed that Mr. Cuthbert's letter which had just come to his notice, seemed to establish the tenure-holders in a much stronger position. In another note which he wrote for Colonel Lillingstone in 1886 he based an opinion still more favourable to the tenure-holders entirely upon the passages from



Mr. Cuthbert's letter to which attention has already been drawn, and emphasized the failure of Government actively to protect its own interests during the years which had followed Mr. Prinsep's death. He agreed with Mr. Power that private transfers had taken place on a very large scale among the *jagirdars* and other tenure-holders, and that it was impossible to compel the heirs of the original grantees to register their names under the existing Code, as the "sunset law" did not apply to tenure-holders. Mr. Power had wished to raise the tenures to the dignity of estates under the Registration Act in return for a *nazrana* or an enhancement in the rent. The proposal failed because the Commissioner (Mr. Hewett) did not believe that the tenure-holders would willingly consent to pay either a *nazrana* or an enhanced demand; and thought that it would be "inequitable and impolitic" to go against their wishes after the lapse of so many years. He advocated the opening of the Board's Register No. 33 in respect of all the Palamau tenures and the Board acquiesced in this suggestion. Two years later however it came to their notice that the register had not been opened and they asked "why no attempt had been made to enforce the provisions of section 34 of Act I (B.C.) of 1879, or to keep up Register No. 33 for dependent tenures (letter No. 282-A. of 10th June 1884). The sequel is explained in Mr. Grimley's letter No. 799-R. of 17th/22nd August 1894 as follows :—

"In 1887 the Deputy Commissioner in his letter No. 462-R., dated the 26th July, again brought the subject of the Palamau jagirs and under-tenures to the notice of the Commissioner, in which after stating that 'it is an acknowledged fact that these dependent tenures within the Palamau Government estate are resumable on failure of the male line of the original grantee, and that they are not transferable by sale, gift or by any other mode of alienation' he went on to say that endeavours were being made to 'cause the holders of the tenures to register their names, and to discover whether they were the natural heirs of the original grantees or their heirs, or of those of the purchasers, mortgagees or other persons who acquired possession from the grantees or their heirs.' He further wrote that 'the titles of several tenure-holders were found to be invalid, except so far as they were derived from adverse possession and it was evident that a strict enquiry would bring to light many more such cases. Further enquiry showed that information was totally wanting in many cases as to the names of actual holders of the tenures and as to the relationship of those whose names were known to the original grantees; that in the majority of cases, receipts for rents paid were still being granted either in the name of the original grantee or of some heir, both long since dead. The Deputy Commissioner then added 'the Register No. 33 has now been written up as far as it could be but the information contained in it was neither perfect nor reliable.'"

On receipt of this letter and of Mr. Forbes' note the Commissioner (Mr. Stevens) succeeded in obtaining some of the old documents, the absence of which had given room for much speculation and called for a report from the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga as to the extent to which the Government had been exercising its right to resumption, and for an opinion on Mr. Power's proposal to raise the tenures to the position of estates. About this time Mr. Ainslie, the Subdivisional Officer of Palamau, obtained affidavits regarding their tenures from the landlords of Palamau.

95. *Special enquiry into tenures, 1893-94.—Incidents of all the Jagirs and ijaras found to be similar.*—The report was ultimately submitted by Mr. Bright, the Deputy Commissioner of Palamau, in his letter No. 243-R., of 13th June 1892, and it resulted in the deputation of a Deputy Collector to hold a special enquiry under the orders of Government (No. 4295 of 9th December 1892). The enquiry lasted for nearly a year and a half. It was found that no discernible difference existed between the various classes of jagirs and ijaras. 122 jagirs and 85 ijaras still existed but only 65 old *sanads* could be found. The *sanads* are all similar. They generally contain the words "*aachh, machh, jalkar, bankar, parjapur*". Very few contain any words of inheritance, or provision for resumption. It appears that all were intended to be regulated by a custom of inheritance by male heirs which was well understood in the locality. A few, however, contain the terms *sankhaka* *sankha* or *al aulad*, while five *inam* jagirs granted by the British Government



after the Mutiny have the words *putra putradi*, which were subsequently interpreted by Government to imply, in these particular cases at least, inheritance by any male heirs of the original grantee. The tenures of Chhechhari, Partappur, Namudag and Mangopur were specially cited as cases where the original documents made no provision that the grant should be of a hereditary nature, but all these tenures had been allowed to descend freely from generation to generation for over a century. The Lieutenant-Governor himself visited Palamau during the enquiry and was assured by all the leading jagirdars that their estates were resumable by Government on failure of male heirs. Regarding those *ijaras* which were originally only common leases, and the doubtful tenures called jagir *mutafarka*, jagir *ijara* and *ijara inam* which had been referred to Mr. Prinsep for special scrutiny but never reported upon, the Commissioner recommended that there was "no longer any necessity for maintaining a distinction between them and the different classes of other jagirs and *ijaras*; because in practice they have for a long series of years been virtually recognized to be both heritable and permanent; while *bai pattas* appear to have been even of a superior standing, being in their origin out-and-out sales." The Jagir *Qazi* which Government had ordered to remain attached to the office of *Qazi*, had already been specifically relinquished by Government in 1862 when the office itself was abolished.

96 *Minhai tenures*.—The *minhai* rent-free tenures, which were mostly granted to Brahmans, were reported on in Mr. Bright's letter No. 424 of 4th September 1894. The registration of these was in as great a state of confusion as the registration of the jagirs, and it had been found to be impossible to realize the cesses which were due from them. There were two ancient registers of rent-free tenures, one of which was prepared between the years 1784 and 1788 and the second in 1791 A.D.

The number of genuine *minhai* tenures, which belonged to Palamau itself, as entered in these registers was 162. Mr. Prinsep had been instructed in 1828 to scrutinize all these and "to procure a correct statement of the cases that are liable to enquiry under Regulation II of 1819." Ultimately 30 tenures in all, were resumed. "No attempt," wrote Mr. Bright, concerning the remaining 132 tenures, "has ever been made to enforce registration of these tenures and they have been inherited, subdivided and sold to as full an extent as the jagirdari and *ijaradari* tenures." Unlike the *jagirs* the rent-free tenures were by custom both heritable and transferable. Exclusive of the 255 villages of the Untari estates, the number of villages wholly or partially included in these tenures was 217.

97. *The orders of Government*.—The status of the Palamau tenure-holders was finally determined by the orders of Government contained in Mr. Buckland's letter No. 3917, dated the 14th August 1895. It was held that (1) "whatever may have been the origin of the various classes of jagirs and *ijaras*, there is now no necessity for maintaining any distinction between them, because, in practice, they have for a long series of years been virtually recognized to be both heritable and permanent." (2) With regard to transferability Government believed that the jagirdars and *ijaradars* had not previously possessed the right to alienate, but finally decided that the transferability of all tenures should be recognized,—“the right of Government to resume on the failure of male heirs of the original grantees being abandoned once for all without any payment of compensation, and that all transferees should be admitted to registration.”

(3) "Sir Charles Elliott directs that the tenures (both jagirs and *ijaras*) shall henceforth be raised to the position of Revenue paying estates, under section 3 of Act VII (B. C.) of 1876, that the sale law shall be applied to them, so as to facilitate the realization of Government revenue and that the joint responsibility of all the holders of a tenure for the payment of the Government dues shall be maintained."

(4) It was further ordered that nothing more need be done in the matter of encroachments except where the tenures march with the *khalsa* villages, in which case the boundary was to be relaid according to the Revenue Survey maps.

The *minhai* tenures were, about the same time, entered in the general register of revenue-free lands, Part I, under clause 3, section 10, Act VII (B.C.) of 1876, in accordance with orders conveyed in the Board's letter No. 238-A., dated the 28th May 1895.

98. *Formation of Palamau District.—Its revenue.*—After the transfer of Japla and Belaunja to the Subdivision of Palamau, the Lohardaga district exceeded 12,000 square miles in area; and it soon began to be felt that it was necessary to constitute Palamau into a separate district. It was agreed that pargana Tori which, like Palamau itself, is below the Ranchi plateau, should be included in the new district. In 1889 Colonel Lillingstone described the circumstances thus. (Letter No. 1327-R., dated the 29th—31st December 1889):—

“In the event of Palamau being soon created into a district separate from Lohardaga, pargana Tori for several reasons should be separated from Lohardaga and be included in the new district of Palamau. That pargana is almost as distinct from Chota Nagpur proper as Palamau, as regards people and customs. The people are much the same as the Palamau people. The local customs regarding *bethbegari* do not exist there. It is only a part of the Chota Nagpur estate in name, for it has been granted to the half brother of the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur as his maintenance grant.”

Accordingly the district of Palamau was created, comprising the parganas of Palamau, Tori, Japla, and Belaunja. The total revenue of the new district is made up as follows:—

				Revenue.	Cess.
				Rs.   a   p.	Rs.   a   p.
Palamau	...	...	...	15,277   11   9	47,506   13   1
Tori	...	...	...	(Through Ranchi)	6,097   0   0
Japla and Belaunja	...	...	...	10,067   12   2	9,823   6   9

Japla and Belaunja are really revenue free under the *Altamgha* grant of the Mughal Emperor. But Government has taken a perpetual lease of the *Altamgha* rights of four tappas of Belaunja and still pays nearly Rs. 10,000 annually to the Patna Nawab family, the descendants of the *Altamghadars*. The sum of Rs. 10,067-12-2 is made up of payments of rent (not revenue) by the Mukarraridar of the Dema, or Sonapura, property (Rs. 7,853-12-0, a year) and by 42 other petty tenure-holders.

Colonel Evans Gordon was designated to be the first Deputy Commissioner of Palamau in 1891; but he went to Ranchi, apparently at once, to officiate as Commissioner, and his place was taken by Mr. W. Bright. A list of the Subdivisional Officers and Deputy Commissioners of Palamau is given in Appendix U.

99. *History of pargana Tori.—Its resumption by the Maharaja.*—This Chapter will conclude with short histories of Tori, Japla, and Belaunja, and notes on past discussions concerning mineral rights and tenant-rights. The former Rajas of Tori set up a claim that they were independent of the Chota Nagpur Maharaja, and succeeded in defying his authority\*. The pargana was, however, secured to the Maharaja by order of the Patna Council and the Tori Raja, as jagirdar, was ordered to pay a revenue of Rs. 2,007 to the Maharaja. About the year 1804 Raja Durgijoy Sahi died without children and the Maharaja set up a claim to resumption against his widow. In a letter cited in Mr. “Webster’s report Mr. Walpole, the Assistant Collector, stated that ‘although the late jagirdar left no lineal nor any near collateral heirs, still there is no want of claimants to the pargana.’ Mr. Walpole “did not think that distant degrees of relationship can entitle the claimants to the inheritance of a jagir which from the feudal nature of its tenures, is revertible to the Zamindar or liege lord whose ancestors originally granted it.” Mr. Webster’s reference to the resumption of Tori was made in support of his

\*In 1772 Camac recorded that the Tori Raja, ‘a vassal of Nagpur,’ had taken advantage of the Marhattas’ incursions and the trouble with Mukund Singh to revolt, in the same year he gave a passage to the Marhattas through Tori and Camac had to post a force on his frontier to overawe him.

own theory that by the general custom of the country "only *direct* lineal descendants were entitled to inherit on the same terms as the last holders;" and he annexed to the passage above quoted an assertion that "the court of appeal directed that the Maharaja had a right to resume *on failure of lineal or near collateral heirs of the jagirdar.*" I am indebted to Mr. Peppe, the Manager of the Chota Nagpur estate, who does not share Mr. Webster's views, for a copy of the original judgments of the provincial appeal court (dated 1811 A.D.) and the Sadar Diwani Adalat (1819). From these it appears that the litigation was confined to the Maharaja on one side, and the late Raja's widow on the other. The question whether the tenure was heritable by any of the male descendants of the original grantee (whether, for instance, an uncle might succeed his nephew if both are descendants in the male line of the original grantee), or only by direct descent from father to son was never before the court. The decision of the case itself was concerned only with female inheritance. Mr. Hawkins, the Senior Judge of the Provincial Court at Azimabad, held that "the defendant, the widow, does not, owing to herself being a female, possess qualifications for performance of the services which the hill jagirdars are bound to perform. Agreeably to the long standing custom of the said part of the country, the plaintiff is entitled to have sufficient maintenance fixed for the defendant, and bring the disputed lands into his possession, and to pay himself into the Government treasury the revenue thereof at the rate of Rs. 2,000 per annum, which Raja Durgijoy Sahi paid by way of aggregate out of the Government revenue of the zamindari of the plaintiff." The resumption of Tori does not therefore establish Mr. Webster's theory of direct lineal inheritance. In fact the Maharaja himself does not support the claim which was thus made on his behalf. Mr. Grimlev, the Commissioner, (letter No. 1772 of 31st March 1893) stated that all the Palamau jagirs were heritable by *any male* heirs of the original grantee. He then said "the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur, who is mostly concerned with the maintenance of the old custom, does not claim the right to resume a jagir so long as any male descendant of the original grantee is living, be the said descendant a lineal successor of the eldest son or of the youngest son of the original grantee or of any of his male descendants."

100. *The rightful heirs not participators in the litigation for the succession. The pretensions of Shiva Narain Singh.*—In these circumstances why, it may be asked, did the legal heirs of the deceased jagirdar refrain from putting in their claims? The answer appears to be that they were cajoled with promises by the Maharaja until it was too late; and at the same time they had the misfortune to lose the sympathy of the local officers owing to the conduct of an adventurer named Shiva Narain Singh, who set up a claim in 1812 to be the lawful heir and entered the pargana with a large band of armed men. There he fortified himself on a hill and plundered the country until Captain Roughsedge had to march against him. He had associated himself with two individuals who were styled by the Governor-General "those atrocious rebels Baktour Sahi and Mandal Singh" and there can be little doubt that his proceedings brought discredit upon all claimants to the pargana, genuine as well as false.

101. *Tori advertised for sale.*—Before the decision of the Provincial Court of Appeal, the Tori estate had fallen greatly in arrears of revenue, and the Board advertised the pargana for sale. The Maharaja was permitted to pay up the balance, on the condition that the payment was in no way to affect the pending litigation. Two-thirds of the balances having been paid up, the Board in Mr. W. Thackeray's letter of the 3rd August 1810 instructed the Assistant Collector not to proceed with the sale.

102. *The Maharaja attempts to avoid all tenures.*—It was not until after the decision of the final court of appeal in 1819, that the Maharaja felt free to show his hand. The result of his doing so has been graphically described in a long report by Dr. Davidson dated the 14th December 1835, from which we learn that the Maharaja set up a claim that all the under-tenures created by the Tori Rajas were not binding against himself, and commenced resuming them wholesale. He also resumed about 100 villages still held at a small rent by the Bhogtas, Kharwars and Bhuians who were the original *clearers* of the soil. The dispossessed tenure-holders approached the Agent for redress,

while those who still held possession of their lands asked for protection against openly threatened aggression. They all pointed out that there were lawful heirs of the old Rajas in existence, and that the resumption had been unjust, and asked for a restoration of the Rajas. The heirs of Durgijoy at the same time petitioned for a restoration of their rights; and the pretender Shiva Narain Singh not only asserted his claims again but assumed the *tilak* and proclaimed himself Raja. Dr. Davidson found that this man had no right whatever to the estate and placed him in confinement; but he decided that Thakur Bhup Nath Sahi had been undoubtedly entitled to succeed. Authentic letters and the remains of a *khilat* given to this man by the Maharaja were produced and showed that the latter had promised to acknowledge Bhupnath Sahi as the Raja if he would abstain from any participation in the suit which was pending against Durgijoy's widow. In addition, a great weight of respectable oral evidence supported the same story.

103. *Action taken by Dr. Davidson.*—Dr. Davidson considered, in view of the poverty of the Thakurs and their ignorance "of the rules and customs of our courts," that their failure to secure their own interests was sufficiently explained, and suggested that Thakur Bhupnath Sahi should even after so many years be allowed to sue the Maharaja *in forma pauperis*. I have not been able to find any subsequent papers dealing with this proposal. It may perhaps be assumed that it was held to be too late to sue. At any rate the heirs did not recover their property. As the pargana was in a very disturbed state on account of the Maharaja's proceedings, Dr. Davidson "wrote to the Maharaja that he must on no account attempt to dispossess any of the holders of lands by grants from the Tori Rajas who were still in possession, without first making an application in the regular form and getting an order from the court." The report continues "In answer he informed me that his farmer had resigned and he does not recognize the grants of the late Tori Raja which are all liable to resumption. I repeated my former order and sent a proclamation into the pargana, ordering the people to pay their rents regularly to the Raja, and that if any attempt were made to dispossess any of these still holding lands on grants from the late Tori Rajas, to inform me. This has satisfied and quieted the landholders and I do not at present anticipate any interruption of the public peace on their account."

104. *The Chakla estate.—Later history of Tori*—The 12 villages of the present Chakla Encumbered Estate had been left when the estate was resumed to Chamu Sahi and his brother Bandhan, the father of Bhupnath Sahi, and are now under the protection of the Encumbered Estates on behalf of the descendants of the old Tori Rajas. Primogeniture has not been followed in the family. There is little more on record about the pargana, beyond a somewhat imaginative sketch of its conditions composed by Mr. Webster in 1875, and published in Hunter's Statistical Account. In 1866 it was granted as a maintenance tenure, resumable on failure of male heirs by the Maharaja, to his half brother Kumar Jagat Mohan Nath Sahi Deo. In 1891 it was included with Palaman, Japla and Belaunja in the new district of Palaman, but it still remains on the revenue rent-roll of Ranchi and pays its revenue as part of the Chota Nagpur estate.

105. *Japla and Belaunja.—The Sonepura family.*—Although it is probable that in the time of Medni Rai the Cheros ruled over the parganas of Japla and Belaunja, it is believed that the Sonepura family of Surajbansi Rajputs, which may have sprung from the same origin as the Cheros, were established there as the local potentates from a very early period. According to a recent account, this family was recognized by Aurangzeb, after Daud Khan's successful invasion (about the year 1687), as the 'sole zamindars' of both parganas as well as of some property in Shahabad, and their annual rental was fixed at Rs. 2,459. This, however, can hardly be correct, as the revenue of Japla and Belaunja was fixed in 1629 A.D. by Ahmad Khan and confirmed in 1690 by Ibrahim Khan at Rs. 3,895 and Rs. 7,738 respectively. The story continues that the family afterwards fell into disfavour presumably for some act of disloyalty, and the parganas were granted by the Emperor Shah Alam as a rent-free *Altamgha* estate to the family of Ghulam Hussain Khan, the author of the *Sair-ul-Mutakharin*. It is probable that the recognition which they actually received

was much more limited, both in respect of the nature of the rights conferred and of the area concerned. The first Shah Alam is commonly known as Bahadur Shah and reigned at Delhi from 1707-12. The second was titular Emperor from 1759-1805. It was probably the latter who granted the *Altamgha*, but it is doubtful how far he had any power left to make the grant. He certainly could not abate or grant any part of the Bengal revenues at any period of his reign. The Sonepura Raja kept up a continued struggle against the *Altamghadar*, which was noted by Captain Camac, in the earliest years of the British administration. On June 10th, 1772, that officer reported to the Council that Miran Ali Naki Khan (the *Altamghadar*) and Raja Bisnaut have made many complaints against each other about Belaunja, but the affair being a private jagir, I did not choose to interfere on either side. The one alleged that the Raja would not pay in his dues and the other recriminated that the Khan was not content but wanted his zamindari also and had possessed himself of more of his towns." The Council took over control of Belaunja in the same month at the *Altamghadar's* request, and ordered Camac to send a small force there to maintain order, but does not seem to have done much more than prevent actual fighting. In 1803, as appears from the letters of the Military Department the *Altamghadars* had to be put into possession after the Government had ratified their titles in Belaunja. There they at once caused an outbreak by enhancing their raiyats' rents by 1000 per cent. Partly as a result of this conduct and partly on account of the good services rendered by Raja Bhupnath Sahi of Sonepura, they were obliged by Mr. Miller in 1804 to give a lease of four tappas of Belaunja to the Sonepura Rajas for a term of years. In 1812 when the lease came under renewal the *Altamghadar* Kazim Ali Khan attempted to impose a heavy increase in the rental, as a condition of renewal. The Board instructed the Collector to enquire what enhancement the Sonepura Raja was willing to pay, and on hearing from the Raja that he could not pay anything beyond the existing assessment, directed that Kazim Ali Khan should be left to make his own arrangements. This was strongly opposed by Captain Roughsedge for the Raja Bhupnath Sahi had long proved himself the most loyal and active of all the zamindars in that locality and had accompanied the Ramgarh battalion with a levy of irregular troops in the numerous campaigns which occupied it during the early years of the 19th century. Captain Roughsedge asserted that justice and equity, as well as political expediency, all required that the renewal of the settlement on the terms fixed in 1804 should be enforced if the *Altamghadar* continued obstinate and complained that Kazim Ali had attempted to bribe him with "an offer on his part to divide the profit arising from his regaining possession of the estate."

106. *The settlement of 1816.*--The final result was that Government took over the 4 tappas from Kazim Ali and undertook to pay in perpetuity an enhanced annual rental of 9,000 current coins exclusive of 836 for *Sayer*, *Abhari*, and *Ganj* collections, to the *Altamghadars*. The amount is now Rs. 9,989. The Sonepura Raja received in 1816 a *mukarrari* from Government of all the lands then in his possession, on an annual rental of Rs. 7,882.12.9. The *Altamghadars* were confirmed in possession of Japla; which they had succeeded in obtaining.

In 1858 the Sonepura family did not live up to the traditions of Raja Bhupnath Sahi, and lost the title of Raja on account of some complications in the Mutiny. The family property is now burdened with many *mukarraris* and encumbrances of all kinds, and is with difficulty preserved intact by the interference of the Encumbered Estates administration.

The estate of the *Altamghadars* has in a great measure passed out of their possession, and the remnant is, like Sonepura, under the management of Government.

107. *The Untari family.*--The Bhaia of Untari are a branch of the Sonepura family. It is said that the 44th Raja of Sonepura (Parsuram Rai) had two sons, Utar Rai and Raghunath Singh. On Parsuram's death Utar Rai the elder of the two princes was absent on a pilgrimage and the younger son was placed on the *quadi*. Utar Rai on his return was given the Devankara Estate consisting of 97 villages in Belaunja, with the title of Bhaia-brother.

The third Bhaia under the orders of the Mughal Emperor, attacked and subjugated Tappa Utari in Palamau, in consequence of the contumacy of Rudra Sahi (probably the son of Raja Medni Rai, who bore that name). This occurred probably about the year 1690 A. D. By way of reward he received Untari as a rent free jagir, from the Emperor. On 31st August 1797, the British Government confirmed the grant and on 10th December 1840, after an enquiry under Regulation 3 of 1828 the rent-free title to the Devankara estate was also confirmed.

108. *Conduct of the Bhaias*—During the Frontier wars of the early 19th century Untari was continually occupied as a standing post by a detachment of the Ramgarh Battalion, but the Bhaias do not appear to have distinguished themselves either by loyalty or activity. Thus Captain Roughsedge wrote in 1812 that "Bhaia Bhawani Singh the jagirdar of Untari, held lands of very considerable amount, rent-free for the sole purpose of holding the *ghats* and passes in his country leading to South Bihar" but though he must have known of their presence he allowed a body of Pindaris to go through his country heavily laden with booty, not only without placing any obstacle in their way, but without even reporting the matter to the military authorities.

The military correspondence constantly refers to the Bhaias as jagirdars or *ghatwals*; and it may be doubted whether the title Bhaia has not in their case a reference to some responsibility or service in guarding the passes, such as it has in the case of the Ranchi Bhaias described by Mr. Webster, and the Chhechhari Bhaias in Mahuadanr. The Mahuadanr family were granted the title by the British in 1802, as a specific acknowledgement of services rendered in holding their passes during the campaigns of Colonel Jones in Palamau and Sarguja. This explanation is perhaps less fanciful than that given above which the Bhaias themselves have offered. The Bhaias do not seem to have rendered very active service during the Mutiny, and their want of liberality during a famine which occurred in 1869 elicited a special censure from the Lieutenant-Governor.

109. *Minerals.*—*Mr. Cuthbert's report.*—*Iron.*—In 1827 the existence of coal had not been discovered in Palamau but Mr. Cuthbert mentioned in his report that Government received collections or royalties from 14 out of 29 iron furnaces which were being worked in the pargana, and suggested that the receipts under this head might well be increased. On this proposal the Government in the instructions issued for Mr. Prinsep's guidance, dated the 25th October 1827, made the following remarks:—"With respect to the assignment of jungle and mineral products separately from the general settlement of the revenue of the cultivated land this question must depend upon what may be found to be the understood practice of the pargana." "If the jagirdars and others, or the residents in *khalva* villages have a definite interest in the circumjacent jungle or in the iron mines of their jagirs it would obviously be inexpedient to interfere with this directly or through a Government farmer, but if the items have always been separate there can be no reason for not continuing the reservation of them." The enquiry was never completed. The term iron mines is rather misleading, as the furnaces which alone were in use, were connected with very primitive surface working. Most of the under-tenures were, as has been noticed above, expressly given "*jalkar* and *bankar*" (jungle profits) by the terms of their grants but none of them were granted any minerals and apparently Government alone had previously taxed the iron furnaces.

110. *Coal.*—In 1830 coal was discovered, but it was not known whether it would be found in workable quantities. Mr. Cuthbert wrote about it: "I think it proper to state however that should more extensive fields of coal be discovered at Singra (4 miles north of Daltonganj) and coal be taken in large quantities, some pecuniary arrangements should be made with the proprietor of the lands in which the fields are situated." It is not clear whether these "arrangements" were to be made by way of compensation for any land necessary to the working of the fields or for the minerals themselves but it does not appear that the cost of acquisition of mineral rights was what was in Mr. Cuthbert's mind. He would hardly have dismissed the subject so cursorily, nor would he have thus anticipated without any comment, the results of Mr. Prinsep's investigation.

111. *The Bengal Coal Co.*—In 1840 the Bengal Coal Company took a temporary lease of the villages Rajhara and Pandua, and in 1855 they acquired a permanent interest from petty under-tenure-holders, under the Birsampur jagir. Shortly afterwards the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur instructed his principal Assistant at Lobardaga to investigate their title. In his letter No 11 of 23rd May 1857 he wrote :—

"I beg you will do me the favour to ascertain and report under what arrangements the Bengal Coal Company hold the coal mines in Palamau from the jagirdars.

"The jagirdars can be informed that till the orders of the Board of Revenue have been received to assume the right on account of Government, no interference with temporary arrangements made by them is contemplated, and this can be explained to the Manager of the Bengal Coal Company, who will doubtless see the expediency of applying at once to have the lease he now holds provisionally confirmed by the Government, to secure to the Company the right to hold the mines on the same terms as at present in the event of the Government determining to assert its rights to them.

112. *The Mutiny.*—*Discussions resumed in 1871.*—But just as the rising of 1831-32 had put the enquiry then pending out of mind, so the Mutiny of 1857 put an end to all working of minerals for 10 years, and to the investigation proposed by the Commissioner; and it was not until 1871 that the question came up again as a result of a general discussion initiated by the Government of India. A long correspondence ensued: Sir George Campbell and the Board of Revenue being in favour of the issue of a proclamation declaring the Government right to minerals in Palamau, and the Government of India eventually refusing to agree to this and recommending the institution of a suit under proper professional advice. Sir Richard Temple decided that Government should not set aside the leases granted to the Bengal Coal Company or compel the Company to pay a royalty to Government, but that Government should declare its intention of asserting its rights *in future*, and of testing them, if necessary by an appeal to the law. The Board were accordingly requested to instruct the local officers of Chota Nagpur to be careful that in the event of mining operations being started outside the limits of Rajhara and Pandua, they do not suffer the rights of Government to be injured. In such cases they should report the facts, to enable Government to obtain legal advice.

113. *Messrs. Burn & Co's. scheme.*—*Legal Remembrancer's opinion, 1881.*—The first occasion of this sort arose when Messrs. Burn & Co. asked for concessions in respect of certain villages near Daltonganj, which were supposed to contain coal, and in respect of a light railway which they intended to construct more or less over the same course as has been taken by the present railway. The case was referred to Mr. T. T. Allen who was then the Legal Remembrancer. That officer enunciated the following propositions :—(1) Throughout the reports on Palamau the jagirdars are invariably spoken of as *proprietors of the lands* included in their jagirs. (2) Mr. Cuthbert said they had been secured the full benefits of the perpetual settlement. (3) Government in 1819 relinquished certain balances of Revenue due at the time of the purchase of the estate. (4) Mr. Walpole in 1809 reported that the jagirdars from long possession regard themselves *now* as proprietors of the soil, and that the zamindar has no power to dispossess them.

From these facts he argued that at the time of the purchase Government not only spared them *but elevated them into the superior position of zamindar*. "Government deliberately sunk the zamindar in the Government" he wrote, "and Mr. Cuthbert's letter appears to be a protest against a suggestion to revive the character of the zamindar put forward by the Board in 1822 A.D." Therefore he concluded "The jagirdars of Palamau are in my opinion just as much proprietors of the land, and in as full a sense as any zamindar who holds under the permanent settlement: . . . therefore Government cannot now claim any right in the minerals lying within the jagirdari, the *ijaradari* or the *minhai* tenures of Palamau. Within the *khalsa* villages where the proprietary rights have not yet been acquired by the *raiyats*, it may perhaps be entitled."

114. *Mr. Allen's view criticized.*—It is difficult to comment with moderation on this opinion. The reports on Palamau to which Mr. Allen referred,



are those of Mr. Cuthbert and Mr. Forbes. It must be noted that (1) Mr. Cuthbert not only did not call the jagirdars "*proprietors*" under the Permanent Settlement, but went out of his way to explain in a passage that has already been quoted that Government was the *proprietor* and that the jagirdars had no better position than tenure-holders in other districts. (2) Mr. Forbes's own experience led him to take a still stronger view of the rights of Government. (3) Mr. Cuthbert clearly explained that he was protesting not against a proposal to revive the character of zamindar, which he did not admit to have been ever in abeyance, but against the assertion (14 years after the sale) of Government's right *as auction purchaser to annul the under-tenures*. Far from regarding the jagirdars as permanently settled proprietors Mr. Cuthbert argued in another letter that there had not been a permanent settlement at all. All that his report appears to represent is that the jagirdars have heritable, inalienable, service tenures, which were resumable on failure of male heirs. There is nothing either in his letter, or in the sale notice, or in the *sanad* to Ghansham Singh, or in any orders of Government, to suggest that there was ever, up to 1880, any intention of elevating the jagirs to a superior position or of sinking the zamindar in the Government.

It is hardly worth discussing the 3rd and 4th propositions of Mr. Allen's argument. The balances due by the jagirdars at the time of the purchase of the estate were due to the Raja, the proprietor, and Government was only interested in them as his creditor. They were not remitted for 6 years after the purchase but strenuous attempts were made to realize them. After the disturbances of 1817 the country was in the deepest poverty, and Government wrote off these debts, not because they regarded the jagirdars as proprietors, but because the debts were not worth pursuing further.

When Mr. Walpole in 1809 wrote that the jagirdars were claiming to be proprietors on the strength of long possession, the Raja was the *acknowledged proprietor* of the whole estate. It was on all hands acknowledged that when Government afterwards sold up the estate of the Raja they were entitled to avoid all the jagirs. Moreover Government in 1812 held that Mr. Leslie's list of jagirdars was not binding as between them and the Raja and that its enforcement by Mr. Parry was both improper and illegal. It appears that Mr. Walpole used the word 'proprietor' loosely in his letter, just as it was used loosely over and over again by the officers of a century ago. Mr. Leslie himself has given a different explanation of the genesis of the similar new claim of the jagirdars of Ramgarh to a permanent interest not terminable at the will of the Raja. He ascribes it to the operation of the British Courts. Those Courts had been maintaining the jagirdars of Palamau, as has been noticed before, during the 20 years that preceded Mr. Walpole's letter. It is likely that Mr. Leslie's explanation is true in respect of Palamau also, for very few indeed of the jagirdars could trace their titles further back than the reign of Churaman's father, and it is a strong probability that if Captain Camac's invasion had taken place 10 years later than it did a different Raja (Chitrajit Rai) and an entirely different set of jagirdars would have been found and would have been subsequently maintained in possession. Their claims, therefore, can hardly have been based on great length of undisturbed possession.

115. *Decision of Government in 1881 and 1893.*—On the strength of Mr. Allen's opinion Government did not assert a right to the minerals wanted by Messrs. Burn & Co., in 1881; but ultimately it was found that the villages in question contained no minerals, and the whole project fell through. In fact no minerals were worked except at the Bengal Coal Co.'s collieries for very many years. The discussion therefore had no practical effect at the time but it was treated as final 14 years later when the tenures were converted into estates.

It must be remembered that Mr. Allen had not the advantage of seeing the great number of records which are now available in the Commissioner's office. His opinion that the jagirdars were proprietors was never accepted by any of the local officers and was afterwards repudiated by the Board and Government in the discussions of 1892-95. But though Sir Charles Elliott rejected Mr. Allen's conclusions about the status of the jagirdars, and though these conclusions had been the sole foundation for his argument about the...



rights, the Lieutenant-Governor did not agree to the suggestion of the Commissioner and the Board to re-open the whole question of minerals in 1893.

In view of all the decisions of the High Court and Privy Council it would appear that Government still could claim the mineral rights of the pargana, (except probably in the case of Rajhara Collieries) as late as 1895, when they raised the under-tenures to the dignity of estates. By that act, however, it would seem that they conferred upon the tenure-holders, by one stroke of the pen, the immense mineral resources of Palamau, and culminated the long list of concessions which have transformed the notoriously turbulent and law-breaking semi-savages so disliked by Messrs Parry, Lindesay, Smith, Cuthbert and Roughsedge a hundred years ago, into the loyal, amenable set of men so highly lauded by Mr. Streatfeild in 1911. This discussion of mineral rights does not include Japla, Belaunja or Tori. It would probably be a difficult matter to decide in the Sonapura Estate whether the minerals belong to the Zamindar, the *Altamghadar* or Government. In Appendix Y is a short note on the minerals of Palamau by Mr. A. Habberjain, Surveying Engineer to the Bengal Coal Co. The note does not deal with the Auranga field which is said in the old reports to contain a good deal of inferior coal and iron.

116. *Raiyats* --The interest which has been always exhibited in the Palamau tenure-holders has to some extent distracted attention from the cultivators of the soil. But the benevolent intentions of Government towards the raiyats were manifested so long ago as 1786 when the *sanad* granted to Shiva Prashad Singh as guardian of the Raja directed him--

"by your good conduct to satisfy all the raiyats and inhabitants at large, causing the country to be cultivated so that the signs of improvement may exceed anything seen before. It behoves you not to exact from the raiyats either *duree*, *mangan* or interest or discount. You are permitted to exact the authorized *abwabs* allowed up to the year 1779 A.D., and you are prohibited from exacting anything over and above the aforesaid legal *abwabs*; remission having been granted for marriage fees, transit duties and *gillee-mangun* in former settlements, you are specially enjoined not to collect them from the cultivators: You are required at the end of the year to grant receipts to the raiyats separately for all sums paid by them. The taking *nuzurs* and *salami* and sums taken at the time of religious festivals, is strictly prohibited. Whatever advances you may make to the cultivators at the beginning of the year, you are at liberty to recover the same in the course of collections, but you are especially enjoined not to exact more on that account than you may have advanced."

Alas for the fate of good intentions; even at the present day rent receipts have been found to be as rare as the forbidden charges are common. But it is interesting to find that to this day the tenure-holders in granting temporary leases to Thikadars, as a rule, imitate some of the terms of Shiva Prashad's *sanad* and the whole of the lethargy with which compliance was subsequently demanded. As already mentioned Lieutenant Higgott, in 1803, reported that the disturbances in Belaunja were due to an attempt by the newly restored *Altamghadar* to raise the rents of the raiyats by 1,000 per cent.

117. *Mr. N. Smith's views on the rights of cultivators.*---No other \* specific reference to the raiyats except for mentions of years of scarcity and of their great poverty, was made until 1823 when Mr. N. Smith was asked to investigate and report on the rights, if any, possessed by the *terre-tenants* (the cultivators of the soil). That gentleman's views are worthy of quotation because although never again so frankly expressed, they represent a point of view which persistently recurs, and which in its comfortable dogmatism, sometimes looks upon detailed and laborious investigation of the actual facts, as an unnecessary waste of time. Mr. Smith did not think it necessary to make any local enquiry as a prelude to his report

"The *terre-tenants*" he wrote "are from the nature of things destined to live from hand to mouth. To what end, and in what purpose, then give them the title of "occupancy" on permanent rates? Property in land is only useful to the possessor for (1) improvement by capital and (2) accumulation of capital. "The *terre-tenants* do not possess capital, and accumulation is equally foreign to their habits. Why then entangle capital with claims hostile to its interest and incompatible with its security?"

\* "It has been explained in an earlier paragraph that the collections of raiyats' rents and the administration of justice were virtually left to the zamindars."

†The Board's letter No. 18-A, dated the 9th February 1878, in miscellaneous file No. 41 of 1878, occurs the following important passage. "It seems clear from the Board's letter to Government, dated 1st December 1815, and the deed of relinquishment annexed thereto that the *Altamghadar* received a pension in consideration of his absolute retirement from all connection with the estate. His right therefore passed to Government, and Mr. Dampier thinks it evident that the Raja became a *sadar malguzar* as payer of revenue."

The question of minerals and mineral rights, however, finds no place in the old correspondence.

Secondly the terre-tenants can exist without the capitalist but not so the latter without them. To deliver then the "*terre-tenants*" over to the monied man is better for the interests of all parties and especially of the *terre-tenants* themselves, than to prevent or limit the employment of capital by entangling individuals in disputes with the cultivators. Another remark suggests itself;—it by no means follows that leaving the *terre-tenants* at the mercy of the capitalist, would necessarily end in remuneration by wages. "They would still cultivate their parcel of land, dividing the crops as in parts of Italy, or giving an equivalent in money. Piece-work would still obtain and the *terre-tenants* retain their character of Tacksmen."

118. *Mr. Cuthbert's views.*—The most rapacious landlord could not ask for anything more than a tenancy law designed to give effect to these theories. The Board asked for a further enquiry and report from Mr. Smith's successor, Mr. Cuthbert, and expressed the view that the peace of the pargana would never be secured until something was done to make the tenantry more contented and prosperous. Mr. Cuthbert's views are contained in those paragraphs of his report which have not been printed by Mr. Forbes. Paragraphs 65 and 67 are reproduced below :—

"A settlement made with the resident raiyats" of the Government estates on fair and equitable principles would, I am convinced, be productive of the happiest effect in this pargana. It would raise up a body of independent peasantry hitherto unknown in Palamau. The cultivators in the neighbouring jagirs seeing that those in the *khalsa* lands enjoyed in every sense of the word, the fruits of their labour, would feel anxious to obtain for themselves like settlements, and in this way the Government villages would become very peopled. The general effect would be a more humane and liberal treatment of the inferior husbandmen on the part of their superiors throughout the pargana. The rights of the lower orders in countries in which the feudal system has obtained, have seldom been much respected, and in this pargana the raiyats are treated little better than Helots. The court certainly protects them, and does not allow of their being ousted from lands they have cultivated for a length of time, but they seldom claim rights, nor do the jagirdars allow that their dependants have any, and the lower orders though oppressed by their superiors, are tamely submissive to them, and do whatever they desire from the mere habit of obedience."

Mr. Cuthbert did not consider the situation of the inferior agriculturist to be generally prosperous and apprehended that the wealth of Palamau "had been much over-rated."

119. *Enquiries into condition of raiyats not completed owing to Mr. Prinsep's death.*—*Condition of Government raiyats under the 20 years settlement.*—Owing to the unfortunate abandonment of Mr. Prinsep's enquiries, nothing beyond a reference by Captain Wilkinson to attempts to introduce the Palamau *kamia* system into Ranchi as one of the causes of the outbreak there in 1832, is heard of the raiyats for many years. In the Government estates the tenants were handed over to the absolute control of thikadars until 1864, when Mr. Forbes commenced a raiyatwari settlement. It may certainly be assumed that Government exhibited no greater interest in the raiyats of the tenure-holders during this period than it did in its own. If this is correct the melancholy picture of the Government estates drawn by Mr. Forbes in his 569th paragraph must have been equally applicable to the whole pargana. The following is an extract from it :—

"The condition of the cultivators under the old settlements was exceedingly unsatisfactory; they had no rights and were subject to extortionate demands by rapacious landlords. No raiyat, whether he paid his rent or not, was sure of his tenure, but was liable to be deprived of his lands at any time. The consequence was that the cultivators were in a wretched state of poverty and constantly absconding, and the prosperity of the villages was much retarded."

In the Government estates an attempt was made to remedy this state of affairs, by making a raiyatwari settlement which the thikadars were directed to respect; but no similar action was taken in the zamindari villages. Thus after the mutiny Rai Kishun Dyal Singh Bahadur of Ranka was granted by Government a jagir in Barkol, where the tenantry were these very Bhogtas who had made common cause with his semi-aboriginal tenants and had driven him into his fort and besieged him there, but Captain Sconce reported a few years later that the land was falling out of cultivation on account of the high rents exacted by the new jagirdars "the villagers' rights not having been safe-guarded when the grant was made".

120. *Mr. Forbes' views on the condition of the raiyats.*—But the re-awakened interest in the cultivator which caused, and was itself increased by, the passing of Act X of 1859 gradually penetrated even as far as Palamau. Its effect was to introduce a period of uncertainty, out of which emerged some rather remarkable theories. Mr. Forbes found himself perplexed as to how he should reconcile the results of his own experience as Settlement Officer in the Government estates in respect of the material condition of the cultivator with the assertions of the landlords and the silence of the raiyats. This perplexity led him at times to inconsistency. Thus in his letter No. 54 of the 1st May 1869, he explained that irrigation works can only be made by zamindars working through Nunias;—a proposition which, if true, would lead to the conclusion that the only way to improve the district would be to follow Mr. N. Smith's advice and place the "terre-tenants at the mercy of the capitalist", but in the annual report for the same period he wrote: "I have also pleasure to report that the raiyats of some of the villages have clubbed together and have been improving the irrigation *bundhs*. This is, I think, an exceedingly favourable sign indicative of a better knowledge of rights and a more independent spirit than the Palamau raiyat in general shows."

Here was the truth, if only he had known it. Where the raiyats learn their rights (as Mr. Hignell afterwards found in the Government estates) they will take the necessary measures to develop their holdings. If Mr. Forbes could have looked at the census reports, he would have known that there were not enough Nunias in Palamau even to upkeep a very small proportion of the irrigation works already in existence. If he could have looked forward to the landlords' memorials of 1910, he would have heard them protesting that if *begari* (the forced and badly underpaid labour of their raiyats) were to be commuted, they would no longer be able even to maintain the irrigation works which served their own *bakast*.

121. *The competition for raiyats.*—To return from this digression:—Mr. Forbes also observed that the landlords were anxious to secure cultivators, and unwilling to allow them, once secured, to offer their services in any open market. So apprehensive were they on this score that he found them preventing the attendance of their raiyats at test works during the famine of 1873. At the same time, as he perceived, there could be no doubt that there was any amount of unoccupied land in the district which was fit for cultivation. The conclusion at once suggested itself that there was a competition for raiyats, and from this conclusion an inference naturally arose that the raiyats must be, as a rule, well treated by their landlords, in order to attract and retain them. In consonance with this argument, Mr. Forbes held that if they were, in fact, poor, their poverty must necessarily be attributable either to themselves or to some other agency, but not to the landlords; for since unoccupied land was plentiful, occupied land must be cheap, and rent must be low. In these satisfactory conditions what need could there be of a tenancy law? So Mr. Forbes concluded without reluctance or apprehension, as has already been noticed, that there was no tenancy law in force in Palamau. The silence of the raiyats he construed as a sign of contentedness.

122. *The competition is not for raiyats but for serfs.*—The truth is, as the Census Report as well as the Settlement record shows, that at least one agriculturist in every three has been unable to get any land at all and that the rest have in the vast majority of cases less than subsistence holdings. The rents far from being low, are extraordinarily high, as compared with those prevailing in all the neighbouring districts, notwithstanding that Palamau has been pronounced by experts to be one of the poorest districts in the province; in fact Mr. Forbes himself fixed much higher rates in the Government estates than were ordinarily settled 50 years later in private estates in Ranchi and Hazaribagh. The competition of the landlords *was not, and is not*, for raiyats but for sweated labour,—for agricultural slaves—for the cultivation of an ever-growing *bakast*; the terre-tenants had been delivered over, even in Mr. Forbes' time, to the capitalist, and were no longer Tacksmen. Government has now intervened to improve the rents, and abolish the slavery, but it is a pity that Mr. Forbes was misled by the simple mistake of calling labourers "rai-yats". The raiyats who had been helots in 1827 and had afterwards known no rulers nearer than Lohardaga, Ranchi, Gola or Koranda,

who had had their lands ravaged in 1832, who had been handed over to their Rajput enemies in 1858, after the devastation of the mutiny, and who even under Mr. Forbes had no law of tenancy to appeal to, were probably not silent from motives only of contentment; it is not according to human experience that those best able to air their grievances are those whose grievances are greatest. The danger of supposing that silence means contentment was forcibly exposed by Mr. Lyall, the Deputy Commissioner, in 1902 but it obviously escaped notice 40 years before when Palamau was first given an administration of its own.

123. *The landlords view of occupancy rights in Mr. Forbes' time.*—Another difficulty which confronted Mr. Forbes was that while the landlords, in conformity with their assertion that they competed for cultivators and did all they could to attract and treat them well, admitted that they would never turn them out of their lands so long as they discharged the conditions of their tenancy, and agreed that it would be wrong and unjust to do so, they nevertheless stood out against any statutory recognition of the raiyats' right to occupy particular fields, such as was provided in Act X of 1859, or to any statutory raiyats' rights at all. Now it is apparent that the landlords' contention was inconsistent; for a constant and ancient practice regulating the relations of two classes such as landlords and tenants cannot be held to be dependent solely upon the will of one of them; and in a country where custom has always been recognized as valid except where it is opposed to law, it was not permissible to argue that raiyats were *in practice* always accustomed and encouraged to *occupy*, but *in law* subject to ejection at the absolute discretion of their landlords. This argument was all the more incorrect because it was pressed by the landlords even in defiance of the existing statute (*i.e.*, 'Act X of 1859').

124. *Mr. Forbes' views on occupancy rights.*—Mr. Forbes himself adopted a solution which was in effect a compromise. He stated in his report on tenures (see Hunter's Statistical Account) that while no tenant had an occupancy right in any particular land, all resident raiyats had an admitted and undoubted right to *cultivate land in the village, at the village rate*. Presumably this right extended to a *quantity* of land sufficient for the raiyats' ordinary needs. In practice the system of shifting cultivation, which exists in the district and to some extent underlies this theory, is entirely confined to the worst *uplands*. The raiyats, as Colonel Dalton had explained, and as Mr. Forbes himself had previously noticed, did not ever interchange their best lands. Colonel Dalton wrote (letter No. 696 of 13th April 1866) that they certainly had a statutory occupancy right in these lands after 12 years possession under 'Act X of 1859, and would have a similar right in their inferior uplands, too, if they chose to retain the same fields. He added that "their power of shifting their lien upon upland where there is sufficient waste available is a *valuable additional privilege* accorded to them". It is clear, therefore, that the customary right to *cultivate* which Mr. Forbes described must have really amounted to a right to *occupy* definitely the particular good fields which were never in practice interchanged, and in addition a right to cultivate without extra assessment a suitable area of land of poorer quality, *i.e.* the present custom.

125. *The practice of the landlords at variance with their professions.*—*The official theory that there was no tenancy law in the district.*—In spite, however, of the general admission of this right to cultivate, and in spite of the alleged competition for raiyats, the landlords in practice behaved as the thikadars had done in the Government estates. Rents were often kept at the economic maximum, or nominally above it; old raiyats, if they objected to paying high rates for lands which they had themselves reclaimed at some cost and great labour, were often ruthlessly turned out.

In 1902 the Deputy Commissioner told the Irrigation Commission that if a raiyat in Palamau improved his holding so as to make it valuable he would be almost certain to be deprived of it by the landlord. Though the Deputy Commissioner regretted this state of affairs, he regarded it as unavoidable for he believed that the raiyats had no rights at all, and that there was no tenancy law in force in the district. This, however, was a mistake,

**Act I of 1879** was as much in force in Palamau as in the rest of Chota Nagpur, and it lay with the Deputy Commissioner to secure its observance. He referred, at the same time, to the beneficial results of a competition for raiyats which he believed to be a practical reality. It is difficult to find room for the existence side by side of a genuine and active competition for raiyats, and a complete absence of all raiyati rights, coupled with the *practice* of ouster from all lands worth seizing. We know now that the competition never was for raiyats. But the author of the District Gazetteer in 1907 accepted the old competition-theory and with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner drew the logical inference that every raiyat in the district had by custom an occupancy right. Though he thus recognized what the logical results of a genuine competition for raiyats must be, he had not the material before him that is now available. It was thought in 1907 that the raiyat was eagerly cherished, and well treated, that he did not litigate because he was contented, and that, if he often quitted his holding or appeared poor, it was because he was nomadic in his habits, and an extravagant fool; or else because each zamindar was always trying to entice away his neighbours' cultivators by offers of ever more favourable terms.

126. *Later doubts.*—These conclusions presented many difficulties and were not accepted by succeeding Deputy Commissioners; although they have always been put forward by the zamindars. Mr. Hignell writing in 1909 pointed out that the cultivator's tenure was most insecure in the district and suggested that to this insecurity should be attributed the want of enterprise which has left so large a proportion of the culturable land permanently unoccupied. He said that the relative positions of the landlord and the tenant were those of the harrow and toad. In 1911 Mr. Streatfeild, although he disputed, in most respects, his predecessor's opinions, declared that the raiyats were so much in the power of their landlords that nothing,—neither the courts nor the settlement,—could help them; that, in short, if they fought with their landlords they must be ruined.

127. *The result of the settlement investigation.—History of the landlords contrasted with that of the tenants.*—The actual results of the recent operations will be described elsewhere; here it is sufficient to say that rents have been found to be extraordinarily high, that raiyats have clung to their holdings even when they were left no share of the net profits; that their holdings are uniformly too small,—sometimes they have no holdings—that the competition is for labourers, not for tenants; and that though virtually all private landlords fully recognize and freely admit that raiyats are *entitled* to occupy their holdings without being exposed either to arbitrary enhancement or arbitrary ejection, yet this privilege in practice secures them no such advantages as could justify the old policy of keeping the tenancy law in abeyance.

It is impossible to conclude this study of the past experiences of the rent-receiving and the rent-paying classes, without noticing how different has been their lot: how consistently the administration has been liberal, and considerate to the one class which could make itself heard, and how completely, notwithstanding the best intentions, it has failed to reach the inarticulate masses. While tenure-holders, of whom only three petty individuals can trace their present titles further back than the usurping Raja Jai Kishun Rai, were by successive steps (1) established firmly as hereditary tenure-holders, (2) allowed to escape commutation of their customary services about the year 1792, (3) permitted in 1813 to retain their lands (which had been completely forfeited under the sale-laws, when Government purchased the estate), (4) granted additional jagirs after the mutiny, (5) presented with the mineral rights of the pargana in 1881, (6) absolved in their relations with their tenants, for about a century, from the limitations specifically imposed by the tenancy laws on all landlords, and (7) finally given a free gift of the proprietary rights of Government in 1895,—while these favours were heaped upon the landlords until continued disloyalty would have been obvious lunacy, it is difficult to find evidence of any organized attempt to enforce, on behalf of the cultivators, any rights at all, prior to the time when Messrs. Lyall and

Hignell asked for a general settlement. This result has been, in a large measure, due to the belief that the landlords are the only agency competent to improve cultivation and construct *ahars*. This belief is expressed repeatedly in official documents, and is sometimes accompanied by a further conviction that such improvements contribute more to the general welfare and happiness than just and equitable conditions of tenancy—as Mr. N. Smith expressed it, “it is better to deliver the *terre-tenants* over to the monied man, than to limit the employment of capital by entangling individuals in disputes with cultivators.”

Such beliefs have had a very ample trial, and the landlords have for a century been allowed to execute improvements through the odious *begari* system, and to take for themselves the whole advantage of these enterprises. They have been treated by the head of the district as legally blameless when they have stolen the lands improved by raiyats and they have, with the support of the courts, collected enhancements levied upon the whole village on account of an improvement effected only in their own *bakast*.

In spite of all this, their record of improvement and development has been shown to be a poor one.\* The Commissioner in 1902 expressed a strong belief that the improvement and development of the district must depend upon the creation of a healthy and enterprising tenantry, secure, through the enforcement of legal rights, in the enjoyment of the results of their industry.

The records of the settlement strongly support this opinion. The subject of improvements is further discussed elsewhere. Here it is only necessary to note that it is possible to pay too high a price, as a century's experience has shown, for their encouragement. The landlords have been recently complaining to the Deputy Commissioner that if they are not allowed in future to make private enhancements in consequence of improvements, they must give up such works. It is to be hoped that no indulgence will be accorded to such representations.

128. *Police under the Raja*.—It is clear from what has been already written that no arrangements for the policing of the district, beyond the occasional employment of a military force, existed in Palamau for the first years of the British control. In 1786, in the *patta* granted to Thakurai Shiva Prashad Singh, the Raja was made responsible for the safety of “the high roads so that.....strangers may with security enter your estate; you are required not to allow robbers, either open or secret, a domicile in your property; if, which God forbid, any person is robbed you are required to produce the robbers and the property according to the rule of the *fouzdary*”

The arrangement was not satisfactory and in 1809 Mr. Walpole, the Assistant Collector, proposed “that the police should be taken from the zamindar, that it should be placed on the same footing with the Government police in other parts of the Company's provinces, but that the expense of supporting it should be paid by the zamindar and *jagirdars* in fair proportions equivalent to the value of their respective landed possessions”. The sole cost of the police was at that time borne by the zamindar, and was computed at Rs 3,000 per annum by the local officers. Mr. Walpole's suggestion that some of the cost should be paid by the *jagirdars* was repeated by Major Roughsedge at the time when the pargana was made over to Ghansham Singh, but apparently met with no acceptance, for the old system was continued under the new Raja.

129. *Under Government, 1818*.—On the resumption of the estate by Government, the responsibility for the police devolved on Government as the zamindar. In 1827 Mr. Cuthbert urged that the *jagirdars* should be made responsible for police duties instead of the services originally attaching to their tenures, which had now fallen into disuse; but though the Board approved the suggestion Government do not seem to have taken any definite action pending Mr. Prinsep's investigation. After the establishment of the Agency, Palamau was attached to Lohardaga and included in its police arrangements.

130. *During the Agency*.—For the whole district of Lohardaga 7 thanas were set up and “10 zamindars had the management of the police in their respective *mahals*”. Of these 4 thanas and one zamindari were in 1855 under

\*A reference may be made to Chapter VIII, where the results achieved by the raiyats in the Kolhan has been mentioned.

the Assistant stationed at Koranda. But though his jurisdiction included Palamau, all four thanas appear\* to have been outside the boundary of the present district. The one zamindari was Sillidag which lies between Garhwa and Nagar Untari. Mr. Ricketts reported in 1855 that "the zamindari police is insufficient, that the zamindars are generally ignorant and either unwilling or unable to perform their duties, and the establishment employed by them are so under-paid that it is hopeless to expect good service from them". "No information was available", even in 1855, "as to the terms on which the police were originally left in the hands of the zamindars. Whether they are bound to keep them in a state of efficiency, whether the expenses are limited, cannot be ascertained."

131. *Act V of 1861*—The system continued until Act V of 1861 came into operation, when the whole force was reorganized and an Assistant Superintendent of Police was stationed at Daltonganj. In 1871, the Palamau Sub-division (which then included Japla and Belaunja but excluded Tori) was divided into the following police Circles:—(1) Bareswar (Baresand), (2) Chhattarpur, (3) Daltonganj, (4) Garhwa, (5) Manika, (6) Manjhiawan, (7) Patan and (8) Ramkanda.

## CHAPTER IV.

### SETTLEMENT PROCEEDINGS.

132. *Proposal for a Survey and Settlement.—Memorial of the Zamindars against it.*—The Survey and Settlement of Palamau were taken up in 1912-13 in continuation of the proceedings in Hazaribagh as part of a general programme for the whole Chota Nagpur Division. A Settlement had been recommended in 1906 by Mr. F. F. Lyall, the Deputy Commissioner, and three years later when Sir Edward Baker questioned the necessity for the operations, a later Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Hignell, protested very strongly and successfully against any abandonment or postponement. Early in 1911, upon Mr. Hignell's transfer from the district, the zamindars submitted a memorial to Sir Edward Baker which was forwarded by the new Deputy Commissioner, (Mr. Streatfeild) with his letter No. 1737, dated the 25th February 1911. Mr. Streatfeild vigorously opposed the views of his predecessors. He portrayed the regime of the zamindars in very favourable terms, and said that "at present the 'raiya'ts' do what they are told, pay what they are told, abscond when they like, and are reasonably comfortable and happy." In his opinion the conditions of Palamau were such as to make the preparation of a successful record very difficult and expensive. Mr. Sifton, Settlement Officer of Chota Nagpur, at the request of the Commissioner, wrote a memorandum in reply. He pointed out that the conditions of Palamau were not different from those met in various other parts of Chota Nagpur, and explained "the terrible position of the raiya'ts, who, whatever their legal rights may be, have in practice, according to Mr. Streatfeild no right of occupancy in their holdings. This means that they are ejectable at the will of the landlord, that they are liable to be rack-rented up to the limit of endurance; that they must do what they are told, and pay what they are told, and if they fall foul of their landlords, their holdings will be forfeited."

133. *The Commissioner's recommendation and the orders of Government.*—In submitting the correspondence to Government the Commissioner wrote. "I am of opinion that there is nothing in the memorial of the zamindars or in Mr. Streatfeild's letter to cause me to modify the views I have already expressed. On the contrary I am of opinion that the case for a survey and the preparation of a record of rights is materially strengthened by these two documents. The memorial and Mr. Streatfeild's letter may be taken as the strongest possible case that can be made out against the Settlement, but in my judgment their case is completely demolished by Mr. Sifton's clear and forcible note." Government declined to postpone the Settlement. The

\* This information is derived from Mr. Rickett's report, but I have seen a letter from Mr. Rivers-Thompson, Subdivisional Officer of Koranda, stating that there was at that time a police station at Manika, in Palamau.



whole of the correspondence will be found in Appendix O. From a perusal of these papers it was to be expected that the Settlement would prove a lively one; and the expectation has been fully realized. The effect has been heightened because Mr. Streatfeild's successors, as a rule, preferred his views to those of Messrs. Lyall and Hignell.

134. *The programme.*—The programme for completing the cadastral survey of the district in four years was commenced in November 1913. The south was the first part of the district to be taken up, comprising the revenue thanas Balumath, Latehar and Mahuadanr. The villages of the Government Estates which lie in Latehar had to be postponed to the second year, as revision was found to be impossible, and a new traverse survey had to be undertaken. The second year was spent in the west of the district in thanas Garhwa and Ranka. The third year's work was done in the north, in thanas Husainabad and Chhattarpur and in Police station Bistrampur, which is a part of revenue thana Patan. The fourth year's area covered the remainder of the district, being the centre and east-centre, comprised in thana Daltonganj and the remainder of thana Patan.

135 *Particulars of the Record.*—The survey was made under Act IV (B.C.) of 1875 and the record-of-rights prepared under Act VI (B.C.) of 1908. The particulars which were notified for entry in the record-of-rights under the notification of the Government of Bihar and Orissa No. 4681-R., dated the 24th June 1913, and subsequent notifications were:—

(1) That a survey shall be made and that a record-of-rights shall be prepared containing the following particulars:—

- (a) the name of each tenant or occupant;
- (b) the class to which each tenant belongs, that is to say, whether he is a tenure-holder, mundari khuntkattidar, settled raiyat, occupancy raiyat, non-occupancy raiyat having khuntkatti rights, under-raiyat, or other class of tenant; and, if he is a tenure-holder, whether he is a permanent tenure-holder or not, and whether his rent is liable to enhancement during the continuance of his tenure.
- (c) the situation and quantity and one or more of the boundaries of the land held by each tenant or occupier;
- (d) the name of each tenant's landlord.
- (e) the name of each proprietor and the character and extent of his interest;
- (f) the situation and quantity and one or more of the boundaries of the lands cultivated by each landlord;
- (g) the rent payable at the time the record-of-rights is being prepared;
- (h) the mode in which that rent has been fixed—whether by contract, by order of a court or otherwise;
- (i) if the rent is a gradually increasing rent, the time at which, and the steps by which, it increases;
- (j) the rights and obligations of each tenant and landlord in respect of—
  - (i) the use by tenants of water for agricultural purposes, whether obtained from a river, *jhil*, tank or well or any other source of supply, and
  - (ii) the repair and maintenance of appliances for securing a supply of water for the cultivation of the land held by each tenant, whether or not such appliances be situated within the boundaries of such land;
- (k) the special conditions and incidents (if any) of the tenancy;
- (l) any easement attaching to the land for which the record-of-rights is being prepared;
- (m) if the land is claimed to be held rent-free, whether or not rent is actually paid and if not paid, whether or not the occupant is entitled to hold the land without payment of rent, and, if so entitled, under what authority;
- (n) the right of any person, whether a landlord or tenant or not, to take forest-produce from jungle-land or waste land, or to graze



cattle on any land, in any village in the area to which the record-of-rights applies; and

(o) the right of any resident of the village to reclaim jungle-land or waste-land or to convert land into korkar;

(2) that a record of all predial conditions to which the said lands are subject shall be prepared and a commutation of such conditions made;

(3) that a survey and record of all landlords' privileged lands within the said area shall be made; and

(4) that a record be prepared of the rights and obligations of (a) all raiyats having khuntkatti rights, and (b) headmen of villages or groups of villages; and that a settlement of fair rents to be paid by such persons, be made.

These notifications were subsequently modified so as to exclude the protected forests of the Government Estate from the operation of clauses (n) and (o)

136. *Documents of the record-of-rights.*—The record-of-rights is contained in—

- (1) The khewat.
- (2) The khatian I.
- (3) Khatian II.
- (4) Pradhani hakuknama.
- (5) Commutation form No. I.
- (6) Irrigation form.

These are finally bound up into volumes with the village map, a field-index of the village, the terij or abstract of the khatians, and the goshwara, showing the distribution of land according to raiyati and other interests, and a certificate of final publication, for deposit in the district record room.

These forms, in English, along with a reference to the orders of the Board in which they were sanctioned for use in Palamau, will be found in Appendix M. Simultaneously with the preparation of the Record-of-Rights, agricultural statistics are collected in the khasras village by village; and village notes containing a description of each village and its customs are prepared. The statistics are afterwards compiled into thanawar statistical statements, of which abstracts are contained in the Appendices to this report.

- (1) The statistical statements.
- (2) The village notes bound up in volumes by thanas,
- (3) The records of all suits,
- (4) Boundary disputes,
- (5) Legal applications under the Tenancy Act,
- (6) The register of *kamias*, in the last three years area, and
- (7) The circle notes written by the attestation officers at the conclusion of each season's work,

are also made over to the District Officer for preservation, together with those registers which are to be preserved under the Board's orders in the Settlement Manual. A map is attached to this report showing the position and jurisdiction of each attestation camp. A reference to it will enable the reader to trace the correct circle note for any given locality. The circle notes are miniature Settlement reports and contain much detailed local information.

137. *Previous Settlements.*—A Revenue Survey of Japla and Belaunja was made in 1844 when these two parganas belonged to the Gaya District. Pargana Palamau was taken up by the Revenue Surveyor in 1865-67, in continuation of the operations in Hazaribagh. There was no Revenue Survey in pargana Tori. The work in Palamau was not well done and a proposal was made in 1867 by Major Macdonald, officiating Director of Surveys, that it should be done over again; but it was ultimately allowed to stand. There was no other survey and no settlement of any part of the district except the Government Estate. The history of that estate has been dealt with in a separate chapter.

138. *The Traverse Survey.*—The traverse survey began in 1912-13. It adopted generally the villages of the revenue survey; except in pargana Tori where there had been no previous survey. The number of theodolite stations erected in the district was 92,942. The work was, as a rule, well done. Connections were made with 33 stations of the great Trigonometrical and Topograph-

ical Surveys. The angular work was checked by 515 azimuth observations; and the mean magnetic declination which was recorded for the seasons 1914-15 and 1915-16 works out to  $0^{\circ} 45' 36''$  E. The intersection of latitude  $24^{\circ} 00' 00''$  and longitude  $84^{\circ} 00' 00''$  was used as the origin of survey and all the longitudinal values of the old G.T. and Topo stations were reduced by  $2' 27''$ —18 in order to bring their values into the terms of the latest value of the Madras Observatory, viz:—

Latitude  $13.4.03'' .05$   
Longitude  $80.14'-54''-20$

The number of traverse stations to the square mile was 19, as against 25 in Hazaribagh and 19 in Ranchi. The cost of traverse survey in Palamau was Rs. 36 per square mile as compared with Rs. 35 in Hazaribagh.

139. *Survey of Municipalities.*—There was no municipal survey in Palamau. Daltonganj is the only municipality in the district. The agricultural portions of Daltonganj were surveyed as a part of the ordinary survey and settlement operations; but the municipality did not wish to pay for a survey, of the urban part and none was made.

140. *The Progress of the Work.*—The general progress of the work year by year is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Area traverse surveyed in square miles.	Area cadastrally surveyed and khansarpurified.	Number of plots khansarpurified.	Area attested.	Area finally published.	Area in which costs were recovered.	Costs decided.	Fair rent cases tried.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1912-13	...	1,166	...	...	...	...	...	...
1913-14	...	1,419	1,166	361,656	...	...	...	...
1914-15	...	1,148	1,419	490,670	1,166	...	...	...
1915-16	...	909	1,148	557,682	1,419	1,166	...	...
1916-17	...	...	909	618,352	1,148	1,419	1,166	...
1917-18	...	...	...	...	909	1,148	1,419	...
1918-19	...	...	...	...	...	909	...	...
Total	...	4,642	4,642	2,028,367	4,642	4,642	2,585	4,642

The Reserved Forests (193.58 square miles) and the Protected Forests (68.23 square miles) have been excluded from the totals given above.

An area of 259 square miles of Khasmahal which was put down for revision in the first year's programme, was taken up with the second year's area, as revision was found to be impracticable, and the Khasmahal had to be traverse-surveyed in 1913-14.

The entries concerning jungle and reclamation rights in the *gairmazrua* (waste-land) khatians of the Government Estates were not finally published till 1918-19, pending the decision by Government of certain questions which had arisen in respect to these rights; and similarly the final publication of the same portions of all waste and jungle khatians of the 4th season's area were postponed for a few months, pending further orders which were received in August 1919. Recovery of costs was postponed for a year in 1918-19 by order of Government on account of a failure of crops.

141. *Work still to be finished.*—At the time of the writing of this report a few appeals under section 85 and section 61 remain to be disposed of, and the recovery of costs for the last two years has still to be made.

The cadastral and settlement head-quarters were both at Hazaribagh when the operations commenced; but in 1915-16 the settlement head-quarters were transferred to Daltonganj, while the cadastral head-quarters went to Ranchi in 1916-17. It was thought advisable to utilize the existing offices in Ranchi for the cadastral branch, rather than to build new offices in Daltonganj.

142. *Details of field work.*—The procedure of traverse and cadastral survey and the difficulties encountered in Chota Nagpur have been described in detail in paragraph 120 *et seq.* of the Ranchi Settlement Report. The general system of organization which was worked out by Mr. J. Reid in

Ranchi was followed, but the rules were brought up to date with the sanction of the Board of Revenue in letter No. 17-207/2 of 9th December 1916, so as to recognize modifications which had gradually been introduced in the existing practice. The following table shows the details of cadastral survey and khatanpuri done each year :—

Year.	Area.	Length of actual partial in linear miles.			Length of total partial per square mile in miles and decimals.	Total number of plots at khatanpuri.	Number of plots per square mile.	Average area of each plot in acres (including all waste and jungle).	Total Khatanpuri partial.				Percentage of the total.	Number of Khatians.	Number of plots per Khatian.	Area of khatian (including all the waste and jungle of the district).
		Personal.	Independent.	Total.					By Assistant Settlement Officer.	By Kanungo.	By Inspector.	Total.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1913-14	1165'50	1,412	971	2,383	2'03	3,61,658	310	2'06	3,308	4,613	34,772	42,608	12	35,120	10'29	21'23
1914-15	1410'50	1,588	1,333	2,920	1'98	4,90,670	345	1'83	6,104	5,342	43,829	54,275	11	57,762	8'43	16'72
1915-16	1147'48	1,220	1,195	2,415	2'10	5,57,689	496	1'31	3,659	7,424	51,533	62,016	11	73,141	7'62	10'04
1916-17	909'48	1,203	880	2,083	2'25	6,18,352	680	'94	5,417	3,324	54,411	69,125	11	74,381	8'25	7'70
Total	1641'98	5,123	4,276	9,399	2'26	2,628,367	458	1'46	18,458	25,708	183,845	229,036	11	240,877	8'42	12'32

143. *Partial*.—The amount of partial of cadastral survey prescribed by the Board is 24 chains for each 100 acres of Survey ; which is about 4 per cent less than 2 linear miles to every square mile. This minimum of partial was slightly exceeded each year, but not without a good deal of trouble, and much over-check of the more cultivated parts.

This may be ascribed to the fact that 71 per cent of the area under survey in the district is waste and jungle. The Board's standard is prescribed for detailed survey ; but in jungle and waste there is no detail to survey. The result of the application of a rigid standard is, therefore, that nearly all the check had to be done in the 29 per cent of the total area of the district which called for survey in detail. In other words the standard of check in the cultivated land was about 7 linear miles to the square mile and was unnecessarily high. It is not logical that the amount of check required in any given block of survey should depend upon the quantity of hill and jungle which may surround it, and I therefore recommend, as Mr. Sifton did in paragraph 115 of the Hazaribagh Settlement report, that the amount of partial should be made much more elastic, in order to save waste of time and money on independent partial that is often really only eyewash.

144. *A plot or field*.—A "plot" in the record-of-rights means a "field" as defined in the Bengal Government's Notification No. 2726-T.R., dated the 22nd October 1909 (which was issued under section 264 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act) ; that is to say it is "a plot or contiguous plots of the same tenant or by a group of tenants holding jointly in the same tenancy," same tenant or by a group of tenants holding jointly in the same tenancy. If a group of tenants holding a joint tenancy cultivate portions of their land separately or if a portion of a tenancy has been leased to a mortgagee or sub-lessee for separate cultivation the portions separately cultivated by each joint tenant or sub-lessee are treated as separate fields. For statistical purposes a large block of jungle or waste land also counts as a field. Where the area of jungle and waste is large as it is in Palamau (71 per cent.), the average area of a khatian is consequently very much exaggerated.

The table given above shows the total number of plots or fields, in the district to be 20, 28, 367 and the average area of a plot to be roughly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres. If, however, the big jungle fields are excluded the average area of a plot will be diminished to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of this. The variation in the average size of fields in different parts of the district is great. In the first year's area there were only 310 plots to the square mile ; in the 4th year 650.

145. *Cost Rates.*—The following statement shows details of expenditure in the cadastral branch of the settlement :—

Description of charge.	Total expenditure.	Cost rate per square mile.	Cost rate per square mile in Hazaribagh.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Detailed survey ... ..	1,37,712	29	55
Khanapuri ... ..	1,39,267	30	48
Completion of maps ... ..	35,195	8	12
Area completing ... ..	43,166	9	10
Completion of records ... ..	91,828	19	18

In attestation, at the instance of the District Officer and with the approval of the Board, the record of the evidence and the findings of the Assistant Settlement Officers were much more fully recorded and much less summary than in any other settlement in Chota Nagpur. In every village detailed enquiries were made into the *kamiai* system and a record of *kamias* was prepared under the orders of Government; moreover an elaborate irrigation record was made and finally published, and local inspections into all works of improvement were made when these were put forward by the landlords in justification of illegal enhancements. All these were new features in the settlement, and in addition to these, all attestation officers were called upon to make constant local enquiries in connection with classification and to compile a mass of information regarding the economic condition of the peasantry. The cost rate for the settlement branch in Palamau was consequently greatly increased and was Rs. 119 per square mile as against Rs. 96 in Hazaribagh.

146 *Khanapuri.*—The procedure of *khanapuri* the methods by which it is checked, and its importance, have been described in paragraph 118 of the Hazaribagh Final Report. Samples of the *khatians*, *khassas* and *parchas* which are partly filled in by the *amins* will be found in Appendix M. The standard check of *khanapuri* by inspecting officers is 12 per cent. Owing to scattered cultivation, difficult country and long distances between village and village it was found impossible to prevent the check of *khanapuri* in the last three years from falling slightly below this standard.

147. *Boundary Disputes.*—The number of villages surveyed in the district was 3,599. The total number of boundary disputes decided was 1,490, which represents one boundary dispute in every 2½ villages. The number of appeals was 212.

The general character of boundary disputes, the procedure followed and the grounds of decision have been described in paragraph 119 of the Hazaribagh Report and paragraphs 146-150 of the Ranchi Report, and may be very briefly dealt with here. Disputes involving less than 20 acres were decided by Assistant Settlement Officers by virtue of powers delegated to them by the Superintendent of Survey. Those of a larger area were heard upon the spot by an Assistant Settlement Officer and reported upon to the Assistant Settlement Officer in charge, who then heard anything more the parties had to say and decided the disputes. Many of the disputes were purely frivolous; I wish to repeat with Mr. Reid and Mr. Sifton that it would be a great improvement in the Survey Act if the Superintendent of Survey were empowered to exact costs in the case of frivolous claims. Although there had been a Revenue Survey in the greater part of the district, no demarcation of boundaries was kept up and the parties very seldom had any knowledge of the position of the Revenue Survey boundary of their own villages, especially in jungle places. In a number of cases the Revenue Survey boundaries of two contiguous villages did not agree; as a rule when a claim was put forward on the strength of the Revenue Survey, the claimant was merely indulging in speculation and did not know whether the map would help him or not.

148 *Proposal to decide all boundaries in accordance with the Revenue Survey.*—The Deputy Commissioner requested that all boundary disputes should be decided in accordance with the Revenue Survey instead of following present possession, as is required by section 41 of the Survey Act; and a

complaint that the Settlement Department were not acceding to this claim appeared in the Memorials presented by the landlords of Palamau against the Settlement Department early in 1916. When the landlords were invited to give specific examples of their alleged grievance they resiled from this complaint, and it was held by Government that the settlement procedure was not irregular.

As in Hazaribagh and Ranchi the land lying between two jungly villages was frequently a vague No-man's land where no defined boundary was recognized and no evidence of exclusive possession was available. In such cases the Revenue Survey line was usually followed, but sometimes there was such a divergence between the present survey and the last as to render this impossible. In such a case natural features were followed, or a rough division was made of the disputed block.

149. *Trijunctions*.—At each village trijunction a cairn of stones is erected and stands as a permanent mark. In some parts, notably near Japla, specially shaped stones were embedded singly instead of cairns. The position of these trijunctions was verified during attestation and a register was prepared with a trijunction *mujmili* map, each cairn being given a serial number. The register contains also the name of the village chaukidar to whose charge the maintenance of each trijunction cairn has been made over by the attestation officer, and his signature or thumb impression.

After Final Publication the maps and registers were made over to the Deputy Commissioner. The trijunctions, along with "adopted stations", will form the framework of any revision of the maps or relaying of any boundary line that may be afterwards disputed. The number of trijunction marks set up in the district was 17,125.

150. *Adopted Stations*.—To help in revision survey well-marked objects likely to be of a permanent or lasting nature, such as the corner of a *pukka* bridge or building, or a well-marked angle in a terraced rice field, were selected at suitable intervals around the boundaries of villages and across the maps, and their exact position was determined by the process of triangulation. They were then shown upon the map with a distinctive conventional sign. They are called "Adopted Stations". Should the system of "Adopted Stations" prove as successful as it is expected to do, there will be comparatively little need for traverse surveys in revision operations.

151. *Disputes*.—The average village covers approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, and contains 586 plots. The number of internal disputes at Khanapuri was 458,464 or 16 disputes a village. These were all decided by Assistant Settlement Officers. Roughly there was one dispute to every 48 plots, but one dispute often involved a large number of plots. At attestation a large proportion of these disputes were revived and 20,847 new ones were added.

The number of objections to the draft published record under section 83 was 25,295, as against 26,965 in Hazaribagh where there were nearly three times as many plots. On the average, as the subjoined statement shows, one objection in six was allowed, and in 84 per cent. of the cases the Revenue Officer trying objections found the record-of-rights to be correct.

Year.	Cases under section 83(1).			Cases under section 111(6).		
	Total number of cases.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Total number of cases.	Allowed.	Disallowed.
1914-15	3,050	455	2,595	212	8	204
1915-16	4,573	734	3,839	238	9	229
1916-17	9,688	1,513	8,175	122	23	99
1917-18	7,934	1,118	6,838	31	...	31
Total	25,295	3,910	21,385	603	40	566

The incidence of objections is 5.4 per square mile as against 4 in Hazaribagh and 6.1 in Ranchi.

152. *Training of Munsifs.*—In all seven Munsifs were deputed to Palamau for training in Settlement work. Of these two were found to be entirely unsuited to profit by the training and are no longer in the employment of Government. Another left Palamau to complete his training in the Bihar Settlement and two more came on transfer from that Settlement. These two did very well and acquired an extensive knowledge of local customs and conditions in addition to doing valuable services as Assistant Settlement Officers. The progress made by the remainder was somewhat disappointing. Two district Kanungos were also trained during the Settlement; both were given a trial as Assistant Settlement Officers. One was tolerably successful; the other was not.

153. *Attestation Procedure.*—The attestation officer's first duty is to check the khewat which was prepared during khanapuri by his predecessor, and, if necessary, correct and complete it. The khewat is corrected and completed in the following way; it is first read out to the assembled village by the *peshkar*, a note is made of all alleged mistakes in the "mistake list", and all disputes are noted in the "dispute list" for the decision of the attestation officer. When all "mistakes" have been investigated by the attestation officer in the presence of the parties concerned and, if necessary, corrected, and all disputes have been decided, the attestation officer proceeds to attest the khewat by having all the entries read out to the villagers in his presence, and disposing of any further disputes or mistakes that may be found. The rest of the preliminary record is similarly dealt with. It is first read out by a munsarim (the process is called *bujharat*), the mistakes and disputes are duly entered and disposed of, and the record is attested. If the accuracy of the map or of the classification of fields is questioned, a surveyor is sent out to examine the alleged mistakes on the ground. On account of the strong attacks that were made by the local officers on the classification, and echoed more faintly by the zamindars, the attestation officers in the last three years' area in Palamau had to make very frequent local inspections in person; and in order that no step might be omitted which could ensure the correctness of the record, they did this also in many cases, where neither the landlords nor the raiyats had made any objection. Most of the fields thus inspected were found to have been correctly classified, and such alterations as were made took the form of lowering, as often as of raising, the previous classification.

154. *The Khewat.*—The khewat contains the names of the proprietors and tenure-holders of the village with their shares in the estate or tenure; the name of the superior landlord of each tenure-holder, the kind of tenure held, whether it is liable to resumption, and, if so, on what condition, the revenue or rent payable and the road cess, any predial conditions appertaining to the tenure and their commuted value; whether the rent of the tenure is fixed permanently, and if the tenure has been conferred by a document, or if it has been bought or sold or mortgaged, a reference to the transaction by which the present occupant obtained it. The attestation of the khewat includes the decision of problems concerning status, which most commonly arise out of the laxity with which the term "thikadar" is misapplied, in ordinary use, to raiyats. Particulars of tenures and cultivating tenancies will be given in later chapters.

155. *Rent Enquiries.*—After completing the khewat, the attestation officer takes evidence concerning the rates of rent payable in the village and enquires into its rent history in order to determine what illegal enhancements may have been made. In the general absence of rent receipts this would be very difficult, for the landlords either kept no regular accounts or generally withheld them, were it not for the prevalence of the "*pariadari*" and "*kanwadari*" systems, with their regular rates. It was generally not difficult to obtain a mass of evidence about changes in the *paria* rate, and in fact it was by no means a rare occurrence for the landlord to admit his illegal enhancements and claim their acceptance as an accomplished fact. The landlords pointed to the enhancements that had been made in the Government Estates and asserted that they, too, had executed works of improvement. Such assertions were invariably investigated on the spot, and were found to be, with very few exceptions, incapable of justification. In the great majority of cases, when a local enquiry was undertaken, the claim was withdrawn altogether,

and it was admitted that nothing had been done. There is no doubt that the landlords expected that enhancements would be allowed to stand if supported by a plea of improvements, and that the readiness of the attestation officers to visit the villages in order to test this plea came to them as a surprise.

On the other hand, rent enquiries were hampered by the timidity of the Palamau raiyats, who in many instances deposed falsely against their own interests at the bidding of their landlords. In these cases surprise visits to the villages, and a patient cross-examination of the witnesses sometimes elicited the truth; but in other instances it was not until the landlord had successfully carried his point at attestation, that a chance incident, or the production, in connection with some different matter, of papers formerly suppressed, revealed the facts. The road cess returns nearly always showed old *paria* or *kanwa* rates, and often broke down the case which had been prepared for the attestation officer.

*Pattas* and *kabuliyats* were very rarely met with; settlements being made orally and marked at the most by the landlord giving "*goti*", a piece of earth, by way of symbolical possession, to the raiyat. In the few cases in which "*kabuliyats*" were produced by landlords, they were generally proved to have been taken from the raiyat by way of preparation for settlement, or for other litigation, in order to support an illegal enhancement, to prove that raiyati land was "*thikadari bakast*", that land held on cash rent was liable to pay produce rent, or some other fabrication. In fact it may be taken as generally true that a landlord does not in practice take a *kabuliyat* in Palamau unless he has some dishonest ulterior motive, nor the raiyat give one willingly.

156. *Produce Rents*.—Produce rents are common in parganas Japla and Belaunja, but not in the rest of the district. But there, too, as Mr. Hignell reported in 1909, some of the more unscrupulous landlords have been trying to introduce the system. 1,549 applications for commutation into cash rents were received, and 124 of them were disposed of by the attestation officers. The remainder were dealt with by the fair rent officers at a later stage. Almost all the commuted rents came subsequently under fair rent settlement on the same principles as the other cash rents of the district. In the north of the district where the produce-rent system is long established, the division of the crops is governed by well understood customs, which give the raiyat allowances for his risk and labour, bringing his nominal half share generally up to about 60 per cent of the whole crop. This custom wherever it was proved was recorded in the special incidents column of the raiyats khatian. It will be discussed in greater length in the next chapter. Near the borders of the Ranchi district both ricelands and uplands are sometimes held under the *maswar* system, the tenants paying as rent a portion of the produce equivalent to the quantity of seed sown.

157. *Finality of the record-of-rights*.—The entry of the rent of an occupancy raiyat in the record-of-rights in its final form is declared by section 94 of the Tenancy Act to be conclusive against the landlord. In Palamau however, the greater part of the district has come under fair rent settlement in consequence of notifications issued by Government, and the finally published rents have given place to settled rents. By virtue of section 88 these also are final under section 94 and, in accordance with section 258, cannot be altered (except under appeal or section 89) until the next revision. Rents and predial conditions are separately discussed in the next chapter.

158. *Unit of measurement*.—The unit recognized in the record-of-rights is the standard seer. The local table is :—6 seers (The seer of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  *gandas* = approximately\* 45 *tolas*) = one passeri. Eight passeris = one maund. One local maund therefore =  $45/80$  or  $9/16 \times 6 \times 8$  or 27 seers. In some parts of Belaunja a seer of 16 *gandas* (but approximately 60 *tolas*) is in use. The local maund in that area therefore =  $60/80$  (or  $12/16$ )  $\times 6 \times 8$  or 36 standard seers.

\*Theoretically  $12\frac{1}{2}$  *gandas* should be equivalent to 50 *tolas*, but in practice it is 45 *tolas* everywhere; and this is well understood and has been accepted by all previous writers.

159. *Units of land measurement.*—Under this classification it is usual to mention such units as the *paria*, the *patti*, the *kanwa*, the *kita* and the *anna*. But these are really systems of rent assessment. None of them imply any actual measurement; and no person could know the meaning of a *paria* or *kanwa* in another village than his own. Even in his own village it would suggest to him nothing more than a rate of rent, and would imply, in addition, possession of lands of *all sorts* without any precise quantitative limitation. When Mr. Forbes commenced his settlement, the view prevailed that ricelands were divided into *parias* or *kanwas* with a rough apportionment into equal areas, but with no regard whatever for quality or classification, or productive power, and that although all conception of quantitative limitation, or qualitative distribution, had long ceased to regulate the holding or assessment of ordinary upland, yet at some dim distant period such a limitation had in theory prevailed.

I can find no evidence whatever that it ever did. The *raison d'être* of these systems was to avoid the expense and trouble of measuring and controlling a vast area of fluctuating upland cultivation, which was generally very poor in quality. It was generally left to the raiyats themselves to see that the possessor of a large amount of riceland, or of the best uplands, undertook responsibility for a fair proportion of the rent of the total number of *parias*, or *kanwas*, in the village; and they did it very roughly. It is essentially unlikely that the landlords were ever formerly in a position to inform themselves of the exact area of each raiyat's cultivation, or to impose an extra rent upon any excess beyond some once-established, but now long lost, standard. In view of the disturbed history of the district, this improbability is greatly increased. There was no trace found of quantitative limitation even in Mr. Forbes's day. He tried to introduce such a limitation in the Government Estates and failed. During the present settlement the landlords never claimed the right to increase the rent of a *paria* on the ground that the upland attached to it had increased, except when the *paria* rate for the entire village was periodically revised. Even then, in the great majority of cases, the tenant who had increased his upland paid no more enhancement than the tenant who had not. In many cases where the landlords had attempted to assess upland by way of preparation for settlement, it is noteworthy that they did so either by abolishing the old systems altogether, or by limiting those systems to certain parts in their villages, or to certain of their older raiyats. In the first case they made an entirely new settlement according to bighas (now for the first time heard of in the villages), in the second case, they assessed the excluded lands of the village, or the excluded raiyats, separately, at new rates per bigha, to rents called *uttakar*. The general advance of cultivation and the development of a village as a whole was acknowledged under the old systems by periodic alterations in the *pariadari* or *kanwadari* rates, but the notion of any intermediate control over reclamation or any direct assessment of new fields, is of very recent introduction. In a comparatively small proportion of villages where assessment had for many years been normally made upon each bigha of cultivation, actual measurement had been very seldom attempted in practice, and, as in the *kita* and '*anguli se-batao*' systems the word "bigha" was merely a term for assessing lump rentals, imposed not upon fields but on holdings. The parties in such cases agreed that rent should be paid for so many bighas, quite irrespective of the size of the holding.

160. *The paria and the kanwa and kita.*—The *paria* system divided the ricelands or best uplands (or even the mahua trees, if there were no ricelands or good uplands in the village) into a certain number of divisions called *parias*. The number was variable from village to village and even within the same village at different times. Each *paria* was as a rule divided into *pawas* and each *pawa* into 4 *annas*. All *parias* paid the same rent, although the division was very unequal; and each holder of a *paria* or share of a *paria* had a right to as much upland as he could find unoccupied, and desired to reclaim from the jungle. There was no restriction over reclamation of jungle and waste. The *paria* holders generally also took the mahua flowers of the village; but the landlords have been steadily restricting this right for many years. The *patti* is much the same as the *paria*.



The *kanwa* system, however, is different. A lump rental is assessed on the entire village. It is then divided up into 16 shares, or *kanwas*, and each raiyat contributes to the total rental of the village in proportion to the number of *kanwas*, or the share in a *kanwa*, which he holds. A *kanwa* includes a proportion of all kinds of land, including the jungle and mahua trees, for the holders of the 16 *kanwas* hold the entire village. The *kanwa* system was found intact in only a very few villages.

The *kita* system (or *kitawan*), treats each holding as a block or *kita* and assesses it to a lump rental. It is usually very capricious. So also, as its name implies, is the "*anguli se batao*" method, in which the landlord indicates his lands to the new tenant by a wave of the hand, and assesses a lump rental on them.

161 *The acre*—Until the landlords began the campaign of preparation for settlement which Messrs. Lyall and Hignell reported to be already active more than 10 years ago, the "bigha" as a standard of measurement was practically unknown, for even in the so-called *bighauti* (or *uttakar*) villages, actual measurement was rare. As it were to mark their uniformity of purpose, the landlords have all put forward the same bigha, viz., one measured with a 8'-3" *laggi*, which they borrowed from the Government Estates. But the bigha is not even now established in the district and very few either of the landlords or tenants really understand it. The system of acres and decimals was therefore used in the preparation of the record-of-rights, with the approval of the district officer. To popularize the understanding of the system, an area representing one-hundredth part of an acre was marked on the ground in the form of a square at each camp, and a short explanation was delivered to each village at the time of attestation. The square was again cut up into four squares, and a standard bamboo pole, 10 feet 5½ inches in length, branded at either end to prevent subsequent alteration, was given to the chief man of each village and its use carefully explained. The length of the standard pole coincided with the length of the sides of the smaller squares. A square *laggi* of this length became a dhur or 20th part of a katha belonging to a bigha which was exactly equal to an acre, while the larger square of four dhurs was equivalent to .01 of an acre, the smallest unit of area entered in the record-of-rights.

I share Mr. Sifton's apprehension that the explanation given at attestation will probably not suffice by itself to popularize the acre. But it is very desirable that this should be done, particularly in Palamau where a general fair rent settlement based upon definite rates per acre has been made almost throughout the district. Mr. Sifton has suggested that this system of mensuration should be taught in the village schools, and I can think of no better method of inculcating it. The *anna* is a fraction of the *kanwa*, and of the *patti*, and is used to express a division of the riceland under the *chhatisa* system which is based upon these lands only, the upland being regarded as complementary. The *chhatisa* system was found in some places near the Ranchi border.

162. *Glossary of Settlement Terms*.—A glossary of settlement technical terms which will be of use to officers in applying the record-of-rights has been borrowed from the Hazaribagh report and is supplied, with a few additions, in Appendix K.

163. *Status*.—The statement below gives particulars of status for the whole district:—

Total No. of khattas.	Ziraf.	Bakuf.	Bakuf khattakuf.	Khattakuf.	Kaimi.	Dukhtikar.	Gaur-dakhtikar.	Kutrasa.	Makhar.	Gaurmasra.	Kutari-Hul.	Dar-ruiyat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
310,977	331	22,157	11	412	134,535	28,995	4,583	9,717	4,222	21,600	753	13,224

The different kinds of status recorded at attestation are :—

(a) for the landlords *zirat* and *bakast* according as the lands in their direct cultivation are landlords privileged lands or unprivileged; and

(b) for raiyats.

(1) *Khuntkatti* which is confined to the direct descendants of the village founder in the male line, and to those of their lands which were reclaimed by the founder, or his descendants, from jungle or waste land.

(2) *Kaimi*, i.e., the status of a settled raiyat of 12 years' standing in a village. It is to be noted that a raiyat need not have held the *same* plot of land for more than a single year, in order to become, in due time, a settled raiyat. It is sufficient that he should have cultivated some land, which may be changed annually, *anywhere* in the village, *every* year for 12 years. Once he has become a "settled raiyat," he gets an occupancy right immediately in all land held by him as a raiyat, except land entered in the record-of-rights as *zirat*, notwithstanding that it may have been settled with him on a registered lease for limited term of years, or year by year.

(3) *Dakhilkar*.—A raiyat with a right of occupancy, who has not yet become a settled raiyat. In Palamau any raiyat who has been admitted otherwise than on a registered lease for a term of years, to a settlement of a holding on a cash rent, immediately acquires by custom a right of occupancy in it. The district officers disputed this conclusion and their views are discussed in Chapters III and VIII. It was generally admitted by the private landlords that occupancy rights are also acquired immediately by custom in holdings held on produce rents; but this is not invariably the case.

*Gairdakhilkar*.—A non-occupancy raiyat (a) New raiyats whose holdings have not yet been assessed to rent, (b) some raiyats holding on produce rent, (c) raiyats of less than 12 years standing occupying lands which are cultivated and assessed to rent only for a single year and are then abandoned, and (d) new raiyats admitted on a registered lease for a limited term of years, will be found recorded with this status.

*Makan-bari*.—Aliens such as shopkeepers and mahajans coming to a village and taking up a house and *bari* do not acquire occupancy rights by custom under section 78 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. But agriculturists and such indispensable members of the village community as the potter, the blacksmith and the carpenter, do acquire occupancy according to the custom of the district. They have in each case been recorded under the status which they have been found to possess and not universally under the name *makan-bari*. This procedure differs from that followed in Hazaribagh and explained in paragraph 135 of Mr. Sifton's report. This fact accounts for the small number of *makanbari* holdings recorded in Palamau.

*Naukarana*.—Service holdings. It is not enough that a holding be held by the occupant upon the condition of rendering service to the landlord to make it legally a service holding. *It must have been originally given to him for that purpose.* Such holdings are resumable by the landlord at will. But if an ordinary raiyat's holding is at any time *excused* payment of the whole or part of his rent upon condition of rendering service, this fact does not destroy his right of occupancy. If he fails in his service, the landlord can re-impose the rent but cannot cancel the tenancy. The tenant in such circumstances has been recorded in the record-of-rights as having the status of an "occupancy" or "settled" raiyat, and it has been noted as a special incident of the tenure, that he has been excused payment of rent on condition of rendering service.

The commonest forms of service-tenancy are the holdings of the domestic servants of the zamindars and the *palhath* lands of *kamias*. A *kamia's* house and homestead land, it may be broadly laid down, are never held on service tenure, but are rent-free by custom like almost every other agricultural house and *bari* in the district. But some *kamias* receive over and above this, a small field, generally about one-fifth of an acre of inferior rice-land, as one of the conditions of their *kamiauti* service. This service land which must be given up if the *kamia* ceases to work for his master, is called *palhath* and is quite distinct from the house and *bari* which are not liable to resumption on cessation of *kamia* labour. In the record of rights *palhath* lands were entered in a separate *naukarana khatian*.

*Raiyats on fixed rents.*—There is no class of raiyats who are entitled to hold on fixed rents by custom or law, except *khuntkatti* raiyats whose tenancies were created before 1888 A. D.

164 *Thana indices.*—A register was maintained by each attestation officer personally of the correct names, in Hindi and English, of all villages attested by him. From these registers the names are entered in the thana maps, and thana indices are prepared, containing the names, thana numbers and areas of all the villages in each thana. By the term 'thana' I mean the old Revenue thana; the boundaries of the smaller police jurisdictions, as they are at present fixed, have also been shown on the thana maps, and all the villages in each police jurisdiction have been numbered consecutively in the thana indices. The thana maps on the scale of one inch to the mile with their indices have been printed and issued to the district authorities.

165. *Illegal transfer.*—Transfers of raiyati holdings of any kind are very rare in Palamau, —a fact which may be attributed to the very high incidence of rent and to insecurity of tenure. In cases of transfers in violation of section 46 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, each transferred holding was recorded in the name of the transferor and the illegal possession of the transferee was noted in the remarks column of the *khatian*. There is no doubt that the procedure followed in Hazaribagh (see paragraph 139 of the Hazaribagh report) of ignoring illegal transfers altogether, was much more effective in enforcing the principles of the law, but the local officers took exception to it in Palamau; as an infringement upon their jurisdiction, and the Settlement Officer deferred to their wishes. A register of all illegal transfers was kept up by every attestation officer. The total number for the district were:—sales, 96, mortgages (a) verbal 116, (b) written 167. The total area affected by sales was 258 acres; by mortgages 493 acres.

166. *Brahmatar tenancies.*—In Palamau there are virtually no cases of grants of lands to Brahmans by raiyats. This is a natural consequence of the want of security of the raiyats' tenancies. The Palamau Rajas formerly made many grants of this kind, and these tenures have now been raised to the status of estates. Gifts of small areas to Brahmans by the zamindars are not uncommon. They very seldom were the subject-matter of any dispute.

167. *Revenue free lands.*—The whole of Japla and Belaunja were given in a revenue free *Altamgha* by the Emperor Shah Alum to the Husainabad Nawabs; but the old zamindars (the Raja of Sonepura and the Bhaia of Untari) retained possession of Belaunja, the Raja holding 4 of the 5 tappas and the Bhaia the remaining one (Rampur). The *Altamghadar* and the Rajas fought continually for possession until the British intervened in 1803 and gave the Raja possession on condition of his paying rent to the *Altamghadar*. After that they fought about the amount of the rent, until in 1816, the Government offered a higher rent than the Raja could pay to the *Altamghadar* if he would make over his interest to them in perpetuity. He agreed, and Government now collects from the Sonepura or (Dema) Estate a *Mukarrari* rent of Rs. 7,883-12-0 and pays nearly Rs. 10,000 to the descendants of the *Altamghadar*. In 1815, the Vice-President in Council appears to have considered Tappa Rampur to lie beyond the British jurisdiction; accordingly he paid nothing to the *Altamghadar* on account of it and collected no rent from the Bhaia, who hold it to this day direct under Government as a Revenue-free estate.

The Revenue-free (*minhai*) tenures created by the old Rajas have been described in the chapter on History. They generally comprised whole villages, and there was no difficulty in their identification.

168 *Trees. Atrop.*—The common custom of the district is that trees sown, planted or nurtured by a raiyat or his ancestors, are the property of the raiyat. Such trees are generally called *Atrop*. All other trees standing on a raiyat's holding belong to the landlord of the village; but the right of enjoyment of their fruits belongs in some cases to the village community, in some cases to individual raiyats, and in some cases to the landlords. The right to cut down an *atrop* tree, and to use the timber, belongs to the raiyat owning the tree, and the right to the timber of other trees belongs to the landlord; but the

landlord is not entitled to cut down a fruit-bearing tree until it has withered, if the enjoyment of its fruit belongs to any raiyat or body of raiyats.

The *khasmahal* department disputed the view that raiyats have any rights in trees planted or nurtured by themselves on their own holdings; but the evidence was found to be against them except in a few cases where they had broken down the old custom. Their lead was followed in a very few cases by the private landlords; and the late Babu Sahebzada Singh, when Manager of the Chainpur Estate, went so far as to assure me that raiyats are entitled to a *smaller share* of the fruit of *atrop* trees than of ordinary trees; but he could give no evidence of this. Such disputes as arose about these trees turned, as a rule not on the question whether raiyats have any special rights in *atrop* trees or not, but on the question whether a particular tree was or was not *atrop*. A raiyat loses his interest in an *atrop* tree planted on his holding, if he loses the holding.

169 *Mahua and lac-bearing trees*.—Mahua and lac-bearing trees are of great importance in the district. Originally both were commonly enjoyed without payment of additional rent by the raiyats. At that early stage the landlords derived no income from either. The fruit of most of the trees of the village was taken by any raiyat who wished to do so, a few trees being appropriated to individual raiyats, and lac being cultivated, in particular, by the aboriginals and humbler castes. But the landlords have been gradually endeavouring to bring the trees under control. In some cases they have reached the stage of making yearly settlements of most of the trees, leaving only a certain number to each raiyat to be enjoyed as an incident of his holding. In others they have advanced yet a further stage, and either assessed or taken direct possession of all the trees. But in most villages mahuas are still held by the raiyats either rent-free or as an incident of their holdings; in about 15 per cent. of the total number of villages they are separately assessed to rent and in 10 per cent. they are held by the landlords.

Lac bearing trees have been appropriated in most cases by the landlords, in violation of the old usage of the district, in comparatively recent years, and are settled annually at sowing time, subject to an assessment to be fixed by the landlord and raiyat *when the crop is ripe*. There are, however, a few villages in which lac is grown rent free, and a few in which it is subject to a fixed rent. An account of the lac and mahua assessment in the Government estates, which has had very great influence throughout the district, has been given in Chapter X. The manner in which trees included in the rent of holdings have been dealt with in the fair rent settlement is discussed in chapter IX. Such trees as the raiyats hold are scattered all over the village, on their own or other raiyat's holdings, on *malik's* land or on waste or jungle land, without distinction.

170 *Common Rights*.—In each village enquiry was made about customary rights of reclamation and grazing and about rights to take jungle produce. All such customs, usages and customary rights are declared to be valid so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Tenancy Act, or in themselves unreasonable. Jungle rights in Palamau, where the holdings of the cultivators are not sufficient to afford them a bare subsistence, are vitally necessary to the raiyats, who cling to them as tenaciously as to their lands themselves. But proof of a customary right by legal evidence in a formal court amounts almost to an impossibility. This has been recognized over and over again by the local officers from Dr. Davidson in 1839 and the framers of Act X of 1859 to the author of the "object and reasons" for section 91 of the Bill which became the present Tenancy Law.

As Mr. Sifton has already pointed out "The settlement organization enables enquiries to be made locally from every village, and the cumulative evidence thus obtained renders it easy to determine what customary rights are enjoyed by any class of persons in any locality, or in the district as a whole."

171. *Opposition to the record of common rights*.—There was no part of the settlement procedure which came in for more criticism from the district administration than the determination of customary rights. The view they expressed in connection with the Government Estates and the Encumbered Estates, *viz.*, that every individual raiyat should be called on formally to prove

up to the hilt every custom which he claimed, without any regard to the cumulative evidence obtained in the locality has been noticed in Chapter X with special reference to the customs relating to *korkar*, reclamation rights, and occupancy rights. The private landlords found a place for a complaint on the same subject in their memorials. Government pointed out in reply that they might raise any objections they wished against the settlement finding concerning the customs or usages controlling (1) accrual of occupancy rights and (2) recognition of landlords privileged lands, either under section 87 or under section 86 during the fair rent settlement. These seemed to Government to have been the objects of their most serious concern. Under either procedure, it was explained, their objections would come up for decision on appeal to tribunals entirely unconnected with the Settlement department. The landlords did not, however, take advantage of these opportunities even in a single instance; the only test cases that were filed came from the Government and Encumbered Estates. The former were withdrawn by the order of Government and the latter failed, or in some cases in which the estates were released during the pendency of the cases, were withdrawn.

172. *Rights of reclamation.*—The custom varies as regards reclamation. In the more advanced areas the previous permission of the landlord is commonly required before a raiyat may start reclaiming new land. This is insisted on rather as a means of securing an early assessment than with the hope of obtaining a *salami*; for holdings in Palamau have at present very little saleable value and unreclaimed land has still less. In the more jungly parts the landlord's permission is admittedly *not* required in the great majority of cases. The Managers of the Encumbered Estates claimed in some cases that permission is necessary but their own local agents and the disqualified proprietors generally joined in the evidence against them. A claim that permission is necessary before new riceland can be claimed was sometimes made by the landlords but it was not as a rule supported by evidence, the claimants themselves admitting that their permission had not been sought in any specific instances. The private landlords seldom claimed that their permission was necessary in the case of reclamation of upland; such a claim being based on a conception quite foreign to the indigenous systems of land-holding in the district. The subject of reclaiming rights, the objections against their entry, in the record and the measures taken to meet these objections, are further discussed in chapter XII. In villages under a thikadar or headman, any control over reclamation that is usually exercised by the landlord is in the hands of the thikadar or headman. The place in the record-of-rights where the entries governing reclamation will be found is the special incidents column of the *gairmazraa malik khatian*.

173. *Grazing rights.*—The right to graze cattle and to take edible roots and jungle-fruits is generally not subjected to any payment of fees by the raiyats to the landlord, but professional graziers and makers of *bathans* as a rule pay fees per head, or per group, of she-buffaloes. Many attempts were made to impose fees by way of preparation for settlement under various shapes and forms such as *bardaucha*, i.e., a bullock every second or third year from each village, *bachhkar* or one calf every alternate year per group of 15 to 20 cattle, *charwaha* or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  *kachi* seers of *ghee* for every 12 she-buffaloes. In the Ranka, Chainpur and Deogan Estates *karchari*, a fee of -/2/- to -/3/- for each she-buffalo is sometimes payable even by the villagers, and a similar charge has been recorded in the Utari Estate under the name of *Sirahi madad*. In the Chainpur Estate *bachhkar*, payable every third year by owners of about 20 or more milch cows, has been recorded in some villages. As a rule grazing rights, etc., are enjoyed not only by the villages in which the jungles are situated, but groups of villages exercise reciprocal rights in each other's jungles. This subject is dealt with in greater detail in the chapter relating to jungles.

174. *Ahars.*—An elaborate irrigation record to be first prepared at khanapuri, attested by the attestation officer, and afterwards finally published, was prescribed by the Board (letter No. 37-6-3/2, dated the 28th March 1919) for the areas dealt with in the second, third and fourth khanapuri seasons. It was considered by the local officers and the Settlement Officer that irrigation works were not sufficiently numerous in the first season's area to make a record

desirable. Works of irrigation in Palamau take the shape of *ahars*, generally made by erecting a small embankment high up on a slope, in order to detain the rainfall for more gradual distribution to the terraced fields below. Other methods of irrigation are very little in vogue.

The irrigation record shows the size of each work, its history and cost, so far as this was ascertainable, the sources of its water-supply, the area which it irrigates, with the order in which each field is entitled to get water, and the arrangements in force for its repair, for distribution of water, for the payment of any fees and for the decision of disputes. There were very few disputes in connection with the preparation of this record; but it was a new departure and it was very difficult to compel the amins and inspectors to devote sufficient attention to it on the spot; as a result, the attestation officer had to undertake heavy additional labour. The imposition of any new charge upon the holdings of an occupancy raiyat on account of irrigation which they have previously enjoyed is punishable under section 63 of the Tenancy Act.

**175. *Pradhani Hakuknama*.**—A special record of the rights of headmen is prepared at attestation and subsequently is finally published (see Appendix M). This record becomes final and conclusive evidence after final publication under section 132. The characteristics of headmanship in Palamau are similar to those described in paragraph 150 of the Hazaribagh Settlement report. A headman cannot be evicted from his tenancy except by an order of the Revenue Court. The loss of his headmanship does not involve the loss of his raiyati holding. His rights to take wood and other forest produce are only those of an ordinary raiyat; but he has the control of reclamation in the waste and jungle lands of his tenure. He may make *bandhs* and *ahars* for the improvement of the village, and may enjoy the rents of newly reclaimed lands during the period of his lease, or until a new settlement is made. At the end of any period of settlement, the headman has a right to re-settlement at a fair rent. A headman may hold his office and tenancy in respect of a *tola*; and not only in respect of a village. This was disputed by the zamindar of Ranka and finally ruled by the Commissioner in Revenue Appeal No. 2 of 1919. A second appeal to the Board was rejected in this case.

**176. *The Zamindars' memorials, and the Deputy Commissioner's indictment*.**—During the first season's attestation the District authorities took exception to many established features of the procedure of the settlement. Their criticism culminated in an indictment containing a number of charges of serious irregularity and of anti-landlord bias, which was submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, to the Commissioner in August 1915. After giving the Settlement Officer an opportunity to reply the Commissioner visited Palamau during the following February to settle the matter. But the landlords took advantage of his visit to present a memorial alleging many grievances. Mr. Murphy who was soon after appointed to be Director of Land Records was directed to investigate these grievances and report to Government. His report was submitted with his letter No. 3949, dated the 22nd August 1916. It was found that many of the complaints were groundless and some were not even understood by the memorialists themselves. A copy of the principal memorial is contained in Appendix P, along with the Government Resolution upon it, and the Revenue Department's letter No. 44-R.T./S-21, dated the 21st January 1917. Those of the complaints which evoked serious discussion have all been dealt with in their appropriate places in the body of this report. The orders of Government on the memorials were summarized in the following paragraph:—

"On a consideration of the case as a whole the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board that the general charge against the department is not justified by the facts, and that the officers of the department have not, as alleged, misapplied legal principles. He is satisfied that their methods have not departed materially from those followed with the approval of the Board and of Government in similar proceedings in other parts of Chota Nagpur and elsewhere. Nor has His Honour in Council any reason to believe that the decisions of the officers of the department, on questions either of law or fact, have been generally other than correct. The memorialists appear to contend that the non-recognition by themselves and their predecessors-in-interest of the statutory rights conferred on tenants, and of the limitations imposed on landlords by Bengal Act I of 1879, IV of 1879 and V of 1903 and finally by Bengal Act VI of 1908, the Tenancy Law now in

force in Chota Nagpur, entitled them to claim that those rights should be treated as non-existent in Palamau and should be ignored in the record of rights now being prepared. This is clearly an untenable position."

The Resolution concluded:—

"In consideration, however, of the special circumstances of the district and particularly in view of the main object of the settlement operations, namely the preparation of a record-of-rights which will put the relations of landlord and tenants on a firm and satisfactory basis, he has already issued orders on the recommendation of the Board and the local officers, which will enable landlords and tenants in areas in which the record has been completed to obtain a general settlement of fair rents. In the course of the rent settlement the landlords will have an opportunity of securing the correction of any mistakes which may have been made in the classification of lands, in the record of special rights of tenants (such as *khuntkatti*, *korkar* and special rights of occupancy) and in the record of proprietor's privileged lands, wherever these mistakes would prejudicially affect the fixation of rents. His Honour in Council has, at the same time, directed that in other areas where the record has not yet reached the final stage, a general settlement of rents shall be made."

177. *Effect of the orders of Government on the landlords' memorials.*---

The settlement procedure was not therefore altered in any of the matters which had been complained of; but a few verbal changes were made in the formula for expressing common findings in respect of jungle rights, for the sake of clearer definition. All the *khuntkatti* holdings came under fair-rent settlement in the ordinary course in accordance with the original notification ordering the preparation of a record of rights under Chapter XV of the Act. A general settlement of rents has now been made under special notifications issued by Government in 102, 670 holdings; but no issue concerning *korkar* privileges, occupancy rights or landlords' privileged lands has been raised by the private landlords. The special fair-rent settlement was made in accordance with principles and at rates approved by Government. Its result has been to reduce the finally published rents by 9.66 per cent. Concerning landlord's privileged land, there was only one appeal to the Commissioner in respect of the whole district, a fact which shows that the local officers were quite mistaken in believing that the landlords felt a genuine and very widespread grievance on account of the settlement decisions on this point. The Commissioner upheld the Settlement Officer's order in that case.

It was part of the District Officer's complaint at this period that the settlement department did not consult him on all vital points of law and procedure. This arose from the fact that the Settlement Officer had taken the view that principles already approved by the Board and Government in the rest of Chota Nagpur should be applied when similar conditions were met with in Palamau. Although ready to discuss any such principles when invited to do so (and the actual discussions which occurred produced a very voluminous correspondence and occupied much of his time), it had not appeared to him to be necessary to throw sanctioned procedure and established principles again into the melting pot, or to initiate a general discussion, as if there had been no continuous settlement in Chota Nagpur. Government in disposing of the memorials likewise showed a disposition to maintain established principles, but ordered the Settlement Officer to comply with rule 49 of the Settlement Manual rather than with rule 2 of the rules prescribed in Notification No. 3378-L. R. dated the 9th November, 1909. The Board subsequently directed the Settlement Officer in Palamau to address the Director of Land Records in future through the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner. This procedure was found to be of great value to the Settlement Officer.

178. *Difficulties of attestation.*—The difficulties of attestation work have been very accurately described in a passage (paragraph 151) of the Hazaribagh report which was I believe partly suggested by experience in Palamau, and is particularly applicable to that district. But in addition to the difficulties described by my predecessor, the attestation officers in Palamau, owing to numerous controversies, found themselves compelled in all their proceedings to guard in advance against possible misunderstanding and hostile criticism, and met with increased obstruction from the public who were not sure how far the department commanded the support of Government. The result was a tendency on their parts



to safeguard themselves by adopting more and more elaborate procedure in disposing of all problems, and by recording evidence at length in support of their findings. It is doubtful whether the additional labour and expense thus incurred brought any proportionate advantage to the work. The attestation officers were selected officers, fit to be entrusted with the summary procedure which is prescribed for them; moreover the parties have repeated opportunities of getting a hearing from different officers and are in constant touch with the Settlement Officer himself, and his Assistant Settlement Officer in charge. It is my belief that the elaborate procedure which came into use in Palamau did not materially affect the decisions which would have resulted equally from a more summarily recorded enquiry, but probably rendered these decisions more acceptable to those who criticized the department.

179. *Size of Programme.*—Owing to the small amount of cultivated land which the district contains, the number of plots which had to be dealt with in any one year was not large; and, therefore, in spite of the difficulty of the work it was generally found possible to obtain sufficient fully qualified officers for attestation. But this was only done by prolonging the field season each year right into the hot weather, and once even into the rains. The strain thus imposed upon the Assistant Settlement Officers was very severe but it was borne with constant loyalty and cheerfulness.

180. *Completion of the record.*—"The stages after attestation are (1) draft publication; (2) the hearing of objections to the records draft published; (3) *Janch*; a critical examination of the draft record to ensure that all orders connected with it have been carried out and all decisions given effect to, and to remove any minor mistakes and inconsistencies. After this the draft record is copied out fair, and finally published." Draft publication took place, as in Hazaribagh, at the attestation camp under the supervision of the officer in charge. The system continued to work well. In Palamau the settlement department had nothing to do with Cess revaluation. *Janch*.—"During *janch* a number of small mistakes and doubtful entries are discovered in the record. All such points are left now for local enquiry at final publication." Final publication is made at central camps by *munsarims* working under the charge of an Assistant Settlement Officer, in continuation of the practice introduced into Hazaribagh. The programme is drawn so that no village need attend the camp for more than one day; mistakes in the record can be at once rectified by enquiry from the parties, or, if too serious to be dealt with by the Assistant Settlement Officer, are referred to the Settlement Officer for orders.

181. *Post publication suits.*—After final publication the work still to be done was the disposal of suits brought to contest the record, and of applications for settlement of fair rents, settlement of fair rents under notification of Government, recovery of settlement costs and disposal of any petitions under section 90, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act for the correction of *bona fide* mistakes in the record. The total number of suits was 417 under section 87, 14 under section 111(8), 18 under section 130, and 19 under section 120. The suits under section 130 were to contest the record of *khuntkatti* or headman's rights prepared under Chapter XV of the Act, those under section 111(8) to contest the commutation of predial conditions and those under section 120 the record of landlords' privileged lands.

182. *Fair rent settlement and commutation cases.*—The number of applications for fair-rent settlement under section 85 was 1,479. Most of these applications concerned groups of tenancies and not single holdings, as the Government rules allow any number of holdings under the same landlord in the same village being included in one fair rent settlement application. The number of villages notified for fair rent settlement by Government was 2,358. Many of the same villages in which the landlords filed applications were notified by Government in the interests of the raiyats. All these cases affecting 1,02,670 holdings have now been decided. The number of applications for the commutation of produce rents which were filed and have been disposed of was 1,549.



183. *Statement of suits, applications and appeals.*—The following is a statement of the suits, application and appeals instituted, disposed of and pending at the time this report was written :—

Area.	Cases under section 88.		Appeals against decision under section 88.			Number of cases under section 87 including suits for zinat.		Decision on appeal.		
	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Upheld.	Modified.	Revised.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Upheld.	Modified.	Revised.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1914-15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1915-16	350	31	...	...	...	161	18	...	...	...
1916-17	592	18	...	...	...	77	8	...	...	...
1917-18	510	72	...	...	...	149	39	...	...	...
1918-19	18	1,383	65	6	...	14	381	...	...	...
Total	1,479	1,470	65	6	...	46	436	...	...	...

Area.	Cases under section 180.		Decision on appeal.			Cases under section 61.		Decision on appeal.			Remarks.
	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Upheld.	Modified.	Revised.	Instituted.	Disposed of.	Upheld.	Modified.	Revised.	
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1914-15	...	...	...	...	...	91	69	...	...	...	
1915-16	9	...	...	...	...	39	5	2	...	...	
1916-17	8	1	...	...	...	642	24	...	...	...	
1917-18	...	1	...	...	...	359	9	5	...	...	
1918-19	1	16	...	...	...	418	1,422	9	...	...	
Total	18	18	...	...	...	1,549	1,549	16	...	...	

184. *Revision.*—The Settlement Officer has the power of revising under section 89 of the Tenancy Act, any decisions or orders except decrees in suits, within a year of the date of such order or decision. There was a tendency, particularly when parties were in consultation with pleaders, to regard this section as giving a right of appeal against all orders passed by Assistant Settlement Officers. As it is obviously impossible for the Settlement Officer to accept and hear appeals upon questions of fact from 20 or 30 officers all deciding disputes, and, as any decision given by him personally would necessarily influence the decision of any other subordinate officer subsequently deciding the same question in a suit under section 87, even if it would not be binding upon such an officer under section 258, the use of the revisional powers was confined to cases where the records showed either that a proper enquiry had not been made or that a decision had been given upon wrong principles. It was held by the Commissioner in two cases where the parties appealed against the Settlement Officer's decision refusing to revise an entry under section 89, that no appeal lay unless the Settlement Officer exercised his powers of revision. In other words the Commissioner held that he himself has not the power of revision where the Settlement Officer had declined to revise.

Section 90 empowers a Revenue Officer to revise any *bona fide* mistakes brought to notice within one year of final publication. Mr. Sifton recommended that the time for such revision should be "extended to two months after the distribution of the final copies of the record to the parties concerned. This distribution is made at the time of the recovery of costs, and it is after the final *parchas* have been read and studied that mistakes are reported to the Settlement Officer, and it is then generally too late for a correction of the record under section 90." These reasons still have equal cogency.

## CHAPTER V.

## RENTS AND PREDIAL CONDITIONS.

185. *The tenancy law in abeyance.—Illegal enhancements.*—For more than 40 years it has been expressly recognized by the law of Chota Nagpur that competition cannot fairly be allowed to regulate the assessment of agricultural rent, and that the position of the raiyat in Chota Nagpur is so inferior in relation to his landlord that it is wrong to leave rent enhancement on a contractual basis between them. But the law was not enforced in Palamau, and it was believed by the local officers, although they regretted the position, that the landlords had a substantive right to treat all their raiyats as tenants at will, and to enhance their rents and eject them from their holdings at their pleasure. There is no doubt that the landlords took full advantage of this view of their legal rights. When, therefore, it was decided by Government that there should be a settlement in Palamau, they began to set their house in order, in the manner which appeared most obvious to them, by pressing up their rents and preparing evidence (See Appendix O). And later, when in spite of their memorial and Mr. Streatfeild's recommendation, the settlement operations actually began, and they found that enhancements made subsequent to the year 1901 A.D. were all held to be illegal under the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, they made loud complaints. The following passages which explain the procedure followed by the Assistant Settlement Officers in determining the legal rents were written by Mr. P. W. Murphy, the Director of Land Records, after his investigation concerning the complaints alleged in the memorials. Because they express what I have to say better than I could do so, I make no apology for reproducing them *in extenso*.

186. *Excision of illegal enhancements the chief grievance of the memorialists.*—“The action of the Attestation Officers in cutting down, on the ground of their illegality, rents which the tenants had been paying, is undoubtedly the chief grievance of the zamindars and is alone sufficient to account for the unpopularity of the settlement department in Palamau.

The sections of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act which bear on the point are 26 to 33 and the definitions of “rent” and “enhancement”. Sections 26 to 30 deal with enhancements of rent and sections 31 to 33 with increase of rent for excess area. These sections clearly prohibit all enhancements by contract and declare that additional rent for areas alleged to be held by a raiyat in excess of the area for which he is paying rent, shall only be assessed by order of the Deputy Commissioner on presentation of an application by the landlord. The landlords of Palamau have, it is now clear, altogether ignored these sections. They have continued to enhance rents as though no prohibition against it had been enacted. The majority of them appear to have been unaware that their action was illegal, and many of the chief zamindars have in conversation with the Settlement Officer and also with me, admitted that they were accustomed to enhance rents every five or seven years. One zamindar who clearly was conscious of the illegality of his action is Babu Jagdishar Dayal Singh of Pathra. This landlord, it appears, has adopted for years a system of transferring lands at short intervals from one raiyat to another, the object being, as the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Kingsford, observed in a case which came before him in 1911, to prevent them from acquiring occupancy rights. In that case the Judicial Commissioner held that the plan had been successful. This decision, however, would not, in view of sections 17 and 19 of the Tenancy Act, apply to raiyats who are settled raiyats of the village. The attestation of rents in the villages of this landlord presented special difficulties which were not generally met with in other estates. In the earlier period of the settlement operations, and in fact up to about the time when the memorials were drawn up, the landlords rarely attempted to deny that they had enhanced rents. The result of their admission, however, has made them more cautious, and many of them are now refusing to produce their old account books when the attestation officer calls for them in order to investigate the truth of the tenants' statements regarding enhancements. The fact that the landlords were raising the rents of their raiyats in anticipation of the settlement proceedings was noticed years ago by Mr. Hignell and Mr. Lyall. The latter declared that advantage was being taken of the introduction of rent receipts to create evidence in favour of an exaggerated rental demand. The latter when commenting unfavourably on the landlords in general, singled out Babu Jagdishar Dayal for special mention on account of the cunning shown in the methods which he employed to increase his rent-roll (See Appendix O).

187. *Method of enhancing "pariadari" rents.*—Before discussing the question of enhancements it is necessary to state that the *pariadari* system of rent prevails throughout the greatest part of this district. Under this system the rental which a raiyat pays is assessed with reference only to the rice lands which he cultivates. It is understood that he will also cultivate the *bari* lands near his homestead in addition to a certain quantity of *bhita* and *tanr*, but it is assumed that any expansion of his holding will be indicated by a reclamation of new rice-lands. This system prevailed formerly throughout a greater portion of Chota Nagpur. It is the system naturally suited to a jungly area still in course of reclamation.

In every village there is a rough idea of what area of each class of land the *paria*, or unit, consists of, but it is generally found, as might indeed be expected, that this is rarely adhered to in practice. Even the area of rice-land found in a *paria* varies with each holding, and the variation is naturally much greater in the matter of uplands. The *raison d'être* of the system is the recognition of the fact that, since most of the uplands bears a crop only once in two or three years, it is not worth the landlord's while to keep a staff for the purpose of locating, measuring and assessing yearly the upland cultivated by each raiyat, which necessarily varies in quantity and position from year to year. It is also assumed that raiyat who finds himself in a position to undertake extra cultivation will find it more advantageous to distribute it between rice and upland (even though he will have to pay additional rent for the former) than to confine it to the less valuable *tanr* land in order to escape assessment.

As mentioned already, the area of a *paria* is a very indefinite quantity. So indefinite is it, the Settlement Officer informs me, that when an abandoned holding is being resettled, the haggling which goes on as to the rental to be fixed is not as to what rate per *paria* the new tenant shall pay, but how many *parias*, as to the previous rate per *paria*, he shall pay for. To increase the number of *parias* is in fact a recognized method of increasing rents.

188. *Enhancements general.*—While at Daltonganj I examined the rent proceedings of a large number of villages in which enhancements had been cut down as illegal. Each proceeding gives a summary of the rent history of the village to which it relates, stating the evidence on which it has been held that the rents have been illegally enhanced and giving an account of the principles followed in attesting rents. The impression which they produce is that enhancements of rent have been frequent and that the attestation officers in the majority of cases could not possibly have recorded the rents now paid as the legally payable rents. Most of the illegal enhancements met with are general enhancements of rent, i.e., the rents of all the raiyats of a village have been enhanced at the same time, the enhancement amounting on the average to 25 or 30 per cent. or more. This is effected either by increasing the *paria* rate for the whole village or by increasing the number of *parias* on which each raiyat's rent is calculated. Usually the rent of the majority of the raiyats is increased in the same proportion, although the result, in the case of individual raiyats, is often affected by transfers of land from one holding to another. In villages leased to thikadars the landlord generally confines himself to enhancing the thikadars rent, leaving the thikadars to adjust matters by increasing the rents of the raiyats in whatever manner they consider proper.

These general enhancements have been treated as illegal by the attestation officers who have recorded the rents paid previous to the enhancements as the rents legally recoverable. An attempt has been made by some landlords to defend them on the ground that they are justified by improvements (*Ahars*, etc.) constructed at the landlord's expense, which increase the productiveness of the soil. Other landlords allege that the increase of rent does not involve any enhancement of rate and is due merely to assessment of rent on areas cultivated by the raiyats in excess of what they were previously paying rent for. Neither of these defences, it should be noted, would make the enhancements legal though either might conceivably render them equitable. It is clear that if the landlords have only taken by agreement with the raiyats increases of rent which they could have obtained legally by application to the Deputy Commissioner under section 28 or section 31, their offence is only a technical one.

189. *Illegal enhancements defended on the ground of increase of area.*—The defence examined.—I defer for the present comment on the allegation that many of the enhancements are justified by the landlords' improvements and proceed to deal with the question of excess area. The first consideration which throws doubt on the correctness of the landlord's assertions on this point is the fact that it appears to be an after-thought. It was not made to the Settlement Officer or his Assistants when these enhancements were first brought to light and is not clearly set down in the memorials. Further, to increase the rents of all the raiyats by a certain percentage is a very inequitable method of dealing with excess cultivation if any such exists. It indicates that the landlord's agents are unable to identify the new lands and to assess each raiyat with the amount of additional

rent which he could fairly be called on to pay. Such conduct naturally raises a doubt as to whether there really is any excess area. It must also be remembered that most of the enhancements are considerable in amount and would only be justified by a very large extension of cultivation. Such an extension is in itself improbable and when we find that in many villages those enhancements take place at intervals of five or seven years the defence becomes altogether incredible.

Extension of rice cultivation is, the Settlement Officer finds, much less common than is generally supposed, and no great difficulty is found in ascertaining for any village what new rice lands have been made in the last ten or fifteen years, and by whom. There is usually little dispute on the point. The raiyats themselves are eager to point out the lands which they have reclaimed in order to have them recorded as *korkar*. Investigation shows that the assessment to rent of these new reclamations can be traced, and that it is altogether distinct from the general enhancements of rents now under discussion. I also find that, when recording the rents legally payable, the attestation officers do not treat such assessments as illegal enhancements. They are justified by the provisions of section 33 of the Tenancy Act, which authorizes increase of rent on account of new settlement of definite parcels of land, separately settled with the raiyats.

190. *The plea of increase of cultivation will not stand local enquiry.*—Moreover, the landlords' plea that their general all-round enhancements of rents are justified by extension of cultivation has invariably failed to stand the test of local investigation. In regard to rice-land the question is, as I have said, a comparatively easy one to decide. Among the first and second classes of upland also extension of cultivation is necessarily limited and does not easily escape notice. In order to justify the enhancements it is, therefore, necessary to hold that they are based on extension of cultivation in the *tanr*, or third-class upland. This conclusion is in my opinion altogether absurd for several reasons. The value of this class of land is so low compared with that of rice land that the enhancements would only be justified by the assumption of a progressive increase of upland cultivation altogether inconceivable, and unaccompanied by any corresponding increase in rice cultivation. The amount by which rents have been enhanced within the last fifteen years could not, in many villages, be justified even on the assumption that all the uplands now found in the possession of raiyats had come under cultivation within this period. Most of the *tanr* land bears a crop only twice in five years and in many villages large areas are found in which the raiyats undertook cultivation but finding it unprofitable, have abandoned it. The area of *tanr* cultivated by an individual raiyat fluctuates a good deal, but there is, the Settlement Officer informs me, no reason to believe that the total area cultivated has increased in recent years in a degree at all proportionate to the increase of rent. Moreover under the *paria* system, with which I am now dealing, the assessment of rent is generally made on a consideration of the rice-lands only and the enhancements under discussion do not even profess to be based on a measurement and assessment of uplands.

191. *Defence of illegal enhancements based upon the peculiar conditions of Palamau*—Some authorities, I believe, do not agree with this conclusion. They do not go so far as to say that the enhancements are legal, and that the landlord is entitled to recover from the tenants in a court of law the rents shown as payable in the *jamabandi*. Their view is that the peculiar conditions of Palamau preclude the possibility of ascertaining either what lands are included in a raiyat's holding or what rent is legally payable for it. This opinion is based on the belief that the area and position of the lands cultivated by a raiyat vary considerably from year to year, and that the landlords have not been able to make their adjustments of rent keep pace with the changes. This belief is undoubtedly justified to some extent, but the critics have, I think, an exaggerated idea of the extent of the fluctuations, an idea based on a study of the conditions prevailing in the estate of Thakur Jagadishar Dayal of Pathra. This landlord, as I said before, has deliberately adopted a policy of shuffling the lands and raiyats, the result of which has been to render the preparation of a record-of-rights more than usually difficult. Throughout the rest of the district, however, the fluctuations in the area of a holding are generally confined to the uplands, and do not exceed in degree the fluctuations found all over Chota Nagpur. These fluctuations are inevitable in a district like Palamau and the *pariadari* system of rent is merely the recognition of this fact. The existence of that system, however, does not justify enhancements of rent in defiance of the provisions of the Tenancy Act, nor is it a bar to the preparation of a record of holdings and rents such as is now being made. In order to decide what *tanr* lands are included in each holding, something in the nature of a compromise is, however, necessary. Throughout the Chota Nagpur Settlement the system followed has been to record in the name of a raiyat all *tanr* lands cultivated by him in the year of survey or in the two preceding years. The adoption of this principle is due to the fact that most of the *tanr* land bears a crop once in three years, and that assuming a raiyat to own a certain area of *tanr*, he will cultivate on the average one-third

each year. So far as the Settlement Officer is aware, no objection has ever been raised to it and it seems on the whole fair to every one concerned. To record in a raiyat's name only the area which he actually cultivated during the year of survey would leave him without any *tanr* land capable of being cropped for the next two years.

192. *Enhancements caused by the break up of the paria system.*—I have dealt so far with enhancements made under the *paria* system and have shown that the existence of that system does not authorize the landlords to ignore the provisions of the Tenancy Act regarding enhancement. In recent years many of the landlords have in anticipation of the settlement operations abolished the *paria* system, measured all the lands of the village, and assessed rents on the areas so found at rates varying with the class of land. It is noticeable that in every case this operation has resulted in an enormous increase of rent. Here again the Settlement Officer has been asked to hold that this increase is attributable to the fact that much of the land was previously unassessed. The Settlement Officer's contention is that this is unbelievable and that, even if true, it might make the enhancement equitable but cannot make it legal under section 31 of the Tenancy Act. The rates introduced on breaking up the *paria* system are fixed absolutely without reference to the old *paria* rates, and are as a rule so high that even if the rice-lands alone were assessed the resulting rental would still be considerably higher than the old *paria* rental. This is sufficient to indicate the real nature of the transaction. In dealing with such villages the attestation officers have attested the old rents paid under the *paria* system, altering them wherever it is found that a raiyat has, subsequent to the enhancement, taken settlement of fresh lands. These new settlements at the new rates of rent have been treated as legal. The new settlements commonly met with are settlements of holdings abandoned by other raiyats. In the Pathra estate the problem was complicated by the fact that cases were common in which portions of raiyats' holdings were taken back and settled with others. In one block of villages, of which Narayanpur forms a portion, the problem was so complicated by wholesale transferring of lands from one tenant to another, annual alteration of rents, measurements, and remeasurements, reclassification of land and substitution of produce for cash rents that the attestation officers were unable to ascertain and record the legally payable rents. The raiyats, at the suggestion of the attestation officer, applied for a settlement of fair rents before final publication. Fair rents were settled, and the orders fixing them are now before the Commissioner on appeal. In other estates, however, the work of tracing back the rent history of each holding, although often tedious and complicated, was not as a rule found to be impossible, and the state of confusion deliberately brought about in the Pathra estate was luckily unparalleled elsewhere.

193. *Specific cases filed by the memorialists.*—*The contention that a Revenue Officer must record the actual, and not the legal rent.*—The memorialists gave me a long list of villages in which they object to the cutting down of their rent. It is not clear on what principle, if any, these cases have been selected. The memorialists do not allege that there are any peculiar circumstances which distinguish them from others. They simply complain that their rents have been cut down and mention the names of a number of the villages affected. The wording of paragraph 12 of the memorial of the zamindars of Tori suggests that they regard the reduction as due to a settlement of a fair rent by the attestation officer. The general memorial, paragraph XX, questions the right of the attestation officers to do anything more than record the rent actually paid by each raiyat at the time of attestation. The Deputy Commissioner, I believe, supports this contention. The wording of the last portion of section 27 of the Tenancy Act is to the effect that no enhancement of rent obtained otherwise than as provided for in the Act shall be recognized or given effect to in any suit or proceeding in any Court. The Deputy Commissioner contends that a Revenue Officer is not a Court. He has written a lengthy note on this question in which he points out that several sections of the Tenancy Act appear to draw a distinction between a Revenue Officer and a Court. If the contention be accepted, the logical conclusion which follows is that it is the duty of a Revenue Officer to prepare a record which every genuine Court will be compelled by the provisions of section 27 (2) to ignore. He himself appears to have had some doubt on the subject, for he finally declares that Act VI of 1908 is inconstruable and that the important point to decide is not whether a Revenue Officer is a Court but whether Revenue Officers have applied section 27(2) fairly and equitably in Palamau. It must be remembered however, that the memorialists themselves object not to the manner in which the section has been applied, but to its application in any form.

194. *The argument that it is unfair to excise illegal enhancements without identification of the precise limits of the old holdings.*—The following quotation from Deputy Commissioner's note appears to give his reasons for believing that section 27(2) has not been fairly or equitably applied in Palamau :—

"Have the Settlement Courts in excising the illegal enhancements since 1908 reduced the holdings to the areas of the time of the illegal enhancements? The truth

is that there is hardly a landlord outside the Government Estate whose *jamabandi* and other estate records afford the slightest indication of the localization and extent of the tenancies of his cultivators. I know of no single instance in which, when the rents have been cut down under either section 26 or 27, any attempt has been made by the Assistant Settlement Officer to locate the identity of the area of to-day and of the time of the illegal enhancements. The non-existence because of the unidentifiability, or the unidentifiability because of the non-existence of the tenancies or holdings of the cultivating tenants of Palamau, is the alpha and omega of the Law of the Survey and Record of existing agrarian rights in Palamau."

This is not an easy statement to interpret but it undoubtedly conveys the suggestion that variations in the rent of a holding are the result of variations in its area, and that the attestation officer, by attesting the old unenhanced rent for the enlarged holding, has been unfair to the landlord. It is quite clear, however, that variations in rent are not due solely to variations of area. The yearly fluctuations in the area of uplands cultivated by a raiyat are not generally regarded as grounds for variation of rent. Even if they were so regarded by the parties they would not account for a large and progressive increase of rent. Moreover, if it be assumed that the enhancement of rent is due to assessment of supposed excess cultivation the action of the attestation officer is dictated by the provisions of the Act, and is equivalent to declaring that the raiyat is entitled to hold his lands at the old rental until the landlord proves to the satisfaction of a Revenue Court that there are grounds for enhancing it.

The Deputy Commissioner's note may also be intended to suggest that where a raiyat has taken settlement of definite lands in addition to his old holding the addition to his rental has been treated as an illegal enhancement. This, however, is not correct. When I inspected the attestation camp of Mr. J. E. Coutts, I found that he was making careful inquiries into the history of each raiyat's rent, and was distinguishing between increases of rent due to the settlement of new lands and increase due to enhancements of rate. Outside the Pathra estate the difference between the two is usually obvious. The general illegal enhancements occur once in every five or seven years and are indicated by a great and sudden increase in the total rental of the village. The variations of rent which occur in the case of individual raiyats in the intervening years are generally due to new settlement or to transfers of land from one holding to another.

195. *Specific complaints of excision examined.*—I have not been able to examine into all the instances of reduction of rent quoted by the memorialists. To do so would be equivalent to re-investigating a considerable proportion of the attestation work done in Palamau during the past two seasons. I have, however, investigated a large number, sufficient to convince me that the attestation officers are dealing with them on the proper lines. The difficulties of these officers chiefly arise from the tediousness of the detailed enquiries which they have to make into the history of the changes of rent in each holding. This alone is enough to account for the slow rate at which attestation has progressed in the present season. It is quite probable that in some villages where large and obviously illegal enhancements of rent have been rightly cut down, the landlords may be able to show that mistakes have been made in dealing with the cases of individual raiyats. Such mistakes are inevitable and their existence is no justification for a general attack on the legality of the method in which rents have been recorded. Such mistakes will be corrected by the Settlement Officer on their being brought to his notice in the usual manner. The following are some instances of the illegal enhancements met with :—  
Serasam belongs to Rai Jadunath Singh Bahadur of Ranka. In this village the *paria* system was in force until 1320-1 when a measurement was made and rates per *bigha* were fixed for all lands, the rate for *dhan* fields being nominally Rs. 10 per *bigha*. The measurement seems to have been hopelessly inaccurate and the rental assessed was actually much higher. The Assistant Settlement Officer attested, as legally payable, the rental shown in the landlord's *jamabandi* before 1320. The circumstances of this village are extraordinary. The *malik's* agent admitted that since 1308, about 50 raiyats had abandoned their holdings. The total area of rice land in the village is 26 acres. Out of this the landlords hold 22.5 and the raiyats, 21 in number, hold 3.42 acres only, in addition to 15 acres of *bhita* and 68 of the third-class *tannr*. The rice land held by the raiyats has been classified as third-class. If the classification be assumed to be correct the rental demand by the landlord represents an average of Rs. 2-2-6 per acre of third-class *tannr*, and the rental attested is equivalent to an average of Re. 1-8-2 for the same unit. Calculated on this basis the rental of an acre of first-class rice-land would be as demanded by the landlord, Rs. 45-4-6 and as attested Rs. 31-11-6. Even if the rice-land were all classed as first-class, these figures will only be reduced to Rs. 34, and Rs. 24, respectively. I draw attention to the actual incidence of rent in view of the Deputy Commissioner's suggestion that the rent attested is really payable for a much smaller area than has been recorded in the tenants' possession and that the effect of the settlement has been to reduce unfairly the incidence of rent.

*Duldulwa* is a Ranka village. In this also the *pariadari* system was abolished and rates per bigha substituted after a measurement. The rates introduced were :—

				Per bigha.			Per acre.		
				Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
1st class <i>dhun</i>	...	...	...	11	14	0	19	2	0
2nd " "	...	...	...	7	3	6	11	10	3
3rd " "	...	...	...	4	2	0	6	10	0
<i>Bori</i>	...	...	...	4	2	0	6	10	0
<i>Bhita</i>	...	...	...	1	0	6	1	10	7
<i>Taur</i>	...	...	...	{ 0 8 0			{ 0 13 0		
				{ 10			{ 10		
				{ 0 12 6			{ 1 4 1		

These rates, which are absolutely unparalleled in the other Chota Nagpur districts, gave an enormous enhancement. This was considered to be illegal and the previous rental was attested.

Another instance of an extraordinarily high rate of rent is found in village *Puragurka* which belongs to the Raja of Chainpur, where the thikadars claimed a rent of Rs. 28 for 1.47 acres of third-class *taur* and .02 of second-class upland. This was disputed by the raiyat but the dispute was decided in favour of the landlord. It was afterwards admitted that the rent had previously been Rs. 21 and that it had recently been enhanced to Rs. 28. The Settlement Officer thereupon revised the entry, and recorded Rs. 21 as the rent payable. In *Scwadih and Uchri*, which belong to the Ranka estate, a measurement was made in 1318 and the former *pariadari* rental of Rs. 561 was enhanced to Rs. 657. Previous to 1318 the *pariadari* rate had been enhanced from Rs. 3-8-0 to Rs. 5. The rental based on the old *pariadari* rate of Rs. 3-8-0 was recorded as the rent payable, the attested rental coming to Rs. 368. Investigation by the Assistant Settlement Officer failed to find any evidence of a large extension of cultivation justifying the successive enhancements. In village *Chutia* the *paria* rate was, in 1321, enhanced from Rs. 32 to Rs. 40 per *paria*. A number of tenants subsequently abandoned their holdings which were taken over by the landlord. The landlord's own accounts showed that those raiyats were unable to pay the enhanced rent and owed very large arrears. This village was quoted to me as a proof that the Palamanu raiyats are in the habit of voluntarily abandoning their lands and villages and taking up fresh cultivation elsewhere.

196. *The Chainpur rents.*—In the villages owned by the Raja of Chainpur it is somewhat difficult to ascertain from the documentary evidence on the record what the rent history of each village has been. Out of about 80 villages, less than 20 are in the direct possession of the proprietor, the remainder being leased to thikadars. The landlord has produced detailed accounts from the year 1313 for the  *khas*  villages. For the others the current *jamabandi* only is available. The accounts produced show some enhancements as having taken place since 1312, but these are on the whole not excessive. The peculiar feature of these accounts is that no connection is traceable between the rent demanded and the rent which the raiyat is in the habit of paying. All the raiyats are shown as owing enormous arrears. It is difficult to understand what this means, but it is quite clear that the rents demanded have never been realized. There is no indication that the raiyats ever agreed to pay these rents, and they themselves expressed surprise when they learned that these arrears were shown as due from them. The landlord at first pointed to the existence of these arrears as an indication that he treated his tenants leniently. The matter was commented on by my predecessor in his inspection note of March last. The Raja, having apparently realized that the facts were capable of bearing a construction different from that which he put on them, has now begun to put his house in order, and in the accounts produced by him for villages dealt with more recently, the rents demanded are shown as having been realized in full. The Settlement Officer has grave doubts of the genuineness of all the papers of this estate, and suspects that they have been prepared with a view to support claims to rents higher than any which the landlord has ever realized, or which the tenants have agreed to. The raiyats allege that enhancements were made both before and after 1312 *Fasli*. Their allegations are corroborated by the *jamabandis* filed by the landlord during the road cess revaluations in 1898 and 1906. The Road-cess *jamabandi* for 1906 differs from those now filed by the landlord for the year 1313, which corresponds to it. No rent receipts were given until a couple of years ago, and it is alleged that no *zamindari* papers previous to 1313 are available. They are said to have been lost recently by a *tahsildar* in whose possession they were. In the thikadari villages, it is the custom of the Raja to enhance the thikadar's rents every five or six years. Such enhancements have invariably been found in other estates to accompany enhancements of the raiyat's rents, and the raiyats allege that in this estate also their rents and those of the thikadars were enhanced at the same time.

197. *Village Sinjo in Chainpur.*—Village Sinjo belonging to the Chainpur estate is one of the villages quoted by the Raja as an instance of rents having been cut down



without justification. From the proceedings of the village it appears that the *paria* rate has been cut down from Rs. 25-6-0 to Rs. 24. The reduction was, however, made in the case of two raiyats only, as it appears that about the year 1318 all the raiyats, except these two, surrendered their holdings and left the village, since then new raiyats have been introduced, but as they have taken settlement at the existing rate of Rs. 25-6-0 per *paria* the rents paid by them have not been reduced. The landlord's papers, which as in other villages go back to 1312 only, would, if believed, show that the rate has been always Rs. 25-6-0 per *paria*, and that no enhancement has taken place. The *raiya*s, however, declare that they are incorrect. They also declare that the village was in *thika* in several of the years in which the papers show it as held *khas* by the proprietor.

The *thikadars* for these years corroborate the *raiya*s' statements and say that they realized rent at the rate of Rs. 24 per *paria*, not Rs. 26-6-0 as shown in the landlord's papers. It appears that in 1898 also the landlord claimed the rate of Rs. 25-6-0 before the Road-cess Deputy Collector. The latter after local enquiry held that the rate was Rs. 24 per *paria*. The incidence of rent in the village is, the Settlement Officer informs me, 18 per cent. of the assets. In most of the villages, where rents have been cut down, the proprietor has preferred objections under section 83 to the attested rents. He has, however, refrained from doing so in this village.

198. *Need for a general fair rent settlement in Chainpur.*—In this estate the attestation of rents was a difficult problem. Even if the *raiya*s' allegations to the effect that the rents shown in the current *jamabandi* have reached their present pitch by a series of illegal enhancements be disbelieved, it would have been unsatisfactory to record them as the rents legally recoverable, ignoring the fact that they have never, on the landlord's own admission, been collected in full. There is, however, every reason to believe that the *raiya*s' statements are correct. The attestation officers have adopted as a basis for the attestation of rents the most satisfactory documentary evidence available, viz., the road-cess *jamabandis*, and have attested the rents shown therein as the legally payable rents for the old holdings. Where a *raiya* has subsequently taken settlement of land at the higher rates of rent, the rent on which the land was settled has been recorded as the rent payable. I fail to see what other course could have been adopted. The result cannot, however, be described as satisfactory, for the recorded rents are in most cases higher than the average rents collected, the difference in many instances being very great. The Settlement Officer informs me that the attested rents represent in many villages 30 or 40 per cent. or more of the gross produce of the lands held by *raiya*s. Even if it be assumed that the classification is incorrect, and that a higher percentage of the lands should be recorded as first and second-class, this calculated gross produce will not be increased by more than 5 or 10 per cent. and the percentage of the produce which the rent represents will be reduced by a similar proportion. This will not materially affect the result. On the other hand, in some of the *thika* villages, particularly in those still held by cultivating *pradhans*, the attested rents do not represent more than 7 to 10 per cent. of the produce. A settlement of fair rents by notification in this estate would appear to be advisable in the interest of all parties.

199. *Defence of illegal enhancements on the plea of landlord's improvements.*—The suggestion has also been made that the enhancements of rent made by Palanau *zamin*-*dars* would be found in many instances to be justified equitably, if not legally, by an increase in the fertility of the lands due to the construction of *ahars* by the landlords. The Settlement Officer informs me that careful enquiry has proved this to be unfounded. The *zamindars* have been called on during attestation to point out the *ahars* by the construction of which they seek to justify any enhancement. In the great majority of cases they admitted when questioned that the enhancement had no connection with any work of improvement. In the comparatively few cases where it is said that the enhancement was due to the construction of an *ahar*, local enquiry showed that the improvements made were generally for the benefit of the lands cultivated by the landlords themselves. In the cases where the improvement benefited some of the *raiya*s' lands as well as the landlords', it was invariably found that only a small proportion of the tenants affected by the enhancement derived any benefit from the improvement.

200. *Specific instances of improvements put forward by the zamindars during Mr. Murphy's enquiry.*—In *Gharbandh*, a village owned by the Bhaiya Sahib of Chhechharia (i.e., Utari but not Chhechhari) rents were enhanced in 1308, 1317 and 1322. It was alleged by the landlord's agents that the enhancement of 1317 was due to an improvement. The attestation officer found that a sum of Rs. 207 had been spent on one *ahar* and that some earthwork by way of repair had been done on another. The repairs to the second *ahar* were found to be insufficient to render it effective. Three *raiya*s only benefited by the first *ahar*, but the rents of all the *raiya*s of the *tola* were enhanced. The three tenants whose lands were improved declared that they paid half the amount spent on the *ahar*. One of the three subsequently found himself unable to pay the enhanced rent and surrendered his lands to the *malik*.

In Bishunpur the Utari Zamindar spent Rs. 350 on improving an old *ahar* and Rs. 550 on the construction of a *pyne* irrigating Bishunpur and Chhechharia. The rent of all the tenants holding lands in the vicinity was enhanced by two annas in the rupee, the enhancement coming to Rs. 38. The attestation officer made a local enquiry and found that only five of the raiyats whose rents were enhanced irrigated their lands from the *ahar* or the *pyne*. In this village there were two subsequent enhancements unconnected with any work of improvement. In Purnangar the same landlord spends Rs. 80 on improving an *ahar* known as the Barhwa *ahar*. The rent of 16 raiyats was enhanced, the total enhancement coming to Rs. 30-4-0; of these only four irrigated any of their lands from the *ahar* :

201. *Incidence of the attested rents.*—A discussion of enhancements naturally leads to a consideration of the incidence of the rents as now attested. The Settlement Officer has given me the following figures :—In the area attested in the present season the area held by raiyats is :—

				Class I.	Class II.	Class III.
				Acrs.	Acrs.	Acrs.
Rice-land ...	...	...	...	165	2,678	9,174
Upland ...	...	...	...	3,481	14,634	46,130

for which a rental of Rs. 1,23,505 has been recorded as payable. The Settlement Officer estimated the value of the annual produce of each class of land at the following figures per acre :—

				Class I.	Class II.	Class III.
				Rs.	Rs.	Ps.
Rice-land ...	...	...	...	42	28	14
Upland ...	...	...	...	25	7	2

A calculation based on these figures shows the total rental to be 26 per cent. of the total produce. For the Government estate the average rental calculated in the same manner comes to 11 per cent. of the total produce.

These figures show the proportion of rental to produce in the private estates to be unduly high, much higher than in any of the Bihar or Chota Nagpur districts previously dealt with. In many of the more jungly villages which are still in the hands of aboriginal *pradhans* the Settlement Officer informs me that the rents are comparatively low, varying from 5 to 10 per cent. of the produce. In others the percentage is of course much higher and in some villages the attested rents are about 60 per cent. of the gross produce, a fact which corroborates, if further corroboration be necessary, the Settlement Officer's conclusion that the rents demanded, which are still higher, have in many cases never been collected.

202. *Effect of modifying the classification on the estimated incidence of the rent.*—The value of the Settlement Officer's calculation of the total gross produce will, it is clear, depend on the correctness of the classification of lands made by him. He has shown 1.5 per cent. of the rice-lands as first class, 18.5 per cent. as second class, and 80 per cent. as third-class. If it be assumed that this classification is incorrect, and that 20 per cent. should have been classified at first, 30 per cent. as second, and 50 per cent. only, as third-class, it would be interesting to know to what extent the severity of the classification has tended to raise the apparent incidence of rent. For this purpose, I have made a fresh calculation, raising the proportion of first and second-class rice-land to 20 and 30 per cent. respectively. The result is to lower the average incidence of rent from 26 to 22 per cent. of the gross produce. In making this calculation I have not lowered the estimated value of the produce of each class of land, although it is obvious that if the classification were raised in the manner indicated, the average outturn of each class would not be nearly so high as the estimate made by the Settlement Officer for the classes into which he has divided the rice-lands.

203. *The conclusion that Palamanu rents are too high.*—In this connection I invite attention to the proposal for settlement of fair rents in certain villages of thanas Latehar and Kerh made by the Settlement Officer in April last, and forwarded to the Board of Revenue by my predecessor with his letter No. 1731 of 11th April. In making his proposals the Settlement Officer explained the grounds on which he had based the estimates of the average produce, and gave reasons for believing that they erred, if at all, in being too

high. It is, in my opinion, impossible to evade the conclusion that rents in Palamau, judged by the generally accepted standards of fairness, are too high. That this is no new discovery is shown by the discussions which preceded the adoption of fair rent rates in the Government estates in 1896. It was then agreed that the rates prevalent in the private estates were so high that they could not, in fairness to the raiyats, be used in fixing rents in the Government estates. This conclusion is relevant to the question whether the application of the sections of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act relating to enhancement has been unfair to the Palamau landlords."

204. *The use of the road cess returns.*—Later developments are described elsewhere in this report and I need not repeat here how Government afterwards ordered a fair rent settlement involving a further reduction of the attested rent by 10 per cent. in the greater part of the district, nor how the settlement classification was tested on the ground by a later Deputy Commissioner and ultimately accepted by Government as the basis of the fair rent settlement, and the estimate of the value of the gross produce made by the Settlement Department was actually somewhat reduced, as a result of the test settlements. It is only necessary to supplement Mr. Murphy's remarks by a few words on the use of the Road-cess returns by the attestation officers.

*Road-cess Returns.*—The falsification of road-cess returns by suppression of raiyats or understatement of their rents, was so frequently pleaded by the landlords themselves that the attestation officers in many cases allowed them to adduce evidence to show that the rents had been actually higher than they had testified in the returns, and attested the rents accordingly when the landlords succeeded in doing so. Section 20 of the Road-cess Act had not been any more in force in the district than the tenancy law itself, and it was felt that if a landlord was pressing a claim that on other grounds appeared to be true the section should not be insisted upon too rigidly against him. But when the attestation officer, on other grounds, believed that a claim which was not supported by the road-cess return was false, he did not hesitate to apply it. Moreover the returns, even when believed to be incorrect in respect of the details contained in them, were often useful in supporting the *raiya*t's contention that until, shortly before the settlement, the *paria* system had been established in their village.

205. *Rent Receipts.*—Rent receipts are very rarely granted by any of the landlords; and those that are given, as a rule, are not accurately or completely filled in. The legal position is that section 54 of the Act requires that a complete receipt in the prescribed form shall be given, under penalty of a fine for non-compliance, in respect of *every separate payment* of the rent or of an instalment of the rent; and the prescribed form of receipt (*see* page 70 of Reid's Tenancy Act) makes it clear that "when a tenant makes a payment on account of rent, he may declare the year or years and instalments to which he wishes the payment to be credited, and the payment shall be credited accordingly." It has been held by the Commissioner, the final appellate authority, that it is no compliance with the law to grant a receipt otherwise than in the prescribed form, or to grant one in the prescribed form, if any of the particulars indicated in the form are omitted, or are incorrect. Such receipts as are granted in Palamau, on account of their incorrectness or incompleteness, generally fail to secure to the raiyat, in any measure, that protection which it is the purpose of the law to provide. Payments are credited against time-barred arrears or illegal interest. The annual demand is wrongly stated, and particulars showing the year for which the payment was intended, or the total amount outstanding against the raiyat, are omitted; but the most common abuse is the crediting against an exorbitant and often entirely illegal demand on account of lac-bearing, (or *mahua*) trees, payments which were made for the raiyats' agricultural land.

The Settlement Department during attestation reported to the Deputy Commissioner many of those cases of breaches of section 54 of the Tenancy Act, in which it appeared that the landlords had offended, not out of simple ignorance, but with the intention of unfairly strengthening their cases against the raiyats. The total number thus reported amounted to 93, affecting about 700 raiyats. Fines aggregating Rs. 1,983 were inflicted in 50 cases, 38 cases

were dismissed or discharged, 3 were withdrawn and in 2 the offenders were warned. Owing to the efforts of the Settlement Department, it is now well understood by the landlords throughout the district that receipts should be given in the prescribed form, but it is open to doubt whether the practice will be maintained generally after the close of the operations, when the burthen of proving any future breach of the law will fall upon a peasantry astonishingly wanting in initiative and spirit.

206. *Commutation of produce rent*—Applications for commutation of produce rent were accepted from occupancy raiyats or landlords, at all stages of the Settlement proceedings, from Attestation up to Final Publication, but they were not generally disposed of until the lines upon which the fair rent settlement should be made and the rates which would be allowed had been determined. They were very seldom rejected. The complete and melancholy failure of the landlords to substantiate their claim that they have done anything to develop and improve the raiyats' holdings, removed the only ground which might have made it desirable or necessary to continue the system, which is in itself open to very strong objections. Most of the lands in respect of which commutation was applied for were rice-lands of inferior quality *and uplands*; the cultivation of these lands yields, as is well known, a net profit which is proportionately very much smaller than that which is obtained from the better and more fertile classes. The produce rent system therefore occasions particular hardship in connection with them. At the same time the landlords contribute little or nothing in the way of irrigation to lands of this kind, and have therefore not usually got the only defence which can be made for continuing the system in respect of them. Moreover in most cases in the north of the district, they do not take their rents actually in kind, but exact payment of cash for it at *market rates* and often in arrear. In such cases the system is *really one of cash rents calculated at exorbitant rates*.

In fixing the rate of cash rent the commuting officers generally took the enhancing standard approved by Government for use in the fair rent settlement, to represent the ordinary cash rents prevalent for similar lands in the vicinity. It was felt that it would not be proper to be guided by the finally published rents themselves, for they were generally unfair and had been considered so unsatisfactory that a general fair rent settlement was held to be necessary for their correction. The commuting officer then ascertained the amount of the landlord's actual receipts in respect of the land for the previous 10 years, when this was possible. In many cases the landlords withheld their books, and it was found necessary in default of sufficient reliable evidence on either side to inspect the land and make an estimate of the normal gross produce. The landlords' books of account whenever they were available showed unexpectedly low figures of outturn and productivity.

Having thus obtained a rate representing ordinary cash rents and having calculated the amount of the landlord's annual collection, the commuting officer ordinarily fixed the mean between them as the commuted rent; but if this amount exceeded the maximum rates allowable in fair rent settlement, it was reduced down to them.

207. *Produce rent in Japla and Belaunja*.—It was only in the two *parganas* of Japla and Belaunja that the system is widespread or ancient. In these both the *adhbatai* and *danabandi* systems prevail. In the first the crop is actually divided and in the second the landlords' agent visits the land and appraises, or guesses, the outturn; and the raiyat pays the value, at current local rates, of the landlord's share of the estimated outturn. But if the raiyat does not like the appraisalment he is almost invariably entitled to demand a division of the crop itself; thus the system in both cases is, at the bottom, *adhbatai*.

208. *The raiyat's customary allowances before division of the crop*—Whether the crop is divided, or an appraisalment is made, it is the custom to make certain deductions from the undivided crop as allowances to the raiyat to cover the cost of cultivation. These allowances are not always the same from village to village and differ somewhat according as the system in use is *batai* or *danabandi*. The custom in each holding has been recorded in

the column of special incidents of the raiyat's *khatiani*. The following are descriptions of the most prevalent *batai* and *danabandi* usages.

209. *Customs of danabandi*.—Out of every 100 maunds of the undivided crop the raiyat is entitled to take 20 maunds (called *sawai*) as an allowance for (1) *bani* (agricultural wages), (2) *agwar* (wage for watching the crop), (3) *tari* (the grain mixed with dust which remains when the crop is removed, and is the raiyat's perquisite under the *batai* system), and (4) wages for the carpenter and blacksmith.

In addition to this he takes 4 maunds a hundred, as a second compensation (*dusra shikast*) on account of field boundaries (*ails*) and other uncultivated portions which have been included in the estimated area of the field.

The remainder of the crop, i.e., 76 maunds out of each 100 maunds is divided equally between the landlord and the tenant, and the latter then pays 1 maund in 32 of his own share as road-cess.

The raiyat attended by a *panchayat* of villagers, is entitled to participate in the appraisement of the crop and computation of areas. He may insist on having his opinions tested by crop-cutting experiments, in which case he will choose a poor part of the field and the agent will choose a rich part; or in the final resort, the raiyat may generally insist upon a division of the actual crop.

The landlords in recent years have been active in curtailing the allowances made to raiyats under the *danabandi* system. In many cases within the last 12 years they changed the two allowances of 20 and 4 per cent. which have been described above, into a consolidated allowance of only 12½ per cent. They admitted this but explained that formerly, after making allowance of 24 per cent. to the raiyats, they had collected from him a *neg* (*abwab*) of one *passeri* per maund (i.e. one-eighth share) of the 38 maunds per hundred which came to him (apart from his allowances) on the division of the crops. If this explanation were made out, the two charges would be identical, and the landlord's share in each case would be 43 maunds 6 *passeris* per 100 maunds (including *abwabs*). The *abwab*, however, was not proved; or was disallowed under section 105(3). The substitution of an enhanced rent for an *abwab*, was rejected as an illegal enhancement.

210. *Customs of batai*.—In the *danabandi* system the landlord thus takes half the appraised crop (or its value) after certain allowances have been set apart for the raiyat. In *batai*, he takes half the *actual* crop which remains after the deduction of certain other recognized allowances. These allowances are:—

- (a) Out of every 100 maunds of the gross produce the raiyat is allowed 10 maunds for *bani* (which in this case includes reaping and threshing charges). If *ekaisi*, i.e., one bundle in 20, has already been paid in the field, he only gets 5 maunds of *bani* at the threshing floor (*khalihan*).
- (b) 5 maunds for *agwar* (watching the crops). These allowances come to 15 maunds per hundred. The raiyat gets in addition at each rice and *rabi* harvest the following allowances for paying the wages of the carpenter and blacksmith, no matter how few, or how many, maunds of crop remain to be divided.
- (c) For each *pakka* plough (i.e., one with 4 bullocks) 1½ maunds. For each *kacha* plough (one with a single team) he gets, half as much.
- (d) The whole of the *tari* is also allowed to him. Road cess of one in 32 is paid on the raiyats' share of the divided crop. The raiyats' allowances, therefore, come to much the same total under both systems. In parts of the district where produce rent is a new innovation, made simply for their own enrichment by Jaidishar Dayal of Pathra and a few other landlords, the *malkis* endeavour to collect a full 50 per cent. of the gross produce, without making any allowance to the raiyats. This attitude has made the innovation very unpopular. In Jaula, the Patna Wards Estate has since 1318 attempted to substitute *danabandi*

for *batai* and has not respected the raiyat's customary allowances, under both the *batai* and *danabandi* systems the raiyat is entitled to the power (straw), *bhusa* (husks), *danti* (stem of the husk), and *khakhri* (blind husks).

211. *Commutation of predial conditions.—Begari.*—The landlords objected very strenuously, and still object, to the abolition of forced labour. They clung to the belief that they would be allowed to maintain the system if they complained sufficiently, and they alleged as a forlorn hope that its discontinuance would debar them from executing or repairing any irrigation works in future. The following is taken from Mr. Murphy's report on the landlords' memorials :—

212. *Small amount of compensation for begari.*—“The memorialists have complained of the method in which the commutation of predial conditions has been dealt with by the Settlement Officer. From what I had previously heard of the district I was myself surprised at the small amounts allowed to the *zamindars* as compensation for the abolition of these. The Deputy Commissioner in conversation with me expressed the opinion that in Palamau *begari* is universal and unlimited, an opinion that appears to be generally held. While in Daltonganj I noticed that in the majority of cases dealt with the value of these conditions had been estimated at amounts varying from 4 to 10 annas per tenancy. I asked the Settlement Officer for an explanation of this. The conditions vary so much from village to village that it is difficult to deal with the matter concisely. The following, however, is a summary of the Settlement Officer's explanation :—

213. *The explanation.*—Although *begari* is in practice universal and unlimited in the sense that the tenants are called on to work for the proprietor whenever the latter thinks fit, the claims to *begari* actually made by the proprietors themselves were generally of a very limited nature.

Some of the big proprietors originally stated that they paid full wages for all compulsory labour. As the value of the *begari* for the purpose of commutation is the amount by which the wages paid, if any, fall short of the full wage payable to free labourers, its value in cases where such statements were made is nil. Most of the other proprietors claimed not more than three or five days' *begari* annually without payment, in addition to a number of days varying from nil to ten on payment of full, or in some cases partial, wages. The Raja of Ranka originally claimed only three days' free *begari*. He has, however, recently amended his claim and now alleges that he is also entitled to 24 days' *begari* for which he pays partial wages. The Untari *zamindar* is an exception to the general rule. He at first claimed that he was entitled to as much *begari* as he required. He afterwards limited his claim to 20 days and in conversation with me he claimed only 8 or 9 days' *begari* from each raiyat.

The real fact appears to be that the landlords are unable to specify precisely how many days' labour each raiyat is bound to give. In practice they have hitherto not recognized any limit except their own requirements. They naturally hesitated to make such a claim openly and had they done so it would have been impossible, assuming the claim to be legally valid, to calculate its value for the purposes of commuting it to cash. The disinclination of the landlords to admit the facts about *begari* is indicated by what the Settlement Officer told me about Babu Jagdishar Dayal of Pathra. The landlord in conversation with the Settlement Officer said that he took no *begari* and therefore claimed none. Yet the Settlement Officer subsequently found that his local agents had claimed *begari* on his behalf in some villages and that the claim had been proved and allowed.

214. *Parjaula.*—One difficulty which arose was that in some cases there were obvious indications that some portion at least of the *begari* taken was not payable in respect of the use and occupation of land. The *begari* claimed by the Untari *zamindar* from the raiyats of his thika villages is an instance of this. The raiyats give *begari* to the thikadars. In addition to this the landlord claims that he also has the right to compel them to work for him when he pleases. Those whose position frees them from the obligation to work pay instead a cash tax called *parjaula*. This *parjaula*, or the corresponding *begari*, is levied from all residents of the village whether they own lands or not. It is not taken from non-residents even though they own lands in the estate. The Settlement Officer has, therefore, held that the *parjaula begari* is not payable in respect of the use and occupation of land, but is a tribute or tax levied by the proprietor from all residents on the estate in token of his overlordship, a theory which is certainly corroborated by the name *parjaula* given to it.

215. *Mr. Grimley's circular not generally applicable.*—The question of *begari* has on previous occasions, also, been a source of trouble in the district. Some of the landlords have referred to a circular on the subject issued by Mr. Grimley, as Commissioner

of the Division. This circular lays down a standard which the Commissioner considered to be fair and reasonable to both parties. It would, however, be obviously impossible to hold that each raiyat throughout the district is liable to give the amount of *begari* fixed by this circular, and to increase his rent by its calculated value, *plus* the value of any *rakumats* now payable by him. The provisions of section 103 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act appear to contemplate a calculation of the value of the *begari* actually levied from each raiyat in the period of ten years preceding the commutation. Some of the raiyats in the district have never rendered *begari*. The Bhaiya Sahib of Chhechhari, for instance, admitted to Mr. Sifton that he had not been able to levy *begari* from the Oraons of his estate, and it was found on enquiry that he was entitled to it in three villages only. Throughout the district generally the amount taken from each raiyat varies very much from year to year and some raiyats may escape for a long time should the landlord not have any occasion for their services. The system presses most hardly on the raiyats who live in villages near the landlord's private lands, and those who suffer most are naturally the poorest tenants who are least able to resist excessive demands.

Mr. Grimley in his circular fixed fourteen days' *begari* per year as the amount to be rendered by each raiyat. If he meant that this should be rendered without payment, he fixed a standard which most of the landlords, judging by the claims put forward by them, consider to be too high. The value of fourteen days' free *begari* added to the rental of a small holding—most of the holdings in Palamau are uneconomic holdings—would mean a very considerable increase of rent. As it is, the rentals of many of these holdings are already so high that the Settlement Officer has refused in a larger number of cases to increase them by the addition of the value of the smaller amount of *begari* actually claimed by the landlords. As a result of the conversation I have had with a few of the chief landlords I have arrived at the same conclusion as the Settlement Officer, viz., that the landlords' grievance in this matter is not due to the smallness of the sums allowed as compensation for the abolition of *begari*. They openly declare that what they object to is the abolition of the right to compel the raiyats to give labour when required, and say that no sum which the Settlement Officer could reasonably be expected to add to the rent would be an adequate compensation for the loss which they will incur through its abolition.

215. *Curtilment of commuted value of begari under section 105 (3), proviso.*—There has already been some discussion about certain cases in which the Settlement Officer has refused to increase existing rents by adding to them the calculated value of the predial conditions attaching to each tenancy. I find that the total amount so disallowed is very small being only Rs. 180 altogether. The standards which the Settlement Officer applied in order to ascertain whether the rent together with the commuted value of the predial conditions exceeded a fair rent were the rates fixed as fair in the adjoining thanas of Ranchi. The area in which these standards were used lies along the border of that district. He has been blamed for using imported standards but I think there is some justification for his using the only recognized fair rate which he could lay hands on. Fair rates have yet to be fixed for Palamau and their adoption will, it is probable, be preceded by very spirited controversy. The practical aspect of the case is that, even if the Settlement Officer had doubled his fair rent standards, it would still have been necessary for him to disallow the greater portion of the Rs. 180, to the exclusion of which objection has been raised. The Officer in charge of the final publication in the area was directed to receive any petitions of objection which the landlords might wish to file in these cases but the Settlement Officer informs me that no such petitions have been received either locally or at headquarters."

217. *Mr. Grimley's circular written specially for Ranchi.*—*Later working of section 105(3).*—Mr. Grimley's circular has been fully discussed in the Ranchi report, as it was issued with special reference to that district, rather than to Palamau. The writings of the period shows that the *begari* question was not then regarded as acute in Palamau, because it was borne in silence. For the purpose of deciding whether the commuted value of *begari* should be added to the rent or not under section 105 of the Tenancy Act, in areas other than those adjoining the district of Ranchi, the attestation officers, in subsequent seasons, generally adopted a standard of one-fifth of the value of the normal gross produce of the holding as a test of fairness. This procedure met with no objection from the landlords.

218. *Effect of begari on the economic condition of the tenantry.*—*High rents and compulsory labour produce small holdings and inadequate wages.*—During the economic investigations which were made in the concluding years of the settlement, and more particularly those connected with *kamianti*, or agricultural slavery, it was proved that the *begari* system was one of the chief



factors in the depression of the tenantry. How heavily it presses upon them may be judged from the following description of its working in the Government Estates at the time of Mr. Forbes' Settlement, where conditions were then in many respects like those which still survive in the private villages. (See Mr. Forbes' Final Report, paragraph 81).

"The farmer (*thikadar*) held a large share of the best land in the village which he cultivated chiefly by forced labour. His lands had to be ploughed and sowed *first* and his rice *first* transplanted, the raiyats had to take their chance of cultivating their own lands and very often the time had gone by before they could get leisure to plough them."

The vast majority of the raiyats in Palamau to-day have not got holdings sufficiently large, or productive, to supply their daily food. But the pitch of the rents has been so high that it has prevented the enlargement or improvement of these holdings. The tenantry have, therefore, been forced constantly to supplement the profits of their own cultivation by working as agricultural labourers on the lands of the *maliks*. But here the *begari* system has deprived them of the power of selecting their employers or choosing their own time for working for themselves. They have thus lost the advantage which, as labourers, they might have derived from the landlord's competition for labour, and, as agriculturists, they are not free to cultivate their own fields at the most suitable time. The last development of the *begari* system and of the high rents of Palamau is *kamiauti* or agricultural slavery. *Kamias* are now so numerous and so cheap in the district that the free labourer is compelled to accept the same conditions of employment; that is to say the remuneration for a day's work is a handful of grain for the sustenance of the labourer and his family.

219. *Landlord: unwilling to accept a commutation of begari.*—The commutation of *begari* by the Settlement Department, therefore, did not come a day too soon. But it was not to be expected that the landlords would accept it cheerfully; nor have they done so. In the big Chainpur and Ranka estates the agents of the proprietors admitted freely before the fair rent officers that they had been regularly levying *begari* after its commutation. Every single exaction of this kind is punishable under section 63, if the victim can summon up courage enough to bring it to the notice of the District Officer; but until the tenantry become less afraid of their *thikadars* and the agents of their *maliks*, it is useless to depend upon their initiative. They have none; and it will be necessary to strengthen the hands of the Deputy Commissioner by empowering him to take action under section 63\* of his own motion, if the existing evils are to be successfully controlled. The landlords, even while they sometimes thus in practice successfully maintain the old state of affairs, generally adopt the pose in public that their raiyats are now completely out of hand; thus for example the Ranka zamindar went so far as to assure the local officers that since the commutation of *begari* he could not reach the railway station 20 miles away, in order to travel on official business, because no coolies could be found willing to carry his luggage for him. I have no doubt that if adequate wages were offered, the *res augusta domi* would compel the raiyats to accept such employment with alacrity; but in any case it is worth mentioning that there is an excellent road for carts all the way from Ranka to the station and carts are always readily obtainable at the intermediate town of Garhwa.

220. *Without Begari and Kamiauti, the smaller landlords cannot maintain their present style of living.*—On the other hand it is true that the position of the smaller landlords will become desperate if the *begari* system is effectively suppressed and slavery is abolished. I am convinced that many of them now subsist on land which could not possibly yield sufficient net profits to maintain them in a style befitting zamindars, if they have also to pay a fair wage for the agricultural labour of its cultivation. Their social system generally prohibits personal cultivation: a social system which could never have extended to such petty landlords but for the facilities of obtaining sweat-labour afforded by the agrarian conditions of the district. The petty landlords are now confronted with the alternative of breaking down the record-of-rights and violating the Tenancy Law, or of infringing their own

\*The Amending Bill is expected to effect this change.

social laws by doing useful work to justify their existence. In default of either they must starve. Can it be doubted what they will attempt? However greatly sympathy may be excited on behalf of individuals who are not particularly to blame, and are but the product of their training and environment, when after a century of *laissez-faire* they are confronted with so unpleasant a situation, it is utterly impossible to justify a continuance, for any period or to any extent, of the old system which debased the whole working section of the agricultural community to the lowest degradation in order that those just a little above them in material condition, should live a life of *otium cum dignitate*. The petty landlord must, therefore, learn to become a useful member of society, or go.

221. *All begari is now legally abolished in Palamau.*—All *begari* wherever it existed in the district has been commuted, and whether the commuted value has been allowed, or disallowed under section 105, *begari* can no longer be legally claimed. Moreover under section 101 neither *begari* nor *rakumats* can be attached to any new tenancy created after 1908.

222. *Rakumats (abwabs)*—*Rakumats* (that is to say such *abwabs* as have been legalized under the Commutation Act and the present Tenancy Law) are of very little importance in Palamau, where the landlords, being able to take all that the holdings could pay in the shape of rent, have not as a rule troubled much over unrealizable supplementary charges. The Untari zamindar is the only exception to this state of affairs. He has made a practice of taking some of his assessment from the thikadars in the form of *rakumats*, and they in their turn have tried to get extra sums out of the rayats in the same way; but even in this case reliance has been chiefly placed upon direct rental charges. *Rakumats* whenever they have been found to be legally payable, have been commuted, under orders of Government, to a money value, and that money value has been added to the attested rent except when under section 105, the resultant total would have exceeded a fair rent for the holding. Thus *rakumats* have under the law been finally abolished in the district.

223. *Instances of rakumats.*—In Tori *rakumats* consisting of payments of (1) *dori (mahua)* oil, (2) cotton, (3) *urid* and (4) *ghee* or a cash equivalent were allowed and commuted in some villages. (5) *Dasahara salami* and (6) *puja bihiri* (a contribution to the worship of the *malik's* family god) were claimed in some cases. These two charges were generally found not to have been levied in respect of the use and occupation of land and were disallowed, but in a few cases they were accepted and commuted. In the Ranka estate the following *rakumats* were claimed against *tenure-holders* (*Mukarraridars*, *Baidars*, *Jagirdars* and old *Thikadars*):—

			Rs.	a.	p.	
1. <i>Dasahara</i>	...	...	2	0	0	per tenure. A present to the <i>malik</i> on the occasion of <i>Dasahara Puja</i> .
2. <i>Bhent</i>	...	...	0	1	0	per rupee of rent. A fee for the privilege of an interview with the <i>malik</i> .
3. <i>Salami</i>	...	...	1	0	0	per village. A similar fee.
4. <i>Tauzi</i>	...	...	1	0	0	„ A charge for writing up the estate books.
5. <i>Thakur Sahab Rai Bahadur</i> Jadu Nath Singh.			0	8	0	A gift to the proprietor's great uncle.
6. Babu Ram Bahadur Singh			1	0	0	A gift to the ex-Manager.
7. <i>Diwanji</i>	...	...	1	0	0	A fee for the <i>diwan</i> .
8. <i>Lagan</i>	...	...	0	8	0	Un-explained.
9. Proprietor's great grand-mother.			1	8	0	A gift to the lady in question.
10. Proprietor's mother	...	...	1	0	0	Ditto
11. <i>Digwari</i>	...	...	2	0	0	A charge for the long forgotten duty of guarding the roads and <i>ghats</i> .
12. <i>Chand Thakurji</i>	...	...	0	8	0	A fee for worship of the proprietor's god.
13. <i>Gusti Salami</i>	...	...	1	0	0	Travelling expenses for the proprietor.
14. Hospital	...	...	1	0	0	A contribution to defray the proprietor's subscription to Government hospitals.
15. <i>Mohrana</i>	...	...	0	8	0	A fee for the proprietor's clerks.

Most of these charges explain themselves thus *Dasahara* is a charge collected for the religious and social rites of the *Puja* celebrations.

The Ranka proprietor was able to adduce very little evidence in support of any of these claims, and with the exception of 8 tenures (3 jagir and 5 *mukarrari*) where a few were allowed and commuted, they were all rejected.

224. *The Untari Rakumats*.—In Untari, the following items were claimed against thikadars and *mukarraridars* :—

	Rs.	a.	p.	
1. <i>Salami Dasahara</i> ...	4	0	0	a village.
2. <i>Bhent</i> ...	1	0	0	a village.
3. <i>Fakhatsina</i> (a fee for rent receipts).	1	0	0	a village.
4. <i>Neg Bansidhar</i> ...	0	8	0	it is not known whether Bansidhar is a family idol or a former <i>Diwan</i> .
5. <i>Salami Holi</i> ...	1	0	0	a village. A gift to the landlord on the occasion of the <i>holi</i> .
6. <i>Darmata khana</i> ...	5	0	0	a village. A contribution towards the police cess paid to Government by the proprietor.
7. <i>School Mushara</i> ...	4	0	0	a village, for upkeep of a school.
8. <i>Bardauchha</i> ...	...	...	...	one bullock once in 3 years or its price, (Rs. 18 to 83) a village.
9. <i>Neg Amla</i> ...	5	0	0	a village. For the landlord's office establishment.
10. <i>Chanda Guru Maharaj</i> ...	0	4	0	for the family Guru.
11. <i>Bhaisa Dasahara</i> ...	...	...	...	one <i>Bhaisa</i> (buffalo) every alternate year, a village, on the occasion of the <i>Dasahara</i> .
12. <i>Kapas</i> ...	...	...	...	one <i>kachi passeri</i> of cotton, or its price a village.
13. <i>Bakri Dasahara</i> ...	...	...	...	one goat a village.
14. <i>Charpai</i> ...	...	...	...	one bed a village.
15. <i>Til, Urid, Makai</i> ...	...	...	...	2 to 6 maunds a village.

There was no proof of items 9 to 15 which were not pressed by the zamindar and were not allowed by the attestation officers. Items 3, 4 and 7 were found to be illegal. The remaining charges were allowed against thikadars whose tenancies had been created prior to 1903. For the purpose of deciding whether a thikadar's tenancy was created before or after 1903, renewals of old leases upon an enhanced rental were not treated as creating new tenancies. The *mukarraridars* all denied any liability for *rakumats*. It was admitted by the landlord that they have made no payments on account of them for at least 15 years. It was decided that none are due from them. This decision is now disputed under section 87. It is doubtful, however, whether the landlord could get anything in commutation even if the charges had been allowed, for his realizations during the 10 years preceding commutation have been nil (section 103).

225. *Rakumats from raiyats*.—In Ranka and elsewhere, except Untari, very few *rakumats* were claimed or allowed against raiyats. It was stated indeed that they generally made contributions to the landlord at the time of the *Dasahara*, but it was admitted that these were not appurtenant to the occupation of land and were voluntary. The raiyat in fact, if he chose, took part in the *puja* celebrations and paid his contribution toward the cost.

In Untari the thikadars usually collected from the raiyats—

(1) *Bardauchha*.

(2) *Til* and *makai*.

and in some cases items 1 to 7 of the list of charges claimed by the proprietor against themselves. *Parjanta*, which has been explained by Mr. Murphy (paragraph 214) was claimed as a payment due on account of overlordship but was not accepted as coming within the definition of predial conditions. *Bardauchha* was claimed as a *rakumat* rather than as a grazing fee and was allowed as such in Untari on proof that it was levied on account of the occupation of land, irrespective of whether the tenant possessed any cattle or not. But it appears to be even here, in its essence, a grazing fee, assessed in a rough and ready way on the assumption that raiyats would possess cattle in proportion to their possession of land. The commuted value of the bullock contributed as *bardauchha* by the raiyats every 3rd year was apportioned over the holdings of the villagers by the attestation officer.

*Til* and *makai* and some of the other items were in several cases allowed against the raiyats on proof that they had been paid for a long time, even though the thikadars were not themselves, in some cases, liable to pay these charges to the proprietor. But the pitch of the attested rents in the Untari estate is very high, even according to the standards of Palamau, and therefore most of those *rakumats* which were found to be legally payable had to be excised afterwards under section 105. Later still, the finally published rents underwent a further reduction at fair rent settlement. But in spite of all these reductions the maximum rates allowed by Government are almost uniformly in force in the estate.

Contributions of *ghee* from Goalas, shoes from Chamars, etc., etc., were sometimes claimed by the landlords. These charges are trade taxes in no way appurtenant to the occupation of land and could not be allowed as *rakumats*. They were abolished by Government more than a century ago, but have still survived in many cases. (See paragraph 52).

## CHAPTER VI.

### CULTIVATING TENANCIES.

226. *Misuse of the terms "Thikadar" and "Zirat".*—In the opening paragraph of the chapter on this subject in the Hazaribagh report, attention has been drawn to the vital necessity of understanding the various meanings of the term *thikadar*. This warning is generally applicable in respect of all the terms which go to make up the local nomenclature on the subject of status. Mr. Sifton has traced the origin of new villages in Hazaribagh and their subsequent development and has explained that a *khunkattidar*, a head-man, a representative raiyat selected by the *malik* to collect and pass on the rents of a group of other raiyats, and a raiyat who has purchased the right to possess his holding on a quit-rent, are all just as commonly called, though inaccurately called, thikadars as is the real thikadar, the "farmer of rents". Equally usual is it to find all land in a landlord's direct possession called *zirat* or *manjhihas*, though only a very small part of it is properly landlord's privileged land. This particular point was brought out by the Commissioner (Mr. Forrest) in Appeal No. 5 of 1915 when he held that *manjhihas* is a vague term in Chota Nagpur; and that the Settlement Officer has a right to go behind admissions of *manjhihas*, for "the raiyats must be protected against themselves."

227. *Origin of new hamlets.*—Mr. Sifton's description of the origin of a new village in its earlier stages in Hazaribagh is nearly equally applicable, in Palamau, to the making of new hamlets. The following extract is taken from paragraph 186 of his report:—

"It is still possible to see villages in the making in Hazaribagh, and the origin is generally in this way. An aboriginal yielding to economic pressure or to the direct oppression of a landlord leaves his village and finds a site which appears to him suitable for a new settlement in some undeveloped tract. He may or may not take permission to settle from the proprietors; generally he does not. He takes omens and if they are auspicious he settles down with his family and begins the hard work of reclaiming land from jungle. If his first efforts are successful, he is soon joined by a few more of his castemen who have the same motives for migrating, but had not the enterprise to make a start on their own account. A little rice-land is made by damming suitable *nalas* in the jungle surrounding the village site, and by broadening and levelling their beds. Around the village site each raiyat fences a piece of land which he manures for the cultivation of maize, their staple food, and each raiyat clears as much of forest land as he can in the more level portions of the jungle. As the cultivation extends, the landlords' notice is attracted to the new hamlet, and he asserts his proprietary right by sending for the pioneer of the enterprise and imposing upon him a small rent. This rent is subscribed by all the occupants of lands in the village in shares proportionate to their holdings: the *khunkattidar* subscribes his share without any distinction from the rest, but as he is made by the landlord responsible for the rent, he becomes the village headman, and is known generally as the first *thikadar* of the village."

228. *Hamlets originating in bathans.*—There is also another way in which hamlets first come into being in Palamau, the vast areas of waste

and jungle which are freely open to them in the district for grazing their cattle have from time immemorial attracted *goalas* into them to make *bathans* for their herds during the months of the hot weather and the rains. A *bathan* in Palamau is a fenced enclosure in the forests where cattle rest in comparative security at night, and from which by day they gain ready access to the unexhausted grazing grounds all round them. The *goalas* in charge of a *bathan* generally cultivate some *bhadai* crops for their own consumption and if the place pleases them and the crops prove good, some of them will occasionally stay behind permanently when the herds are moved away to their winter pastures.

229. *Development of new villages in Palamau and Hazaribagh dissimilar.*—But whatever the origin of a hamlet may be, its subsequent development in Palamau is affected by many factors which do not generally exist in Hazaribagh. The Palamau landlord recognizes no claim to favourable rates of rent as the reward of the pioneer. *Khuntkatti* as a term for forest reclamation is current in the district, but it carries with it no connotation of privileged rates of rent and the recognized *korkar* privileges of the district (which have been discussed in Chapters IV and X) are altogether inadequate in consideration of the labour and expense of terracing rice-land.

If the rents which are paid by a pioneer in Palamau when the landlord first assesses him, are low in comparison with those of established villages, it is only because the assessment is made so promptly that the lands can pay no more, and because no one else will offer a higher rate. The landlord in fact takes a present for himself of all the fruits of the pioneer's enterprise and industry. The effect of this has been to stifle progress. Raiyats have shifted their fields and their homes under pressure from the landlord, but the result has been as a rule only a change of cultivation instead of an increase of it.

230. *Effect of the Revenue Survey on the definition of villages.*—Another point of difference with Hazaribagh is the fact that there was a revenue survey in Palamau. Villages have been defined 50 or 60 years ago; and the settlement department has generally adhered to the revenue survey village. Accordingly it has been necessary to treat new hamlets which in Hazaribagh would have been villages, (with head-men, perhaps, and *khuntkatti* raiyats of their own), as merely *tolas*. Some of these *tolas* far exceed in size the average village; for the unit of the revenue survey was all embracing, admitting to the status of village, without distinction, an area of the couple of acres, such as village Chak Mankheri Khas and an area of nearly 20 square miles as in Madgari. In these circumstances it was held to be just to admit and record the rights of a headman in regard to a *tola* when such were found to exist. The record was disputed only in two or three cases by the zamindar of Ranka but was upheld by the Commissioner, the final court of appeal, in Palamau Revenue Appeal No. 2 of 1919. The judgment runs—

The two defendants have been entered as *Pradhans* in respect of 2 *tolas* respectively of a certain village. The appellant claims that this entry is incorrect; and that the 2 defendants are merely *thikadars*. The tenancies were created some 30 years ago. Besides these tenures the 2 defendants possess certain holdings as raiyats. I understand from the pleader who represents the appellant that no serious objection is raised in respect of the respondent's holdings; it is recognized to be equitable that they should continue in possession of those holdings. The dispute is in respect of the tenures. It is contended that these are *Goti* tenures (which I am told means tenures granted by means of a *pottla* without document) and are in no respect different from an ordinary *thika*. At the expiry of the term of *thika* the landlord, it is claimed, can let the tenures out to some other *thikadar*, if he wishes. The word "*Pradhan*" was unknown in Palamau before the settlement, and *Pradhani* is a tenure invented by the settlement. From a study of the paper it seems to me that the appellant has failed to disprove that the tenures, when originally granted, were reclaiming tenures. On the other hand this seems to be established; some 30 years ago the defendants were allowed by the appellant to settle in 2 jungle places and reclaim the lands. This they have done, bringing the raiyats from elsewhere. It is very possible that originally they were called *thikadars*, but they are clearly not *thikadars* in the ordinary sense. In Kharsawan and Saraikefa headmen are known as *thikadars* and from the notes to section 127 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act this would seem to be the case elsewhere in the case of reclaiming tenancies.

The appellant now rests his claim perhaps on the ambiguity of this word, and asserts that the respondents are ordinary thikadars. This I am unable to believe in the absence of documentary evidence and admittedly the tenure was created without any document. It would be advantageous to the appellant to hold the respondents were ordinary thikadars, but it is I think far too late for him to advance this claim now. As to the word '*pradhan*' perhaps it is true that the word has been imported by the settlement. If so, I see no objection, if it is meant to remove the ambiguity of thikadars in the ordinary sense, and thikadars in the sense of headmen, whose claim rests as in this case on a reclaiming tenure. I hold, therefore, that the entry in this case is correct. In the circumstances I do not think it matters that the 2 respondents are *pradhans* of separate *talas* in one village. The appellant alleges that there can be only one *pradhan* in a village. If I understand the case right 2 reclaiming tenures were created over 2 pieces of jungle. It was fortuitous that two *bastis* arose on those pieces which have been considered 2 *talas* of one village. They might have been considered 2 separate villages, with a little variation in the circumstances."

231. *Value of headmanship in Palamau.*—The possession of headmanship is scarcely a privilege in Palamau. The headman, being of the class who seek in the jungle, rather than from their fellow men, for a means of satisfying the necessities of life, is seldom adept at turning rent collection into a source of profit for himself. He has, therefore, to undertake the labour and risk of collection for nothing. It is natural that he does not long survive, but makes way for the professional thikadar with a better will and ability to satisfy the landlord's demand by putting the screw on the raiyats. When this occurs all the best of the headman's own raiyati cultivation, the product of his own or his forefathers' labour, is taken from him to form the service land, called *zirat* or *marjhihas*, of the thikadar. But if a headman has been more than usually self-assertive and tenacious, he sometimes maintains his position at the expense of the other raiyats by becoming in reality a thikadar. The landlords, however, prefer to import an outsider when possible, in order to obtain more complete control of the *zirat* lands; and when the headman has survived he has had to accept successive leases for short periods, each of which involved an enhancement of rent, and contained stringent conditions that the whole of the lessee's own cultivation, as well as all improvements effected by him, should be at the unfettered disposal of the landlord at the end of the term.

232. *A typical headman's Kabuliyat.*—Below is a translation of a typical *kabuliyat*. It was executed in respect of village Gaurgara, in the Chainpur estate by Ram Saran Raut the *khuntkatti*-headman of the village in 1322 and was for a period of 5 years. The *kabuliyat*, which contains nothing to show that it is not an instrument creating a new tenancy although it was only one of an unbroken series of renewals which has extended over 70 years, begins with the recital of a description of the village, a long list of *abwabs* which were never in practice either paid or asked for, and a wrong description of the lessee as "by profession a thikadar", and continues:—

"I, the executant, am now to be in possession over the thika property and by my own labour and exertion am to enjoy the produce both *naqdi* and *jinsi* (in cash and in kind). I shall pay the aggregate rent and cesses as per *kists* noted below, besides *luagan* and *abwab* according to the custom of the estate (being granted in return a receipt), to the said *malik* or his agent without any excuse on account of drought or inundation or hail or destruction by worms, or of frost, etc. In case of default of payment of a *kist* for rent and cesses, etc., I shall be liable to payment of interest at Rs. 2 per cent. monthly, and for the default of all the *kists* throughout the year, the *malik* has, and will have, every right to cancel the thika lease without awaiting the expiration of the term of the thika, and bring it into his *sic* possession or to give it in thika to any body else, and in this I shall have no objection whatsoever as regards the unexpired term of the thika; or any claim to the loss of profits from the *malik* or from his heirs, and as regards the arrear rents, whatever may be due from me he may collect by appointing his own officer (*Sazawal*) by his own orders, and after deducting the cost of the *Sazawal* and damages for arrear of rent he will credit the remaining sums towards rent, and the balance still remaining of rent and cesses, he will realize by other proper means or by seeking remedy in the court.

I must, by my good management of the thika property and by keeping the raiyats contented, so improve the cultivation as to increase the produce daily and must not use force or *zulum* to the raiyats. In case there be found proofs of *zulum* and force I shall in every way be responsible for the damages caused. And I shall not keep

the mouth of the wells devoid of *janglas* (wooden bars) and shall also watch over the boundaries and the irrigation which is long in existence. And I shall not give abode to thieves and *ladmashes* within the thika property, and on receipt of the *malik's* orders for a shoot I shall in accordance with the long-standing custom personally attend to the *malik* with the beaters and *barkandazes* and raiyats and give him a shoot.

And in marriages, etc., whatever orders of the *malik* may be given, I shall personally attend with *begars*, etc., according to the old custom, and shall always give him according to the village custom ploughs and proprietary demands (for use in other villages T. B.) and shall report of good or evil to the *malik* and also to the police officers. I shall also deposit any property of deceased persons and absconders that may be found on the thika property with the police, or I shall be held responsible for it. And after the expiration of the term of thika, or within the period of thika settlement, if by reason of arrear of rent or for any other reason the right of thika of the executant be cancelled and the said village be brought into *sir* possession of the *malik*, at that time I or my heir shall not make any objection to the occupancy or the possession over any land, or claim any cultivated land or any kind of thing within the thika property, and it will be in the *sir* possession of the *malik*. And the *malik* can settle it with any body he likes.

223. *The true nature of the tenancy concerned.—Hostility of the Ranka family to headman's rights.*—Ram Saran's cultivation, which he thus bound himself to surrender, was his *khuntkatti* holding, which the statutory law gave him a permanent right not only to keep against the landlord but also to hold without enhancement so long as its rent did not fall below half the ordinary rates of raiyati rent. The attestation officer held that the *khuntkatti*-headman could not contract himself out of his raiyati right [section 79 1 (b)] and that it was necessary to determine the real character of the tenancy (Sections 133, 20 proviso and 6). He accordingly rejected the theory that Ram Saran was a "thikadar" in spite of his own use of the term in the *kabuliyat*. Headmanship is heritable but not transferable. The total number of headman's tenures recognized in the record-of-rights is 94. The following account is interesting as showing how far a respected member of the Ranka family is willing to go, to deprive a reclamer of the fruits of his enterprise. Karan Manjhi is the headman of village Garhauta, which belongs to Rai Jadu Nath Singh Bahadur of Ranka.

The attestation officer recorded the rent of his tenure as Rs. 201 although his total income from collections of rent, including the raiyati rent of his own holding was less than Rs. 100, because it is not legal to cut down enhancements of the rents of a *tenure* however recent or severe, but at the same time he did cut down the rents of raiyats of the tenure. Since attestation the landlord has brought three successive suits for arrears against the *Pradhan* and has distrained his property with the greatest severity, not even sparing his cooking utensils and the stock of food in his house. The headman is now practically ruined. The severity of the landlords' demand may be judged from the fact that in the fair rent settlement based on the Government rates, the headman's rent has been fixed at no more than Rs. 64/8/- instead of Rs. 201. Unfortunately an interval of 3 years took place between attestation and the determination of the Government rates for fair rent settlement. Had the settlement been made immediately, the landlords' policy would have failed.

A settlement of rents has now been made under notification for all headman's tenures. The headman's raiyati holding has been assessed in each case on the same principles as ordinary raiyati or *khuntkatti* holdings and he has been allowed to deduct about 20 per cent. on his legal collections from the other raiyats as a commission in return for the labour and risk he undertakes. He gets no rent-free *zirat*. The balance of the demand from the raiyats he hands over along with the whole of his own rent to the landlord.

224. *Other misapplications of the term Thikadar, to (1) Doami Thikadars, (2) Chakotdars; (3) raiyat groups and ordinary raiyats.*—In chapter VI of the Hazaribagh report Mr. Sifton has quoted judgments of two Judicial Commissioners (Messrs. Vincent and Kingsford) which have explained some of the dangers which arise from a stereotyped interpretation of local nomenclature. Some more types of tenancy to which the term thikadar is commonly



misapplied in Palamau are the following :—(1) *Doami Thika*—Where a tenant has reclaimed and colonized a large area and has held it over a long period of years, even though some of the characteristic features of headmanship or *khuntkatti* may be absent, it has been held by the courts that he has a permanent right of *occupancy in his tenure*. (See chapter VI Hazaribagh report). The landlords in Palamau have sometimes argued on the strength of the word “thikadar” that these tenants have no special rights in their tenures; and have represented that their original settlements were made by the process of *goti* which they contended could not originate any rights against themselves. *Goti* means a piece of earth, which is delivered by the landlord to the raiyat. The act is merely a symbolical delivery of possession and implies no special conditions of tenancy.

(2) *Chakat*—An area with definite boundaries is given to the tenant to reclaim, generally by his own labour. A rent which is high for unreclaimed land is fixed at the outset and is raised from time to time as cultivation extends. The *Chakatdar* generally gets in other raiyats to help him but his tenancy is essentially a reclaiming and cultivating one.

(3) *Group System*—The landlord for his own convenience sometimes selects the most suitable of a group of raiyats and deals with him alone, making him responsible for the entire rent of the group. He generally styles him a thikadar, but by so doing and by imposing the extra burden of rent collection upon him he cannot under the law deprive the raiyat of his occupancy right in his own holding. On the other hand he sometimes calls him a raiyat for the whole area, and has claimed at attestation that all the other raiyats of the group should be treated as under-raiyats. This claim is equally inadmissible.

(4) *Ordinary raiyat called Thikadar*.—The landlords freely resorted to this device in order to justify illegal enhancements and to prevent the record of anything more than a temporary interest on behalf of the raiyats. The settlement department refused to record genuine raiyats as thikadars even when they had executed special *kabuliyats*, calling themselves by that name. The landlords made a particular complaint on the point in their memorials.

235. *The landlord's complaint that all so-called Thikadars were not recorded as such*.—The following is Mr. Murphy's report on that complaint :—

“In paragraph XIV complaint is made that thikadars are being recorded as raiyats. This refers to the fact that some landlords (amongst others the Raja of Champur) have been in the habit of taking agreements from tenants in which the latter are described as thikadars, one of the conditions of the agreement being that on the expiry of the period of the lease the so-called thikadar will have no right to retain possession of the land to which it refers. These documents, if valid, would have the effect of depriving of the right of occupancy a number of persons who undoubtedly possess it. The sections of the Act which authorize the Settlement Officer to disregard these agreements and to recognize the raiyati status and the right of occupancy of the supposed thikadars are sections 20, 79, 133 and 6. The Settlement Officer is clearly justified in examining each case on its merits in accordance with the principles laid down in these sections and in refusing to accept as conclusive the description of the status of these tenants given in the agreements referred to.”

The claim to have raiyats recorded as thikadars was pressed particularly by the Manager of the Encumbered Estates department; and in some cases (as in village Hutar) the Attestation Officer was asked to record every raiyat in the village as a thikadar. After orders were passed by Government on the memorials, this claim was pressed no more. *Katkana* means an under-thika; the word, though in less common use, is misapplied in no less degree than the term thika.

236. *Evils of the Thikadari system*.—The professional thikadar is extraordinarily common in Palamau. In the big estates, rather than undertake the management themselves the proprietors lease out almost all their villages on short-term leases. They get as high an enhancement as they can at the end of each period of 5 or 7 years; and in return they make no enquiries into the proceedings of the thikadars. It is true that in some of their leases they insert clauses to provide that the thikadars will keep on good terms with their raiyats. These provisions recall the somewhat similar terms of the Settlement made with Shiva Prashad Singh in 1786 and in the absence of any

machinery for their enforcement appear to have been no more effective, Writing of the thikadari system in Hazaribagh Mr. Sifton made the following comments :---

"When the professional thikadar, the mere farmer of rents, is introduced into a village the healthy development of the village usually comes to an end, particularly if the system of short period thikas is favoured by the landlord. The thikadar's business is to make his profits as large as possible and he is not a philanthropist. From the landlord's point of view, the thikadari system is a safe method by which he can squeeze the raiyats indirectly without personally contravening the law." (For the landlords' own statement of the same point of view a reference may be made to paragraph 337 of the present report). "The landlord at each renewal or resettlement of a thika enhances the rent payable by the thikadar, who in turn, logically enough, passes the enhancement on the raiyats. Secondly, the thikadar has to pay away practically the whole of the rent collected by him, and is expected to make his profit out of the *manjhihas* or *khas* lands. If there is no *manjhihas* he annexes some of the best lands and makes a redistribution of the rest of the village among the raiyats. If there is *manjhihas* he is not content, but tries to increase its area. How heavily the constantly increasing drain weighs on the raiyats can be easily imagined."

In chapter X I have narrated the failure and abandonment of the thikadari system in the Government Estate, where in spite of favourable conditions, very long terms of settlement, and the direct supervision of the Subdivisional Officer, who had a record-of-rights to guide him, the thikadars (in the words of Mr. Bright) "contented themselves with growing rich on the profits of their farming leases, and spent hardly anything on their villages in return." The thikadars of the Government Estates were the thikadars or petty landlords also of the private villages. That the system was long known to be a failure in the private villages is clearly shown by the following comments of the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Hignell), written in 1909 "The thikadari, or farming system is very popular with private landlords. In some cases, *e.g.*, where the farmer is a member of the community to which the bulk of the raiyats belong the system works successfully, the thikadar acting as a buffer between the landlord and his raiyats. But where the farmer is an outsider, the raiyats' difficulties are increased tenfold, but the farmer has but one object, and that to make hay while his sun shines or his lease lasts, and screw the last farthing out of the unfortunate tenants."

The evils of the thikadari system in Palamau thoroughly justify this severe condemnation. The "buffer" thikadar seldom for long sustains the strain that is put upon him, and if he is an old raiyat of the village, loses his original holding in the general ruin of his fall. Not only does the professional thikadar enlarge his *khas* lands, but instead of re-distributing the other raiyati lands among all the raiyats he prefers to enrol those whom he has deprived of their fields, as his *kamias* or agricultural slaves. He imposes on the remaining raiyats as much *begari* or forced labour as he can, while not infrequently the over-lord of the village *also* requisitions their services, on the same system, for cultivating *zirat* lands in a distant village.

237. *Effect of the excision of illegal enhancements on the professional Thikadar.*—The excision of all illegal enhancements of raiyati rents, made since 1901 has hit the professional thikadar very hard. The thikadars have undertaken to pay the landlords rents based upon these illegal rates and upon the hope of further enhancement. They find themselves now debarred by law from collecting at a higher rate than that which prevailed in 1901, while their own rents have not been reduced; for there is no provision in the law for the excision of enhancements of the rents of tenures. Their thikas are thus likely to be held at a loss in future. The opportunity thus afforded to the Managers of Courts of Wards and Encumbered Estates to secure relinquishment from the thikadars ought not to be missed.

238. *Origin of Munjhas or Zirat.*—Writing in 1861 Captain Davis, the Senior Assistant Commissioner in Charge of the Lohardaga District, observed that the system common in Chota Nagpur and other parts of the Commission of setting apart a certain portion of the village lands for the farmers known here as *munjhas* does not prevail in Palamau, as although in most cases they cultivate largely themselves, there is no land which can be properly termed

“*munjhas*.” This is as true to-day as it was 60 years ago. The following extract is taken from Mr. Murphy's recent report :—

“The Settlement Officer has in fact refrained from administering the strict letter of the law which states that only lands recognized by local custom as specially privileged lands in which occupancy rights cannot accrue should be recorded as *zirat*. There are strictly speaking no such lands in Palamau, for the landlords, exercising as they do unlimited rights of enhancement over the rentals of occupancy raiyats, have never felt the necessity of setting apart any lands and declaring that the raiyats with whom they might be settled would have less rights than those cultivating the other lands of the villages. The lands now recorded as *zirat* have in fact never been regarded as having a specially privileged character not possessed by other lands.”

They were generally lands made and retained in his own possession by the landlord. Claims to *zirat* were very few in the district. The statement below shows the proportion of *zirat* finally allowed :—

Total area of rice-land in the district in acres.	Total area of sown in the district.	Number of <i>khatis</i> of <i>zirat</i> .	Area of <i>zirat</i> rice-land.	Area of <i>zirat</i> upland.	Percentage of rice-land.	Percentage of upland.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
178,154	695,412	331	2,152	1,255	1.21	.18

239. *Origin of Bakast*.—There was only one appeal against the findings of revenue officers concerning *zirat*. It was brought by a Ranchi landlord and was rejected. A second appeal against the decision of the first Appellate Court has been preferred and is pending.\* The landlords and thikadars acquired the unprivileged *khass* lands which they hold in large quantities, in various ways; but they made but little of it themselves. It has been noted above that it is a common device to give raiyats thikas for their villages, or even for their own holdings, and to treat their own cultivation as resumable by the landlord at the expiration of the term of the thika. Where rents are so high as they are in Palamau, and enhancement so common, it is inevitable that abandonments should be frequent. An illness, an extravagance or a misfortune will submerge the average Palamau raiyat so hopelessly that he can keep his head above water no more, and the loss of his land becomes only a question of time. The landlord can retain in his direct possession as much of such land as he likes. But if the process of waiting for abandoned lands was too protracted, forcible dispossession of raiyats was not uncommon in the past. Mr. Murphy has given many instances of dispossession and forced relinquishment in his report. I mention only two: “In Ursugi Babu Kali Charan Singh *Khorposhdar* under the Untrai estate claimed as *zirat* all the rice-land of one *tola*. It was found that this land had been reclaimed by Oraons who had only recently been dispossessed and given waste land to reclaim instead in another *tola*.”

“Village Anwar belonging to the Ranka estate contains 32 acres of rice-land, of which over 28 is held by the landlords. The latter claimed as *zirat* 27.38 acres. Enquiry showed that nearly the whole of this area had been reclaimed by raiyats 22 years ago, on an understanding that they would pay only half rates for it. At first they were allowed to hold it on a rental of 12 annas a *biga*. This was soon raised to Rs. 5, and subsequently to Rs. 9 per *biga* or Rs. 12 an acre. Being unable to pay this rate they surrendered the lands.”

240. *Establishment of Bhandars*.—Another method is for the landlord to set up a *bhandar* in a village when it has reached a condition of prosperity, and to take a proportion of his rice-land and upland from every raiyat without allowing any abatement of rent. In some cases even where this step had been quite recently taken (as in village Mangrahi, in the Chainpur estate) the landlord asked the attestation officer to record his new acquisition as “privileged land.”

241. *Raiyat status*.—*Khuntkatti*.—Only 412 raiyats in the district, having tenancies in 96 villages, were recorded as having *khuntkatti* rights. This number amounts only to 0.23 per cent. of the total number of raiyati holdings which number 1,73,046. The statutory privileges of a *khuntkatti* raiyat are

\*This was also afterwards rejected by the Commissioner.

explained in section 37. In addition to having occupancy rights he is protected from enhancement—(a) permanently, in respect of a *khuntkatti* tenancy, subsisting from any date earlier than 1888, (b) temporarily, if he is paying rent at rates higher than half the average rates of his village.

These privileges in the rest of Chota Nagpur are sanctioned by local custom as well as by statute, but in Palamau custom allows no special privilege to the *khuntkattidar*. The landlords accordingly objected to the record of the *khuntkatti* status, even in the case of raiyats who satisfied all the conditions of section 7. The objection being against the law, necessarily failed; but it was only in a few cases that raiyats were able to prove their claims to be *khuntkattidars*. There was no general tendency to claim the status, and no sign of any disposition on the part of the raiyats to combine and help each other in respect of it, the number of cases in which the *khuntkatti* record was disputed in post publication suits under section 130 amounted to 18. All of these were rejected. There were five appeals to the Commissioner and all of these were unsuccessful.

242. *Occupancy rights.—Is there a competition for raiyats?*—The idea that a raiyat obtains a stronger title to his holding by the lapse of 12 years, or any other period, is wholly foreign to Palamau. The theory upon the strength of which the administration of the agrarian relations of the district has been conducted without the help of the Tenancy Law for many years is explained in the District Gazetteer in the following words:—

“The tenants nominally have their rights assured them under the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act; but in its practical working the Act is almost a dead letter. The landlord very soon learns from his deserted holdings that a policy of oppression and rack-renting is not one which conduces to his profit in the long run; and if he endeavours to raise his rent-roll by those methods, the tenants being still of nomadic habits simply move on to the nearest village where they are wanted. In fact as long as the present competition for tenants continues among the landlords, the law of supply and demand will suffice to prevent excessive enhancement of rents. The result is that by custom every raiyat who pays the village rate of rent regularly has a right of occupancy.”

It has in fact nowhere been found that the raiyats have gained any advantage from a competition for their presence; but it has been proved in countless cases that landlords are anxious to retain by any means in their power, *agricultural labourers*, with holdings too small, or too poor, to supply their needs, so that they should be available to work as *begars* or *kamias*. When raiyats have deserted a village the landlord has not in the past recognized that he was doing himself a disservice by rack-renting, as the author of the Gazetteer supposed, but has set about cultivating the deserted lands with forced labour, or slaves.

243. *Is a customary accrual of occupancy rights possible in the absence of a competition for raiyats?*—In these circumstances it might be thought that the custom of the district is that no raiyats have a right of occupancy in Palamau. But this is not the case. The landlords, with virtually complete unanimity (there were exceptions with regard to a dozen holdings out of many, thousands in the first two years' area, but only 3 were pressed), declared that they neither possessed nor exercised the right of arbitrary enhancement or arbitrary ejectment. Whatever their motive may have been, they concealed whenever possible any evidence of such acts of oppression, or tried, when concealment failed, to explain them away. Thus they declared that an enhancement had been made, not because they had an arbitrary right to enhance, but because they had spent large sums on improving the holdings; or that raiyats had left a village not because of economic pressure due to excessive rentals but because they were nomadic by instinct and never content to stay in one place, no matter how well off. As I have explained, these arguments would not bear investigation, but this weakness did not alter the fact that the landlords as well as the raiyats took up the position that arbitrary ejectment or arbitrary enhancement is wrong and constitutes a violation of established usage. Their admissions to this effect are recorded in evidence in the proceedings of almost every village in the district. They also affirmed that newly settled raiyats had all the same rights and privileges as old ones. In this connection it was found that enhancements and ejectments, when they were arbitrarily made, were aimed against old raiyats rather than new ones. A new raiyat receiving a ready-made holding had to agree to a rental for it in excess of the existing rates of the village; and it was only after many,

years when the old raiyats' rents had been levelled up to his, or they had themselves been driven in ruin from the village for resisting the levelling-up process, that the new raiyat's rent was physically capable of enhancement. Old raiyats are protected by the express provisions of the law; new raiyats, except when originally admitted to their holdings under special restrictions, were recorded as having occupancy rights by the custom or usage of the district. The landlords' memorial, it is true, contained a complaint against this entry, but the complaint was so inconsistent with their attitude before the Settlement courts that it was suggested by the Settlement Officer, at the time, that their grievance was not a spontaneous one, and subsequent events have borne out this suggestion. The Deputy Commissioner, however, expressed the opinion that if dispossessions and enhancements were rife in practice, there could be no recognized usage by which raiyats have a right of occupancy. He thought therefore that the landlords had a serious and genuine grievance and should be afforded a special opportunity to challenge the entry, which affected nearly 20 per cent of the raiyats of the district. The Settlement Officer accordingly issued a notice to all landlords in the first two years' area which had then been attested and offered to go personally into any objections which they might make against the occupancy status. Objections against about 25 individuals were made, but even these were nearly all withdrawn. In the orders passed by Government upon the memorials the settlement procedure was treated as correct, but it was explained that a general fair rent settlement was being ordered in nearly the whole of the district and that the occupancy status, wherever it had been recorded, could be challenged under section 86. The settlement is now over, but no challenge was made by the landlords. Nor have any suits under section 87 been brought to assail the occupancy status, except by the Managers of the Government and Encumbered Estates. The suits in the Government Estates were withdrawn by the orders of Government, and the Manager of the Encumbered Estates was prohibited from appealing against the Settlement Officer's decision in the suits filed by him. The suits were decided in favour of the raiyats, after more than half of them had been withdrawn, in case No. 22/87 of 1917-18, in a judgment which reviewed the whole question at considerable length and was dated the 14th of March 1919. Government subsequently ordered that no more such suits should be filed by the Manager.

244. *Mr. Forbes' report on occupancy rights considered.*—Much of the difficulty which arose over this question was occasioned by the report written by Mr. Forbes in 1876 for Hunter's Statistical Account of the Lohardaga district. In that report it was stated that every raiyat had an indefeasible right to cultivate a suitable quantity of suitable land in his village, every year and as much upland as he liked in addition,—but no right to continue in occupation of any particular field. This rather surprising opinion has been discussed in paragraph 125 of this report. A somewhat similar confusion of thought appeared in the report submitted in the same year from Hazaribagh and has been discussed in paragraph 213 of Mr. Sifton's final report. The case for the settlement record of occupancy rights is that it represents the views of both landlords and tenants and it refuses to deprive the raiyats of equitable and admitted rights on the strength of a number of acts which were all admittedly wrong and were mostly also violations of the statutory provisions of the law concerning "settled raiyats".

245. *Different kinds of holdings.*—*The Paria.*—The following are the different kinds of holdings recognized;—*Pariadari*, *kanwadari*, *uttakar*, *bighauti*, *chhatisa* (or *jiban*), *hartuki* (*haraika*), *chakat*, *korhath*, *korbar* (*khandwat*), *kita*, and *daha*.

*Pariadari* is similar to *pattidari* in Tori, and in most respects to *jiban* in Hazaribagh, and *chhatisa* in Ranchi. The village assessment is roughly apportioned over the rice-land and better upland contained in it, and the raiyats are left free to cultivate as much inferior upland as they choose without further payment, and may take a share in the jungle produce and in some of the mahua trees. Any holding may represent one or more *parias*, or only a fraction of *paria*, but the raiyat is entitled to cultivate as much free 3rd class upland in the one case as in the other. Where there is no rice-land the best uplands form the basis of the *paria*. The present settlement has

included in each holding all the 3rd class upland cultivated by the raiyat during the 3 years ending with the survey year, and has assessed it all to rent. Anything extra which may be cultivated by the raiyat in future will be liable to extra assessment. The valuable privilege of shifting his lien on his upland has thus been taken from him; this has been done as an attempt to develop the practice of cultivating regular holdings and to preserve the jungle from destruction through constant shifting of upland fields. The *parias*, in practice, vary immensely in size and value within each village, while the *paria* of one village has no relation whatever to the *paria* of any other. The number of *parias* in a village is not constant. The *paria* is subdivided into annas.

In one village in Ranka, the unit was known as a *pariadari bigha*, which meant that every *bigha* of *dhankhet* was called a *paria*, and, with its indefinite complement of upland of various sorts, formed the unit of assessment. When the landlords' memorial of 1911 was rejected in which they had asked that no settlement be made in Palamau, a general campaign to terminate the *pariadari* system and assess all lands of all descriptions was initiated by them; for example about 1912, A. D., nearly every village in the Ranka estate was measured and assessed without any regard to the previous rentals. Enormous enhancements resulted from these measures, but they were all disallowed under sections 26 and 27 of the Tenancy Act.

246. *Chhatisa, Jiban, Kanwa*.—The terms *chhatisa* and *jiban* are in use in Balumath thana and sometimes in Latehar. The *patti* is the unit and is subdivided into annas and pies. The proportion of superior upland in the *patti* is a little less vague than in the *paria*, and in some cases a *pahi* (non-resident) raiyat has not got the right to reclaim unlimited upland, which is generally possessed under this system. *Chhatisa* is also found in Mahuadandr. The *anna* is the unit; there the rate is called *bar*, and the term originally meant that in the case of "16 *bar*," for example, the rent for one anna of land = 16 times one anna of money = 1 Rupee.

*Kanwa*.—A lump rental is assessed by the landlord on the entire village, both cultivated lands and waste and jungle. The raiyats divide the land into 16 *kanwas* and distribute the rent upon the *kanwas*. The *kanwa* includes trees as well as cultivated and uncultivated land. Very few *kanwadari* villages have survived intact.

247. *Uttakar*.—*Bighauti*.—*Hartaki*.—*Uttakar* means generally supplementary cultivation taken up temporarily by a raiyat when he is in prosperous circumstances. Sometimes a so-called *uttakar* assessment represents the result of a successful attempt by the *maliks* to assess separately upland cultivation under the *paria* system. Sometimes when a *paria* holding falls in, the landlord lets it out again piecemeal, on lump rentals. Such lands are called *uttakar*. In Tori it was found necessary to give the raiyats separate *khatians* for their *jiban* and *uttakar* lands, so that they might be able to surrender their temporary extra fields without giving up the whole of their permanent cultivation. The term *uttakar* is sometimes also used to express *bighauti* settlements and sometimes, by the landlords, to describe a raiyati tenancy which is enhancible every year and terminable at the will of the zamindar. Such a tenancy is not countenanced by the law. Most commonly *uttakar* means land held outside the *patti* or *paria*.

*Bighauti* is the system where the land is measured, classified and assessed at different rates per *bigha*. It is recent introduction and was frequently disallowed. The measurement is generally either very rough or dispensed with altogether.

*Hartaki* (or *haraika*).—The unit of assessment is the plough, and the rent paid by each raiyat varies with the number of ploughs in his possession. The system is found most frequently in poor or very undeveloped villages. In some villages raiyats having no ploughs have to pay at half the rate for one plough. The owner of a plough pays *hartaki* whether he cultivates any *hartaki* land or not.

248. *Chakat*.—*Korhath*.—A block of land is given to a raiyat or headman for reclamation; and his initial rent is liable to enhancement from time to time as he extends his cultivation. This system is well described in paragraph 216 of the Hazaribagh Report. Under the *korhath* system (a tenure adopted by the Korwa tribe) each Korwa pays 4 *passeris* of *urid*; but if he

has grown no *urid* he pays Rs. 2 irrespective of the size of his holding. This kind of holding is very rare. The holdings consist generally of upland but may have a little *korkar* in them.

249. *Korkar*.—“*Korkar* lands are rice-lands which a raiyat or his ancestor has reclaimed and terraced for himself. *korkar* may be rice-land made out of his *lagan-tand* (that is, upland already included in his own holding) or may be made from village wasteland or jungle. In the former case the raiyat is often not liable to have his rent increased on account of the improvement. This custom where it has been admitted is important as it renders nugatory the provisions of section 33 of the Tenancy Act, which allows a landlord to realize rents on lands converted from upland into *korkar*, where his act is in accordance with usage and custom.

In the south of the district near the Ranchi and Hazaribagh borders it is common to find that a raiyat who makes *korkar* out of waste land is entitled to hold it for 3 or 4 years rent-free, and after that for a long but indefinite period at half rates; but elsewhere in the district only a short period of grace varying from 3 to 5 years is allowed, after which assessment is made at the ordinary rates. There was practically no dispute about these privileges except in the Government Estates and although there was a complaint on the subject in the landlords' memorial, the record was supported in nearly every case by the admissions of the landlords themselves, some of whom also stated that the conversion of *lagan tanr* into *korkar* was not a ground for an enhancement of rents. Others, however, have followed the practice of the Government estates and assessed *korkar* made out of *lagan tanr* to extra rents. In a few villages *korkar parias* were found, that is to say *parias* in which the rice-land was all *korkar*. These *parias* were found to be assessed only at half rates.

The right to reclaim *lagan tanr* into *korkar* without the landlords' consent is conferred on the raiyats by section 64 of the Tenancy Act. The right of conversion of waste and jungle land into *korkar* without permission is governed by custom and usage. The landlords objected to the recognition of this right much more than they did to the more mischievous reclamation of waste and jungle into upland. The subject of reclamation is further discussed in Chapter XII. The questions arising in connection with *korkar* in the Government Estates have been noticed in Chapter X.

250. *Kitai*.—*Daha*.—*Kitai*.—This system prevails in *Untari*.—There is no rate of rent and no unit of measurement. A block of land is settled with a raiyat on a lump rental. *Kitai* raiyats have as a rule the same privileges with regard to cultivating 3rd class uplands as *pariadari* raiyats possess.

*Daha* and *jhum* consist of cutting down the jungle on a piece of land and burning it so as to supply fertilization for one or two seasons' cultivation. The land is then permanently left to revert to jungle again. This method of cultivation combines the maximum of waste in the forest with the minimum of profit, but it is dying out in Palamau and is now rarely met with. It was chiefly resorted to in the cultivation of cotton.

251. *Under-raiyats and service holdings*.—Under-raiyats in Palamau are generally tenants-at-will. The landlords' memorial contained an objection against the record of any under-raiyats, but they themselves did not understand the objection which clearly emanated from their advisers. Some of them were at the time themselves hotly claiming to have several of their tenants recorded as under-raiyats and not as raiyats. The under-raiyats in the Government Estates have been mentioned in paragraph 365.

Service holdings are chiefly held by servants of the landlord, *kamias* and *baigas*. *Baigai* land is the property of the *baiga* or (village priest) for the time being, and is inalienable. His interest in it is limited to the time of his priestly service and he cannot sell or mortgage it. It is not a holding given by the landlord, but is the property of the village community. The landlord cannot resume it. The service land of a *kamia* is generally confined to his *palhath* land and does not include his house or *bari*.

252 *Partition of tenures*.—Attention has been drawn in the clearest terms in paragraph 220 of the Hazaribagh report to the injury to the cultivating tenants arising out of partition of tenures. These evils have been very prominent in Palamau. It is not easy for the courts acting under the



present procedure to avoid them, or to have any means of calculating the possible consequences of their orders; but it is essential that something should be done to protect the tenantry. A report was submitted to the Board of Revenue on this subject, a copy of which is contained in Appendix V.

## CHAPTER VII.

### TENURES.

253 *The origin of tenures in Palamau.*—It has been explained in the chapter on History that all the estates now existing in pargana Palamau were originally tenures—*jagirs*, *ijaras* and *minhai* grants of various descriptions—which were the creations of the Chero Rajas or of the British Government. These tenures were elaborately sub-classified by Mr. N. Smith, a Collector of Ramgarh; but as the classification had reference to supposed differences of origin rather than differences of incidents or character, and as our information concerning those differences of origin is very indefinite, there is now nothing to be gained by recapitulating Mr. Smith's lists.

In 1895 all these tenures were raised by the Bengal Government to the status of permanent, hereditary, transferable and non-resumable estates, and registered as such, subject only to the punctual payment of the Government revenue. The *minhai* tenures were found to have been permanent and non-resumable from their origin. They extended to 216½ villages, and were rent-free gifts, generally made from religious motives. They were registered as rent-free estates under the Board's orders in 1895 (letter No. 2381-A. of 28th August 1895).

The tenures now met with in pargana Palamau are the creation not of the Chero Rajas but of these jagirdars, *ijaradars*, etc., who formerly held under them, and now rank as proprietors of estates. These persons had in their turn created under-tenures with the same motives and in the same way as the Rajas themselves had done. The under-tenures thus created, which are now tenures of the first degree, will be described below.

254. *Origin of Tenures in Tori, Japla and Belaunja.*—The next pargana, Tori, is a part of the estate of the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur and the tenures in it were mostly created by the Maharajas. In 1867 the pargana was granted to Kuar Jagat Mohan Nath Sahi Deo as a *Khorposh* grant. The grant is liable to resumption on the failure of male heirs. Since 1867 the under-tenures have been under this *khorposh*. The Kuar has himself created some more under-tenures since he got the property.

The tenures found in pargana Japla are the creation of the Husainabad Nawab family and those found in Belaunja were created by the Rajas of Sonapura.

The classes of tenures at present in the district are shown below: their incidents are generally the same in all the four parganas.

255. *Jagirs.*—The jagir tenures now found are neither very big nor very important. They were granted on the condition of rendering services, or as a reward for some specially meritorious act.

Those which were originally granted for services have lost that character now, as with the change of time and circumstances such services are no longer wanted. For instance in nearly all jagir *sanads* there is a statement that the jagirdar is to do *khidmat*. In some of the jagir *sanads* granted by the Chainpur estate there are clauses showing that the jagirdars were bound to sacrifice a buffalo in Chainpur *garh* during the *dasahara* pujas, by personally decapitating it, and that they were bound to guard the Chainpur *garh* during the Raja's absence. These services are neither demanded nor performed now, and the clauses are a dead letter through long disuse.

The jagirs are resumable on failure of male heirs of the original grantee, unless in any particular case it is otherwise specifically mentioned in the *sanad*. They are heritable, and the rent is fixed in perpetuity.

The jagir tenure in mauza Kolhua Sonbarsa has been recorded as non-resumable as it has been distinctly stated in the *sanad* that it is *maurusu*, and that the grantors or their heirs will have nothing to do with it in future.

256. *Khorposh.*—*Khorposh* tenures are of the following classes:—

(1) *Hin hayati*—which are ordinarily granted for life to females, such as the wife of the grantor, and are resumable on their death.

(2) *Heritable khorposh* —granted to younger branches by those zamindars in whose family the rule of succession is primogeniture. These are resumable on failure of male heirs. The quit-rent payable is unalterable.

(3) Special *khorposh* grants attaching to the occupation of a particular rank or position. A lady receives a certain *khorposh* called *sindur-tari* as the wife of the proprietor of an estate. When the proprietor dies, the grant is exchanged for another proper to the altered position. The *sindur-tari khorposh* grants of the two wives of Kuar Jagat Mohan Nath Sahi Deo are of this nature. The grant to the widow of the former proprietor of the Deogan Estate is called *mahal darun*. These tenures are resumable.

(4) *Tamlik khorposh*.—These are also peculiar to the Deogan Estate in pargana Palamau; the grants are made to daughters and sisters of the proprietor, either on the occasion of their marriages or otherwise, and are not resumable so long as any offspring of the original grantee survive.

(5) *Khorposh* grants made to illegitimate sons or daughters or to concubines. These are generally non-resumable; they are governed by the terms of the *patta* granted.

Many proprietors when they get heavily encumbered, and the possibility of having to seek the protection of Government, for the preservation of their estates, is forced on their minds by the clamour of their creditors, grant their best villages in *sindur-tari* to their wives, as a comfortable means of support for themselves, when the estate is ultimately taken under management.

257. *Khairat tenures*.—The following cases of *khairat tenures* are to be found in the district:—

(1) *Khairats*, (2) *Brit*, (3) *Kusbrit*, (4) *Brahmotar*, (5) *Debotar*.—These tenures, as in Hazaribagh, are common throughout the district, but it is unusual for a raiyat to grant *khairat* in Palamau, though in Hazaribagh it is freely done. The reason is that in Palamau the raiyat's holding is held on such conditions that it is of little value, consequently he does not think of making a gift of a portion of it to any one, nor would any one accept such a gift from him.

In making a grant in *brahmotar* or *kusbrit*, the landlord divests himself of all his rights in the land, which then vest in the grantee, and there is no reservation in respect either of rent or resumption. *Brahmotar* and *kusbrits* are therefore permanent tenures, non-resumable, partible and transferable. In exceptional cases these grants are made resumable on failure of male heirs of the grantee, but in such cases the condition is expressly mentioned in the *sanad* granted. These grants are made to Brahmans only. *Debotar* tenures are grants made to idols, who according to law are perpetual minors, the management resting with the *sebaits* of the idols. The *sebaits* have no interests in the property itself, which does not belong to them. They have to do the *puja path* of the idol and are removable from office if found unsuitable. The grants are non-resumable, and inalienable, and the nature of the grant precludes the idea of partition and inheritance. *Brits* are generally small grants made to Brahmans for some special purpose, such as the worship of the grantor's family god, or of the idol established by him in some temple. They are governed by the terms of the *sanad*, being sometimes granted in perpetuity, and sometimes so long as the grantee performs his duties properly. Petty *khairat* grants such as are made to Brahmans on special occasion (e.g., the funeral of an ancestor or a pilgrimage to a sacred shrine) are made in perpetuity and the grants are non-resumable, heritable and alienable. The Brahmans in Palamau being a very prolific race, a grant made to one of them is soon split into innumerable small shares; and as the holders are generally poor, idle, illiterate, and very quarrelsome, they are soon reduced to ejecting the raiyats already on the land or to turning them into *kamias*.

258. *Mukarrari tenures*.—*Mukarraris* are found all over the district and are numerous in the Sonepura estate in pargana Bolaunja. They are ordinarily non-resumable, heritable, partible and alienable.

All *mukarrari* tenures under the Deogan and Sonepura estates were claimed by the Managers of the Wards and Encumbered Estates of Palamau, under whose management the estates now are to be resumable; but the claim was not proved. In both estates *mukarrari* grants have been freely transferred and sold in Civil Court sales, and the Managers in many cases did not know who the original grantee was, or whether the male line was extant or extinct. There were generally no documents to prove that the grants were resumable.

In the Sonepura Estate another such claim made by the Manager was that the jungle in the *mukarrari* villages does not belong to the *mukarraridars*. It was found, however, that they had always exercised, and still exercise, the right of assessing all new reclamation and are in fact in all respects in practical possession of the jungles. There was little evidence in support of the Manager's claim except a decision of the Criminal Court awarding him, about 10 years ago, the possession of the jungles of village Kailan and another adjoining village, in respect of the latter of which, I understand, he did not claim the jungle. I believe that the section 83 officer followed the Criminal Court's decision in recording the possession of the Kailan jungle but the correctness of his finding is very doubtful; in every other *mukarrari* village of the estate except 2, the possession of the *mukarraridars* has been recorded; that is to say, in 127 villages the possession belongs to the *mukarraridars* alone, and in 5 to them jointly with the proprietor. The proprietor alone holds the jungle only in three villages. There is little doubt that the *mukarraridars* of Kailan have the right to bring the jungle under cultivation and that as soon as they have done so the new reclamation accrues to their *mukarraris*. The matter is not without importance now as there is a proposal under consideration to reserve the Kailan jungles on behalf of the Sonepura estate. It is likely that the *mukarraridars* will dispute any measure which causes active interference with their enjoyment of the village.

It is interesting to note in this connection that the Sonepura estate is itself held in *mukarrari* under Government since 1816.

Resumable *mukarrari* tenures are only met with in pargana Tori, in the case of the *brit bhandar* tenures, which according to the terms of the *pattas* are heritable in the male line only; and are subject to a fixed unalterable rent.

*Mukarrari* tenures in the Bistrampore estate are known as *jama brit* tenures. The proprietor claimed them to be resumable, but they were found on enquiry to be non-resumable *mukarrari* tenures, and were afterwards admitted by the proprietor to be non-resumable. These tenures have been held from the beginning on the rents originally fixed in the *pattas*; they were acquired on payment of a premium to the proprietor, who described the grant in the *patta* as *jama britti kae del* (make a gift of the *jama*), and the words *gaon bench del* occur in the *pattas* after the grantor's signature in them.

259. *Pai-lari or Kharida Milkiat tenures*.—These are out and out sales of the rights and title of the grantor, subject to the payment of a small quit-rent. They are for all practical purposes the same as non-resumable *mukarraris*. The Government in dealing with the question of the nature and character of Palamau jagirs, decided that the *bai-patta* tenures were non-resumable. The High Court at Patna has now authoritatively ruled the same in *Rameswar Lall Bhagat versus Raj Kumar Girwar Prashad Singh* (First Appeal Nos. 527 and 538 of 1915) decided on the 14th August 1917.

260. *Partibility and transferability of resumable tenures and the rule of primogeniture*.—The fact that tenures in Palamau were freely alienated by sale or otherwise has already been explained in chapter III. Sales were naturally most common in the case of the smaller tenures. With regard to alienation and sub-infeudation the following passage from the Commissioner's (Mr Grimley's) letter No. 799-R, dated the 17th--22nd August 1894 was written with special reference to pargana Palamau :—

"These alienations are found to be proportionally very large in the case of smaller jagirs, as nearly 44 per cent. of the villages comprising these grants have been sold. In the case of the larger jagirs the majority of the alienations consist of maintenance grants in favour of the junior members of the jagirdar's family.

According to the universally recognized custom of the country these grants are liable to lapse to the parent tenures on failure of male heirs of the grantees, but in the case of smaller jagirs, the grants to the junior members of the jagirdar's family have been found to be given as shares according to the Hindu Law, in many cases the younger branches being still in possession of their shares, though the elder ones have completely sold off theirs. The principle of primogeniture is found to be followed in the case of only the following large jagirs :—

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Deogan.             | 6. Nawagarh.                       |
| 2. Rorka.              | 7. Loken-Narainpur (Pathra).       |
| 3. Taria (Bistrampur). | 8. Haloomand (Hanumanr or Manika). |
| 4. Chainpur.           | 9. Manatoo.                        |
| 5. Chikchhari.         | 10. Chando."                       |

The list given above by the Commissioner requires some modification. In the Hanumanr or Manika Estate the sharers for 3 or 4 generations elected a

manager amongst themselves. The system was a failure and the estate came for 30 years under Encumbered Estates management. Since its release the sharers have discontinued the arrangement which has been advocated only by one of them, named Baldeo Singh, who has a very small share and would like to appoint himself manager of the whole.

In the Lokea family succession formerly went by nomination, the Raja selecting a member of the family to succeed. Since Government became proprietor of Palamau the right of nomination has fallen into disuse. Primogeniture is not the rule in Nawagarh and Chando, which are now held respectively by 18 and 36 co-sharer landlords.

These jagirs are all now estates. The three families of Sonepura, Untari and Tori which hold land outside pargana Palamau also follow the rule of primogeniture. The right of transfer has been exercised as freely in respect of the present tenures as it was formerly exercised by the jagirdars and other tenures-holders who have now become proprietors. This is the result in a large measure to the historical development of the district.

261. *Mineral and jungle rights in tenures.*—The question of mineral rights has been discussed elsewhere. It would seem that since 1895, at any rate, these rights belong to the present proprietors. The rights in jungle of the tenure-holders in Palamau are the same as in Hazaribagh. The permanent tenure-holders own the jungles falling within their tenures, but the temporary tenure-holders,—thikadars or headmen—have no property in the jungles in their tenures unless they have taken a special settlement of them, and can only exercise the customary rights of the ordinary villagers to take what is wanted for personal use. They have also the right to bring jungle-land under reclamation and enjoy the rents of such reclamation, when made by their raiyats and legally assessed under section 31. Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act

262. *Sub-infeudation of tenures.*—The following table shows the amount of sub-infeudation thana by thana. The tenures do not always represent entire villages, but a village given away half in jagir and half in *mukarrari* appears in the table as two separate tenures. This is the reason of the discrepancy between the total number of villages and the distribution of villages in the table. By tenures of the second and third degree are meant sub-tenures and sub-sub-tenures. Altogether for 3,599 villages in the district there are 14,893 tenures and the disproportion is even greater in reality, for there are only a very few tenures in the 385 villages which are Government property. The greater the subdivision of a village into separate rent-collecting tenures, the worse it is for the raiyats, who generally get only small holdings under each landlords, but have to satisfy the claim of every one to large profits and services.

Serial No.	Name of thana.	Total number of villages in the thana.	Jagir.	Mukarrari.	Brick and Khawat.	Thika.	Duni Thika.	Kharposh.	Khatbati.	Logan-Pargana.	Feudhawi.	Number of cases of sub-lease by tenure-holder to under-tenure-holder.	Number of tenures held by under-tenure-holders of the third degree.	Number of cases sub-infeudated to fourth and fifth degree.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Palmath ...	319	1	...	77	61	1	319	...	...	...	272	319	140
2	Larcha ...	290	4	...	8	0	...	13	...	26	15	38	1	...
3	Mahuadanr ...	173	10	5	...	...	...	45	...	8	...	69	33	...
4	Garhwa ...	433	7	304	144	189	...	259	...	24	5	1,121	6.1	126
5	Ranva ...	223	16	18	...	69	...	76	...	1	0	49	4	...
6	Cahattarpur ...	418	12	37	145	20	...	88	...	91	1	167	47	5
7	Hawalabad ...	809	77	3,139	305	854	2	22	1	100	...	1,602	349	31
8	Patan ...	589	41	322	479	231	2	71	1	158	15	883	223	29
9	Daltonganj ...	654	47	34	652	312	46	98	3	327	12	486	50	13
	District Total ...	3,599	207	3,293	1,845	1,125	61	969	7	736	66	4,708	1,678	318

263. *Small number of Khas villages.*—The larger proprietors hold very few villages *khas*. They find it more convenient and more profitable to lease them out in thika for short periods. I show below how few villages each of the larger proprietors hold *khas* out of their great estates, but even the

figures given below are too high to be representative, for many of the villages at present held *khas* are so held only temporarily, on account of the settlement operations

Estate.					Number of villages held <i>khas</i> .
Ranka	...	...	...	...	74
Chainpur	...	...	...	...	57
Untari	...	...	...	...	15
Deogan	...	...	...	...	174
Sonepara	...	...	...	...	5
Chetehari	...	...	...	...	30

The pernicious effect of the short-thika system has been described elsewhere; but it needs no description. It has been condemned by all authorities. The table of sub-infeudation shows that there are 2,136 *mukarrari* tenures in thana Husainabad. The greater portion of these is contributed by the Sonepara Estate.

As the whole of thana Balumath, which is identical with pargana Tori, is the *khorphosh* property of Kuar Jagat Mohan Nath Sahi Deo,—all the other tenures in the pargana are now of the second, third or fourth degrees and, therefore, have been shown in columns 13, 14 and 15. Thana Latchar containing mostly Government Estates villages shows proportionately a smaller number of tenures than the other thanas. The number of tenures in thana Mahuadanr is not so disproportionately small as it appears, for the villages in police station Garu, which forms a part of it, belong to the Government Estate and contain few, if any, tenures.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### STATISTICS, MATERIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE, KAMIAUTI.

264. The principal statistical statements are :—

- (1) The *Milan Khasra* showing the distribution of the district among the various classes of land, with the three major heads cropped area, cultivable but not cultivated, and unfit for cultivation. The cropped area is subdivided into rice-land and upland, and against each of these is shown the area cropped in each season of the year and the area which is twice cropped.
- (2) The Crop Statement (*Jinswar*) showing the area covered by each of the principal crops of the district.
- (3) The Agricultural Stock List.
- (4) The Statistics of Landlords' privileged lands.
- (5) The Abstract of tenancies (*Goshwara*)—a collection of the areas of each class of land directly held by landlords and by tenants of different status.
- (6) A statement of Mortgages of raiyati holdings.
- (7) A statement of the classification of cropped lands among the three classes of *dhankhet* and *tanr*.
- (8) Statistics of irrigation.

265. *Milan Khasra*.—In the Revenue Survey of 1862-66 Major Hunter Thompson estimated the area of pargana Palamau to be 3,650 square miles of which 456 square miles were cultivated. 2,399 were fit for cultivation and 795 were hill and barren waste.

In the present survey the area of the pargana was found (by summation of fields) to be 3,324 square miles. This excludes the Government Reserve (193½ square miles) and the Protected Forests (68½ square miles) which were not dealt with in the settlement operations beyond the definition of their outer periphery. The total cultivated area is 964 square miles inclusive of a normal area of 265 square miles of fallow upland. Of the remainder 837 square miles is recorded as cultivable and 1,672 as unfit for cultivation and 5 square miles as current fallow.

If the area under cultivation was correctly estimated by Major Thompson on principles similar to those now employed, the last 50 years have seen an extension of cultivation of almost exactly 50 per cent. for in his report the land

temporarily out of cultivation was not reckoned. This is in marked contrast to the case of Hazaribagh where his estimate is only less by 2 per cent. than the present area of cultivation.

Unfortunately it is not apparent upon what data Major Thompson based his estimate. At the time when he made it, about one-fourth of the pargana still remained to be taken up by him. Mr. Forbes, who followed closely after Major Thompson's Survey and had the benefit of his maps, nevertheless found it impracticable to make a detailed survey and assessment of upland cultivation in the Government Estate. It seems probable that Major Thompson's figures did not include the fluctuating upland cultivation. Moreover as his survey was made in the years immediately after the devastation of the pargana during the mutiny, there must have been in his time a large area temporarily fallen out of cultivation.

The distinction between cultivable and uncultivable waste land is one which, as Mr. Sifton has pointed out, depends upon the opinion of the recording *amin*. But Major Thompson's estimate of the area fit for cultivation appears to be remarkably high; and may be in part due to the reason which I have just suggested.

266. *The proportions of wet and dry cultivation.*—The classification of rice-land and upland has been described elsewhere. The proportions of each kind of land are as follows :—

Total area cultivated in acres.	Dhankhat.						Tanr.					
	I		II		III		I		II		III	
	Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.	
	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.
8,71,514	6,403	7	86,070	4.2	1,35,067	15.4	50,485	5.7	1,72,706	19.8	4,72,320	54.1

The proportion of rice-land to upland is 1 : 4. This fact is partly accounted for by the undeveloped state of the district, partly by the uncertainty of the rainfall which makes rice growing unprofitable in fields solely dependent upon the rain which falls upon their own surface, and partly by the high rents and the fact that it is not the practice to allow raiyats any adequate compensation for making *korkar* or improving their holdings. The result of the small cultivation of rice is that in Palamau the cultivators do not stake all their hopes upon any one harvest. Though the variation in the proportions of rice-land and upland in different parts of the district is by no means so great as has been hitherto imagined, the relative proportions of the different crops are not by any means constant throughout the district. Thus the area under *bhadai* is nearly ten times as great as the area under *rabi* in Mahuadanr, while it is only two-thirds of it in Husainabad.

The same proportion (4 : 1) of *tanr* to rice-land was mentioned by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Oliphant, in 1872 as prevailing in Palamau in his day.

267. *Areas under Bhadai, Aghani, and Rabi.*—The following figures provide a general survey of the extent of the cultivation of the district at each harvest. Two sets of percentage figures are given in columns 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15. The upper figure represents the percentage of the entire district, and the lower figure the percentage of the cropped area :—

Total area.	Total cropped area.	Percentage.	Rice-land.						Tanr.	
			Bhadai.		Aghani.		Rabi.		Bhadai.	
			Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.	
			Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.	Percentage.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
29,70,881	8,71,514	29.3	1,27,286	$\frac{4.2}{14.6}$	44,868	$\frac{1.5}{5.1}$	45,090	$\frac{1.5}{5.1}$	3,49,879	$\frac{11.5}{99.4}$

Tann-conold.				Cultivable but uncultivated.		Uncultivable.		Jungle.			
Aghani.		Rabi.						Cultivable.		Uncultivable.	
Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1,22,263	$\frac{4.1}{14.2}$	3,29,810	$\frac{11.1}{37.8}$	6,01,471	20.2	14,92,331	50.3	4,90,693	16.6	12,97,391	41.3

The figures in columns 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 include twice cropped land of which the area is 1,41,073 which accounts for the difference between the total of these columns and the figure in column 2.

The distinction of *bhadai* and *aghani* rice-land was a difficult proposition as the period of harvesting of 2nd class rice-land was found to be very variable. More accurate conclusions can be drawn by referring to the table in Appendix H, and regarding all 1st and 2nd class rice-land as bearing an *aghani* crop, and 3rd class as having a *bhadai* crop. And even taking 3rd class rice-land as bearing a *bhadai* rice crop is rather misleading, because much of it is transplanted rice and requires the September rain to make it a success.

The produce of the 3 classes of riceland is on the average 22, 15 and 8 maunds of paddy per acre. If these multiples are applied to the areas of rice-land in each class, the resulting figures will be 6,91, 161 maunds of paddy from the *aghani* crop of 1st and 2nd class lands, and 10, 80, 536 from the *bhadai* crop of the 3rd class land. Of the uplands 3, 43, 979 acres bear *bhadai* crops and 1,22,263 bear *aghani* crops. From these figures it appears that the *bhadai* crops are much more important than the *aghani*.

The *rabi* crop on rice-lands is 45,030 acres, more than 50 per cent. larger than that of Hazaribagh. It is, however, as a rule not a heavy crop, especially if it follows a rice crop in the same year. It is almost confined to Daltonganj, Patan, Husainabad, Garhwa and Chhattarpur. The *rabi* crop on upland covers 329,810 acres. It is nearly as big as the upland *bhadai* crop and is grown on about 40 per cent. of the upland. Like the *rabi* on rice-lands, it is chiefly found in the above mentioned thanas. The total area of riceland after correction of the double-reckoning of *do-fasli* lands is 208 square miles, and of upland 1,083 square miles. The total areas of cultivation in Hazaribagh and Ranchi are respectively 743 square miles and 1,206 square miles for rice-land and 1,293 and 2,409 square miles for upland.

268 *Food crops and oil seeds.*—Of food crops, rice with an annual area of 175,758 acres, is much the most important. Next come maize (66,823), gram (93,579), barley (42,541) and *gondli* (35,708). There are 18,000 acres under *marna*, and 14,000 under wheat, 11,000 under *urid*, 1,900 under millet and 181,000 under other food grains including pulse. There are 5,000 acres under sugarcane and only 500 under cotton. The sugar crop in Palamau is poorly cultivated and gives a very small outturn; it is generally grown on comparatively inferior land which is allowed to lie fallow for a year to recover after having been under sugarcane.

Wheat is grown principally in the *dubs* of *ahars*; that is, in the part of an irrigation reservoir which has been for some months submerged. Such *dubs* retain moisture enough to keep the crop going during the dry winter of Palamau; but if submersion has not been thorough and lengthy, the lands are not really *dub*, although the landlords wish them to be classified as such; and are not fit for successful wheat cultivation. After the food crops the most important crops are oil seeds.

The gross area under oil seeds is 1,96,732 acres, of which about 1,20,189 acres are annually cultivated. *Til* is by far the most common, and mustard, *surquja* and linseed follow it in order. Mustard is very commonly grown as a second crop of *baris*; while *til* is found on the worst lands.

269. *Gross and net cropped areas.*—The crop statement, Appendix D, has been prepared with separate columns to show the gross and net area under each crop. It is the custom of the district to leave uplands fallow from time to time. The cycle of years according to which the lands are cropped has been recorded in the case of each field and



reckoning made accordingly of the net area under each crop. Thus a field of 3 acres if only cropped once in 3 years will appear as 3 acres in the gross column and as one acre in the net column. To get the net cropped area of column 37, the area cropped more than once in the year (*do-fasli*) has to be deducted from the grand total in column 35.

270. *Agricultural stock list.*—The list of agricultural stocks is Appendix E. The fact that there are only 682 carts in the district (as against 55,000 in Hazaribagh) affords a striking commentary on the material condition of the country and the state of the roads. The number of bullocks and male buffaloes, works out to less than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per plough, which is just sufficient to supply a yoke per plough; but many of them are employed also as pack bullocks. Each yoke of plough-cattle has to do the work of 10 acres of cultivated land. This is a very heavy task for the poor type of bullocks which are available in Palamau. In Hazaribagh each yoke has to deal with  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres and in Ranchi with 8 acres. The number of male buffaloes is comparatively very small.

It has often been thought that Palamau is very rich in live stock, but this view is erroneous; for it is only in respect of she-buffaloes and their calves that the district compares to appreciable advantage with Hazaribagh. The she-buffaloes are kept for the sake of milk and *ghee*, and are mostly the property of professional graziers.

The agricultural stock list which was prepared during the cold weather and early hot weather has not included *all* the herds of buffaloes belonging to other districts which come to *bathans* in the forests of Palamau during the hot weather and rains for the sake of the grazing which can still be had there even in those seasons of the year. The cattle of the district belong to a very small and feeble type and there appears to be no more selection of bulls for breeding here than there is in Hazaribagh.

271. *Statistics of irrigation.*—The following is a statement showing the area of riceland irrigated from *ahars* and *pynes*, and also improvement works constructed since 1901. No irrigation record was prepared in the greater parts of thanas Balumath, Latehar and Mahuadand. The figures in columns 6 and 7 do not include ordinary repairs; they were supplied mostly by the landholders and cannot be guaranteed.

Serial No.	Name of Thana.	Area of rice lands		No. of Ahs.	Area irrigated.				Number of Ahars made since 1901		Expenditure since 901.	
					Patant, direct		Raiyati.		By mohals.	By raiyats.	By mohals.	By raiyats.
1	2	3	4	5				6		7		
		A.	D.		A.	D.	A.	D.			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Ranka ...	11	28	235	451	64	547	20	7	1	7,80 0 0	44 0 0
2	Garhwa ...	2,166	61	2,122	6,746	37	7846	51	59	12	11,722 14 6	1,784 12 0
3	Huainabad ...	3,100	63	2,456	6,448	69	14,146	08	81	8	11,098 13 6	1,521 13 6
4	Chhatrapur ...	11,772	97	962	1,91	10	4,408	40	11	..	7,335 0 0	
5	Putan ...	24,120	25	2,241	6,351	83	10,129	84	81	1	68,408 12 0	5 0 0
6	Daiton ady ...	27,40	25	2,341	5,652	71	0,831	42	169	8	25,010 13 2	187 6 0
	Total	3,10.3	01	10,068	26,644	31	47,514	35	360	31	41,009 4 5	3,540 8 0

272. *Goshwara.*—Appendix G is the *goshwara*—an abstract of the area of riceland and upland held by each class of tenant, the rent paid and the incidence of rent per acre. It is a compilation of great interest and importance in considering the economic condition of the district as a whole and in comparing the conditions of different parts of the district; and in combination with the Census statistics it gives a clear indication of the material conditions under which the population of Palamau is now living. For the consideration of this matter, a series of tabular statements has been prepared to give a digest of the contents of the *goshwara*. The first statement shows how the cultivated area is distributed among the different classes of tenants. It should be understood that *zirat* and *bakast* represent the lands in the direct occupation of the landlords. *Khuntkatti* and *kaimi* are raiyats permanently settled in their villages who represent the bulk of the peasant population. *Dakhilkar* raiyats are raiyats who have acquired a right of occupancy in their lands, but have not cultivated any lands in the village for 12 years. *Gairdakhilkar* raiyats are those having no right of occupancy in their lands, but only the statutory rights (and these are considerable) conferred on them by Chapter VI of the Tenancy Act. *Naukrana* lands are those held on condition of personal service. Of

the cultivated lands 20 per cent are riceland, and 80 per cent. upland. Over the whole district the landlords occupy roughly one-quarter and the settled raiyats two-thirds of each class of land the remainder being distributed among other classes of raiyats. In Hazaribagh the landlords hold one-seventh and the settled raiyats three-quarters of the whole. The following table shows the amount of riceland and upland held by the landlords and by each class of raiyat :—

Total rice-land.	Total upland.	Zirat and Bakast.				Kaimi and Kuntia'iti.					
		Rice-land.		Upland.		Rice-land.		U. lands.			
		Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10.		
178,154	695,411	53,555	30	151,809	21.6	108,770	61.6	451,144	4		
Dakshin.				Gour-dakshin and waskarana.				Dar-raiyat.			
Rice-land.		Upland.		Rice-land.		Upland.		Rice-land.		Upland.	
Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.	Area.	Percentage.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
11,677	0	76,728	11.3	41,211	2	13,419	1.9	1,438	0	9,851	1

273. *Value of the produce*.—It is possible now to show the value of the produce of the whole district and the share enjoyed by each class of raiyat. In the chapter on fair-rent settlement it has been explained how the normal cash values of the different classes of land were estimated to be as follows :—

Riceland			Upland.		
I	II	III	I	II	III
38-5-0	26-4-0	14 0-0	25-0-0	8-0-0	2-0-0

It has also been shown how these estimates were tested locally by the Deputy Commissioner and the Director of Land Records and Surveys and ultimately were accepted by Government as the basis of the compulsory fair rent settlement.

The total riceland of the district is 1,78,154 acres, and upland 695,411. Of this the landlords hold 53,555 acres of riceland and 151,309 of upland, or 30 per cent. of the one and 22 per cent. of the other. Assuming that the quality of the land held by the landlords is no better than that of the raiyats, although the assumption is an improbable one, and applying the valuation given above, we find the total value of the landlords' *khas* lands to be, ricelands Rs 9,48,141 and uplands Rs. 7,89,404. The total value of the *bakast* and *zirat* is thus Rs 17,37,545 and the value of the gross produce of the whole district amounts to Rs. 66,88,714. Of this sum 26 per cent. is produced from the fields of the landlords, 63 per cent. from those of the settled raiyats and 11 per cent. from those of the non-settled raiyats. As the total cropped area of the district (including fallow land), is 8,73,565 acres the average gross produce per cultivated acre in the district is worth Rs. 7-12-0.

274 *'Distribution of produce between landlords and cultivators.*—The next table shows first the total value of the crops for the district and the proportion of it taken by the landlords in their *khas* cultivation and in the rent paid by the raiyats, and, secondly, the proportion of the raiyats' share of the gross produce which is paid away by them in rent. In this table I have taken produce rents to be all *adhbatai* and I have calculated that the landlord gets 2/5 of the produce under this system, (see paragraph 210). The cash rents here given are the attested rents. The settled cash rents will probably be lower than the attested cash rents by about 10 per cent. The figures show

that the landlords' income amounts to 39 per cent. of the total produce. The settled raiyats pay nearly one-fifth of the produce.

Total value of the year's crop.	Mirk's share.					Kaimi and Khundkitti.					Dakhkhar.				
	Value of land and cultus.	From rent.		Total income.	Percentage of district produce.	Total value of the year's cr.	Rent.			Percentage.	Total value of the year's crop.	Rent.		Total rent.	Percentage.
		Cash.	Produce.				Cash.	Produce.	Total rent.			Cash.	Produce.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
66,88,714	17,75,506	1,046	1,17,189	39,65,776	39	42,33,630	5,91,724	1,08,660	5,00,390	16½	8,17,318	1,08,320	8,521	27,541	2½

Conditions, however, vary considerably in different parts of the district; for example, in thana Garhwa the landlords hold 42 per cent. of the rice-land, in Patan and Daltonganj 37½ per cent. and in Husaitabad 32 per cent. with scarcely smaller shares in the upland in each case. The settled raiyats in these four thanas pay respectively 22½, 22½, 26 and 23 per cent. of their produce as rent. In Mahradpur on the other hand the landlords only hold 8½ per cent. of the rice-land and 4 per cent. of the upland, and the settled raiyats only pay 5 per cent. of the produce of their lands.

275. *Comparison with Hazaribagh, Ranchi and the Kolhan.*—The final reports show that the raiyats in Hazaribagh pay Rs. 12-11-484 and those in Ranchi 7,74,278, these sums representing respectively one-eighth and one-eighteenth of the value of the gross produce; while the landlords of Hazaribagh take Rs. 32,02,927 out of the district total of Rs. 1,26,33,923, as against Rs. 26,65,776 out of Rs. 66,88,714 in Palamau.

The settlement of the Kolhan Government Estate was made under the control of the Settlement Officer of Palamau and at the same time as the Palamau Settlement. In 1896, at the time when both tracts were previously settled, they were said by Government to be very similar in their conditions. This, however, is not a fact, and the difference is well worth notice. In Palamau, the total area open to cultivation, excluding the Reserved and Protected forests, is about 4,600 square miles; in the Kolhan it is 1,138 square miles; but the total area of cultivation in each is as follows:—Palamau—873,565 acres, Kolhan—838,923 acres. The total population of Palamau is more than double that of the Kolhan but the produce of the cultivated area, on the other hand, is probably less than half, for while 55 per cent. of the total area in Palamau is third class upland of the worst quality and the rice lands only amount to 178,035 acres, the rice lands in the Kolhan account for no less than 42,817 acres. The difference does not end here, for in the Kolhan the landlord, *i.e.*, Government, takes only Rs. 1-2-0 an acre as rent for the best rice land and the general incidence of the landlord's share of the produce is only about one-twentieth or 5 per cent. of the gross value. In Palamau a large population of landlords hold a considerable share of the cultivation in their direct possession, and take from the raiyats, for such lands as they are allowed to possess, on the average, one-fifth or 20 per cent. of the gross produce. It should not be forgotten that in the Kolhan there is no landlord population at all, and the raiyats enjoy the whole of the cultivation, whereas in Palamau the landlord population amounts to about 13,000, who have to be maintained in a style befitting their class, while the raiyats can only get what is left.

276. *Income derived by the population from the land.*—The application of the figures of population from the Census tables to these tables will give a fairly accurate idea of the material condition of the people of the district as a whole. The number of rent receivers in the district with their dependants is 13,390. The total income of the rent receivers is Rs. 26,65,776, so that the average annual income per head is Rs. 199. The total number of persons solely dependent upon agriculture with their dependents is 517,895. The total number of holdings, excluding *makan baris*, is actually 1,68,784. The average holding consists of 0.71 acres of riceland and 3.17 acres of upland. But some of these holdings are held by persons who have a subsidiary occupation and combine agriculture with work at their caste trade. If we exclude the rent-receivers and the populations of the towns of Daltonganj, Garhwa

and Japla, from the total district population, the result will be approximately 6,50,000, and this number may be taken to represent the population that is dependent on the district's agriculture for a living. The value of the gross produce which falls to the raiyats' share after payment of the rent is, including service holdings, Rs. 40,22,938. Consequently the average annual gross income per head will be only Rs. 6-3-0, or one pice a day. This is the gross income from agriculture. To get the net income a considerable deduction has to be made on account of the cost of seed-corn, labour and plough cattle. The calculations of outturn and prices upon which I have based this description of the extraordinary poverty of the cultivators of Palamau, have been so fully discussed already by every authority—right up to Government,—that I need say nothing now to justify them further. It is true that I have estimated the average outturn per acre at Rs. 7-12 as against Rs. 9-11 in Hazaribagh and Rs. 8-13 in Ranchi, but as might be expected in a district that consists mostly of jungle, the area of 3rd class upland under rotating cultivation is immensely greater in Palamau than in the other districts, being in fact 54 per cent of the whole, while the proportion of riceland to the total cultivation is only 20 per cent. as against 37½ in Hazaribagh, and 33 per cent. in Ranchi. Palamau has indeed been characterized by the Irrigation Commission, by Mr. Forbes and by a long list of other authorities as a dry and poor district; and it must be obvious to all that if it were otherwise, its vast tracts of cultivable waste would long ago have yielded permanently to the plough. It is not, therefore, surprising that the outturn per cultivated acre should be lower than it is in Hazaribagh and Ranchi. No allowance has been made for the fact that the landlords generally hold *bakast* of a quality above the average, as was done in Ranchi, nor have I taken into account the illegal enhancements and *abwabs* which the *maliks* demanded from the raiyats previous to Final Publication. In reckoning the food supply of the population of the district, excluding towns, I have assumed that the village craftsmen and labourers are on the same footing as the raiyats and get their normal share of the food supply in return for their work and the products of their crafts. I have explained elsewhere that payments in kind are made by the raiyats upon customary scales to the blacksmith, the washerman, etc. But setting aside all persons except those recorded at the Census as directly agricultural, and excluding the rent receivers, it appears that the gross produce of Rs. 40,22,938 will be divided among 5,04,505 persons and that the gross income per individual will be Rs. 8. If this figure be translated back into terms of actual food-produce at the price at which the raiyat sells his food grain after the harvest, each person has nearly 5 maunds of *dhan*, or 3 maunds of rice, or its equivalent, a year. From this 10 per cent. must be deducted as the equivalent of seed corn, and further deductions must be made in return for clothes, salt, agricultural instruments, etc. It becomes abundantly clear that the average raiyat has not enough to eat.

277. *Supplementary sources of income.*—Additional sources of income to the agriculturist are very few. *Mahua* flowers and edible jungle products supplement the food supply in many parts of the district and many of the lower class raiyats have a goat or two or a few poultry.

The growing of lac was very profitable in the first great booms of 1895 and 1905, but now most of the profit is taken by the landlord and the *baniya*. The raiyat, who never knows of a rise in prices in time to get a just share of it, takes all the risk and trouble, and frequently loses even his seed, for the crop is delicate and uncertain.

The collieries at Rajhara employ a small number of workers. "But after all these points have been taken into consideration," to borrow Mr. Sifton's verdict on Hazaribagh "it remains clear that the district is desperately poor, and its agriculture is insufficient to feed the population."

278. *Excise Revenue.*—The excise revenue in 1913-14 was Rs. 3,63,461 as against Rs. 2,18,000 in 1905-06 and was Rs. 3,65,843 in 1917-18, a sum which represents roughly /8/ per head of the population per year.

279. *Mortgage statements.*—The law forbidding sales and mortgages like the rest of the tenancy law, was not in force in Palamau, and such sales and mortgages as were found were, almost without exception, illegal. The

statements in Appendix S will, however, show that they were exceedingly few in number. The fact is that a raiyat's holding has hitherto had little or no transferable value in the greater part of the district, unless it be possessed by an influential high caste raiyat. It was by such men that most of the sales and mortgages included in the statement were effected. It speaks for itself that the sales affect only 258 acres, and the mortgages only 493 acres.

280. *Indebtedness.*—In these circumstances there is obviously not much opportunity for indebtedness. The raiyats can borrow little or nothing on the security of their land: on the other hand they seldom have enough left over from the produce of their fields to keep them alive till the next year's harvest or to provide the seed without which there will be no next year's harvest. They are almost always nominally in arrears of rent to their landlords whose demand is estimated to suit the highest paying capacity of the holding in a good year, and is quite unrealizable in unfavourable circumstances. But these arrears are generally regarded as written off between the parties, and are only occasionally remembered as a useful handle for litigation against a refractory raiyat.

281. *How the people subsist.*—The question how the raiyats make ends meet was investigated in the attestation camps. The following extract from a circle note of Maulavi Abdul Qadir Khan gives an interesting account of the results of his enquiries:—

"I have shown above that an average raiyat's budget at the lowest possible calculation comes to Rs. 83 a year. I have also shown that his holding brings him according to the landlords' account, a little over Rs. 40 a year if conditions are normally favourable. It is clear from this that an average holding does not give enough even for six months' requirements. The question arises, how then does he manage to live? An answer will be found in the deposition of a typical raiyat that I quote here:—"Statement of Mangwar Manjhi of Singsinga:—"I could raise practically nothing last year from riceland. I got only 14 *passeris* of paddy from it. I had spent five *passeris* on seed. I cultivate my upland, called *Mahtor* land, every year. I usually get one crop, sometimes I get two. I got two maunds of *makai* (including cobs) last year; I have sown *jau* this year. I hope to get two or three maunds of *jau*. My *bari* is included in this upland. I got also about four maunds of *til* from my Barwa *tanr*, and 12 *passeris* of gram from Doomar *tanr*. I sowed chillis for home consumption in plot No. 451 (area equal 1/20th acre). Part of my Dhardharwa *tanr* only was fit for cultivation this year. It yielded about one *passeri* of *til*. I have no plough nor bullocks nor any *mahu*. If I get ploughs and bullocks, my lands may yield a crop up to the value of Rs. 20. My family and I depend for subsistence largely upon my daily labour and jungle produce. I used formerly to cultivate lac. I could not grow any lac this year as I could not get any seed. The jungle produce on which we live is *chakore*, *sag*, *kurpati*, *koinar* leaves, *kurcha*, *genhari*, *amti* leaves, *sartal*, *kenapatu*, *surai*, *piar*, etc. I have to go to other villages to get all these. I generally borrow ploughs and bullocks from men for whom I labour." This man's holding consisted of one-third of an acre of third class riceland, two-third of an acre of second class upland and three and one-third third class upland, and his rent is Rs. 8/8.

It is not difficult to realize how much the custom, which enables him to take jungle products from neighbouring villages, means to him.

282. *Petty borrowing of seed and cash on the security of the crops; on kamiauti bonds; On Buha.*—But jungle produce cannot supply seed; so the raiyat often earns it by daily labour, or borrows it from his landlord or a *mahajan* on the security of his crop; the condition being that the amount borrowed should be returned twofold (*dubri*) out of the crop. Petty cash loans are sometimes also borrowed on the security of the crop, bearing interest at one anna in the rupee each month. But the most common form of cash loan among the raiyats is the *kamiauti* loan, of which I shall have more to say later. One more form of borrowing which is fairly common in the district is the iniquitous *buha* system of borrowing plough-cattle. There are 1,68,784 holdings in the district and only 86,665 ploughs with a corresponding supply of plough cattle. The result is that many cultivators must borrow ploughs and plough-cattle if they wish to till their fields. A bullock is hired under the *buha* system for 6 to 9 months and in return the lender takes 5 to 7 maunds of grain from the borrower's crop. This means that the greater part of the whole price of each bullock has to be paid by the cultivator in return for a single season's use.

283. *Mr Forbes' account of the material condition of the people examined. The competition for raiyats.*—From what has been written above it will be

clear that there is no truth to-day in the description of the material condition of the Palamau peasantry, which was written by Mr. Forbes in 1875 for Hunter's Statistical Account of Lohardaga and which represents that—

" Taken as a whole the Palamau peasant is better clothed, fed and housed than his Bihar neighbour. He is very improvident and often in debt; but there is this difference between him and the raiyat of Bengal, that whereas he is only the victim of the *mahajan*, the latter is the landlord's also, \* \* \* \* \*. The assessment is light, the terms on which they hold their land are easy, and as the population is scant and land is plentiful, the cultivating peasant is too valuable and too easily scared away or induced to settle on a neighbour's lands, to admit of his being rack-rented."

The whole of this description depends upon the wrong assumption that because there is much unreclaimed land in Palamau, the holdings of the peasants must therefore, necessarily be large and their rents low. If the assumption were true it would have been a fair deduction that there was a competition for tenants which automatically acted as a safeguard for the rights of the tenantry. This assumption and the arguments founded upon it, which have been noticed above in paragraph 121 *et seq.*, have persisted right up to the time of the settlement, and appear over and over again in the District Gazetteer and in official correspondence in spite of the fact that Deputy Commissioners holding very divergent views on the agrarian condition of the district were in complete agreement in their recognition that the raiyat was completely at the mercy of the landlord. It is worth while, therefore, to consider what are the facts, with reference to the statistics now available.

284. *Raiyats cannot obtain lands easily and cheaply.*—The average holding in Palamau consists of three quarters of an acre of riceland and three acres of upland and is quite inadequate to support its owner and his family. One agriculturist out of every three has been unable to get practically any land at all. The rents demanded from the tenants are so high, even after enormous excisions of illegal enhancements made since 1901, that the application to them of the maximum rates beyond which, in the opinion of the Local Government, no assessment could be fairly permitted in any circumstances to go, has resulted in a further reduction of about 10 per cent. There is no evidence of any landlord having offered any attractive terms to new raiyats to induce them to settle in his estate, and far from being a nomadic population moving to new lands at the slightest cause, the Palamau peasantry have in the past clung desperately to their homes and lands even when conditions became almost impossible. In the majority of cases where they have absconded, they have done so under compulsion either because rents and arrears were insistently demanded from them which the land could not bear, or because the landlord coveted their land and expelled them forcibly. There have, of course, been the normal number of desertions on account of superstitions or the depredations of an epidemic or of wild beasts; and the landlords do not forget to make capital of every case of the kind; but the fact remains that the great bulk of the raiyats *even now are old settled raiyats* and that, too, in spite of merciless rack-renting. The theory that the landlord must have raiyats to cultivate his lands for him on a fair and equitable rental ignores altogether the possibilities of direct cultivation. If the landlords of Palamau had really pinned their faith on a system of free peasant cultivation it would be reasonable to expect that they would not hold more than an average share of direct cultivation; but they actually hold about a quarter of the entire cultivation of the district as against 1/7th held by the far more numerous landlords of Hazaribagh.

To sum up then, rents are not low and conditions are not easy in Palamau, the raiyats are not capriciously nomadic, nor are they well housed, clothed and fed. There is no competition for them, and they are, as Mr. Hignell justly said, situated in respect of their landlords as the toad is to the harrow. Holdings are small and unreclaimed lands are plentiful because the assumption made by Mr. Forbes is unfortunately the reverse of the truth; that is to say because rents are not low. Indeed, Mr. Forbes himself, 60 years ago, settled, in the Government estates of Palamau, rates of rent in *bighanti* villages which would be regarded as excessive in the private estates of Hazaribagh and Ranchi to-day. It is difficult to understand how he persuaded himself that such rents were low. But it is noteworthy that he made no comparison with the rates of the rest of the Lohardaga district.

Finally it is interesting, in connection with Mr. Forbes' observations, to notice that according to the last Census tables, the total number of professional money-lenders and their women and dependants in the whole district, including the towns, is only 1,200, as against 3,642 in Hazaribagh and 3,646 in Ranchi.

285. *Origin of the belief in a competition for raiyats.*—The genesis of the theory that there was a competition for raiyats is partially but not wholly to be found in the fact that there was much unreclaimed land in the district. There is also the fact that the landlords have always been eager to secure, and jealous to retain, slaves to cultivate their lands on the *kamiauti* system, or half-slaves, with holdings so small and rents so high, that they must depend for part of the year at least on such employment as the landlords should choose to give them. About 60,000 of the district population are slaves, and a moiety, of the remainder are half-slaves. In each case, the remuneration for the day's work is the same. It is just a dole of food;—nominally three seers *kachi* of paddy (about one standard seer of rice) or an equivalent, but really, a handful or two of grain at the employer's discretion. It is not a wage, in the true sense of the word, any more than the feed which the rider gives to his horse can be called a wage. That the *bakast* should be cultivated on such a system is almost inevitable. In no other way could the average land of Palamau be made to yield for a landlord, who will not work it personally, a net profit higher than the rack-rents which the raiyats pay in the district. The average value of the gross produce per acre is only about Rs. 8. If the landlord had to pay a fair daily wage to his workman, and could never get free ploughs under the *begari* or *harai* system, the expenses of cultivation would leave him a margin so narrow that he would probably find it profitable to settle out his *bakast* with raiyats. This argument appears to be particularly applicable to the Palamau landlords who not only do no work themselves, but are so incompetent as managers and organizers of their estates that about one-fourth the district is generally under Encumbered Estate management. Hitherto the landlords' effort has been to enlarge the *bakast*. But now *begari* has been abolished and a law to suppress *kamiauti* is under contemplation. If these measures are successfully enforced, the future may see a real competition for raiyats but the past has only known a competition for serfs.

286. *Kamiauti.*—What has been written above is not the mere expression of an opinion but the result of an elaborate investigation, covering more than a hundred thousand tenancies. In respect of *kamiauti* (agricultural slavery) a special enquiry was held in three-quarters of the district and registers were prepared to show the name of each *kamia*, the length of his service, the amount and nature of his debt, the number of days' employment, and the character of the employment, upon which he might count each year, the amount of his remuneration, the quantity and quality of his service lands (if any), the total of his worldly possessions and the number, sex and age of his dependants, both those who could contribute towards the family income and those who could not. His liberty of movement was examined, and what special provision, if any, he might claim from his owner in times of scarcity or after he had become incapacitated by old age. The results have been embodied in a special report which has been submitted to Government.

The description given of *kamiauti* by Mr. Sifton in paragraphs 265 to 273 of the Hazaribagh Report is so clearly expressed and so applicable to Palamau that I cannot do better than advise the reader to refer to it. There are only a few points to which I wish to invite particular attention. I have already explained that the dole of food is not a wage. It is important that this aspect of the case should be grasped both in the courts and by every one who wishes to deal humanely with the labourer. The Palamau dole is the result of leaving the agriculturist for more than a century at the mercy of the landlord and is the inevitable attendant of unrestrained enhancement coupled with *begari* and *kamiauti*. *Kamiauti* is not decreasing as so many previous writers have hoped but is actually increasing. Many men who were formerly free are now *kamias*, and once a *kamia* always a *kamia*. The exceptions are very few and depend upon the interference of some relative who may have made money, probably on a tea garden.



The system is in practice hereditary among males; the *kamia's* marriage-debt is not a debt at all, but a fee paid by the landlord for the purchase of a wife for a *kamia's* son in order to maintain his stock of labourers. The intended wife and her mother are given a few yards of cotton cloth apiece and a rupee or two; one or two cooking utensils are thrown in, and the *kamia* and his son and the rest of the family are given a feed. The whole costs the owner about Rs. 8 or Rs. 10; for which or for a higher sum, the new *kamia*, whether he wishes or not, assumes responsibility upon the condition of labouring in lieu of interest until repayment. *Kamias* are not unnaturally degraded by the conditions of their life and by their environment until they are only a little higher than animals. They generally make no objection to the landlord's proposals; indeed no other alternative presents itself to their imagination. They are moreover contemptible and unlovable specimens of humanity. The same may be said of most of the half-slaves as well; but the fact does not absolve us from the duty of endeavouring to raise them from their degradation, for which we must assume a share of the responsibility.

287. *The Kamia system does not provide regular employment nor any payment during unemployment.*—*Kamias* can only count on employment from their masters regularly during the busy agricultural seasons, that is to say, during the times when there is a great general demand for labour. At other times they may or may not be set to gather grass or fuel, to fence their owners' *bari*, or to repair his house. They get a dole of food, *only on the days on which they work* and their owners assume no responsibility to provide work at any time unless it suits their convenience to do so. If a *kamia* owner has a small estate, his slave may be left without employment for 100 days in the year. This fact coupled with the owner's refusal to allow *kamias* to get out of touch with him constitutes a great injustice. During times of scarcity there is little demand for labour and *kamias* are allowed to shift for themselves. As a general rule, however, an owner unless he is himself reduced to great straits will not allow an efficient *kamia* actually to die of starvation lest he should lose his services; but he will do nothing for a slave who has grown too old to work.

288. *The kamia's property.*—In some cases a *kamia* gets a very small portion of service land which is called *palhath*. It generally amounts to about a quarter of a *bigha* of poor rice-land and the value of its gross produce is Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 a year. He builds his own house on a bit of un-occupied *tanr* land. In case he ceases to be a *kamia* he gives up his *palhath* but not his house or the little bit of *bari* which adjoins it. He generally has no movable property at all except the clothes he wears and the cooking pots given to him at his marriage. He never earns any money and is utterly unable to seek redress in the courts or elsewhere for an ill-treatment that may be accorded to him. He possesses no reserves of food, and often goes all day with only a single meal, and in the hungry months of the hot weather he sometimes has to pass a day without a meal at all.

289. *Relations of the cultivating classes with their landlords*—Enough has been written above to show the relations of the cultivating classes with their landlords. The landlords have insisted always on maintaining absolute mastery of the position. But ordinarily they have abstained from actually driving the tenants from their villages.

They have recognized that they cannot have cultivation without cultivators and that small holdings may keep labourers on their estates, without making them independent of the necessity of labouring on their landlord's lands. Their aim has been, therefore, to keep the holdings small, and to raise the rents as high as possible. These rents are unpayable in an unfavourable year; but the landlords have sometimes claimed a reputation for liberality because they have bowed to necessity and remained content with only a partial collection on such occasions.

It seems unnecessary to discuss individual estates, when the history of all has been so similar, but it is worth pointing out that in Chhechhari where conditions were reported before the settlement to be particularly bad on account of the frequent collusions between landlords and tenants, the raiyats

are far better off than anywhere else in the district, not excepting the Government estates; while in the Ranka Estate, which Mr. Hignell at one time thought should be excluded from settlement on account of the admirable administration of the late Raja, that individual himself signalized the subsequent decision of Government not to countermand the preparation of a record-of-rights by abolishing the old system of rent assessment in his estate with the result that he secured a very big general enhancement, and by imposing new and illegal charges on all the villagers for *mahuas*, grazing and fuel.

290. *The intervention of the Courts.*—Before the settlement operations, the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act was practically a dead letter in Palamau; and recourse was seldom had to the courts except by a few landlords, notably the landlord of Pathra, who has for many years conducted a campaign against his tenants in the law courts. Where the landlord is so powerful as he is in Palamau, he has ordinarily no need to seek the intervention of the courts. The raiyats on the other hand being poor, feeble, ignorant and bullied long since out of all initiative, were unable to make their voices heard; this inability was increased by the belief which generally prevailed among officials that the raiyats' interests were sufficiently protected by the competition for tenants, a belief which sometimes led to an assumption that those who tried to complain must be aggressive raiyats who probably had deserved a certain amount of severity. It is certain in any case that neither the law nor the courts have given the raiyats, in the past, that protection which they were entitled to expect. The preparation of a record-of-rights necessarily implies the enforcement of the law in future; but it will be long before the tenants, if left to themselves, will develop the confidence or the initiative to put their grievances clearly before the courts.

291. *Improvement of the district agriculture.*—The only remedy which I have to suggest to improve the state of the district agriculture is the firm application of the tenancy law, so as to secure their holdings to the raiyats without exposure to arbitrary enhancement. I feel sure that the opinion expressed by the Commissioner before the Irrigation Commission in 1902 that we must look to the raiyats, once they are given security of tenure, to improve the quality of their holdings and the number of efficient *ahars* in the district, is the correct one. Palamau is not suited, except in a very few cases, to big and elaborate works of irrigation; but a great deal of good might be done by the raiyats to execute less ambitious but thoroughly practical projects. It seems to me to be unwise to look too much, in this respect, to the landlords who acknowledge that they can undertake no scheme without forced labour; who think mostly of their own *bakast*, but insist on a general enhancement of rent for each work; who seldom or never go near the work themselves and who manage even their routine affairs so badly that they have to apply periodically to the Encumbered Estates Department to extricate them from the effects of their mismanagement.

## CHAPTER IX.

### FAIR RENT SETTLEMENT.

292. *First proposal for a compulsory fair rent settlement.*—Fair rent settlements were set in motion in Palamau from 3 sources,—(1) under section 85 (2)(ii) by notification in the whole of the land held by raiyats on a cash rental in the third and fourth year's area, and in 432 selected villages in the first two years areas, (2) under section 85 (2)(i) on the applications of the landlords and (3) under a notification under section 127.

The first were by far the most important and covered the same ground as many of the second and third class of cases. Section 85 (2) (ii) corresponds to section 112 of the Bengal Tenancy Act save that it can be set in motion by the Local Government without the previous sanction of the Government of India. Its use had, however, been regarded as an exceptional measure, and had not been resorted to on any previous occasion in Chota Nagpur. The first proposal for a compulsory fair rent settlement was made by me in my letter

No.102, dated the 6th of April 1916. The proposal affected 67 villages in police thanas Latchar and Kerh and two or three in thana Balumath. In my letter it was pointed out that according to calculations based upon such crop-cutting experiments as were then available, and the estimates of outturn made by previous authorities such as Messrs. Basu, Sunder and Forbes, the rent in these villages represented more, and in many cases much more, than 20 per cent. of the value of the gross produce—a proportion which has been declared in the Resolution of the Government of India on its Land Revenue Policy, to press with extreme severity upon inferior lands. It was suggested that a notification should issue for the purpose of settling rents in these villages upon terms more equitable to the tenantry. This proposal was supported by the Director of Land Records and was ultimately accepted by Government subject to the reservations set forth in the following extract from their letter.

233. *The Orders of Government.*—“His Honour in Council agrees fully with the Board that a proportion of one-fifth of the gross produce cannot be accepted universally, or even generally, as a *standard maximum* for the fixation of rents; and his acceptance of the Settlement Officer's present proposals for fair rent settlement in villages where the attested rents are reported to exceed that proportion is not to be construed in any way as an approval of that proportion as a standard.

The notification was No. 225/S—210R, dated the 10th of January, 1917.

294 *Orders for a general fair rent settlement in the 3rd and 4th year's crops.*—Before any steps could be taken under these orders the discussions which originated in the landlords' memorials and in the investigations made into their allegations, convinced Government that exceptional measures were necessary in Palamau. The following is the order which was contained in Resolution No. 723/S-21, dated the 3rd February 1917, directing a fair rent settlement which ultimately affected three quarters of the district, and providing for supervision (by Government itself) over the principles upon which the settlement was to be made. The 67 villages were taken with the rest and decided on the same general principles.

“On the facts before him His Honour in Council is unable to admit that where the memorialists have not already availed themselves of the remedy provided by the sections of the Tenancy Act cited above, any adequate case has been made out for special executive measures to give them a further opportunity for so doing. In consideration, however, of the special circumstances of the district, and particularly in view of the main object of the settlement operations, namely the preparation of a record-of-rights which will put the relations of landlords and tenants on a firm and satisfactory basis, he has already issued orders, on the recommendation of the Board and the local officers, which will enable landlords and tenants in areas in which the record has been completed, to obtain a general settlement of fair rent. In the course of the rent settlement the landlords will have an opportunity of securing the correction of any mistakes which may have been made in the classification of lands, in the record of special rights of tenants (such as *khuntkatti*, *korkar* and customary rights of occupancy), and in the record of proprietor's privileged lands, wherever these mistakes would prejudicially affect the fixation of rents. His Honour has at the same time decided that in other areas, where the record has not yet reached the final stage, a general settlement of rents shall be made.

The previous order referred to in the Resolution was issued in the Revenue Department's letter No. 44-R. T./S—2, dated the 21st January 1917, from which the following passage is extracted :—

“The Lieutenant-Governor in Council accepts the Board's recommendation that in all non-attested areas there should be a settlement of fair rents after issue of a notification under section 85 (2) (ii) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act; and that for the area already attested the landlords should be allowed three months' time in which to apply to Government for the issue of an order under section 85 (2) (ii) for a settlement of fair rents. All such applications should be made to the Deputy Commissioner, who should forward them with his own and the Settlement Officer's recommendation through the ordinary channel for the orders of Government with as little delay as possible. His Honour in Council further considers that for the areas in respect of which no application is made by the landlords, the Deputy Commissioner, in consultation with the Settlement Officer, should submit proposals to Government for the settlement of fair rents of any village in which it is believed that the tenants generally or any considerable number of them have reason to be dissatisfied with the rents as recorded by the Settlement Department.”

295. *The Settlement Officer is directed to draft instructions for approval, to be issued to Fair rent officers.*—In a letter No. 724/S—21 of the same

date as the Resolution on the Memorials (3rd February 1917) Government added the following instructions :—

" The Deputy Commissioner urges that rules should be framed under section 264 (vii) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act prescribing the principles upon which rents should be settled under section 85. The rules already prescribed regulate only the procedure to be followed in settling rents. The Board is of opinion that it is not desirable to attempt to formulate the principles on which rents should be settled; in the corresponding rules under the Bengal and Orissa Tenancy Acts no such attempt has been made. His Honour in Council is disposed to agree with the Board. It would be difficult if not impossible to prescribe principles, except in the most general terms, which would be applicable, and the rules having the force of law, would have to be applied to each and every individual case that might occur. At the same time as the object of the orders recently issued is to make the settlement a sure foundation for future satisfactory relations between landlord and tenant it is essential that the work should be carried out with the utmost care and circumspection. I am to say, therefore, that the general instructions such as are ordinarily issued by the Settlement Officer, on his own or the Director's authority, to the officers to whom the work of settling rents is entrusted, should be prepared in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and submitted by the Director through the Commissioner to the Board for approval before issue. "

296. *The established procedure.*—In obedience to these instructions the Settlement Officer drafted a note which explained the procedure hitherto followed in fair rent settlement in Chota Nagpur; which roughly speaking consisted in the adoption of the average rates of the existing rents for each class of land in a homogeneous area (generally a police thana) as a guide for enhancing and reducing rents. The relative values of the different classes of lands were determined with reference to their respective productive capacities and the prices obtainable for their produce, as ascertained by crop-cutting experiments and evidence recorded locally. The total area of cultivated raiyati lands of all classes was then reduced to units of one acre of third class upland (which has the lowest relative value). The legally payable rent for the lands was divided by the total number of units, and the average " unit rate " for the area or thana was thus ascertained by arithmetic calculation. The " unit rate " for each village was similarly ascertained. When the village rate was lower than the thana rate an enhancement was allowed, and the thana rate was adopted as a general enhancing guide; but if the difference between the two rates was considerable, the actual enhancement was limited to the mean between them. Certain limitations to enhancement and rules for progressive increase of the rents were followed which have been explained in paragraphs 300 and 303 of the Hazaribagh Report. On the other hand when the village rate exceeded the thana rate, the fact was held to be a good ground for reducing rents, and the mean between the two rates was adopted as the rate to be settled. But as virtually all fair rent settlement was made on applications from the landlords, and it had been ruled by the final court of appeal (the Commissioner) that no reductions can be made under section 85 (2) (i) in cases initiated by the landlord, reductions were in practice exceedingly uncommon. As a rule where the landlord applied for a fair rent settlement in villages where the rents were already above the thana average, his application was rejected and the existing rents were allowed to stand whether they were unfair to the tenants or not.

In each thana or other suitable local area that was chosen, two or three test suits were first decided, and after the parties had been given an opportunity of challenging, on appeal before the Commissioner, the principles laid down for the area,—or the inclusion of their villages in any particular group,—the rest of the area was disposed of on the same lines, or as otherwise directed by the Commissioner.

297. *Why it was not suitable to Palamau.*—After describing the established procedure, the Settlement Officers' note went on to show that the existing rents in Palamau were in many cases excessively high. They had been declared exorbitant by Government in 1896 and, therefore, inadmissible as a standard for assessment (letter No. 77-T. R., dated 29th May 1896); they were not ordinarily capable of being fully collected; they kept the raiyats in a condition of dependence; they far exceeded any rents charged anywhere else in Chota Nagpur in respect of lands of similar productivity and other advantages. The Revenue Officers must, therefore, it was suggested, be allowed a

discretion to disregard the average rates of any thana or tappa or other area, if it was found that they were unfairly high.

298. *The Ranchi Conferences.—The Settlement criticized.*—A set of instructions for fair rent officers was drafted in accordance with this suggestion and was considered at two conferences over which the Commissioner presided at Ranchi, and two more conferences under the presidency of the Board, the one at Patna and the other at Ranchi.

At these conferences the Settlement Officer's classification was called in question. It was suggested that a difference in classification would account, in part at least, for the greater apparent severity of the Palamau rents; it was also stated that these were paid without difficulty in the Encumbered Estates but this was never substantiated. It was further thought by some officers that the high proportion of the value of the gross produce which the Palamau rents absorbed, had been exaggerated by the Settlement Department by means of unfair crop cutting experiments and an unjust and inaccurate estimate of the current local prices of crops. And the facts which had been brought to notice concerning the nature of the earlier settlements in the Government Estates were at first vigorously challenged. The subjects of classification, crop-cutting experiments and prices were of so great importance of the fair rent settlement of Palamau that it is necessary to discuss them briefly in this chapter, but before doing so I shall, for the sake of clearness, first trace the course of the discussions of my draft instructions down to the final orders of Government. The fair rent settlement of the Government Estates has been described in the special chapter which deals with those estates.

299. *The Board's Recommendations.*—After the conference at Ranchi the Board addressed the following recommendations to Government on the subject (letter No. 17-2G-14 of 13th October 1917).

"As regards the settlement of fair rents in the private estates, the Honourable Member considers that—

- (1) the gross produce of the land is a fairer basis of enhancement and reduction of the attested rents than a prevailing rate calculated according to empirical rules for a tappa or other area;
- (2) the attested rents should not be reduced except for special reasons in each case, unless they exceed 33½ per cent. of the gross produce;
- (3) enhancement of the attested rents should be granted up to the limit of 20 per cent. of the gross produce, enhancements being limited in ordinary cases to 50 per cent. of the existing rental, allowing more than this, but not ordinarily beyond 100 per cent. where there are special grounds (e. g., improvements) or where the attested rent is known to be materially less than what the tenant has actually been paying for some years. Owing to the fact that excess area will not be separately assessed, even 100 per cent. enhancement may be fairly and equitably exceeded in certain cases. Both in regard to enhancements and reductions there will also be exceptional cases, requiring special treatment outside the principles agreed on above.

It is necessary to know the effect of the above principles on the present rental. An experimental settlement of selected villages should therefore be made as early as possible by the Deputy Commissioner and the Settlement Officer. The selection of the villages should be left to the Deputy Commissioner and the Settlement Officer in consultation."

300. *Orders of Government to make a test settlement.*—The reply of Government was contained in letter No. 28-R. T., dated the 16th November 1917, as follows :—

"Subject to what is stated below Government accept the Board's proposal that a test settlement of fair rents should be made by the Settlement Officer and the Deputy Commissioner together of a few selected villages—the number of which may be determined by those two officers—both in the Government Estates on the basis of the adoption of rates between certain maxima and minima suggested in paragraph 2 (7) of your letter, and also in the private estates on the basis of a proportion of the gross produce being used as a guide for (a) reduction and (b) enhancement of the attested rents.

"In regard to the private estates Government view with some misgiving a proposal to base the assessment of individual tenancies on gross produce, and would suggest that a standard of one-sixth would in any case be more appropriate than a standard of one-fifth; they are, however, prepared to await the result of the test settlement to see if the Deputy Commissioner and Settlement Officer can together arrive at a conclusion which will be workable and acceptable."

"In connection with the Board's proposals for the settlement of fair rents in the private estates, Government accept the Board's conclusions. But with regard to the enhancement of attested rents, I am to observe that the effect of the proposal to enhance up to 20 per cent. of the gross produce, provided that the increase is not over 50 per cent. of the attested rent, should be carefully watched in making the experimental settlements. Government are of opinion that a rental of one-fifth of the gross produce may be fair where conditions are tolerably consistent, but may become impossible in the case of lands which for several years in succession may produce practically nothing. Though the gross produce taken will be an average gross produce, no average will altogether meet the case of successive total failures. Hitherto the zamindars have no doubt met the case by simply not collecting, but with a fixed record framed much against their will, they may not be equally complaisant in future."

301. *The test settlements.*—The trial settlements were made immediately. Under the orders of the Commissioner, the District Officer joined me in making 101 special crop-cutting experiments in ricefields, in order to make an unbiased test of the results of the crop-cutting experiments previously made by the Settlement Department. These special experiments were made in the villages selected for test settlements which numbered 11 in all, 6 being private villages and five belonging to the Government Estates. The result was to reduce slightly my previous estimate of the average productive capacity of the different classes of lands. It was agreed that the following figures for rice-land should be accepted as representing its average yield in a normal year of each class, in standard maunds of paddy per acre:—

Dhankhet I.		
I	II	III
22 maunds.	15 maunds.	8 maunds.

The local price at which the cultivators sold their paddy at the country bazars at the time of harvest (which is the time at which they have to sell), was found at our joint enquiries to be Rs. 1-8-0 a maund in 1917; but as the season was a favourable one and the price somewhat lower than usual we accepted Rs. 1-12-0 a maund as fair. This price must not be confused with that which is charged by the retailers when they sell rice (not paddy) to the public which is much higher. (See paragraph 371.) It is the latter price as it prevails at the headquarters throughout the year which is reported in the official records. Our estimate for the average value of the gross produce of rice-land was therefore—

1st class.	2d class.	3rd class.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
38 8 0	26 4 0	14 0 0

302. *Maximum and minimum rates for Rice-land.*—At Mr. Kilby's suggestion it was agreed that we should fix maximum and minimum figures for the normal produce of each class, which should represent (a) the highest average figure which the best fields of the class could reasonably be expected to maintain over a number of years, and (b) the normal outturn of the worst fields in the same class in similar conditions. These maximum and minimum normals were selected more or less arbitrarily with reference to the average normals given above and were as follows (in maunds, per acre, standard weight):—

Dhankhet I.			
	I	II	III
Maximum normal outturn ...	30	20	12
Minimum normal ...	18	12	5
It follows that the values of the			
maximum normals were Rs. ...	52-8-0	35-0-0	21-0-0
And of the minimum normals were Rs.	31-8-0	21-0-0	8-12-0

It was fully recognized that fields would sometimes produce more or less than the figures given above, but it was thought unlikely that the average production of any field over a period, say of twenty years, would be outside these limits. It was next recommended, again at the suggestion of the Deputy Commissioner, that it was not fair that a landlord should receive more than the value of 1/5th of the maximum gross produce, as fixed above while in Palaman, in view of the high rates hitherto exacted by the landlord, he should usually be

given as much as 1/5th of the minimum normals. One-fifth of the maximum and minimum normals amounted respectively to the following rates :—

		Dhan I.			Dhan II.			Dhan III.		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
(a) 1/5th maximum normal	...	10	8	0	7	0	0	4	3	0
(b) 1/5th minimum normal	...	6	4	0	4	3	0	1	11	0

These rates were called the Maximum and Minimum rates. We decided to work out similar rates for uplands.

303. *For uplands.*—In respect of these we did not find it practicable to make experiments in crop-cutting in order to test my previous calculations, since it seemed preferable to concentrate upon a really searching test of the *dkan* figures for which the season of the year was particularly favourable. It was agreed that the result of the test in ricelands made it practicable to accept my calculations of the gross produce and its value in respect of uplands. These have been described in my rate report. There are very many different kinds of crops grown in upland which vary immensely in quantity according to the kind of land they are sown in, and according as they are the only crop grown in the year or not. Each crop has its own price and methods of cultivation. It was not possible to write a treatise upon them all. Consequently in the rate report a few of the more common crops, or combinations of crops, found in each class, and their gross produce and cash values, were considered and average rates were taken. To guard against misunderstanding I note that it is not intended here to suggest that 3rd class upland grows a combination of crops in any one year. On the contrary it is only in a small minority of cases that it grows even one light crop every year. As a rule it lies fallow to recover fertility at frequent intervals. The reports of Messrs. Forbes, Sunder and Basu were considered, as well as a great deal of local evidence about upland crops and prices, and also the numerous crop-cutting experiments made by the Settlement department (see appendix J), supplemented by a small number made by the *Khasmahal* staff. The average normal value of the gross produce for uplands was estimated in the rate report to be :—

1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.
Rs. 25	Rs. 8	Rs. 2

As it was observed that 20 per cent. of the maximum normal gross produce of riceland was approximately equal to 25 per cent. of the *average* gross produce as originally worked out by me, which was now found by us to have been slightly too high, it was agreed that 25 per cent. of my original estimate of the value of the normal gross produce of uplands might be adopted as the maximum for those lands : For a minimum we recommended 1/8th of the value of the normal gross produce. This figure was made comparatively low because upland in Palamau yields as a rule a precarious and scanty return for cultivation; and has seldom been taken directly into account by the landlord in making assessments under the old *pariaduri* system. Moreover it was recognized that the landlords wherever they had separately assessed upland, had with only a very few exceptions imposed more rent on the worst ricelands than on the best uplands. Messrs. Forbes and Sunder generally followed their lead in doing this. My crop cutting experiments and my general investigations led me to conclude that such relative treatment of good uplands and bad ricelands was not always justified; nevertheless we felt that in the fair rent settlement my valuation of the gross produce would by itself bring about a sufficient departure from old standards in respect of the best uplands, while the great majority of uplands fully deserved the low rank which was hitherto accorded to them. The maximum and minimum rates for upland were accordingly fixed as shown below :—

Upland		1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Maximum rate	...	6 4 0	2 0 0	0 8 0
Minimum rate	...	3 2 0	1 0 0	0 4 0



304. *Proposed maximum and minimum rates compared with rates of neighbouring districts*—The complete rates for both riceland and upland are, for general convenience, brought together below :—

	Riceland						Upland					
	I		II		III		I		II		III	
	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.
Maximum rate	10	8 0	7 0 0	4 3 0	6 4 0	2 0 0	6 4 0	2 0 0	0 0 0	0 8 0		
Minimum rate	6	4 0	4 3 0	1 11 0	3 2 0	1 0 0	3 2 0	1 0 0	0 0 0	4 0		

For comparison with these rates, the rates allowed in fair rent settlement in Hazaribagh and Ranchi are taken from paragraph 83 of my rate report on the Government Estate, and reproduced below :—

District.	Riceland.			Upland.		
	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.	1st class.	2nd class.	3rd class.
Ranchi ...	Rs. a. p. 2 12 0	Rs. a. p. 2 8 0	Rs. a. p. 1 9 0	Rs. a. p. 0 15 0	Rs. a. p. 0 5 0	Rs. a. p. 0 2 6
Hazaribagh—Dhanwar ...	3 2 0	2 3 0	1 6 0	0 13 0	0 4 3	0 2 3
" Kharagdiha Govern- ment Estate.	3 1 0	2 3 0	1 8 6	3 1 0	1 1 6	0 3 6
" Jeridih ...	3 0 0	2 0 0	1 0 0	1 4 0	0 4 0	0 1 0
" Peterbar and Gola ...	2 0 0	1 4 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	0 4 0	0 2 0
" Bagodar ...	2 4 0	1 6 0	1 2 0	2 4 0	0 4 6	0 2 3
" Gomia and Mandu ...	3 4 6	2 3 0	1 5 0	3 4 6	1 1 6	0 3 6
" Chorparan ...	3 0 0	1 14 0	1 8 0	3 0 0	0 6 0	0 3 0
" Tandwa ...	3 15 9	2 9 3	1 6 6	3 8 3	1 15 0	0 3 9
" Barkagason ...	3 15 0	2 10 0	1 8 6	3 4 6	0 14 0	0 3 6
" Semaria ...	3 15 0	2 10 0	1 8 6	3 4 6	0 14 0	0 3 6
" Giridih ...	4 13 0	3 7 0	2 1 0	4 2 0	1 0 6	0 5 6
" Kodarma ...	3 1 0	2 3 0	1 8 6	3 1 0	1 1 6	0 3 6
" Sirampur ...	5 5 6	3 4 3	2 1 3	4 4 6	0 14 3	0 3 6
" Gordey ...	3 8 0	2 3 0	1 5 0	2 3 0	0 7 0	0 4 9
" Barkatha ...	3 4 0	2 6 6	1 3 6	2 0 6	0 6 6	0 3 3
" Hazaribagh ...	4 3 6	2 13 0	1 11 0	4 3 6	1 6 6	0 4 6
" Itkhor ...	3 12 0	2 5 6	1 14 0	3 12 0	0 7 6	0 3 9
" Ramgarh ...	3 15 9	2 9 3	1 6 6	3 8 3	0 15 0	0 3 9
" Nawadih ...	2 9 4	1 9 10	1 4 8	2 9 4	0 5 2	0 2 7
(b) Manbhum—{ Barabhum ...	2 12 0	1 11 6	1 6 0	2 12 0	0 5 6	0 2 9
{ Patkum ...	0 14 0	0 10 0	0 6 0	0 10 0	...	0 1 0
Singbhum—Kolhan ...	0 12 0	...	0 12 0	0 2 0	0 2 0	0 2 0
Porahat ...	2 8 0	2 0 0	1 8 0			
Anandpur ...	3 0 0	2 4 0	1 12 0			
	2 4 8	1 10 8	1 0 0	Gora (i.e. upland) 2 annas per acre.		

*Shahabad and Gaya.*—The Settlement Officer has reported that in South Shahabad and South Gaya the prevailing rates are about one-eighth of the value of the gross produce. It will be observed that the Palamau rates are the highest although the district is worse off than its neighbours in respect of rainfall and communications, and has not as yet shown itself sufficiently remunerative to induce settlers to bring the great area of available waste land under cultivation.

305. *Result of the test settlements and the orders of Government.*—The result of the test settlements was that the total of the finally published rental of the six zamindari villages was reduced from Rs. 2,466-15-3 to Rs. 1,714-9-8. Three of these villages were under the management of the Encumbered Estates Department. The orders of Government were issued after consideration of the test settlements in letter No 4239-R-544, dated the 2nd of July 1918, and are quoted below :—

"The rates of maximum and minimum rent, and the principles on which the attested rents should be reduced or enhanced, which have been recommended by the District and Settlement Officers, and approved by the Board are accepted for private estates. At the same time, however, I am to point out that it is possible that there are in some parts of the district homogeneous areas, whether groups of villages or entire estates, in which rates of rent prevail resembling those which are found in similar areas of adjoining districts. Such local rates may be round about Rs. 4, Rs. 2-12, Rs. 1-2, Rs. 2-2, Re. 0-12, and As. 4. It would be difficult to justify for such areas (if there be any) minimum rates of Rs. 6-4, Rs. 4-3, Rs. 1-11, Rs. 3-2, Re. 1, As. 4, and in dealing with them the Settlement Officer will be permitted to apply the rates regulating enhancement of rents which are lower down prescribed for the Government Estates."

306. *Special rates of Mahuadanr*.—Such a homogenous area was found Mahuadanr, a valley fringed with hills in the south of the district, which runs down like a peninsula into Ranchi and Sarguja and is cut off from the rest of the zamindari area of Palamau by a great belt of Government Reserve Forest, and by the Government *tappas* of Sima, Baresand, Khami and Durjag. In this tract conditions similar to those of the neighbouring part of Ranchi were found to prevail. The fair rent settlement here was all initiated by applications from the landlords for enhancements, and there was no question of reductions. But it was felt that since the average rents established here were less than half as high as those in the Government Estates, even the minimum standard laid down for that Estate could not be justifiably applied. The matter was reported to Government, who in letter No. 229-R.—T.S.-17, dated the 30th January, 1919, directed that the following rates should be the enhancing standard in Mahuadanr :—

Rice land.			Upland.		
I	II	III	I	II	III
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
2 0 0	1 6 0	0 12 0	1 5 0	0 8 0	0 2 0

307. *Result of the fair rent settlement.—Appeals*.—The results of the settlement are set forth in the table below :—

	Number of villages.	Number of holdings.	Finally published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of enhancement.	Percentage of reduction.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
(a) Under section 85 (2) (i) ...	970	14,831	39,178 2 11	49,116 14 8	25.04	...
(b) Under section 85 (2) (ii) ...	2,358	87,262	5,84,596 7 8	5,13,707 14 9	...	12.01
(c) Khuntkatti holdings under section 85 (2) (ii).	224	577	16,398 10 4	15,445 13 6	...	5.08
Total ...	...	102,670	6,40,173 4 11	5,78,270 10 6	...	9.66

Separate figures are given below for the Mahuadanr villages :—

Section.	Number of cases.	Number of holdings.	Finally published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of enhancement.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
85 (2) (i) ...	121	3,927	10,083 5 0	11,855 8 0	17.57

*Appeals*.—There were appeals in 292 cases ; but many of these related to only a small fraction of a village. Very few of the bigger landlords made many appeals ; but the leading zamindar of Mahuadanr appealed in almost all cases. His chief complaint was that he had received a notice from the Deputy Commissioner explaining the Palamau rates to him without any mention of limitation of enhancement, but as a matter of fact the much lower Mahuadanr rates were applied. The application of the Palamau rates would of course have been unjustifiable in Mahuadanr, but I allowed him some additional enhancement in respect of uncultivated lands and peppercorn rentals. The appeals have now all been dealt with (except 26). The result is shown below :—

Number of appeals under section 85.	Result.		Number of appeals under section 85 and 61.	Result.		Number of 2nd appeals.	Result.	
	Upheld.	Modified.		Upheld.	Modified.		Upheld.	Pending.
292	262	28	50	48	2	66	10	56

308. *Petitions by raiyats for a harder assessment*.—In some of the earlier appeals the appellants forced their raiyats to file petitions asking that they should be assessed to higher rents than those settled by the lower courts, but there was generally little trouble in tracing these petitions to the agency of the appellants ; moreover the agreements were all obviously without consideration and against the interests of the raiyats who filed them. I therefore disregarded those petitions and took the view that as the special object of the fair rent settlement was to substitute fair and reasonable rents for those which resulted

from contracts between parties who were very unequally matched, a revenue officer working under section 85 of Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act could not be bound by such contracts between the parties, even if they were voluntary, unless he considered the proposed assessment to be fair. The Commissioner upheld my decision on this point in two of the earliest 2nd appeals, and his ruling had an excellent effect in deterring other appellants from resorting to the same practice; but the practice itself shows how much the raiyats are in need of protection.

309. *The classification impugned.*—In a great many cases the landlords called the classification in question; and the revenue officers found it necessary to make many local enquiries to investigate these objections. In a considerable number of cases, the objectors on the spot acquiesced in the existing classification; and where they maintained their objections, it was usually found that they wished to introduce new principles of classification so as to secure the application of the highest rates to the greatest part of the cultivated area. One landlord, Babu Inder Deo Narayan Singh of Chandargarh, went so far as to make his raiyats file petitions saying that their third class upland was equal to first class riceland and should pay the maximum rate (Rs. 10 8-0) an acre allowed for that class of land. But mistakes in individual cases amounting to a small percentage of the fields under objection were found and corrected.

310. *Its Principles.*—The principles of classification applied by the Settlement department were laid down in the circulars which are contained in Appendix N. Their application was closely supervised by the Settlement Officer and the covenanted Assistant Settlement Officers in charge and the circle officers. A circular can only lay down broad principles and deal with the most common cases. The most important factor in the work was, therefore, the control of the superior inspecting officers. The total proportion of check of classification by all officers, including the Inspectors, at the khana-puri stage was 30 per cent. of the whole. But in view of the Palamau controversies a great deal of local investigation was made by the attestation officers and, still later, by the fair rent officers. Both in theory and in practice every effort was made to render the classification as strict as possible, for it is fair that the best lands should pay the high rents that their productive capacity justifies, rather than be included with inferior lands to swell their reputed fertility and their assessment. If they were so included, the lands which give a first class crop in every year would escape at fair rent settlement with a smaller rent than they could well afford, while the land that only occasionally gave a first class yield would pay more than it should be fairly liable to. There is no doubt that had the classification been made on other lines, or according to lower standards, if, for instance, the whole of the first and second classes had been treated as one, and the 3rd class subdivided into two, the result would have been that crop-cutting experiments made on a large scale would have reduced the calculated outturn of the first class to 16 or 17 maunds and of the second to 10 or 11 maunds per acre, while the 3rd would have sunk to four or five.

311. *Future enhancement on the ground of improvements.*—It is very important, if suits for enhancements are ever brought on the ground of landlord's improvements (which is the only ground which under the present law can count during the next 15 years), that the strictness of the original classification should be remembered. For if the deciding officer in such cases should inspect the land and consider the classification without particular knowledge of the principles which have been followed—he might be inclined to give credit for an improvement even though none had been made, and might thereby be led unwittingly to order an unjust enhancement of rent. In Appendix W will be found a note on the subject of enhancements on the ground of landlord's improvements which I wrote at the request of the Deputy Commissioner. The path would have been much smoother for us had we accepted lower standards of classification and applied lower rates, and I sometimes now regret in view of the danger which exists that the classification may be too easily raised that this procedure was not adopted. The result of the fair rent settlement would not, however, have been materially affected.

312. *Crop cutting experiments.—The procedure.—Difficulties.*—Crop-cutting experiments were made usually at the attestation stage, but 101 were

made by the Deputy Commissioner and myself jointly, and a number were also made at the fair rent stage. The procedure adopted was normally as follows : The experimenting officers examined a large number of fields of the class in which it was desired to experiment, after marking their maps in different colours to show at a glance the classification that had been made. They then selected a field typical of those they had seen, choosing one which was neither among the best nor among the worst. As a rule an area equal to 1/10th of an acre (*i.e.*, one square chain) was marked off so as to include a fair proportion of the field ridges in the case of ricelands,—for they are included in the estimated area of the field. This area was cut, and the crop was threshed after an interval of two or three days. About ten days after the cutting, the crop was weighed. There were certain difficulties in the way of making perfectly representative experiments. To begin with, there was the personal factor ; an attestation officer is no more than human and he is a very hard-worked individual. The temptation to select fields close to his camp on all occasions was very strong. Again the camps were, when possible, placed for the convenience of all concerned, in large centres of the population. In Palamau population follows the riceland. A preponderance of experiments was made, therefore, in the better lands. No allowance was ever made in these experiments for fields, which it was not found possible to cultivate, nor fields in which the crops had failed. There was a danger, therefore, lest there should be an exaggeration of the outturn.

In order to eliminate the personal factor as much as possible, in respect of our test experiments, we adopted, on the Deputy Commissioner's suggestion, the procedure of choosing plots for experiment on the map before either of us visited the village ; and we agreed that where a selected field had already been harvested, we should take the nearest available field of the same classification. Unfortunately our results were somewhat marred by the fact that the experiments were made too late in the season and a great many selected fields were found to have been already harvested. These experiments have been fully discussed in my letter to the Director of Land Records No. 3822 of 14th January 1918, and its annexures.

313. *Limitation of enhancement and progressive enhancement.*—In the fair rent settlement the 50 per cent limitation of enhancement which had been approved by Government was generally enforced ; but it was relaxed in the case of rents which were so low as to be merely nominal ; and also in cases where there was reason to believe there had been a recent and rapid extension of cultivation. In my various proposals for fair rent settlement I suggested that progressive enhancements should be allowed as in the Hazaribagh settlement, in cases where enhancement exceeded 25 per cent. In Hazaribagh where the enhancing standards were much lower than in Palamau these principles had been uniformly enforced by the Commissioner, but no reference was made to the subject in the letter containing the final orders of Government concerning the Palamau settlement. I took the view that my proposals were accepted and put them into practice. The Commissioner, however, on 2nd appeal held that Government approval had not been granted ; and pointed out that progressive enhancements might not extend over more than five years in cases under section 29 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. He ordered, therefore, that no progressive enhancement should be allowed. This order, coming after the completion of the settlement of the district, was too late to be generally followed. Moreover, as there had been no enhancement allowed in the cases in which this order was passed, the question had not arisen in practice.

314. *Landlords' applications for a Government notification.*—As has been explained, Government offered to notify villages in the first two years' area in order to allow landlords who so desired to raise issues during the fair rent settlement concerning *zirat*, occupancy rights, etc. A total of ninety-four applications were made, generally affecting only one or two small holdings in each case. But the Deputy Commissioner only recommended 18 of these for notification, and the others were rejected. The landlords used this concession simply to supplement their previous applications under section 85(2) (*i*), and did not attempt to raise any issues.

315. *Treatment of Mahuas.*—In a large number of villages mahua trees have always been held by the raiyats as part of their holdings, under a consolidated rent. There was nothing to show in such cases how much of the rent represented the land and how much represented trees; but since it was ruled by Government that rents of trees are controlled by local custom, and consequently that trees are not subject to fair rent settlement it was necessary to dissolve the consolidated rents into two elements (a) land rents and (b) tree rents as a first step in the assessment of lands. When this had been done the portion of the old rent, which had been assigned to lands, was tested by the maximum and minimum standards and reduced or enhanced accordingly. The apportionment was made in most cases by valuing each mahua tree at -/1/-. This sum was found to be the average amount per tree actually collected in the Chainpur Estate during the six or seven years in which separate rents for mahua trees were collected. It was also found to represent the average realizations of the landlords for mahua trees of all kinds in many other areas. This procedure was approved by Government\* and received without objection in most cases. In those villages in which mahuas were few in number and situated on fertile open land, where the flowers could be easily collected and were safe from the devastations of wild animals, mahuas generally were separately assessed, or were possessed by the *malik*, and so did not come within the sphere of settlement. Where the raiyats' trees were not included in the consolidated land-rents, they were not dealt with by the Revenue Officers, who left them under the regulation of custom. Virtually no lac-bearing trees or other trees of value were found to be included in consolidated rentals, and hence the fair rent officers were very seldom called upon to deal with such trees. An allowance of two or three free mahua trees per raiyat was generally made as one of the ordinary incidents of the holding, such as grazing rights and the right to take fuel for domestic use from the jungle.

316. *Free bari not allowed.*—The practice of leaving the raiyats one-fifth of an acre of free *bari* was not allowed in the fair rent settlement. The raiyats as a rule preferred to pay an assessment of a few annas a year rather than to escape it at the cost of leaving themselves open to all kinds of claims by the landlords, such as have been made on the strength of the raiyats' *bari* lands in the past; moreover they felt that the imposition of a rental would give them greater security of tenure.

## CHAPTER X.

### GOVERNMENT ESTATES.

317. *Early History.*—Much of the history of the Government Estates has been recounted already in Chapter III. When Government purchased the property of Raja Churaman Bai in 1813 they acquired direct possession of the *khalsa* (sometimes also called *deoree*) villages. At the time of the purchase it was intended to re-grant the estate to some other zamindar, and thus it happened that it was left for Raja Ghansham Singh, to whom the estate was given in 1816, to find out for himself, as well as he could, the exact extent of the *khalsa* property. His attempt to do so was one of the immediate causes of his downfall. From the resumption of the estate by the Government in 1818 until 1824 the *khalsa* villages were let out on *annual* leases to professional *thikadars*. The system was found to be thoroughly unsatisfactory, and was severely condemned by two successive Collectors of Ramgarh (Messrs. Smith and Cuthbert). The rich lessees who had been selected instead of employing capital for the development of the villages, as it was then the fashion to expect them to do, sublet to *katchanadars*. These *katchanadars* having observed the advantages derived by the *jagirdars* and zamindars (some of whom had been originally *thikadars* themselves) from their successful agitation against Ghansham Singh, set up a claim to a permanent title. This claim was fortunately rejected by Messrs. N. Smith and Cuthbert.

\* See letter No. 172211, dated the 19th February 1920.  
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318. *Mr. Smith's 5-year Settlement.*—In order to remove the evil effects of yearly leases, Mr. N. Smith in 1824 gave out the Government Estate to thikadars for a term of 5 years. In carrying through this enterprise he was greatly helped by Thakurai Basant Singh, the son and successor of Shiva Prashad of Ranka. Through that gentleman's endeavours he succeeded in assessing the *jama* of 150 villages as high as Rs. 11,629, a large part of which was levied upon prospective assets;—i.e., upon the extension of cultivation which it was *expected* would be brought about by the new thikadars under the stimulus of a lease for a term of years. How active a share was taken in this transaction by Basant Singh of Ranka may be judged from the fact that he induced the Bhaia of Chhechhari to take two leases for groups of villages that he had never seen, and in one lot (the Jhari group) acted as his *benamidar*. The Thakurai received a turban and a certificate from Mr. Smith, but the advantage really derived from his interference is very doubtful, for before he left the district Mr. Smith had to recommend an all-round reduction of his assessment by 25 per cent. as he found that it was beyond the power of the lessees to pay. The assessment of 1823 had been only Rs. 7,987-2-0, though it was very much higher than that of the previous year. This recommendation was supported by his successor (Mr. Cuthbert) in respect of Kherodhar Sahi, the Bhaia of Chhechhari and some others, and was, to that extent, sanctioned by the Board. Mr. Cuthbert at the same time pointed out that the 5 years' leases had proved no more successful than annual leases, for the thikadars entirely failed to extend or improve cultivation. This result was due, he thought (1) to their total want of energy, and spirit of enterprise, (2) to the excessive size of their farms and their want of capital, (3) "to the assessment having been fixed from the first year at a *jama* which the lands in cultivation were incapable of sustaining." Sixty-six of the villages were at that time uninhabited.

319. *Cultivated area in 1827.*—Mr. Cuthbert has left us some estimates of the area of cultivation as it was in his day, but these were derived from the Kanungo Gauri Charan, who was afterwards dismissed for submitting false reports and for suspicious conduct during the disturbances of 1832. The figures appear open to suspicion on internal evidence as well as on other grounds, thus, for example, when Mr. Cuthbert wrote of Shahpur, the ancestral home of the Rajas, as a very "populous village" which could not be left to the young Raja without "delivering over the population to the scourge of a rack-renter whose necessities must be relieved by exactions from the people" and in the same letter went on to record that its total area of cultivation was only 24 *bighas* and 2 *kathas*, there appears to have been some inconsistency. So small an area would, in Palamau, neither support a population nor leave very much scope to an ex-Raja for indulgence in rack-renting. I have not therefore made any use of these figures.

320. *Mr. Cuthbert's 2-year Settlement.*—At the end of the 5-years' Settlement, and pending Mr. Prinsep's investigations, Mr. Cuthbert made a new arrangement for 2 years (1830-31) with thikadars; but he was unable to get any acceptable bid for Kote or Tarhassi, two of the oldest and most central villages in the whole estate. This arrangement was continued from year to year up to 1835. The total demand in accordance with it was *sicca* Rs. 10,798, being Rs. 861 less than Mr. Smith's assessment.

321. *Disturbances of 1831-32.*—It was at this time that the disturbances of 1831-32 took place, and the Government Estate suffered particularly severely. Meanwhile 31 more villages had been added to the *khalsa*, as appears from a letter dated the 4th February 1833, of Mr. R. Trotter Assistant Collector in charge. No explanation is given of their acquisition, but it was not unlikely due to forfeitures incurred during the outbreak. These new villages were under direct management in 1833. Mr. Trotter found it necessary to recommend very large remissions of rent in respect of the estate for the years 1831 and 1832 and to accept a low *jama* for 1833.

*Kists.*—Mr. N. Smith made the rent payable in 8 kists; but Mr. Cuthbert got this altered to 10 as a great boon to the assesseees.

322. *Mr. Prinsep's deputation.*—It has been narrated in Chapter III that Mr. Prinsep was deputed to Palamau in 1828-29. One of his duties

was to make a Survey and Settlement of the Government villages but though some *amins* were employed, and a letter survives in which the difficulties of the work are discussed, no final report was submitted, no settlement was made, and none of the maps or records are available.

323. *Lieutenant Andry's 5-year Settlement.*—In 1835 Lieutenant Andry, was sent to Palamau by the Governor-General's Agent to make a Settlement of the *khalsa* villages. He leased them out to 118 thikadars for Rs. 8,906, which represented a reduction of Rs. 1,892 on Mr. Cuthbert's settlement and of Rs. 2,723/7/- on Mr. Smith's assessment, notwithstanding the addition of several more villages to the property. Nevertheless the new rental exceeded the collections of the 3 preceding years. Lieutenant Andry died before he could submit a report, but Mr. Davidson and Captain Wilkinson (the Agent) arranged his papers and obtained the sanction of the Board for his proposals. The decrease in rental was attributed to (1) the disturbances (2) desertion of villages, (3) failure of crops for want of rains in 1834, (4) failure of the thikadars to improve their villages because their leases were only for 5 years and (5) unwillingness of thikadars to accept villages at the jama fixed on them because the periods of the leases were short. Captain Wilkinson was so much impressed with the disadvantages of short-term leases that he recommended in a letter dated 21st September 1835 that Lieutenant Andry's settlement be continued for 20 years; but this innovation was reserved for a new settlement effected by Mr. Davidson in 1839. In making the proposal Captain Wilkinson urged that "there is much jungle and waste land in the greatest part of the *khalsa* villages, which can only be reclaimed by a considerable outlay on embankments, which are much wanted even for the lands which have been made cultivation." Even this enlightened administrator could not escape from the fetish of capital, and he therefore failed to recognize that it is not the rich who settle down in lonely places and reclaim the jungle and make riceland but the poor, and as a general rule, the aboriginal.

324. *Patwaris.*—At this time there were Patwaris in one-fourth of the Government villages. Captain Wilkinson recommended their dismissal saying "no good effects whatever have been observed to result from this office. On the contrary it is a fertile source of dispute between thikadar and raivats." No more is heard of them in the subsequent correspondence; the office of Patwari has long since disappeared from the Estate.

325. *Resumption proceedings.*—Resumptions under Regulation II of 1819 were undertaken about this time at the instance of the Board. As a result, 6 villages were added to the Government Estate in 1835 and 16 villages in 1836, and a further 18½ villages appear to have been resumed a very little later.

326. *Dr. Davidson's 20 year settlement.*—In 1839 the Board gave Captain Wilkinson permission to sanction leases to thikadars for 20 years. Dr. Davidson visited Palamau and inspected the villages. Having fixed their minimum values by local inspection, he offered them to the *highest bidder*. As a result he raised the assessment to Rs. 10,367-2-0 which was to rise during 20 years by annual increments to Rs. 12,333/12. It is stated that his settlement affected 177 villages but some of these were said to have been groups of villages. In addition a settlement of the resumed 18½ villages which had also been made by Dr. Davidson was formally sanctioned very shortly afterwards, but I have not been able to find any mention of any additional rental in respect of them.

327. *Koa and Kath.*—Nothing is recorded about the estate for the next 20 years, except a discussion on collections from raw silk and catechu. Up to 1851 Government held a monopoly of these commodities, not only for the *khalsa* villages but for the whole pargana, but owing to the fact that the sums derived from them were not credited to Land Revenue but to the "profit and loss account" of the Lohardaga district, the collections escaped close scrutiny, and were, as the letters of the Agent (Mr. Crawford) dated the 24th October 1850 and 1st April 1851 show, open to serious fraud. It appears from a marginal note of Colonel Dalton on Mr. Forbes' final report, that the attempt to establish this source of income on a sounder footing led to protests from some of the tenure-holders who claimed that they had in fact long appropriated



these commodities within their own tenures. This claim was finally admitted, and at the time of Mr Forbes' Settlement it was further ordered by Government that the charge should be discontinued even in respect of the Government Estates. The order was not, however, obeyed by the local officers, and for many years previous to Mr. Sunder's Settlement, the lease of *koa* and *kath* was given to a Mr. A. N. Hodges.\* (Mr. Bright's letter No. 77-R. of 29th April 1892). At the last settlement (1896) Government ordered that the contract for growing raw silk (*koa*) should be auctioned annually and that the disposal of catechu (*Kath*) should be at the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner. These arrangements are still in force; but *koa* and *kath* bring very little annual income to the estate.

328. *The summary Settlement.*—At the end of Mr. Davidson's Settlement, Mr. Campbell made a summary Settlement in 1859-60 for a period of three years. As a result of this Settlement the rent of the thikadars was fixed at Rs. 22,293/3/2. This new total included a number of villages confiscated at the time of the mutiny; notably the greater part of the tenure of Murhar Singh Rajkumar, of Sima, of which Netarhat, Sarju, Rud and Garn are some of the best known villages. The rent assessed on all such new villages by Mr. Campbell was Rs. 6,473 and was included in the total of Rs. 22,293 mentioned above.

329. *Mr. Forbes' Settlement.—The First Raiyatwari Settlement.*—A new regular Settlement was commenced by Mr. Hewett in 1864 and completed by the submission of Mr. Forbes' Final Report in 1870. Its term was on the average 26 years. The distinctive feature of this Settlement was direct assessment of the raiyats. The thikadars were retained, but, as it was distinctly recognized that not even a very long-term lease had been successful in inducing them to improve their villages or act justly towards their raiyats, Government now laid down the amount which each raiyat was to pay for the land he held, and guaranteed him security in his holding.

330. *Method of assessment of raiyats.—Its drawbacks.*—Mr. Forbes has described in vivid terms the misery to which the raiyats had been reduced by the exactions habitually levied upon them, nevertheless he generally accepted and continued the rents which the thikadars had succeeded in imposing. Finding himself confronted with the fact that under the indigenous\* *pariadari* and *kanwadari* systems only the more fertile fields were annually cultivated while jungly uplands were taken up and abandoned by the cultivators according to their individual industry, or the means at their disposal for supplementary cultivation, he adopted a theoretical system in accordance with which the permanent cultivation was divided into lots (called *parias*) of 3 *bighas* each. These *parias* were classified roughly according to the estimated productivity of the land, and it was laid down that each raiyat who held a *paria*, or portion of a *paria*, was entitled to a corresponding quantity of fluctuating upland cultivation. The upland cultivation was to be of good or bad quality according as the *paria* itself was 1st, 2nd or 3rd class.

There were many drawbacks to this scheme; land under fluctuating cultivation has always been pretty fairly uniform in class; that is to say it is never good land. Cultivation in fertile upland has never fluctuated, for a really

\*In the Commissioners (Mr. C. C. Stevens) letter No. <sup>R</sup><sub>161</sub> of the 5th May 1887, (Boards File No. 78-Misc. of 1887), it is stated that the Government lease of *Koa* and *Kath* to this person extended to the whole of Pargana Palamau.

FOOTNOTE.—Mr. Forbes on the *paria* system.—“547. The *purra* is a creation of the aboriginal tribes, and is the only system they understand; they consequently prefer it above all others. The basis of the system lies in the division of certain of the village lands, generally the rice-lands, into a number of *purraes*, each of which carries with it the right to a certain extent of upland without increase of rent. At least there is no doubt this was the original principle of the system, but it was found that all idea of proportion had long ago disappeared, and that the cultivators, whether of one or more *purraes* or of a portion of a *purra*, had assumed the right to cultivate without increase of rent as much upland as they chose.”

“575. The principles of the system had in fact been violated, and a custom had crept in by which cultivators coming to reside in a village took up a few *cottahs* of rice-land or the fraction of a *purra*, for which they had to pay a mere nominal rent, simply with a view to cultivate a large area of upland, which they infinitely prefer to the cultivation of a crop such as rice, requiring so much labour and care.”

Colonel Dalton on the *kanwa* system.—“12. The *kanwa* system in Palamau is essentially different from the *parreadarce*. A village is divided into sixteen shares or *kanwas*, a lump sum is assessed on the entire village, and this is paid by the riyats according to the number of shares, or proportion of a share, held by each. A share includes a proportion of all kinds of land, and also of jungle and mohwa and mango trees.”

fertile field is not willingly given up, even by the stupid Palamau tenantry. Again the idea of interference with fluctuating cultivation was entirely foreign to the minds of both thikadars and raiyats just as it still is repugnant to the traditions and methods of the private estates. Thus the effective maintenance of Mr. Forbes' system was dependant upon a close and efficient supervision of their tenures by the thikadars, upon lines which ill-accorded either with their training and inclinations or their pecuniary interest. It could not pay them to measure and assess every new bit of rotating cultivation and to remit the assessment of abandoned fields in the manner contemplated by Mr. Forbes. For he permitted all the raiyats to change their upland whenever they liked *without extra charge*, provided they did not grow a crop on more than a given area in any one year.

331. *Mr. Forbes' system a sham.*—But perhaps the greatest defect in the system was that the classification was a mere farce. The rents already established by the thikadars were admittedly the real test of assessment, and the classification of fields was freely divorced from their productive capacity, if a genuine classification would have occasioned a reduction of the demand. This sham system naturally failed. Mr. Forbes himself wrote afterwards (letter No. 417 of 12th October 1872) "when setting off, all promised fair. Farmers agreed to measure and assess yearly, and raiyats agreed to take their uplands yearly from the farmers at reasonable rates of rent: but this, it appears, was all a mere sham, for I find that there is scarcely a village in which the old system has not been reverted to, and where the raiyats are not holding their upland on exactly the same terms as they did before." The next Settlement Officer found that the thikadars had continued, after Mr. Forbes' Settlement, to exercise control over the permanent cultivation, and freely altered holdings and enhanced rents, while in return they allowed the raiyats to adhere to their time-honoured practice of taking as much fluctuating cultivation as they liked, wherever they wanted it. (Paragraphs 291 and 300, Mr. Sunder's final report) If any one will take the trouble of balancing the labour and trouble of annually measuring and assessing such fluctuating upland, against the low rents which alone this kind of land is capable of yielding, it is difficult to believe that he will seriously contemplate any other result even as a possibility. It will be noticed that if the raiyats under Mr. Forbes' arrangement kept within the quantity of upland allowed to them and changed its position every year, the thikadar who made his annual measurement would get no additional rent whatever in return for his work and outlay.

332. *Thikadars as agents for developing the estates.*—*Assumption that development cannot be made by raiyats.*—In spite of their failure to develop and improve the villages during the 20 years' Settlement, the thikadars were still in 1870 considered by the local officers to be the only agency available for the extension of cultivation and the execution of small works of irrigation. Thus Mr. Forbes wrote in his final report:—

"One peculiar feature of the agricultural system of the pargana is that the cultivators themselves will never make or repair the irrigation embankments of the country; the reason assigned is that it is derogatory, but I am inclined to think laziness is the real cause. Whenever a new embankment has to be made or an old one repaired, the people of the Nuniah caste are called in."

This I believe to be sheer nonsense. In their recent memorials the landlords of Palamau were unanimous in asserting that if their cultivating tenants should be relieved from the *begari*, or forced labour system it would be entirely impossible for themselves either to make or repair any irrigation works in future. During the recent Settlement operations it has been generally found that all ordinary raiyats are considered to be liable to do work of this kind under the *begari* system; and that even in spite of the general uncertainty whether they would ever be allowed to reap the fruits of their labour, raiyats have been the original authors of many of the existing *bundhs*. A more significant commentary could hardly be supplied in respect of Mr. Forbes' assertion than the fact that he himself estimated the total number of adult male Nuniahs in the pargana at the low figure of 105.

333. *Gradual loss of confidence in the thikadars.—Belief in the need of capital.*—Nevertheless confidence in the thikadari system had received something of a shock from the bad results of Dr. Davidson's experiment. The closer interest in the estate which was begotten of the establishment of a sub-division in Palamau, and of the raiyatwari settlement, continued to afford more evidence of its weakness. In a letter No. 95 T of February 1872 the Deputy Commissioner of Lonardaga (Mr. Oliphant) explained that a settlement of some *khalsa* villages in thika with the Zamindar of Chainpur had been unattended by any good results.

"I have lately visited the villages" wrote Mr. Oliphant "in company with Mr. Forbes, the subdivisional officer, and I regret to have to report that I found the villages had been utterly neglected, and that not a single pice of capital had been laid out on them. No oppression of any kind, I am glad to say, had been practised by the lessee on them. His fault simply lies in his having literally done nothing either to benefit the raiyats or the villages, notwithstanding all his promises; and in telling Mr. Forbes that he had already incurred considerable expense in improving the farms, he simply told what was untrue."

The same criticism, I might add, applies to many of the professions of a similar kind which may be heard to-day. The thikadari system, however, still retained a measure of official confidence. Mr. Oliphant next referred to the indebtedness of the cultivators and quoted some instances in which money was borrowed by Kharwars at exorbitant rates of interest. From these he concluded that—

"It is utterly useless to expect that any arrangement by which the villages are virtually left in the hands of the Kharwars, can ever be attended with any advantage either to themselves or the villages. They are it may be said almost in bondage, while the villages remain utterly neglected."

"The Kharwars require some one over them to protect them from the *mahajans*; some one who will step in to advance them seed at the proper season; some one from whom they can learn how to make the most of their lands and carry on their cultivation to the best advantage; and the villages require some one who will lay out capital, induce new raiyats to settle in them, and generally look after the interests of the raiyats. The interests of both farmer and raiyat are really identical, for no farmer in Palamau where raiyats are so scarce, can ever possibly succeed with his farm if he systematically neglects the interests of his raiyats."

It is strange that so soon after a raiyatwari settlement had been found essential to protect the raiyats from the aggression of the thikadars, it should have been assumed as axiomatic (and that too in a report upon the failure of the leading zamindar of the district to benefit either raiyats or villages in his capacity as thikadar), that thikadars habitually adopt so fatherly a role, and that a conflict in interest between them and their tenants is impossible. Mr. Oliphant further mentioned a thikadar who was said to have improved one Government village, and a private zamindar who reported that he had introduced irrigation into a village of his own; and added that "in Palamau generally the profits arising out of the outlay of capital on land improvements are very large, ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 40 per cent; and it is generally held that the actual outlay on *bandhs*, embankments, etc., is recovered from the usufruct of the land within 8 years, and that all income after that should be carried to profit. Capital is what is required and if the farmer, be he who he may, is not possessed of it, or, being possessed of it, does not choose to lay it out, the Government villages cannot prosper." His proposal was to take the neglected villages from the Chainpur Zamindar,—one of the richest men in the district—and transfer them to Kumar Shiva Charan Singh of Ladi, who was said to be a zealous agriculturist but cannot have been the possessor of much capital. In the alternative he advised that Government should actively undertake the duties of a landlord, and more especially undertake works of improvement on a large scale. He expressed confidence that such enterprises would prove extremely profitable.

334. *Programme of works of improvement to be executed at Government cost called for.—Mr. Forbes' proposal to abolish Thikadars.*—Mr. Forbes was soon afterwards directed to submit proposals for profitable improvements of the kind indicated by Mr. Oliphant but he found the matter difficult in practice. To quote his own words "Planning out and estimating for an embankment, whether large or small, may seem an easy matter, but if the object is

To ensure success, it is far from being so, as the hundreds of nearly useless works of this nature now existing in all parts of the country, and erected by inexperienced men, will sufficiently testify." But as he did not look to the thikadars to possess or expend the amount of capital which was in his opinion necessary for the development of the Government Estates, he thought that Government must act, and held that these difficulties in planning and estimating, etc., would be overcome in time. He proposed the abolition of the thikadari system altogether, together with the introduction of *Khas* management. Although in this he was not supported by the Commissioner, he was allowed to retain under direct management those villages which were resigned by their lessees as unprofitable, or were forfeited on account of oppression. No special staff was appointed and no regular rules were followed in the management of these villages, and the accounts were allowed to fall into the utmost confusion; so that one set of returns showed 96 villages as *sir* in 1874-75, while according to another set the number was only 52. It rose to 165 in 1875-76.

335. *The proposal fails in 1878 but is adopted in 1896.*—Lieutenant Rivett Carnac, who acted for 3 months in Mr. Forbes' place as Subdivisional Officer, reported in 1878 that he was quite unable to unravel the muddle in the accounts. He concluded his report by contrasting *sir* management very unfavourably with the results of the thikadari system, and pointed out that enhancements are not so easily obtained under the former as under the latter. He contrasted a few selected examples of thikadari successes with some backward *sir* villages, but did not observe that these backward villages were only *sir* because the thikadars themselves had failed with them. His view appears to have prevailed for the moment, but was very severely dealt with by the Commissioner, Mr. Grimley, when at the time of Mr. Sunder's settlement, the question of retaining or abolishing the thikadars was under discussion. Indeed by that time there was almost a complete unanimity in condemning the thikadars. Mr. Sunder alone, (and not without having at one time expressed the opposite view), advocated the continuance of the thikadars, because he thought that direct management was bound to be unsuccessful. This opinion was examined in Mr. Grimley's note of the 12th May 1896—in which the whole subject was ably reviewed,—and the final decision of Government was that the thikadari system should be abolished, but that special cases, where through long ancestral connection with the villages or the execution of extensive and valuable works of improvement, any individuals should seem to have a special claim, should be considered separately on their merits. The disposal of these claims was left to the discretion of the Settlement Officer. Notwithstanding his views on the merits of the thikadari system Mr. Sunder did not maintain it in a single instance.

336. *Contemporary opinions of the Thikadars in 1896* ---Before passing on I think it worth while to invite attention to the following extract from Mr. Streatfield's letter No. 957-R., dated the 15th November 1895, as representative of the views of the majority of the local officers of Government at the time when the thikadari system was abolished :—

"My own opinion is that with very few, if any, exceptions, improvements have only been made by the thikadars where they saw an opportunity of securing a large and immediate return for their outlay; and I have found from personal experience that where an embankment has been erected by a thikadar the best lands immediately beneath it are usually thikadar's *zirats*. The principal object in settling with thikadars for long terms is to make it to their interest to spend money on improvements, and I believe that hardly a single pice has been spent by any thikadar except for his own benefit, immediate or otherwise. It was not to be expected that thikadars would spend money on their villages from a philanthropic desire to benefit their raiyats, and it seems to me absurd to suppose that they have done so. Any specially meritorious works of improvement, of course give the thikadar a claim to consideration that should not be overlooked, but I cannot see that generally an enlightened eye to his own interests gives a thikadar any right as against "*sir*" management, though it certainly entitles him to the preference over any other thikadar. The figures quoted by Mr. Sunder do not profess to be reliable, and even if accepted, do not seem to me to prove his point, showing as they do that only one thikadar has spent over Rs. 5,000 in the course of 26 years. As a matter of fact out of Rs. 48,211, Rs. 5,300 has, according to the registers of my office, been spent by raiyats, and not thikadars, and of the rest it is probable that, if all had their dues, a very large proportion would be credited to the raiyats for free labour, etc.

"The registered improvements are confined to 90 villages out of 397. I may also note that I have heard the loudest complaints from the raiyats against the thikadar who, judged by the standard of registered improvements is the best in the district."

337. *The Thikadari system regarded from the landlord's point of view.*—

The correspondence on this subject was also remarkable for a contribution from Bhaia Dirgaj Deo of Untari, the Zamindar who is reported to have had more works of improvement executed than any other, past or present, landlord of the district. Here are his views on the relative merits of the *sir* and thikadari systems; I quote them because I have seen them followed by landlords in practice, over and over again in the private estates:—

"So far as my experience goes I would prefer letting out my villages in thika to holding them under direct management for the following reasons *inter alia*:—The thikadars are induced to lay out, and they do as a matter of fact lay out, money in the construction of reservoirs for irrigation and in the improvement of land in diverse ways, to secure to themselves the best possible advantage during the term of their thika, while the *malik* would get advantage after the expiry of the thika, by an enhancement of rent without contributing anything towards the same; very few of the thika *pattas* granted by me contain covenants whereby I have to defray one-half of the expense of the construction of new reservoirs, or works of irrigation, started by the thikadars.

"The *malik* has not to sustain any loss whatever, in consequence of the recusancy, or inability of the raiyats to pay their rents or any portion thereof; the arrears are often heavy and sometimes become unrealizable, either on account of the poverty of the cultivators or the failure of the crops.

"The thikadars try their best to get in raiyats and prevail upon them to settle in their village, thus bringing the waste lands of the village under cultivation. The only advantage likely to be derived from *khas* management is, I should think, that the *malik* can have a comparatively greater amount of rent by annual settlements."

The thikadars in the Government Estates generally belonged to the landlord class, and themselves shared the views expressed by the Bhaia Saheb of Untari; they were not therefore, as Mr. Streatfield said, philanthropists.

338. *Increase of the Government Demand in 1896.*—Besides the abolition of thikadars Mr. Sunder's Settlement was marked by many other important features. Mr. Forbes' total rental of Rs. 40,843 (comprising Rs. 4,413 thikadar's commission and Rs. 36,430 Government receipts) had been enhanced by the thikadars during the currency of the Settlement to Rs. 57,693. Both these assessments as a rule, though in the 2nd case not invariably, included any charges that were levied for lac and mahua. Mr. Sunder's new rental rose to the following figures:—

					Rs.
(1) For land	...	...	...	...	74,438
(2) For lac	...	...	...	...	10,087
(3) For mahua	...	...	...	...	3,270

339. *The principles of assessment.*—*Abolition of privilege of cultivating fresh upland without extra assessment. Principles not adhered to.*—The assessment of land was based in theory like Mr. Forbes' Settlement, upon a threefold classification of riceland and of upland. It was originally intended by Mr. Bright, who undertook all the preliminary work of the Settlement, that this classification should be uniform for the whole estate, but it was found that through the inexperience of the amins, and want of supervision in the field, every village had eventually a standard of classification of its own. Thus it became necessary to classify the villages according to their quality; and this was done by the Settlement Officer partly by local enquiry, and partly on the strength of information supplied, chiefly by the thikadars. The classes of villages were numerous; varying sets of rates were approved by the Government for the different classes and the assessment was reported to have been completed by an application of the sanctioned rates in accordance with the classification. It has been found however on an examination of the original records that unexplained deviations from the sanctioned rates were so great and so numerous, as to constitute a complete abandonment of them. The whole subject has been discussed in detail in my rate report and the correspondence which arose out of it.\* I believe that there is now no disposition to deny that

\*FOOTNOTE:—See Government printed file No.  $\frac{8}{91}$  of 1917 Nos. 61 and 62, and its connected papers; also my reply to the Deputy Commissioner's letter No. 95, dated 23rd August, 1917 which was forwarded by me to the Director of Land Records with demi-official No. 1622 of 10th September 1917.

Mr. Sunder's rates and classification were almost as little a reality as had been those of Mr. Forbes. Although he followed Mr. Forbes in classifying fields and also villages, Mr. Sunder did not attempt to preserve the *paria* with its fluctuating cultivation. Each field of riceland and upland was separately surveyed and its area estimated in acres and decimals in 1893-6; and it was decided by Government that if the raiyats continued, as previously to shift upland cultivation they should in future be liable to additional assessment for the new fields without receiving any remission for the land abandoned by them. This was a very drastic innovation. In the writings of Colonel Dalton and Mr. Forbes it had been clearly appreciated that the raiyats valued their right to shift their fields very highly indeed, and it was recognized that they would not readily forego the privilege; but the change was finally introduced almost without discussion. It appears to have been put in the background by the greater interest which centred on the question of thikadari versus *sir* management; but it was afterwards not without its effects upon the working of the Settlement, as will appear in the sequel.

340. *Increase of area between Mr. Forbes' and Mr. Sunder's Settlements over estimated in 1896.*—The very heavy enhancement over Mr. Forbes' rental, and even over the maximum which the thikadars themselves had deemed it prudent or possible to exact, which marked the last settlement, was attributed at first by the Settlement Officer to *an increase in the rates of rent*, and later after the Board had objected to this, to an increase not in rates but in the area of cultivation. In paragraph 356 of the final report of 1898 it has been asserted that there was an increase by 32 per cent in the area of riceland and of 501 per cent in the area of upland cultivation since Mr. Forbes' time. The figures are quite imaginary. They depend upon the assumption that there was a proportion of 10,452 acres of riceland in the estate in Mr. Forbes' time, to only 7,052 acres of cultivated upland. The explanation may perhaps be that Mr. Sunder took most of the fluctuating cultivation (though not the fallow) of his day into his own figures, while he excluded all such land from Mr. Forbes' total. But in any case, considered as a statement of the whole area under cultivation in or about 1870, the figures as given above are inconsistent with Mr. Forbes' account of his areas, and are on the face of them, improbable. In 1872 Mr. Oliphant reported that the proportion of upland to riceland in the Estate was *four to one*, and this is roughly what common experience leads one to expect in wild and jungle country. It is exactly the proportion found in the whole district now. Mr. Sunder's own area figures show somewhat similar proportions, and so do those reported by Mr. Forbes himself. It is hardly likely that in 1866 there was a bigger area of riceland than upland under cultivation, or that the normal proportions reasserted themselves, without any noticeable alteration in the general conditions of the estate, during the next 30 years. But over and above this balance of probabilities it can be shown that Mr. Sunder's calculation was incorrect by a review of the facts in a single instance. His calculation depends, *inter alia*, upon an assertion that there were in Mr. Forbes's time only 45 acres of upland in the wholly *pariadari tappa* of Mankheri, although the riceland in it was then more than 20 times as much and although in his own time there was no sign of any such abnormality. But in 1827 Bhaia Kherodhar Sahi of Chhechhari, the thikadar of Mankheri, deposed that Mankheri village was fully cultivated—a fact which would account for much more than 40 acres of upland in one alone out of the 30 villages of the *tappa*, and in 1866 Babu Sanjeeb Chandra Chatterji, who acted as Settlement Officer, submitted a proposal to survey and assess upland separately in that *tappa* because the upland was *very extensive and valuable*—a proposal which Colonel Dalton rejected on account of the *vastness* of the proposed undertaking. The proposal and the refusal alike would have been ridiculous, if the total area concerned were only 45 acres. The *raison d'être* of the *paria* system itself is that it provides a cheap and easy method of dealing with unmanageably large and comparatively unproductive areas of upland cultivation. Its existence in any area ought alone to have been enough to prevent the belief that that area was virtually without any uplands. These considerations appear to have escaped notice until after the completion of the Settlement,

when the Commissioner in reviewing the final report disputed the alleged phenomenal increase in cultivation. As a result of his comments an explanation was called for by Government but was never submitted. It does not appear that any explanation was possible. Thus it came about that a very large enhancement of rent took place, which as it appears from the letters of the period, would not have been countenanced but for a mistake which gave to the estate a fictitious appearance of rapid development and extraordinary prosperity. Before tracing the effects of this assessment it is necessary to describe the remaining features of the last settlement.

341. *The lac and mahua assessments.*—The new lac demand resulted from the assessment of 2 annas on each *palas* and 6 annas on each *kusum* tree in the northern *tappas* and one anna on each *palas* and 4 annas on each *kusum* in the southern *tappas*. These rates were put forward and accepted, without any discussion of the question why they, in particular, were fixed upon, or why there should be such a sharp difference in assessment between two lots of *tappas* not otherwise differentially treated; I am not therefore able to appreciate the reasons in favour of them. Subsequently all these rates had to be reduced to half in 1902; they were restored temporarily in 1907 as the result of the boom in lac but were again reduced in 1911 and have since continued at the reduced figure. They are still theoretically subject to annual modification. A system of rates for each tree under crop necessarily depends upon an annual count of the cultivated trees. But such a count is a laborious and difficult task and it has tended to degenerate, in the hands of the subordinate staff, into mere haggling in which the raiyat endeavours to assume responsibility for as few trees as possible and the *khasmahal* staff try to assess him upon a large number; while neither the figure claimed nor the figure admitted have any real relation to the trees actually under cultivation on the ground.

Mahua trees were similarly assessed at 4 annas a tree in the northern *tappas* and 2 annas in the south. But two-fifths of the total number were given rent free to the raiyats, who were also promised their homestead (*bari*) lands rent-free, to the extent of about 1/5th of an acre. This small concession (worth at the most 3 annas a year) was however generally in practice withheld, and has not been allowed at the present settlement.

342. *Severity of the Settlement.*—*Changes proposed by Mr. Lyall.*—From what has gone before, it seems clear that there is no reason to regard Mr. Forbes' assessment as a light one and that Mr. Sunder's enhancement was very severe. Mr. Sunder himself expressed grave doubts in his letters whether the raiyats could meet the demand punctually except in favourable circumstances. Difficulties immediately followed the settlement. In 1900 Mr. Beachcroft reported a very large number of abandonments, but wrote that he had succeeded in re-settling the lands. In 1902 Mr. Lyall had to report that the previous settlement had been very harsh both in respect of rents for lands and rents for trees; that abandonments had been very frequent, affecting in one circle over 25 per cent of the total number of holdings; that certificates had issued in thousands, and collections had been bad. It was admitted that some of the years which followed the Settlement were marked by bad seasons, but two of them were said (in the evidence before the Irrigation Commission) to have been very favourable. The Deputy Commissioner recommended a fresh classification and a new assessment as well as the complete remission of mahua rents.

His proposals were considered by the Board to be too drastic, but the black picture he exhibited of the effects of the settlement and the impoverishment of the people was not disputed. As a result of his representations considerable remissions were allowed; the principle of progressive enhancements was applied to the last settlement with retrospective effect. The rents on lac trees were halved, and considerable sums were placed at the Deputy Commissioner's disposal for the purposes of repairing irrigation works and introducing new improvements. Moreover in the poorer southern *tappas* the raiyats were given permission to take up as much new third class upland as they wished without any further measurement or assessment. A great boom in lac followed and brought further relief to the peasantry.



343. *Maintenance of Settlement Record.*—Although the old system of raiyati tenure with their fluctuating cultivation had been professedly superseded in favour of fixed holdings in which each plot of land of any description was assessed to rent, no real change was made during the first 6 years of the settlement. Babu Rameshvar Prashad, Mr. Sunder's Assistant, was appointed to have charge of the estate, but he does not appear to have been given any maintenance staff until 1901-02. In that year a number of surveyors were appointed and instructed to survey and assess all new fields, which had been brought under cultivation since the settlement. In consonance with the new policy the surveyors took notice of all purely temporary increases in holdings (even those which were, by then, already again abandoned by the cultivators), as well as of new permanent reclamation. This meant that when raiyats had exchanged the uplands which were recorded in their names by Mr. Sunder for others, in accordance with the custom of the estate, they were assessed to rent for the new fields by the revision staff, but were not allowed any remission for fields which had been abandoned. The result of the revision was therefore to show on the estate registers a very substantial increase in cultivation, although whole families of raiyats were reported at the same time to be deserting their villages, and the formation of 75 square miles of protected forests had in reality deprived the cultivators of many existing fields, and although the Deputy Commissioner reported that he himself saw abandoned fields and holdings on every side, and that the tenantry of the Government Estates "were impoverished to the last degree".

Most of the revision papers of 1901-02 are not forthcoming and I have been furnished by the *Khas mahal* Department with accounts of the additional area then brought under assessment, which estimate respectively 7,000, 9,000 and, in one case, 25,000 acres as the total; I have used the lowest estimate later in this chapter when discussing the subject of areas.

344. *Fictitious nature of the increase of cultivation reported in 1901-02.*—The Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Lyall) protested against the policy of the revision and obtained from the Board an order, late in 1902, to the effect that in the southern *tappas* no more new fields of 3rd class upland should be assessed during the currency of the Settlement. But the fictitious nature of increase in area shown by the revision staff—the fact that it was obtained by treating the old "*exchanges*" of uplands as *additions* to holdings and by refusing to allow relinquishments of parts of holdings (although the lands had in fact fallen out of cultivation) does not seem to have been generally understood; thus in the Gazetteer, written in 1906, the revision figures have been regarded as a net increase in the area of cultivation, and as further evidence of the progress and prosperity which Mr. Sunder's calculation of areas had suggested.

345. *Appointment of Mutation Peshkars.*—On the conclusion of the revision, a permanent maintenance staff was established, whose duty it was to survey, classify and assess annually all new cultivation, except 3rd class upland in the southern *tappas*; and to keep the records up to date by making mutations of names in all cases of transfer and inheritance. This maintenance staff consisted of 4 mutation *peshkars* and some peons who were appointed one to each of the headquarters (viz, Daltonganj, Lesliganj, Latehar and Garu) of the 4 circles or groups of scattered villages (see map.) into which the estate had been divided in accordance with Mr. Marindin's proposals, after the last settlement. The *peshkars* worked under the general supervision of the *tahsildars*. They appear to have received no detailed technical rules in respect of classification and survey and to have been left a wide discretion in these matters; this was more especially the case whenever it happened that the officer in charge of the estate had himself no technical training. The result of these factors will appear in the sequel.

346. *Government works of improvement.*—An important function of the *Khas mahal* staff was concerned with the execution and repair of irrigation works and the re-classification and re-assessment of fields which were benefited by them. It has been explained above that large grants for the repair of neglected irrigation works were made in 1902 in order to justify the

previous settlement. The enterprise of making these irrigation works had an interesting development. The subject is a fascinating one. The district authorities soon passed on from purely remedial improvements to others intended not only to rehabilitate the peasantry but also to bring profit to the estate. The total amount accounted for in the Deputy Commissioner's office, as having been spent on irrigation works in the interval between the last settlement and the submission of the recent rate report in 1917 is Rs. 1,58,374. This sum includes Rs. 74,000 spent on repairs. For the execution of these works, head-raiyats were appointed in each village under the title of *mahto*, to work under the supervision of the circle-staff, in return for a service-grant of some raiyati lands, or for a remission of a portion of their rents. The District Officer and *Khas mahal* officer made inspections during the touring season, so far as was practicable. In 1906 the post of a surveyor was created to suggest and estimate for new expenditure, and pass, and bill for, work done. His services were declared in a Land Revenue Administration Report to be "indispensable, as there is a very large number of minor irrigation works which require constant supervision." There are 2,047 *ahars* and two weirs on the estate books of which both the latter and 303 of the former were made at the expense of Government. Former tenants, or *thikadars*, are responsible for the rest. The system of making direct remunerative improvements by the outlay of Government capital has many difficulties. These arise in connection with (1) the preliminary examination and selection of suitable sites, (2) the actual execution of the work and (3) the assessment of the consequential enhancement of rent which is to make the outlay remunerative. The District Officer can only undertake a very small part of the preliminary investigations or the supervision of the work, or of the re-classification which is the basis of the final enhancements.

347. *Difficulty of supervision by superior agency.—Objections to inferior agency.*—The estate is very large and scattered and, in parts, very inaccessible, and the District Officer and even the *Khas mahal* Officer are burdened with a mass of extraneous work. The surveyor, the *tahsildars* and their *peshkars* require constant supervision to make them leave the village site for the actual fields, and are believed by the present writer to be exposed to the operation of those motives which made the Government of India in Resolution No. 1 of the 16th January 1902 stigmatize "local inquiries by subordinate officers" of precisely the same type as "a fruitful source of harassment and extortion to the agricultural community."

source of harassment and extortion to the agricultural community " Either they represent the ordinary raiyats in which case they are entirely in the hands of the staff, or else they belong to an alien class and regard their official prestige, as *mahtos*, as an opportunity for self-advancement at the expense of the villagers. It may be mentioned that one *mahto* for instance is a *kamia* and completely in the power of outside zamindars, another has been for many years a convict in jail, another is an absentee head-constable, yet another is a dismissed Government servant and another, in an Oraon village, is a Muhammadan Mukhtar. In these circumstances it is not surprising that though sometimes the results attained were beneficial, many other works of improvement failed to realize the expectations which had been formed concerning them. Some of them have consisted merely of earthwork thrown on existing embankments without necessity or advantage; while some have failed in spite of careful consideration and reasonable expectation of success.

348. *The Nadaura Scheme.*—An interesting instance is the Nadaura Scheme. This was one of 5 projects which were brought to the notice of the Irrigation Commission in 1902. The Commissioner, who did not himself believe in a programme of remunerative development at the expense of Government, advocated that this work should be undertaken specifically as a test. He said "let one be tried in order to show whether this opinion\* is correct or not. It is founded a great deal upon hearsay among the people. Consequently some authorities say one thing and some another. The people certainly do believe that if such works were, they should be of great assistance, and if one were carried out we should have something to point to."

\*Footnote:—The opinion that projects easy of execution, and very remunerative were to hand in abundance in Palamau, is only waiting to be taken up.

The project was completed in 1908; but in a short time the river bed began to silt up behind the dam which had been built across it. Large sums have been spent periodically in the attempt to cope with this unexpected difficulty, but the cultivators all complain that they have not been sufficient for the purpose, and local inquiry is reported to have confirmed the complaint.

349. *The promotion of improvements through the agency of the raiyats, compared with the agency of Government.*—The Commissioner on his own account expressed a conviction that “even in the Government estates it would be infinitely preferable to see improvements in *ahars* made by the tenants themselves.” He urged that they should be secured in their tenures and protected from any enhancement on account of these improvements, and expressed a belief that in such conditions they would gradually, though not immediately, become a very efficient agency for effecting the kind of irrigation works that are possible in Palamau.

It will be obvious from the foregoing that two rival systems of effecting improvements and developing the estate were favoured by different officers; the one seeking to work through the raiyats, who were to be made to feel that they would reap the full fruits of their enterprises and the other expending Government capital and looking for a profitable return in the shape of enhancements of rents. Whatever may have been their relative merits in 1902 when it was still considered doubtful by some officers whether raiyats enjoyed any rights or protection under the law, the present writer believes that after the experience of the last 15 years,—which has been examined and sifted during the present settlement,—the Commissioner’s proposal would now find many advocates; more especially as there is no longer any room for doubting that the raiyats are afforded ample protection by the tenancy law.

350. *The Board allow enhancement of rents on account of improvements. The method of enhancement.*—The Board at first refused to allow enhancements of rent to be made in respect of lands improved by these works, but ultimately permitted fields to be re-classified and villages to be raised from one of Mr. Sunder’s classes to another. A set of rules were drafted and the circle staff were directed to submit proposals in each case; but the principles upon which they were to proceed were still left in a large measure undefined.

351. *Practical difficulties of enhancement. An Example.*—Apart from the difficulty of selecting and carrying out suitable projects through the agency of Government servants, who have none of the advantages of permanent local residence, or of whole-time devotion to agriculture, there are many practical and legal intricacies connected with the assessment of the consequential enhancements.

These were increased by the absence of any uniform and clearly defined principles in the original classification of the Settlement of 1893-96, as well as in the rules now laid down for the guidance of the re-classifying officers. At the same time the enhancements were necessarily ordered in most cases by officers who had no opportunity of seeing the original condition of the villages before the work was undertaken. The confusion which was thereby rendered possible will be clear from the following illustration.

In village Makri, a new irrigation work was executed in 1902 at a cost of Rs. 120 and a further sum of Rs. 308 was spent on repairing old *ahars*. In spite of these improvements the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Lyall) found it necessary after a personal visit three years later, to get the rent of the village reduced by Rs. 167-10-0. Shortly after Mr. Lyall’s departure from the district, re-classification was made by the staff, who apparently overlooked the Deputy Commissioner’s inspection and its result. This was followed about 1907 by a recommendation for an enhancement of Rs. 39 on account of the expenditure of 1902. The new Deputy Commissioner being unaware of the facts narrated above, accepted the enhancement, but after 3 years it was found that the resultant rents were too severe and most of it was again remitted.

\*FOOTNOTE:—When called upon to submit a programme of improvements in 1872, Mr. Forbes wrote “having the interest of the estate really at heart I prefer, even at the risk of causing displeasure to confess my utter inability to prepare such plans and estimates until, with the aid of an adequate staff, after mature and deliberate consideration, and assisted by the best advice I can obtain, I am enabled to submit well digested projects, the ultimate profits in which will be exhibited in such detail as to warrant the outlay of capital demanded for their construction.”

352. *Enhancements made on the mistaken assumption that the rates and classification of the last Settlement had been the basis of assessment.*—It is worth noting that the whole system itself of enhancement by re-classification was based upon an assumption now known to be incorrect, that all rents had been fixed at the last settlement in accordance with the original classification and the sanctioned rates. Both had in fact been entirely ignored. Moreover the settled rents were not noted down in the record in separate details for each field but in a lump sum for entire holdings. It was therefore very difficult to ascertain what the existing rent of any given field or part of a field really was, or what the effect of putting that field into a different class and assigning to it the rent per acre theoretically appropriate to that class would be.

353. *The legal difficulty.*—Moreover there remains another consideration which appears to be decisive against the continuance of the system of enhancement by orders passed upon the reports of the maintenance staff. Under the present tenancy law all such enhancements of the finally published rents (as well as increases in demand under section 31) may only be made by the Deputy Commissioner acting upon a formal application under section 29, or section 31. As the law has now been enforced against the private landlords, the necessity for its strict observance in the Government estates will not be disputed. Enhancements made in the Government Estates prior to the Settlement operations were accepted in the record-of-rights as an accomplished fact, if the raiyats did not strongly object to them. But the system has now, I believe, been discontinued in practice, the last instance having occurred in 1915 when some fields in village Mahulia which had been affected by an improvement made in 1902 were assessed to extra rent in 1915; the change in the rental being from Rs. 14-5 to Rs. 38-11.

354. *The maintenance operations*—(A) *Re-classification.*—The following statistics will show at a glance the results of the maintenance operations up to the present settlement with reference to, (a) re-classification (b) assessment of new cultivation and (c) mutation.

(A) *Re-classification.*

This table shows the changes made by the mutation staff in Mr. Sunder's classification and the real class of the land as found during the settlement.

Kind of land:	Class.	Distribution of the area in Mr. Sunder's record (in acres).	The same area as re-classified.	As found on the ground.
1	2	3	4	5
Rice-land ...	I	1 06	1232 96	44 89
	II	929 80	805 83	501 97
	III	655 17	251 66	1539 03
Total Rice-land ...	...	1586 03	2290 48	2085 39
Upland ...	I	331 48	115 21	26 59
	II	278 53	14 31	151 32
	III	203 46	...	101 44
Total Upland ...	...	863 97	159 52	279 35
Waste land ...	...	...	...	85 26
Grand Total ...	...	2450 00	2450 00	2450 00

Two special features of this area are (1) that a total of 229.43 acres, which appears in column 4\* as rice-land, is not now rice-land at all, although assessed as such. The particulars of the classification of this area are exhibited below; and secondly, that some uplands have been raised to a higher

\*66 acres of this was shown as rice land by Mr. Sunder too.

class of upland, although they do not seem to have been affected by the irrigation works which were made in their vicinity, and were the cause of the re-classification.

*Details of the classification of the 361.87 acres.*

	Class.	As originally classified.	As re-classified.	As found on the ground.
1	2	3	4	5
Rice land	I	60.67	55.03	05.00
	II	29.80	113.81	0.0
	III	33.23	60.56	00.00
Total	.....	68.10	229.43	00.00
Upland	I	56.02	93.95	25.31
	II	139.38	38.49	55.73
	III	107.37	00.00	101.44
Total	.....	2.8.77	132.44	277.48
Wasteland	.....	...	...	84.39
Grand Total	.....	361.87	361.87	361.87

*(B) New cultivation.*

355. The maintenance operations fall into three distinct divisions. The first covers a period ending in 1901-02 when all new cultivation which had been made since Mr. Berkeley's survey was mapped and assessed. The result was that 2,056 new holdings, involving an area of 7,168 acres and an additional assessment of Rs. 4,963, were brought on to the record in 1902. It is not possible to ascertain details of the classification but the low rate of assessment shows that the new cultivation consisted mostly of inferior upland. (2) During the second period (1902-06), no regular maintenance records were kept, but additional cultivation and its assessment was from time to time brought upon the *jamabandis*. No details are available to show the total new area thus added, or its assessment. (3) From 1907 to 1917 records of all new areas surveyed and assessed, were kept by the *Khas mahal* department, and from these the subjoined figures have been compiled. The classification is shown as it was made by the *Khas mahal* staff.

Rice land in acres.

Upland in acres.

I	II	III	Total	I	II	III	Total
131½	89	61½	282	601½	203½	524	4.70

The rental assessed upon this was Rs 3,350

The total extension of cultivation and consequential assessment as shown by the maintenance staff were therefore :—

	Acres.					Rs.
(1)	7,168	...	...	...	...	4,963
(2)	...	...	...	...	...	...
(3)	4,552	...	...	...	...	3,350

The total area of cultivation as shown by the *jamabandi* of 1917 was 73,447 acres. This represents an increase of 8,432 acres over Mr. Sunder's *Jamabandi* area (Final Report, paragraph 357, column 11) or of 17,169 acres over his area of cultivation actually under a crop.

The *Khas mahal* figures do not include any cases, of abandonment, unless a complete holding falls out of cultivation and cannot be re-settled. It will be shown later, when the results of the present settlement are reviewed, that there has been no such actual increase in the area annually cultivated and enjoyed by the tenantry. For the present it is worth noting that the *khas mahal* figures themselves show that the increase in the area of rice land has

been comparatively small. I have already explained that no details of classification are available for the period 1896-1906. But during the next ten years only 282 acres were found by the maintenance staff to have been converted from waste land into rice-land throughout the whole estate. Of this, 192 acres were found in the two jungly southern circles of Latehar and Garu. During the same ten years an acre of 705 acres was shown as having been converted from upland cultivation into rice-land in the estate. This figure, however, apparently includes the 229 acres which were wrongly reclassified as rice-land. This subject is further discussed in paragraph 372.

356. *The new upland was really almost all 3rd class exchanged for similar land given up by the raiyats.* Similarly faulty was the classification of upland. Under the local systems of land tenure (the *pariadari* and the *kanwadari*) it was always assumed that increase of rice-land cultivation would roughly keep pace with increase of upland cultivation; and that new cultivation in upland frequently indicated abandonment of other unprofitable land rather than enlargement of holdings and of rent-paying capacity—an assumption which appears to be correct. If this was the case under the old system when the rent was assessed upon the rice-land only, it is not likely that upland would have increased disproportionately as soon as it was subjected to a separate assessment by Mr. Sunder and the maintenance staff. The fact that the maintenance staff found so little new rice-land, therefore, throws suspicion upon the large reported increase in new permanent upland cultivation. The details themselves of the upland classification afford a similar indication. Of 4,270 acres of new cultivation brought on the records between 1907 and 1917, only 282 acres are shown as rice-land, and 3,084 acres are second class upland. This disproportion is as unnatural as the disproportion between second class upland (3,084 acres) and 3rd class upland (524 acres). During the recent survey it was found upon local examination that almost the whole of the 3,084 acres was land which had merely yielded a snatch crop or two and then dropped out of cultivation, or land which is still, and apparently always has been, no better than 3rd class. In fact there is little room for doubt that the effect of the Board's order of 1902 that 3rd class upland should not be assessed, had the unexpected result of causing a general over-classification of this kind of land.

357. *Improbability that extension of cultivation will take the form of direct reclamation of 1st and 2nd class upland.*—Most officers who are personally acquainted with the country, and certainly Settlement Officers, will be disposed to agree that first and second class upland will only increase in area to any great extent, not by reclamation direct from waste, but by improvement and development of 3rd class upland, such as occurs when a new hamlet is under establishment. This view was formerly recognized by the District Officers and the following is an interesting expression of it, taken from Mr. Lyall's letter No 320-G.E., dated the 11th July 1903 : "It may be taken as practically literally true that the only extension of cultivation which can take place in either the northern or southern *tappas* is in transforming waste land into rice-land or in the shape of 3rd class *bhita*. New cultivation will never be found to take the shape of 1st or 2nd class *bhita*."

The question of areas is further discussed later on.

#### (C). *Mutations.*

358. Statistics compiled from the *Khas mahal* records show that mutations have been made as follows :—

(a) Mutations on account of inheritance of holdings,* or of part-interests in holdings	...	...	8,170
(b) Mutations on account of relinquishments or abandonments in favour of relations	...	...	1,033
(c) Mutations on account of simple abandonment	...	...	3,753
(d) Mutations on account of formal relinquishment	...	...	1,052
(e) Mutations on account of sale	...	...	382

In 1,345 of these cases the former tenant has been found at the recent settlement to be still in possession along with the person whose name was

\* Where several heirs have partitioned the holding, each fraction became the subject of a separate mutation.

substituted for his. In 33 cases the former tenant alone retains the holding. In 1,822 instances mutation has merely substituted the heirs of one among many co-sharers of a holding. In 634 cases one of many co-sharers has left his share in the hands of his partners. In 765 cases the name of a deceased co-sharer has been struck off.

In 427 cases "actual possession" is shown as the reason for mutation. Many of these appear to have been instances merely of sub-leases. Thus in 1915-16 in village Goindi one Gokul Singh sublet a tenth of an acre to Bipat Teli. The mutation *peshkar* made Bipat the direct tenant of Government on a rental of Re. 1 and allowed Gokul an abatement of -/2/- in his rental. There are many instances of this kind. It is doubtful whether, if the nature of the transaction had been placed fully before him, the Deputy Commissioner would have approved the transfer, which was opposed to section 46 of the Tenancy Act, and to the intention of the parties; or of the enhancement of -/2/- to Re. 1, which ignored the rates and rules, which under the former settlement, were regarded as binding on the management. In like manner 3 holdings belonging to Bhuian raiyats in village Daltonganj were mutated in 1907-08 on the ground of "*actual possession*", in the name of 4 Kayasth brothers, one of whom is now a District Judge and another a Munsif; no further description of the transaction was considered necessary.

359. *Is it necessary to keep up mutations of transfers by inheritance?*—It is open to doubt whether there is much advantage in maintaining a considerable staff for the purpose of recording mutations on account of inheritance. In the much larger and more populous Government Estate of the Kolhan, it was recently recommended by the Deputy Commissioner and Settlement Officer that no attempt should be made to do this during the interval between two periodic settlements.

If (1) mutations on account of inheritance (9,203); (2) mutations in which the former tenant is still in possession (1,378); and (3) mutations of doubtful correctness (427), are omitted, it will be seen at once that the task of keeping the record up to date will be reduced very greatly. Such a reduction will afford the officer in charge an opportunity of exercising closer supervision and more effective control. There can be little doubt that at present he is overburdened with a mass of detail.

360. *The present Settlement*—In 1913 before the first season's survey commenced two conferences were held between the Deputy Commissioner and the Settlement Officer. An experiment which had been made in revising the existing records of the estate was considered, and it was agreed that a general revision was not feasible. A completely new record had therefore to be made. The Hazaribagh circulars dealing with classification (See Appendix N) were considered in connection with paragraphs 331 *et seq* of Mr. Sunder's report; and it was arranged that a distribution of rice-land and upland into 3 classes each should be made on these lines subject to any local modification which preliminary investigation, to be made during the survey stage, should show to be advisable.

361. *Difficulties arising from a general misunderstanding of the former classification*—It was not at first understood that the method of classification described in Mr. Sunder's report, had not been applied in practice and that instead of a uniform system for the estate each village had special standards of its own, under the old settlement. Accordingly, when in 1914 some great discrepancies between the new classification and the old were brought to light by the Director of Land Records, the local officers urged that the old classification should be maintained and that the new one should be condemned as not having been made in accordance with the principles which had been agreed upon at the conferences. This view was upheld by Government upon the unargued case and it was laid down in Mr. Coupland's letter No.  $\frac{978-2}{8-10}$  dated the 1st September 1915 that the "classification and rates adopted after careful enquiry by the last Settlement Officer and accepted and approved by the local officers and the Board so long ago as 1896" should not be lightly discarded. The Settlement



Officer thereupon asked for a hearing in the matter and at the same time a memorial against the settlement was presented by the landlords. Accordingly Government directed the Divisional Commissioner to look into the dispute, and he visited Palamau in February 1916, and made a local enquiry into classification but did not complete the investigation. Meanwhile a long and inconclusive correspondence took place between the local officers and the Settlement Department. The investigation was next taken up, some months later, by the Director of Land Records under the orders of Government; and was very fully discussed in the printed report which was forwarded to the Board with his letter No. 3949, dated the 22nd August 1916. The Board in the following December expressed the opinion that no change in the new methods of classification was necessary and Government, in Mr. Coupland's letter No.  $\frac{41-B.T.}{2-21}$ , and in their Resolution on the memorials, found no reason to interfere or modify them.

362. *Further controversy over classification.*—The local officers however did not share this view and long notes were written on the subject by two successive District Officers in connection with the Settlement Officer's rate report. These notes were both answered. The notes and answers will all be found among the papers referred to earlier in this chapter. Eventually in the end of 1917 after the Deputy Commissioner had been instructed to make crop-cutting experiments along with the Settlement Officer, and had made several local inspections of classification (the first attempt of the local officers to have their theories tested on the ground), he admitted that the classification was "made with great care" and was "as good as possible", but did not think that *any* classification could represent the numerous and often unexpected variations in fertility which are actually found to exist. The question was finally disposed of by the orders of Government conveyed in Mr. Lister's letter No. 4239R/S-44, dated 2nd July 1918, which directed certain specified rates of rent to be applied to the classification made by the Settlement Department, and thus gave it general approval, not only in the Government estate but in the whole district.

363. *Other difficulties.*—*Korkar.*—Other matters over which differences of opinion came to light during the course of the settlement and were referred to the higher authorities were rights in *korkar*, the status of under-raiyats, occupancy rights, reclaiming rights, and area of new cultivation.

1. New rice-land, terraced by raiyats, is defined in section 3 (XIII) of the Act as *korkar*, and is recorded as such in the settlement record. If any special privileges attach by local custom to *korkar* they are valid under section 76 (Illustration IV); and a custom which governs the right to reclaim waste land into *korkar* is given recognition in section 64. In the Government estate it was claimed by the tenants and admitted by the *Khas mahal* representatives, that in return for making *korkar*, a raiyat is by custom entitled to hold the land rent free for periods varying in different villages from 3 to 5 years after completion. The record was prepared accordingly; but the *Khas mahal* officer and the Deputy Commissioner objected. They considered that the raiyats could not claim any custom, and that the matter was solely at the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner. They stated that the *Khas mahal* staff were not empowered to make admissions and asked that no privileges be recorded on behalf of the raiyats. They admitted at the same time that there was some customary privilege, but refused to explain what it was, and said that it was different from the one which had been recorded,—which, they alleged, had been imported from Hazaribagh and Ranchi. The settlement view was that the evidence proved the recorded custom, that a rent-free period of 3 to 5 years constituted merely a reasonable recognition of the well known fact that newly-terraced rice-land is very unproductive for the first few seasons, without giving the raiyat any real return for his outlay; that the customs of Ranchi and Hazaribagh were different and far more generous than that which had been recorded in the Government Estate, and that the statements of the *Khas mahal* staff who had been for many years associated in the management of the estate and the assessment of *korkar*

constituted good evidence of facts within their personal knowledge. The question was reported upon by the Director of Land Records, and was left by the higher authorities to be decided in test cases under section 89 by the Settlement Officer. The villages of Nindir and Ulgarra were selected by the Deputy Commissioner for the test cases. It was found that in those villages new rice-lands had been enjoyed rent-free for periods generally in excess of those recorded; and that the *Khasmahal* officer's contention was disproved by his own evidence. It was proved moreover by the Board's letter No. 251-A., dated the 3rd of November 1902, and the connected papers, copies of which were obtained from the Commissioner, that the Deputy Commissioner, the Commissioner and the Board had already at that date recognized a three-year period of grace *as customary*. Ultimately Government directed, in letter No. 4239-R/S-44, dated 2nd July 1918, that *korkar* should in future receive much greater privileges than those which were admitted in the settlement record. These privileges are further described below.

364. *Dar-raiyats*.—The *Khas mahal* authorities objected to the recognition in the record-of-rights of any under-raiyats holding lands on oral settlements other than settlements for a fixed term of 5 years or less. They argued that such under-raiyats were occupiers of portions of raiyati holdings by virtue of illegal transfers in violation of section 46. The Settlement Officer regarded them as tenants holding from year to year, and liable to ejectment at the end of any agricultural year. According to this view there was no violation of section 46. The matter was referred to the Legal Remembrancer and it was held by Government that there was no illegality in the settlement procedure. At the same time the Deputy Commissioner objected to the non-recognition in the record-of-rights of transfers which were undisputedly contrary to the terms of section 46, but which had been admitted to mutation in the estate *jumabandi*.

365. *Occupancy rights*.—In the case of raiyats of the Government Estate who were not "settled raiyats" and had not held their holdings for 12 years, but had been admitted to settlement on a cash rent for an unlimited term, the Settlement Department held, on the evidence, that there was a custom by which occupancy rights were immediately acquired. This finding did not extend to any cases in which the terms of the original settlement provided legally for a limited period of occupation, or in which any special condition had been proved. Mr. Forbes had already definitely given the right of occupancy to all the Government Estates raiyats, if they had not had it before; and in practice it had been always respected by the management. The Deputy Commissioner, however, strongly objected to its recognition by the Settlement Department, and claimed that all the recorded "occupancy raiyats" should be given "non-occupancy" status. The objection was essentially academic; for the objector had no desire to treat the raiyats otherwise than as occupancy raiyats. Moreover if he had such a desire, the legal position of a non-occupancy raiyat, who has been admitted to an unconditional settlement of his holding for an indefinite period, and has held it for 7 or 8 years (as most of the raiyats who were chosen to defend test suits had done) is so strong under Chapter VI of the Act, that he is for nearly all practical purposes as well protected as an occupancy raiyat. The objection was, also, occasioned partly by the fear that the case of the Government Estates might be used as a precedent against the private landlords. The correspondence on this question was very voluminous but led to no solution. The Deputy Commissioner eventually filed a number of test suits under section 87, affecting 6 villages, and the Settlement Officer asked for the instructions of Government. The Deputy Commissioner was directed to withdraw the suits, in the Revenue Department's letter No.  $\frac{K222.11}{2-18}$ , dated the 6th August, 1918.

366. *Reclaiming rights*.—The chief characteristic of the *pariadari* and *kamwadei* system—the old land systems of Palawan—was unrestricted reclamation and exchange of upland. It has been explained above, how Mr. Forbes recognized the existence of this feature and tried to impose an

extra rent on raiyats who took up more than a fixed allowance of upland. He did not, however, object to their taking that fixed allowance anywhere they liked, or exchanging it freely for other lands. When they exceeded the *quantity* of upland allowed, the raiyats were merely liable to pay a ratable addition to their rent. This attempt to impose even a mild control upon upland cultivation utterly failed. Mr. Sunder assessed all cultivated land and declared all new cultivation to be liable to additional assessment; but no attempt was made to enforce his policy until 1901-02 when it was found necessary as a result of the attempt that the Board should declare all third class upland reclamation in the southern jungly area to be absolutely unrestricted and free.

Meanwhile Mr. Forbes had set aside about  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the area of the entire estate as a Government Reserve Forest, and after Mr. Sunder's Settlement another 75 square miles were protected. In these areas cultivation was stopped, and in return, the raiyats were given "complete rights" over the undemarcated portion of the Estate "for grazing, reclamation of waste and supply of jungle produce without restriction." During the first year's attestation, at the present settlement, the raiyats set up a custom of reclamation without the landlord's permission, and it was generally found that this custom existed. It was therefore recognized in the record-of-rights subject to the condition that the right of reclamation must not be exercised unreasonably. This entry led to a divergence of views between the local officers and the Settlement Department which was examined in the Director of Land Records' enquiry. As in the case of the other controversial points mentioned in the landlords' memorial, Government held that there was nothing illegal in the settlement procedure in respect of this subject, but directed that the right to make *permanent* reclamation *only* should be recognized; the right to reclaim for the purpose merely of getting one or two snatch crops had not been recorded, the omission being made as a precaution against the wasteful, though now rare, practice of jhum, which was unanimously regarded as unreasonable and mischievous both by the Settlement Department and its opponents. The question was not, however, disposed of by these orders. The local officers considered it necessary still to press for a reversal of the settlement entry. Accordingly in June 1917, a test village (Murgidih) which had been selected by the Deputy Commissioner was taken up in revision by the Settlement Officer, at the request of the Divisional Commissioner.

367. *Khasmahal reliance on the inability of the raiyats to bear the burden of proofs of customary rights.*—In this controversy, as in the case of occupancy rights, korkar rights and all other customary rights, the *Khas mahal* department took its stand upon the legal principle that the onus of proving a custom is on him who asserts it. The Deputy Commissioner did not, therefore, think it necessary either to examine the old records bearing on the disputed questions or to bring them to the notice of the Settlement Officer. He relied on the difficulty of proving a custom, and asked that each individual raiyat should be required to sustain this onus alone, without deriving any support from the cumulative evidence of the thousands of similar cases which were heard throughout the locality. The cause of his opposition to the recognition of reclaiming rights was, I believe, chiefly solicitude on account of the unprotected forests. The Settlement Officer believed that Government should not withhold any evidence especially within its knowledge, such as old letters and records, which were accessible to its officers but entirely beyond the reach of the ordinary raiyat. He therefore obtained such papers as were available from the Director of Land Records; and having gone through these and the oral evidence, and having discussed them with the Deputy Commissioner succeeded in obtaining the latter's complete agreement to the rejection of the claim of the *Khasmahal* department in the test case of Murgidih. The facts of that case are not without interest. It was the *Khasmahal* claim that there had been no extension of cultivation in Murgidih, which had not been previously sanctioned by the maintenance staff. The maintenance records showed that there had been a total reclamation of 13 acres of upland and none of rice land in the village; but no evidence of previous permission was forth-

coming; and it was found upon the ground that actually there had been an increase of 10 acres of rice-land and a *decrease of 7 acres of upland* instead of an increase of 13 acres; it was therefore clear that the *Khasmahal* staff had exercised no sort of control over reclamation in the village.

368. *Proposal to withdraw the record of reclaiming rights.—Order to omit entries concerning upland reclamation of jungle.*—A copy of the decision in the test case was sent to the Commissioner but meanwhile the subject of jungle preservation and the injurious effects which, it was thought, would arise out of the settlement entry had been again brought to the notice of the Board by that officer along with a proposal that the record of jungle rights and of reclaiming rights, if it could not be altered, should at least be withdrawn. The result was that in the Revenue Department's letter No. <sup>5978-B.</sup><sub>8-161</sub>, dated 13th September 1918, Government ordered that the record should stand as regards waste land, and so far as concerned grazing, fuel, and reclamation of riceland in jungle, but decided that in the unfinished area (thana Daltonganj) no mention should be made in the record of the right of conversion of jungle into upland cultivation. The intention was that this right might remain open and might not be pre-determined by a presumption under section 84 in favour of the raiyat. The record for the first 3 years' area, which had been finally published, was not affected by this new order.

369. *Representation by the Settlement officer and further orders of Government.*—The Settlement officer afterwards represented, (1) that if the record was to be really neutral, the notification under section 81 should be amended, (2) that the belief that jungle would be preserved by strengthening the position of the *malik* had been repeatedly proved by experience to be erroneous, (3) that the matter was already disposed of in the Government Estate by the decision in the test case, which had been accepted by the Deputy Commissioner, (4) that the new order was likely to effect a complete upheaval of the indigenous and immemorial rent systems of the district, and (5) while it was unlikely to effect its avowed object of jungle preservation, it was calculated to affect an already down-trodden peasantry very adversely, and to discourage that enlargement of raiyati holdings which on account of economic conditions is of vital necessity. This reference was disposed of in the letter of Government No. <sup>642-B.</sup><sub>8-107</sub>, dated 5th August 1919, which made it clear that the orders of Government were not meant to apply to the Government Estates, where, "it was affirmed, there has been no intention at any time to alter the policy under which the *Khalsa* jungles were released for the free use of the villagers, i.e., for grazing, reclamation of waste and the supply of jungle produce without restriction." In the *private* estates of the 4th year's area scrub jungle was at the same time excluded from the operation of the Government orders. It is therefore only in respect of a specific area of good jungle in that area that the question whether the raiyats have a customary right to reclaim the land into upland cultivation, or not, has been left unanswered in the record-of-rights. The effect of the omission has been explained in Chapter XII, (paragraph 406)

370. *Fair rent settlement.—The rate report.—Results of the last settlement.*—A rate report was written by the Settlement Officer in 1917. It related to the Government villages in the 12 *tappas* which were dealt with in the first two years of attestation; but the orders which were passed by Government upon it were subsequently made applicable to the whole estate. The report sketched the history of the estate from the commencement of the 20 years settlement of 1839, so far as the material then available permitted, and discussed the classification and rates of the previous settlements in detail.

The immediate effects of the last settlement were described, and particularly the state of affairs reported in 1902 by the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, and it was pointed out that it is not safe to assume from the silence of a depressed tenantry that they are satisfied. The following is a brief summary taken from the rate report and brought up to date in some respects concerning which more information has since become available. Up to 1902 collections had been very bad and over 5,500 certificates for the realization of

arrears had issued in the first 5 years of the Settlement. The result was reported to be "a continual impoverishment of the tenantry", and 800 whole families absconded in the first 3 years alone, while the Deputy Commissioner was still in 1902 being "daily inundated with petitions for holdings being resigned, and hearing the bitterest complaints." The remedial measures then ordered by the Board have been already mentioned. In addition large sums were advanced as agricultural loans and the certificate procedure was limited to special cases. The collections have never since attained a really satisfactory standard, for in 18 years following the settlement, the total current demand was Rs. 15,20,407 and the total current collection Rs. 11,29,522. A table showing demand and collections is contained in Appendix S. Certificates still continue to be necessary and a large number of holdings (reported by the *Khasmahal* department to be more than 450 in number) have been taken from the former raiyats and transferred to others on payment of outstanding arrears. This procedure is justifiable only on the assumption that raiyati holdings have no more than the value of 3 years' purchase, for otherwise it deprives the raiyat of the difference between his arrears of rent and the full sale value of his holdings, which should be his under the law. It is desirable, therefore, that defaulting tenants should in future have their holdings brought to sale. The state of affairs described above was in 1902 in some measure attributed to bad harvests, but there seems now to be little doubt that the settlement was its prime cause. The productive capacity of the land and the relation of rent to produce was examined in the rate report, it was found that the incidence of the rent under the former assessment was extraordinarily uneven, ranging from 3 per cent. of the value of the gross produce in one village to 31 per cent. in another. (See paragraph 56 of the Rate Report.) The average pitch of the rents was, however, just about 12 per cent. of the gross produce after taking into account an increase in the rental of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. which has been imposed by the maintenance staff.

371. *Rise in prices since 1896.*—A comparison of the average retail prices reported at Daltonganj for the period 1906-1915 and the prices published in Mr. Sunder's report was made. Here, however, a difficulty arose in respect of rice, for it is not clear whether Mr. Sunder's figures are for the cheapest rice or the average rice. In any case these prices have no relation to the sum which the raiyat obtains when he sells his crop to the dealers, as he must do in Palamau, immediately after the harvest; but as there was no information available to show what the raiyat's price was in 1896, they were the only possible means of making a comparison. The average prices per maund during the later decennial period (excluding the famine years 1908-09) were:—

Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Maize.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
4 1 8	3 10 4	2 14 4	2 4 8

Mr. Sunder's prices for the years 1886-95 were:—

Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Maize.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
2 8 8	2 10 1	2 3 9	1 12 5

The percentage of increases is thus—

Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Maize.
61.57	38.61	29.60	28.44

But if Mr. Sunder's figures refer to the cheapest rice, the percentage of increase will diminish from 61 per cent. to 40 per cent. for that crop.

372. *Increase in area since 1896.*—It has already been observed in this Chapter that the maintenance records showed a very large increase in upland cultivation, and a small increase in rice land during the currency of the last settlement. In the rate report however, it was explained that there had been no real increase in the area of upland cultivation. This result was vigorously disputed by the *Khasmahal* department; but seems to be established beyond cavil by the following figures. Mr. Sunder's *jamabandi* area was 65,015 acres of cultivation, and his area actually under crop was 56,278. It will be seen that he included a very small proportion of fallow upland in the

holdings; but he actually surveyed a great deal more of it, and recorded it in the *Khalsa Khatian*. In the present settlement the total *jamabandi* area is 76,507 acres and the total cropped area is 54,581 acres. Virtually all the fallow cultivation, and a considerable area of land which has fallen completely out of cultivation, have been included in our *khatian* (or *jamabandi*) area of 76,507 acres; and there is correspondingly little fallow land in the *Khalsa* (or *maliki*) *Khatian*. The enlargement of the *jamabandi* area is thus due, not to any real increase in the size of holdings but to the policy which is now followed in the Estate of refusing to allow raiyats to give up unprofitable parts of their holdings unless they surrender the whole. In some cases the *Khasmahal* Department went so far in pursuance of this policy as to insist that fields which had long since been abandoned in practice, and had relapsed into jungle, should be copied on to the new maps from the old ones, when no one could find them upon the ground. This *khasmahal* policy is perfectly legal and correct and may even be advisable in the interests of jungle preservation (unless it is thought that sufficient can be done in this direction by means of Reserves and Protected Forests), but care is necessary lest the artificial inflation on paper, of the size of the holdings which it causes should again be mistaken for a real increase of cultivation and regarded as a proof of prosperity. (See paragraph 344).

The total rice land in the Estate is 16,796 acres as against Mr. Sunder's 13,888 acres. The comparison is, however, unfortunately misleading, for as Mr. Sunder explained in paragraph 73(a) of his report, he treated a considerable area of rice-land as if it were upland, in order to lighten the assessment for the tenants. This has now been put into its proper class. Moreover the figures of the present settlement include all rice-land which was found to be fallow for one year or less while in the last settlement, land of this kind was recorded and classified as *fallow*. There is now no means of deciding exactly how much of the 2,908 acres by which the present rice-land area appears to exceed that of the last settlement, is accounted for by these two factors but the following points will throw some light upon the question. The total area of new rice-land discovered by the *Khasmahal* department during the period 1906-1917, as has been explained in paragraph 355, was 987 acres of which about a quarter has been found on the ground not to be really rice-land at all. Much of this new reclamation had been made during the previous ten years and was mapped in 1907 and 1908, or even in later years if it at first escaped detection. In addition to this new rice-land an area amounting to 176 acres of *belagan kabil lagan* rice-land, that is to say rice-land which was not discovered and assessed by the maintenance *Peshkars*, has been brought to light at the present settlement. Thus the new rice-land of the period 1907-1917, along with much of that prepared during the preceding years may be put down as about 900 acres. The period 1896-1902 was one of great distress in the Estate and the greater prosperity of the following five years was due rather to success in lac cultivation than to agricultural activity. It is probable that reclamation of rice-land was not active in these years. It seems fairly safe in these circumstances to estimate the total of new rice-land added since the last settlement as not exceeding 1,200 acres or  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the amount which was actually recorded in 1895.

Meanwhile upland cultivation has decreased in area. Nominally it amounts now to 59,711 acres, but of this about 21,610 acres normally lie fallow in any given year. Thus the cropped area of upland is reduced to 38,101 acres, as against the 42,389 acres reported by Mr. Sunder. This decrease may cause some surprise in view of the consistent reports of the maintenance staff which show a great and steady increase in the area of upland cultivation, and the surprise will not be lessened when it is explained that the figure given above for the present settlement includes 5,652 acres of *belagan kabil lagan* upland, which had not been brought on to the records by the *Khasmahal* department. But there are many reasons to account for it.

373 *Reasons for a decrease in the area of upland cultivation.*—The separate assessment of uplands was in the vast majority of villages an introduction of the last settlement, and cannot have increased its popularity. I have already mentioned the policy of mapping and assessing all additions to the

size of a holding while no decreases in it were recognized. This policy, necessarily meant that the apparent area of the holdings might increase without restriction, *but could not be reduced*. It is not probable that such a policy was understood by the tenantry, who had always previously enjoyed the privileges of exchanging their uplands without extra assessment. This privilege was expressly confirmed to them by Colonel Dalton and Mr. Forbes, and when the protected forests were taken up in Mr. Sunder's time, they were promised the use of the *khalsa* forests for supplying their domestic necessities and "for extension of cultivation without restriction". No attempt was made to assess exchanges of upland till 1902. It is probable then that when the raiyats continued to exchange their uplands after that date, and found themselves suddenly called upon to pay extra rent, they attributed the demand merely to the adoption of an increased rate of rent for uplands; it would not occur to them that they might return to the fields which they had held in 1895 without additional assessment. The natural result was a discouragement of upland cultivation. The same result must have followed in a marked degree from the over-classification and consequent over-assessment of most of the upland by the maintenance staff (*see* paragraph 356). Again the formation of the protected forests threw considerable areas of upland permanently out of cultivation, while the suppression of the practice of *jhuming* made the cultivation of cotton no longer profitable and further reduced the popularity of upland cultivation; finally, it must not be forgotten that the great distress of the years which followed the Settlement and led to the wholesale abandonment of their homes by hundreds of families must have materially reduced the area actually under the plough and witnessed a heavy reduction in the number of plough cattle which the tenantry could afford to keep. At the last settlement it was reported that upland cultivation had increased by 501 per cent. since the previous survey, and the maintenance staff have continued to show a phenomenal extension of upland cultivation ever since. But there is nothing to account for such a development. Every consideration is against it, and the facts detailed above show that the reports were mistaken. The mistake was apparently due to a failure sufficiently to appreciate how deeply the habit of exchanging uplands has become ingrained in the tenantry under the *pariadari* system, and how difficult it has been for them to comprehend any other method of assessment. Perhaps after so many years of maintenance operations, the peasantry may now begin to have a glimmering of the conditions of land tenure under which they are expected to live; but on the whole it may be accepted that a system of periodic re-settlements is much more suitable to their needs and more calculated to secure the development of the Estate than the methods of maintenance at present in vogue.

374. *Economic condition of the peasantry.*—The economic condition of the raiyats was shown in the rate report to be unsatisfactory. 7,514 holdings came under review in the report. Of these 6,282 were too small to produce half a seer a day of rice, or an equivalent, for each member of an average family of five, even if the whole of the gross produce were devoted to the purpose. The number of raiyats exceeds the number of holdings, being 11,256. Of these 1,249 each held two or more holdings, so that there remained only 5,016 very small holdings for 10,007 raiyats and their families. Out of the total number of holdings, in 370 cases the annual value of the gross produce exceeds Rs. 150, in 217 of them it exceeds Rs. 200, and in 53 it exceeds Rs. 400. On the other hand 2,095 holdings contain less than one acre of inferior land.

The total gross annual value of the produce of all the cultivated land dealt with in the rate report was roughly Rs. 3,30,000, which allowed about Rs. 30 a year per tenant to its 11,000 tenants. Out of this Rs. 30 each raiyat has to provide seed and plough cattle, pay his rent and feed and clothe his whole family. But even this figure is too optimistic, for 370 raiyats monopolize one sixth of the total gross produce, leaving the others proportionately the worse off; and the *kamia* system is very prevalent in the estate—a mark of the depression of the smaller tenantry. The system has been described in Chapter VIII. There were 625 *kamias* in the Government villages reported on in 1917, and they had families amounting to 2,299 more.



375. *The Settlement Officer's proposal to re-distribute the existing rental, but to give no enhancement.*—The Settlement Officer urged in view of the history of the estate and its bad economic condition that there was not any kind of case for a further enhancement of rent; and pointed out that the assessment of 1896 had been admittedly severe and that the maintenance staff had already increased it by  $17\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. He, therefore, proposed to maintain the average pitch of the existing rents and suggested that low rents should be enhanced up to this standard, subject to certain limitations of enhancement and that high rents should be reduced down to it, thus removing some of the inequalities of the existing assessment. Mr. Sunder's rates had not been applied in practice. It was, therefore, considered impossible to use them now. Figures were quoted to show that the proposed average was not by any means low according to the standard of neighbouring districts (see paragraph 83 of the Rate Report). The Settlement Officer thought it likely that conditions might vary from *tappa* to *tappa*. Markets might be near at hand in some and far away in others; fertility would differ with the local peculiarities of soil; and frost and the ravages of wild beasts would have more or less effect upon cultivation in different localities. He, therefore, suggested that the guiding rate might be altered slightly from place to place, that is to say it might be a little above 124 per cent. of the value of the gross produce in some open and long cultivated areas such as the country round Garhwa, while in jungly *tappas* like Bare-sand it might fall somewhat below that standard.

376. *Discussion of the Rate Report.*—The rate report was given in draft to the Deputy Commissioner with a view to discussion, and if necessary amendment, before its formal submission to the Director of Land Records. The Deputy Commissioner, however, prepared an elaborate criticism of it, in which he contested almost every fact and conclusion stated in it and pressed for a large enhancement of Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 30,000 beyond the present *jamabandi* rent. The Settlement Officer was called upon to defend his report before two conferences, convened by the Commissioner at Ranchi, in April and May 1917, and attended by the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, the Director of Land Records, the Revenue Secretary and the Settlement Officer. Shortly afterwards a new Deputy Commissioner gave the Settlement Officer an opportunity of reading and replying to his predecessor's criticisms but himself wrote an entirely new and unfavourable analysis of the rate report. The whole question was further considered at two more conferences which were convened and presided over by the Hon'ble Member of the Board, the first at Patna in August, and the second at Ranchi in October. The Settlement Officer was invited to attend the first of these.

377. *Recommendations of the Board.*—The results of these two conferences were set forth as follows in the Board's letter No. 17-26-14, dated the 31st October, 1917.—

"In view of the conflicting opinions as to the value of the facts and figures furnished in Mr. Sunder's settlement report, no great value can be attached to any arguments based on comparison of the facts and figures with those provided by the present settlement as regards increases of cultivation. In the settlement of fair rents in the Government estates there should be taken into consideration (a) the quality of the land, (b) the gross produce, (c) the value of the gross produce, (d) situation and other factors. In view of the large increases in population, rise of prices, construction of a railway, works of improvement and other factors there are *prima facie* grounds for believing that Government may reasonably expect some increase in the present rental. Twelve and a half per cent. of the gross produce should be taken as the guiding factor in deciding what would be a fair rate of rent for each class of land. If, however, this would lead to a material reduction in the total rental value of the estate it will be necessary to reconsider the proportion of the gross produce to be taken as the guiding factor. The classification made by Mr. Bridge is too broad and includes lands of too great diversity within the same class to be a fair basis for fixing definite rates to be paid for individual lands included within these classes. Instead of making a formal reclassification the broad classification already made should be used as the basis of settlement, but a standard maximum and minimum rate should be substituted for the fixed rates proposed by Mr. Bridge for each class, and the Settlement Officer should fix the rates for each class

in each village between the limits, having regard to the local conditions. In exceptional cases the classification in a village may need to be subdivided. The following maxima and minima rates should be fixed.

Dhan.		Rate proposed by Settlement Officer.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Mean between maximum and minimum.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1st class	...	5 0 0	4 0 0	7 8 0	5 12 0
2nd "	...	3 4 0	2 8 0	5 0 0	3 12 0
3rd "	...	1 10 0	1 0 0	3 0 0	2 0 0
	Tanr				
1st class	...	3 0 0	2 0 0	5 0 0	3 8 0
2nd "	...	0 15 3	0 8 0	2 0 0	1 4 0
3rd "	...	0 3 9	0 4 0	1 0 0	0 10 0

The Settlement Officer and the Deputy Commissioner together should at once make an experimental settlement of certain typical villages, applying the above maxima and minima rates as a guide, and fixing the actual rates for each village within those limits according to the local conditions. The number of villages in which the proposed experimental settlements should be made should be left to the decision of the Deputy Commissioner and the Settlement Officer. The present system of allowing tenants to cultivate upland without payment of rent during the currency of the settlement should be discontinued. This is absolutely necessary to put a stop to the existing system of shifting cultivation and to prevent the present destruction of the jungle, which is cleared and cultivated for one year and then abandoned. The provision is necessary in the future interests of the tenants themselves. Mr. Bridge's proposal in paragraph 99 of his report to further extend the present practice with regard to korkar by allowing the tenant to hold new rice-lands, not only at specially low rates for three to five years, but thereafter at half rates for the rest of the term of the settlement is unsound and should not be adopted. To extend rice cultivation to unsuitable land in a country of precarious rainfall is not in the interests of either tenant or landlord. Where the tenant besides levelling and banking a piece of ground, also makes some provision for its irrigation it may very well be left to the Deputy Commissioner to give special concessions, as he has done in the past, without setting up any new custom.

"*Palas* trees standing on raiyats' holdings may be settled with the raiyat upon whose holding they stand. This will give the raiyats the right to cut down the trees. But in the case of *palas* trees this is not likely to injure the future production of lac or the lac industry. A raiyat is not likely to cut down a lac-bearing tree so long as the tree continues to be able to produce lac. The present revenue from lac (including all trees both those on raiyats' holdings and others) is (for the year 1915-16) Rs. 16,225. Excluding the high rates for lac which were collected from 1907-08 to 1910-11 which followed the lac boom, and which amounted in one year to Rs. 34,615, as being excessive for an average on which to base future demands, the average for the five years 1911-12 to 1915-16 is Rs. 12,447. It is not reasonable that Government should give up this source of revenue, and the settlement should be at such rates as will not reduce the present average revenue. It is necessary to fix a fairly commercial rate and not a purely nominal rate so as to prevent a raiyat from retaining land in his holdings which he does not cultivate, practically the sole produce of which is the *palas* trees on it. The settlement of *palas* trees not on raiyats' holdings should be made for periods of five years and not annually as at present. In view of the fluctuations in the lac market and in the consequent value of trees, the term of settlement should not be longer than five years. The settlement for the first five years should be made by the Settlement Officer at the present *existing* rates, and thereafter by the Deputy Commissioner at such rates as may then be fixed. The settlement of *mahua* trees should continue on the present system and be made for the term of the settlement at the present rate."

378. *The orders of Government.*—Government's orders (letter No. 28-R.T. of the 16th November, 1917) accepted the proposal for a test fair rent settlement and continued thus :—

"As regards the proposal for putting a stop to the system of allowing tenants to cultivate without payment of rent during the currency of settlement, Government are in full accord with the Board's views. The difficulties arising from the system were recognized at the last settlement and its continuance was allowed only as a temporary

\*NOTE.—In practice he is refused permission to give up such a field, under the existing policy of the estate.

measure and for the period of the settlement in the Government Estates.† At the same time I am to observe that it will have to be recognized that if the shifting cultivation is to be stopped or discouraged, the yearly rate for 3rd class *land* lands must be kept low as in many cases such lands cannot be cultivated year after year. While Government accept the Board's proposal as regards *korkar* I am to point out that the theory that *korkar* is a thing to be discouraged is a new theory quite foreign to Chota Nagpur. In Ranchi and probably also in Hazaribagh and Palamanu *korkar* has hitherto been regarded as a thing to be encouraged, as is proved by the custom of charging half rates for such lands. The conditions in Palamanu may be somewhat different and Government see no reason to object to the general principle that so far as possible irrigation of some kind should be available on *korkar* lands, provided the condition is not so pushed as to make *korkar* impossible. Government agree to the Board's proposals in connection with the settlement with the raiyats of *palas* trees and *mahua* trees."

**379. The trial settlements.**—The trial settlements followed in December 1917. They were made in six private villages and five Government Estates villages. One hundred and one crop-cutting experiments were made to test the Settlement Officer's figures, and local enquiries were made by the Deputy Commissioner and Settlement Officer jointly concerning prices. It was found that the Settlement Officer's previous estimates, far from being unfair to the landlord, were too high. Further general information on the subject of the test settlements will be found in the Chapter on fair rents. It was found that the Board's maxima and minima for the Government Estate were too wide apart to serve as useful guides in assessment, and that the mean between them could not be followed because it would give an excessive enhancement of 65 per cent. over the rents of the last settlement. Moreover the settlement officer submitted a representation against the high rates proposed by the Board for 3rd class upland, and the refusal of any encouragement to the makers of *korkar*.

Subsequently during the test settlement it was suggested by the Deputy Commissioner that instead of varying the standard rates in different localities as proposed by the Board, somewhat the same result might be obtained by adding  $\frac{1}{4}$ th to the  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. standard, in order to obtain a guiding rate for reductions, and by subtracting  $\frac{1}{4}$ th from it in the same way in the case of enhancements. Thus  $15\frac{5}{8}$  per cent. of the value of the normal gross produce became the reducing standard or maximum rate, and  $9\frac{3}{8}$  per cent. the enhancing standard or minimum rate. The advantage claimed for this method was that it gave some weight to the existing rental, as well as to the classification. It is well known that there are variations of fertility which cannot be adequately distinguished in any practical classification, and it was thought that by assuming that high-rented lands were somewhat better and low-rented lands somewhat worse, than they appeared to be, it might be possible to secure greater elasticity and to take advantage to some extent of the local experience of the past. The danger of assuming that the pitch of the rent varies or has ever varied, with the real value of the land, is very obvious in Palamanu, where almost every officer of local knowledge and experience for 60 years has found that the productive capacity of the soil has been one of the very smallest factors in its assessment; nevertheless the principle of maximum and minimum standards which soften both reductions and enhancements had much to commend it and was accepted by the Settlement Officer. It was proposed also by the Deputy Commissioner and accepted, that a rigid limitation of enhancements of 50 per cent. over the finally published rent should be imposed in all cases except where there was *prima facie* good ground for believing that there had been a large and recent extension of the *area* of a holding. Subsequently the Deputy Commissioner wished to increase the enhancing standard from  $9\frac{3}{8}$  of the value of the normal gross produce to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in order to safeguard the estate from all risk of a reduction in the total assessment; but the Settlement Officer was unable to agree to modify, for such a purpose, principles of settlement which had been accepted by everyone as fair on the merits; and the two conflicting proposals were submitted to the higher authorities.

†NOTE.—This was a mistake. Actually it was attempted to assess new fields at ordinary rates and the attempt was disastrous. It was, therefore, abandoned in the southern *tappas* (the jungly area) in 1902 and it was then directed that at the present settlement the advisability of assessing only half rates should be considered.

380. *The final orders of Government.*—The final orders of Government (*vide* Mr. Lister's letter No. 4239-44 R./S., dated the 2nd July 1918), were :—

"Concerning the rents to be fixed in the Government Estates, after carefully considering the matter, Government is prepared to accept the proposals of the Settlement Officer. The proportion of the normal gross produce represented by 9 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. will be the minimum up to which rents will be enhanced (subject to the 50 per cent. proviso); 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  will be the standard share of the produce to which the cash rent should correspond; and 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. will be the maximum share; cash rents equivalent to a larger proportion being reduced so as to correspond with that share. The normal crops of the various classes of rice-land are reported to average Rs. 38/8/-, Rs. 25/4, and Rs. 14 respectively and one-eighth of these sums would be Rs. 4/14/-, Rs. 3/2/6 and Rs. 1/12/. For *tand* lands it is stated that one-eighth would be Rs. 3/2, Re. 1 and annas four. It is, however, understood that the local officers accepted as reasonable equivalents the figures given below, and these are accepted :—

	Dhan I.	Dhan II.	Dhan III.	Tanr I.	Tanr II.	Tanr III.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Maxima ...	6 0 0	4 0 0	2 3 0	3 12 0	1 4 0	0 5 0
Average ...	4 13 0	3 4 6	1 12 0	3 2 0	1 0 0	0 4 0
Minima ...	3 8 0	2 7 0	1 6 0	2 4 0	0 12 0	0 3 0

As to *korkar* in the Government estates, a raiyat is entitled by explicit provision in the statute to convert any land in his holdings; and his right cannot be challenged. As to lands outside his holdings it has first to be ascertained whether there is a valid custom of the raiyat converting waste lands in his village without the consent of the Deputy Commissioner. *In its absence* the proposal of the Board is accepted that the consent of the District Officer must first be obtained.

The slow extension of rice-land in the Government estate is a very significant fact; and it is desired that the Deputy Commissioner will ascertain and remove the obstacles which have contributed to bring about a result so contrary to the experience and the policy of Government in the rest of the division. The rates to be charged for *korkar* lands should be fixed on the following principles :—

*Korkar* made in or outside the holding, with or without consent, prior to the present settlement should if still *unassessed* be dealt with separately from the rest of the holding in which it is included, and should be assessed at half the average rates specified in paragraph 2 above. At the next settlement it will be assessed at the full rates.

(2) *Korkar* made subsequent to the present settlement—

(a) made inside the raiyat's holding, will be assessed at (1) the existing rent for the period of this settlement, (2) half rates during the next settlement, (3) full rate henceforth;

(b) made outside the raiyat's holding with the consent of the Deputy Commissioner (or without his consent where by custom it is not required). (1) *tanr* rate (according to the natural class of the land, which will presumably be 3rd class in most cases) till the next settlement; (2) half rice-land rates during the next settlement; (3) full rice-land rates thenceforth.

It is not expected that after the publication of these terms any *korkar* will be prepared outside the holding without the consent of the Deputy Commissioner provided the *Khasmahal* is efficient; but in such a case full rates should be charged with effect from the year the raiyat took *illicit* possession".

381. *Futura assessment of korkar*—It is hardly necessary to explain that the concluding paragraph of the Government order has reference only to cases where by custom the raiyat is not entitled to make *korkar* without permission. In fact, however, almost in every case it has been found that no permission is necessary and it is unlikely that the *Khasmahal* staff will ever have to impose full rates from the very beginning of reclamation. It appears certain that the assessment at *tanr* rates of *korkar*, should always fall below half the rice-land rate for the class to which the *korkar* belongs, as it is not intended that the raiyat should pay more for his land during the currency of the present settlement than during the next one. I mention this only because the minimum rates for first and second class upland are higher than half the rate for third class rice-land.

382. *Effect of the orders of Government.*—These orders have now been carried into effect. Rents have been settled in 380 villages and on 13,077 holdings and 109 tenures. The total *jamabandi* rent was Rs 86,282-15-6 and the settled rent amounts to Rs 78,332-15-3. The total of the attested rent,

however, was only Rs. 84,828-1-5. The difference between this and the total *jamabandi* rent is due to the inclusion in the *jamabandi* of Rs 1,308-12 as the rent for the urban part of Daltonganj, as well as some rents totalling Rs. 146-2-1 for abandoned holdings in respect of which the *jamabandis* had not been brought up to date. Both these sums which amount together to Rs. 1,454-14-1, did not come under fair rent settlement. The difference between the previous rent and the settled rent, therefore, is Rs. 6,495-2-2 which represents a reduction of 7 per cent. On the other hand the new rental is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. higher than Mr. Sunder's assessment.

383. *Total number of villages coming under fair rent settlement.*—It will be noticed that only 380 villages came under the present fair-rent settlement as compared with 399 at the last settlement. The difference is explained as follows:—Ten villages, namely Bahadag, Chabachwa, Bandraha, Goindi II, and III, Kaliana, Iluluk, Kerh II, Kurum Kheta and Chutiagarha have been completely absorbed into the protected forests, six others, namely, Nakti II, Nakti III, Kasera, Kushaha, Kapar Kheta and Chak Mankeri, which were very small, have with the consent of the local authorities been amalgamated with adjoining villages, and Birjiatoli and Bheria bathan in Mahaudanr have been abandoned by the cultivators. Finally Garhwa, in which Government owns a 2 anna undivided share, was excluded from the operations. It was also omitted by Mr. Sunder.

384. *Rents of tenure-holders.*—In the total rental now settled is included the rent which has been fixed upon tenure-holders. These men were called raiyats at the last settlement and the real raiyats were ignored. The latter have now been accorded their correct status, and the former have been recognized as tenure-holders with a permanent interest in their tenures but liable to enhancement of rents. In settling rents upon these tenure-holders, the ordinary raiyati rates were assessed upon their *bakast* lands, but they have not been allowed any commission upon collection from their raiyats and it is thought that they may be induced by the Deputy Commissioner to consent to the transfer of their raiyats directly under the *khevat* of Government. It is hoped that the policy of leniency and consideration which has now been put into practice by Government will do much to rehabilitate the raiyats of the estate and establish their economic prosperity; and it may be anticipated that once it is set free from the constant and often vexatious interference of the subordinate staff, the development of the estate and extension of cultivation will make better progress.

385. *Trees.*—The concluding Chapters of the Rate Report dealt with lac bearing and *mahua* trees—these are the only fruit-bearing trees of any importance in the estate. It was shown that in the previous settlement the general assessment of both had been severe and in many villages a complete innovation, that collections of rent had since been consistently bad in respect of both (see Appendix S), and that the lac rents had to be halved in 1901. A brief attempt to restore the original rents was made in 1908, but abandoned in 1911. The system of annual settlements had proved a failure. It was recommended, therefore, by the Settlement Officer that the *mahua* and lac assessments should both be made for the period of the settlement, as the present writer does not believe it possible in a Government Estate to adjust the demand on account of lac to fluctuating conditions of market and crop. An opinion was also expressed that occupancy raiyats have under section 21 a legal right to the fruit of trees standing on their holdings, and it was recommended that whatever the law might be, this advantage might be accorded to them. At the same time it had to be conceded that at present the raiyats freely cultivate trees standing upon each other's holdings. It is a matter of comparative indifference to Government what arrangements of this nature the raiyats may make among themselves; but it is of great importance that they should be freed as far as possible from restrictions and interference in respect of their holdings on the part of the landlord's subordinates. For if it pays them to grow lac they will thus be the more readily disposed to cultivate *palas* trees, since they are sure to enjoy the profit; but if lac becomes cheap and over-plentiful, they will be free to clear the ground for a more beneficial crop.

386. *Orders about trees.*—The orders of Government (letter No. <sup>22-RT.</sup> 2-186-78 dated the 16th November, 1918) are quoted below. The letter first ruled that

rights in trees on holdings are at present legally regulated by custom, and invited opinions whether the law required any modification. It continued—

"His Honour in Council after careful consideration of the history of the lac and mahua charges in the estate, had decided that henceforth the raiyat of a holding shall enjoy the annual produce of all trees which grow on his holding without any charge. For the lac-bearing trees of a village growing outside the holdings of raiyats he has decided that the Deputy Commissioner will grant leases in suitable blocks, for a term of 5 years, preferably with the settled raiyats of the village. When the settlement is made with these raiyats the rent of a block may be calculated at the present rate per tree, viz. one anna in the northern and half an anna in the southern *tappas*, or such lower rate as the Deputy Commissioner considers to be fair.

"For the mahua trees similarly situated settlement should be made with the settled raiyats of the village, but the Deputy Commissioner should reserve the power to remit the year's rent in times of scarcity on the condition the crop is divided equally among all the house-holders of the village. By this expedient some measure of relief will be afforded to the poorer as well as to the more substantial residents in the Government Estates, in years of distress."

387. *Grazing grounds*.—Certain waste areas have been demarcated, at the request of the Deputy Commissioner, which the Deputy Commissioner and the raiyats have agreed should be treated in future as village grazing grounds; the Deputy Commissioner promising to protect them as such, and the raiyats undertaking not to cultivate them. These grazing grounds have been recorded in 28 villages, situated almost exclusively in the 4th year's area, and affect an area of 3,365 acres of land which has hitherto been treated as *khalsa* waste. A very small proportion was cultivated and was voluntarily given up by the occupants. A list of grazing grounds is contained in (Appendix R).

388. *Suggestions for future management*.—I have now only to include in this Chapter suggestions regarding the future maintenance of the records of the estate. Hitherto the out-door establishment has consisted of 4 *tahsildars*, 4 mutation *peshkars*, one surveyor, 4 *tahsil muharrirs*, and 4 foresters with a number of *tahsil* peons and forest guards. The *tahsildars* each have control of a circle and supervise the work of all the others. The mutation *peshkars* maintain the settlement records up to date, from year to year, in regard to such matters as mutation of names, survey and assessment of new cultivation, and re-classification of fields improved as a consequence of outlay by Government on irrigation. The annual count and assessment of lac bearing trees, collections of rent for the same, and for mahua trees, and re-settlements of holdings which have fallen into arrears, or been abandoned, also come within the sphere of the *tahsildars* and *peshkars*. In respect of these duties the following points are to be observed. Now that the assessment really is not difficult to pay, it may be expected that the current demand will be paid in with greater facility than formerly. Arrear collection will occupy much less of the *Tahsildar's* time, and coercive measures and re-settlements on account of arrears will be less frequent. For the same reason the mutation *peshkars* may expect fewer mutations on account of abandonments. I have already proposed that, as in the Kolhan, simple cases of transfer by inheritance need not be brought on to the record every year. It will satisfy all the requirements of the management if these are brought up to date at the periodic re-settlements of the estate. If this view is accepted three-quarters of the mutation work of the *peshkars* will be abolished at a blow, and the raiyats will be freed from a certain amount of inquisitorial investigation every year.

The methods of enhancement by reclassification and by survey and report of additional areas being both illegal, it will be necessary to make these enhancements in future under sections 29 and 32. I believe that the formal trials thus required by law will greatly improve the enhancement work of the Estate, but it is open to doubt whether it is worth while from a monetary point of view for Government to undertake them. The area of new rice-land prepared during the last 20 years has been very small and there is no doubt that it has been kept small, especially in the south, by instances of severe and early assessment. In accordance with the recent orders of Government new rice-land will either continue to pay its former *tanr* rate until the next settlement or will be assessed in the great majority of cases at the *tanr* rate for 3rd class upland, viz., 3 annas an acre. It is, therefore, almost certain that it will not pay Government to maintain an expensive mutation staff

in order to assess *new* riceland. The total increase of rent derived from re-classification of *old* rice-land improved by Government irrigation during the last 20 years was Rs. 4,536 but much of that was derived, as has been shown from over-classification. Under the new rules of assessment of *korkar*, applied to a correct classification, this sum would have diminished by 90 per cent.

From this it appears that the legitimate increase in the rental derivable from works of improvement each year is also very small indeed. I would press for a trial of the system of encouraging and helping raiyats to make their own irrigation works in future, rather than a continuance of heavy Government expenditure on works *intended to be remunerative*. It would be preferable for Government to curtail its annual expenditure on improvements and cease altogether to look for an immediate return in cash in respect of such money as it continues to devote to the subject. The indirect return consisting in the improved condition of the people, the example of generosity (a much needed example) to the private *zamindars*, the greater facility in rent collection, and the more rapid development of the estate, will in the long run be more profitable to Government, and in the meantime the Deputy Commissioner will be spared the necessity of dealing with a multitude of enhancement suits, the *Khasmahal* officer will find his duties assuming dimensions with which he may reasonably hope to cope, the raiyats will escape undesirable interference; and Government will avoid the cost of entertaining the mutation *peshkars*. For if it is not worth retaining the *peshkars* in order to survey new rice-land or to re-classify improved rice-land, it is equally not worth while retaining them for new upland cultivation. Let it be remembered that almost all such reclamation will produce ordinarily only 3rd class upland. The rate to be imposed on this is Rs. 0-3-0 an acre. The activities of the *peshkars* do not offer even the advantage of helping to control such reclamation, for the raiyats have admittedly (paragraph 369) the right to extend cultivation without permission, and in the past the *peshkars* have only surveyed and assessed land *after* it had been reclaimed. It is true that by faulty classification and severe assessment the *peshkars* have diminished the area under upland cultivation, but I am confident that it is not the intention of Government to allow this procedure to be countenanced or continued; nor is it necessary. More than one-third of the entire Government Estate has been set aside within the last 60 years as Reserved and Protected Forests, and Government have full power to preserve a larger area of jungle in the same way if they so desire; but the undemarcated jungle and waste has been handed over to the raiyats professedly for grazing, and fuel and extension of cultivation without restriction; so long as it is professedly so given to them, no steps should be taken to prevent new permanent cultivation, other than a revision of the boundary of the protected forest whenever such a measure should be thought necessary.

Without new rice-land or new upland to assess, with only a few mutations to make, with no further labour about trees on holdings and practically no work in connection with trees outside holdings, (for these are in future, in accordance with the orders of Government, to be let out in blocks on lump rentals for periods of 5 years, the old tree rate being retained only as a maximum rate for the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner in making settlements of blocks with the settled raiyats) the mutation *peshkars* will have very little to do; the *tahsildars*, with their duties in respect of collection lightened, with no bother over trees and no mutation *peshkars* to supervise, should be able without difficulty to do the remaining work of the *peshkars* in addition to their own; more especially will this be the case if the protected forests are transferred to the Forest Department and the *tahsildars* are relieved of their general supervision,—a step which offers solid advantages and is at present under consideration.

I would, therefore, suggest that the mutation *peshkars* be abolished and the staff of peons proportionately reduced; and that new assessments and mutations arising out of inheritance be brought up to date only at each periodic re-settlement. This is the procedure ordinarily followed in the Government Estates of Chota Nagpur and is in accordance with the policy laid down by the Government of India in 1902, in the following words "The aim of



the existing policy is to exclude underlings from all connection either with the work of assessment or with the preliminary investigations leading up to it, and to devolve upon the Settlement Officer and his gazetted assistants all the negotiations with the people."

In conclusion I would recommend strongly that every officer deputed to have charge of the *Khasmahals* should have settlement experience or should at least have sufficient knowledge of survey to enable him efficiently to check the field work, if any, of the maintenance staff.

## CHAPTER XI.

### ENCUMBERED ESTATES.

389. *The encumbered estates system originated in the political necessity of protecting the Kharagdiha Tikaits.*—In paragraph 83 *et seq* of the Hazari-bagh Report Mr. Sifton has shown how the Agency was created in 1833 in consequence of disturbances in Chota Nagpur and Barabhum, which had arisen out of the old zamindars (men of same low castes as the bulk of the tenantry) being deprived of their lands in favour of aliens of a shrewder and more acquisitive type. One of the first acts of the new Agent (Captain Wilkinson) was to obtain the approval of Government to protecting the *Tikaits* of Kharagdiha from a similar deprivation, in order to avoid disaffection among their tenancy. In the following words he suggested :—

"That the special permission of Government be given to me to authorize my Assistants to investigate the accounts between the parties (i.e., *Tikaits* and their *mahajans*) from the commencement of their transactions, without any attention to bonds which have been intermediately executed. The *mahajans* to have credit for all sums which they have paid to the *Tikaits* with interest at 12 per cent., and on the other hand the *Tikaits* to have credit for all sums collected from their lands by the *mahajans*, with interest on the same terms..... Many of the *Tikaits* are too deeply involved even to pay interest at 12 per cent. on their debts; it would therefore be necessary in some instances to make *Kistbandis*, allowing a less amount of interest and probably for the principal only. I would extend the mode of settling accounts to all the old hereditary landlords in the jungle Estates, who have been in possession of their lands for generations, but only apply it where the necessity was urgent."

This was sanctioned by Government; and in 1843 the Agent was empowered further to scrutinize and revise any unexecuted decrees obtained by the *mahajans* against the *Tikaits*. The subsequent rules which restricted the transfer of a landlord's property, and provided for the attachment and management of insolvent estates until their debts were paid off are detailed in paragraphs 57-63 of the Ranchi Settlement Report.

390. *Development of the system.—Its continuance in the interests of the raiyats.*—Act VI of 1876.—In 1854 Mr. Ricketts, Member of the Board of Revenue, found that the powers of the Agent had been exercised generally and not only in very urgent cases where the protection of the *Tikaits* or others was necessary for the preservation of tranquillity; and he objected to this extension of the system.

But though the necessity of protecting the old hereditary zamindars, in order to prevent disturbances was gradually disappearing, the belief gained ground that they should be maintained "as thereby some indirect protection is given to the raiyats, who are exploited to less extent by the hereditary chiefs than by the modern speculator". Colonel Dalton wrote in 1869 that "it is with the people of Chota Nagpur (i.e., Ranchi district) a maxim that however ignorant, dissipated and extravagant their zamindars, or more properly chiefs of the old line, may be, they are to them better and kinder landlords than the most enlightened of interlopers". He went on to suggest that "what we should have here is a law of entail that would strictly limit the interest of each chief and debar any alienation of the property beyond his own life." Act VI of 1876 was the outcome of this point of view, which is clearly apparent in the following passage taken from its statement of objects and reasons :—

"The accumulation of debts and the sale of large ancestral estates, in satisfaction thereof, is a process calculated to cause trouble in most parts of India. This is notably

the case in the districts on the western frontier of Bengal, which are comprised in the Chota Nagpur Province. In these districts there are many landed proprietors of a rank equal to that of chiefs, who are yet improvident and apt to run into debt to an extent which exposes their estates to danger of being brought to sale. If such sales take place troubles arise between the purchaser and the villagers, and the rights of the cultivators are likely to be imperilled."

391. *Application of Act VI in Palamau.—Effect of freedom of transfer.—*

The Act has been very extensively applied in Palamau, where as much as one-third of the district has been administered under it at one time. But the conditions in which it has worked have been very different here from those existing elsewhere in Chota Nagpur. In Palamau the population is very far from homogeneous; and the landlords have for a very long time been of a higher caste, whether by origin or by development, than the bulk of their tenantry, and particularly than that portion which most needs protection. During the Agency period the distant administration of Ranchi or Koranda exercised but very little influence over the internal affairs of the subdivision, and sales and alienations were exceedingly common, so common in fact that the officers who investigated the tenures of the District in 1894 found that the greater part of them had already passed in sale or permanent lease from their original owners. It is not likely that the sale of any Estate in the district would now evoke even a passing regret from the great bulk of its tenantry. Colonel Dalton's entail system does not exist here; moreover even among the jagirdars primogeniture does not obtain in more than about 10 of the principal families. The situation in Palamau therefore is that many of the old families have already gone, and many of the rest must grow poorer and poorer by the process of subdivision at every occasion of inheritance. In these circumstances the original objects of the Act have tended to recede from the view of its administrators, and it came to be regarded as the only object of management to save indebted landlords of all castes and of long or short standing, as quickly as possible, from their creditors. The Commissioner in 1902 in his evidence before the Irrigation Commission stated that every thing was subordinated in Encumbered Estates management to the liquidation of debts, and the same policy was professed by the Deputy Commissioner during the present settlement.

392. *Particulars of the Estates under management.—*The table below shows particulars of the estates at present under management with the incomes they derive from the land and the areas retained in the direct possession of the disqualified proprietors.

Serial No.	Name of Estate.	Number of disqualified proprietors.	Caste of disqualified proprietors.	Number of years already under management.	Rent payable by tenants to Manager.	Rents payable by Manager to over land- lord or Government.	Area held by or on rent by D. P. in acres.		Rent payable by disqualified proprietors to Manager.
							Rice-land.	Up-land.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Area.	Area.	Rs. a. p.
1	Chakla ...	5	Rajput ...	13 years ...	2,478 0 0	126 0 0	57	69	220 0 0
2	Karar ...	4	Kayastha ...	19 ..	2,830 0 0	222 0 0	49	55	95 0 0
3	Musmano Phulsi ...	3	Chhatri ...	13 ..	1,050 0 0	29 0 0	29	42	...
4	Barodasi ...	2	Chhatri ...	12 ..	559 0 0	44 0 0	20	52	675 0 0
5	Babhandih ...	9	Chhatri ...	16 ..	2,586 0 0	133 0 0	6	20	90 8 0
6	Dandar ..	10	Phulimbar Brahman ...	15 ..	2,409 0 0	108 0 0	59	110	223 0 0
7	Pagar ...	1	Chhatri ...	12 ..	363 0 0	51 0 0	3	3	...
8	Kuchra ...	6	Chhatri ...	13 ..	1,410 0 0	35 0 0	46	123	601 0 0
9	Danda ...	7	Chhatri ...	14 ..	592 0 0	...	12	23	...
10	Achla ...	12	Brahman ...	15 ..	1,620 0 0	30 0 0	79	125	119 0 0
11	Nawdha ...	1	Chhatri ...	14 ..	524 0 0	46 0 0	14	13	122 0 0
12	Doogan ...	1	Rajput ...	16 ..	38,877 0 0	2,184 0 0	26	354	...
13	Panda I and II ...	20	Brahman ...	13 ..	2,321 0 0	1,054 0 0	41	103	82 0 0
14	Bugairi ...	8	Chhatri ...	19 ..	3,492 0 0	5 0 0	9	17	240 0 0
15	Sonepura ...	1	Chhatri ...	14 ..	22,089 0 0	7,920 0 0	101	217	67 0 0

Serial No.	Name of Estate.	Number of disqualified proprietors.	Caste of disqualified proprietors.	Number of years already under management.	Rent payable by tenants to Manager.	Rents payable by Manager to overlandlords or Government.	Area held bakas/or on rent by D. P. in acres.		Rent payable by disqualified proprietors to Manager.
							Rice-land.	Up-land.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Area.	Area.	Rs. s. p.
16	Musalabad ...	29	{ 7 Rajputs ... 22 Muhammedans ... }	15 years ...	883 0 0	50 0 0	...	...	...
17	Maharfi ...	19	Chhatri ...	13 ,, ...	1,854 0 0	85 0 0	110	132	774 0 0
18	Budhibir ...	4	Chhatri ...	15 ,, ...	2,199 0 0	48 0 0	49	172	169 0 0
19	Karaundha ...	1	Baniya ...	12 ,, ...	7,629 0 0	1,640 0 0	14	89	219 0 0
20	Patna Nawab ...	2	Salyid ...	15 ,, ...	11,327 0 0	1,027 0 0	5	26	...
21	Tendwa ...	71	Bhokta (Kharwa) ...	13 ,, ...	901 0 0	25 0 0	64	498	8 8 0
22	* Pankri ...	1	Salyid ...	10 ,, ...	248 0 0	21 0 0	...	...	...
23	* Pankri and Bar- jatu, ...	2	Salyid ...	21 ,, ...	1,431 0 0	70 0 0	10	7	50 0 0
24	Dulhi ...	13	Bhumhar Brahman ...	13 ,, ...	665 0 0	51 0 0	98	42	769 0 0
25	Newra ...	1	Chhatri ...	17 ,, ...	1,026 0 0	85 0 0	48	93	472 0 0
26	Dabra ...	3	{ 2 Chhatri ... 1 Baniya ... }	13 ,, ...	1,250 0 0	36 0 0	54	214	318 0 0
27	Sokra ...	11	Chero ...	13 ,, ...	331 0 0	13 0 0	36	113	406 0 0
28	Chawga ...	2	Chhatri ...	15 ,, ...	1,248 0 0	31 0 0	15	31	127 0 0
29	Imli ...	4	Rajput ...	14 ,, ...	638 0 0	...	13	56	122 0 0
30	Hanskera ...	2	Chhatri ...	13 ,, ...	1,063 0 0	...	13	28	55 0 0

\* These two Estates are really one and are not distinguished in the record-of-rights.

The rent figures contained in the statement are those which were finally published, before the Fair Rent Settlement was made. These 30 Estates represent a vast area of 708,669 acres or 1,107 square miles, consisting largely of waste land with isolated patches of cultivation generally of poor quality. They are scattered all over the face of the district, and offer at once the maximum of difficulties in direct administration, and the minimum of resources for the maintenance of an adequate managing establishment.

393. *Some notable features.—Effect of allowing small proprietors to continue living on their Estates.*—The following notable features are shown in the table, (1) the small incomes derived from rent collections in the majority of the estates, 18 of which have a rental from persons other than the disqualified proprietors themselves, of much less than Rs. 2,000 a year. (2) the number of the shareholders possessed of an interest in these small Estates, and the proportionately large amount of cultivation in the direct possession of some of them, and (3) the high caste of most of the landlords under protection, most of whom either have never belonged to the same classes as the great bulk of the tenantry, or if they sprung originally from a common source, have long made it their ambition to take their place among the more advanced landlords, and as a first step towards this goal have been careful to sever all social connection with their humbler brethren.

All these circumstances interact upon one another. The social position, or aspirations, of the disqualified proprietors are a bar to their taking any useful part in agriculture. Their possession of large *bakasts* involves residence on their estates and the necessity of living in the style of zamindars. The smallness of their income, after provision has been made for expenses of management and liquidation of debts, leaves a residue as a maintenance allowance totally inadequate to support the desired style of living. When it is realized that every individual shareholder has to be provided for, and that many of these individuals have large families of their own, it will be easily understood how hard it is for each to live in the manner which tradition, training and environment have taught him to be necessary. In the Tendwa Estate, for instance, with its annual income of Rs. 1,600 there are

71 co-sharers. The result is that the disqualified landlord has to look around for some means to supplement his income, and the only plan that usually occurs to him is to spueeze the raiyats. In this he is materially aided by the fact, which has already been explained, that it is virtually impossible for the management to exercise an effective supervision of the details of village administration. The manager has in fact to rely in a large measure on the reports of the disqualified proprietors themselves. Herein lies their opportunity. They drive out the villagers and, reporting that they have abandoned their holdings, take settlement either in their own name or through *benamidars*. Their machinations have sometimes secured for them whole villages in *benami* settlement, and have made the *benami* system rife in the estates. They were often, too, successful in surreptitiously enlarging the area of land in their own cultivation at the raiyats' expense without admitting a proportionate reduction of the raiyats' rents. It is probable that the disqualified proprietors have *benami* possession of more cultivation than has been shown against them in the statement. The Commissioner about 10 years ago passed orders that they should not have any *bakast* cultivation but the orders were not put into effect.

394. *Cheap labour essential to successful cultivation.*—Having got a large area into their possession they are at once confronted with the necessity of cultivating it profitably; but cultivation in Palamau is comparatively unremunerative, and they cannot themselves touch the plough. Moreover for the lands which are avowedly in their possession they sometimes have to pay a very high rent to the Manager. In these circumstances, if they pay in full the expenses of cultivation, their net profits must diminish alarmingly. They are often too poor to buy serfs. There remains the *begari* system. To this they have turned and have used it very oppressively. In one estate it came to notice that the wives of the raiyats, even those of the better class, were forced to labour on the landlord's fields, in the absence of their husbands, and the Assistant Settlement Officer was even asked to allow and commute *begari* against the women as well as the men. In many estates this taking of *begari* was countenanced by the management who asked the Settlement Department to admit the disqualified proprietor's claim to it. I doubt if the request would have been made if the circumstances had been more fully understood; but it is part of the effects of reliance on the help of the proprietors and the subordinate staff that the Manager himself is seldom in touch with the facts. The defects in management which were noticed by Mr. Sifton in Hazaribagh (paragraphs 97-99 of his report) are no less prevalent in Palamau. In fact these three paragraphs are so applicable here that I make no excuse for reproducing them in full.

395. *Mr. Sifton's account of the common defects of management.*—"The management of Encumbered Estates in the past has left much to be desired. The charge has generally been too big to allow of proper control by the superior officers and the subordinate establishment has had too much of its own way. Good management requires local knowledge and constant inspection, and in particular a very thorough investigation of the conditions of an estate at the time it is taken over. Unfortunately the impression given from the recent settlement of estates, which are now or have been recently under management, is that the Encumbered Estates department feels that it exists solely to save the estates committed to its charge and is prepared to subordinate every other consideration to this object; and its observance of the statutory rights of raiyats and of the provisions of the Tenancy Law is often not much above the standard set by the ordinary landlord. For instance when a landlord applies for protection, he generally presents a *jamabandi* in which the actual rents of his tenants are greatly enhanced. He represents the raiyats as freely consenting to the enhancement out of feelings of loyalty. The raiyats are cajoled or impressed into admitting their consent and the management of the estate commences on the basis of this illegal rent; and when the legal rents are recorded during the Settlement operations, the reduction in the annual income of the estate is often so large as to upset entirely the accepted scheme for restoring the solvency of the estate.

When the estate has been admitted to management, the disqualified proprietor ought to have nothing more to do with it, except to draw his maintenance allowance. But he generally is allowed to interfere very considerably. He is given some *Manjhihas* lands in *Khorposh* and permitted to exact *begari* from the tenants for their cultivation

and gets *benami* settlement of other *Manjhihas* lands on *thika*. He usually represents part of the estate to be his wife's *Khorposh* grant and retaining the management of it. And as his maintenance allowance is small, he proceeds to supplement it as much as possible at the expense of the raiyats left under his control.

I refer to these two faults of management because they had been found to be almost universal; and if the system of taking estates under protection is continued in the district greater strictness should be observed on these points.

The weakness of the Encumbered Estates' system is that Government is attempting the labour of Sisyphus. The estate which has been brought up to a solvent condition, when made over to the incompetent proprietor at once begins to run downhill again and in a short time is qualified for a second period of management. If Government declines to undertake the management a second time, the whole of the trouble taken during the former period is thrown away and the purpose of keeping the estate from passing to a foreign landlord is frustrated. The only satisfactory way of dealing with a zamindari family which has shown itself repeatedly incompetent to fill its position would be to take over the management of the estate permanently and make the nominal proprietor a pensioner of the estate."

I have only to add that the reduction of the annual income of the estates through the excision of illegal enhancements has been considerable in Palamau, and that the Managers, in common with every one else, have not in the past regarded the tenancy law as in force in the district.

396. *Is Act VI still necessary?*—This question has been answered differently in Hazaribagh and Ranchi. In respect of the latter Mr Reid pointed out that the act is an anachronism; and that now that the tenantry, who are not incapable of bringing their claims to notice, are supported by a record-of-rights, its continuance in their interest is no longer necessary. Mr. Sifton in the Hazaribagh report agreed that "almost all ideas of feudal loyalty of the peasants are now exploded"; consequently the old reason for the policy of protection has disappeared; but he thought it doubtful whether the record-of-rights would by itself afford sufficient protection to the raiyats, who are much less independent in Hazaribagh than in Ranchi and have no efficient unofficial supporters like the Ranchi Missionaries. In his view the old low caste landlords who have been carefully protected by Government for nearly a century are better landlords than modern speculators and they should therefore continue to receive protection until such time as the tenantry should be better able to look after themselves. These opposing recommendations were both no doubt suited to the conditions of the districts in respect of which they were made. The conditions of Palamau are different from those of either Ranchi or Hazaribagh. In this district the rules against transfer of property were never enforced or respected; and the proprietors now under protection are in some cases the very men whom it is the prime purpose of the Act to keep out. For example the landlords of Dulhi are Babbans who have only recently acquired their title. Moreover, in strong contrast to the conditions of Hazaribagh and Ranchi, it is impossible for any speculator to exact more out of their tenants in Palamau than the amounts which are taken by the landlords even of the oldest and most respected houses. One cultivator in every three in the district is virtually a serf at present, and the majority of the rest are but little better off. This is not a state of affairs which needs artificial preservation.

It is unnecessary to impose the heavy burden of Encumbered Estates management on the district officials, or to continue the drastic interference with ordinary private rights which the application of the Act involves, for the purpose of maintaining the existing landlords. For they will find it exceedingly difficult in future to adjust their methods to any situation in which the rights of the cultivators are to be respected. The necessity of having to accept such a situation is by itself, sufficient to cause ruin to many of them. Finally it is obvious that where primogeniture does not prevail (as it does not in at least 23 of the 30 Estates under management) it is impossible for any management however efficient, as the number of the co-sharers increases, to preserve an estate from ultimate disruption.

397. *Demoralizing effect of Act VI on the landlords.*—Moreover it is open to question whether the policy of protection is not demoralizing even to the landlords themselves. In the present circumstances a landlord knows that

if he indulges in a career of profligacy and wild extravagance, Government will intervene at the critical moment to protect him, to disallow some of his debts and to cut down the rate of interest due from him. All the inconvenience he has to fear is a period of temporary disqualification, during which he will be allowed to continue in residence on his estate and in possession of a large amount of cultivation. He may still hope to exercise all the prerogatives of a landlord among his tenants, and to take unlimited *begari*, and even to introduce new charges, for his private benefit such as jungle cess which was surreptitiously levied by the proprietor in the Bistrampur Estate during management more than 20 years ago and has continued ever since. In fact the inconveniences of disqualification are too small to deter him from imprudence while the certainty of protection prevents the development of a sense of responsibility, and secures him at all times a market for extravagant borrowing. The result was expressed in the following words by the Commissioner in 1902. "There are many cases in which Estates after being released have again been taken under the Act in a few years time. Proprietors during the time the estate is being managed surreptitiously borrow money at heavy interest; and on the estate being released confirm all their engagements, with the result that they are swamped and then apply again to Government to be taken back under the Act."

398. *Necessity for exemplary management; the recent tendency to exclude small estates.*—I would conclude by pointing out that the moral effect either for good or for evil of the example of administration set by a department of Government is very great in a district like Palaman. This factor should be weighed in any attempt to answer the question "Is Act VI still necessary"; and should inspire caution in undertaking a charge which is perhaps impossible of really satisfactory accomplishment. For in the words of Rule 72 of the Wards Manual (page 50) "It should be remembered that the Court of Wards is expected to be a model landlord, exemplary in its management of estates, and therefore it should not lightly undertake the charge of an estate which it cannot manage with credit to itself."

I understand that the Commissioner is of opinion that all small estates should, so far as possible, be given up. This can be done even if the debts have not all been cleared off, by an order of the Board reversing under section 21-A the Commissioner's approval of the scheme for repaying the debts, given under section 11. There is, however, some doubt whether section 21-A. can be applied with retrospective effect to schemes approved before it becomes law in 1909. This doubt should now be cleared up\* for most of the Palaman Encumbered Estates were taken under protection, as the table in paragraph 392 shows, before 1909, and many of them ought to be given up as soon as possible.

## CHAPTER XII.

### JUNGLES.

399. *Area of jungle.*—There are 3,200 square miles of jungle in Palaman of which about 2,000 square miles are reported to be unfit for cultivation. Most of the big trees one meets are the spectacular, but useless, *salai* trees, which give the jungle an appearance, in the eyes of those unacquainted with this tree, of much greater importance than it really possesses. Most of it is of little value except to supply the domestic needs of the people, who rely upon it not only for fuel, fencing, agricultural instruments and house-building material, but also for supplying grazing for their cattle and edible roots and fruits for themselves, to supplement the scanty produce of their holdings and enable them to exist, however unwholesomely, during times of scarcity.

400. *Jungle preservation.—Responsibility of the record-of-rights for the spoilation.*—The extravagance with which both landlords and raiyats

\* The Board has recently held in respect of the Tinsoya Estate in Manbhum that section 21-A. can be used with retrospective effect.

spoil the forests has long attracted the attention of Government and many attempts have been made to improve matters, but hitherto the result, it must be admitted, has been hardly noticeable. This question has been very fully discussed in the Ranchi and Hazaribagh reports. There has been at times a tendency to blame Settlement for the wastefulness of the people and to suggest that the crystallizing, in the Settlement Record, of the rights of the tenants has given a wide impetus to reckless destruction of jungle. This may or may not have been true, in a measure, in respect of the district of Ranchi, where the Commissioner reported as far back as 1883 that landlords and tenants were even then at bitter strife over jungle rights, and where both parties were subsequently restrained from free user for many years in expectation of the decision of the Settlement Department. The announcement of that decision certainly removed the restraint but Mr. Reid was of opinion that the introduction of the Railway to Ranchi itself, and along the fringe of the Gumla Sub-division was responsible for more denudation than the definition of the raiyats' rights.

401. *Extravagant user of jungle in the past.*—Whatever the facts may have been elsewhere there is no justification for the suggestion in connection with Palamau. The record-of-rights has probably not as yet become a factor in the case at all, and on the other hand there is clear evidence that the jungles were as bad 50 years ago as they are to-day. Thus in Mr. Forbes's day the cultivation of cotton by the process of jhuming (the only recognized method of cotton cultivation in the district) was so common that Government thought it worth while to build a road from Daltenganj *via* Manatu to Shahrghati for the better transportation of cotton. That road was called "the Behar Cotton Road." The road is now partly abandoned and cotton and jhuming are seldom found. In fact the cotton crop of the whole district covers only 500 acres. "The quantity of sal timber of any growth," wrote Mr. Forbes, "has been much diminished by the reckless manner in which the trees have been destroyed for the sake of the resin". In 1864, Major Hunter Thompson whose work was afterwards carried on by Mr. Forbes demarcated and protected 114,000 acres of forest in the Government Estates. This was afterwards in 1879 converted into the Government Reserve. Mr. Forbes wrote of it at the time as follows:—"Though the area of large timber is not very great, there is a very large area of country covered with young sal saplings of from 1 to 20 years old, which if properly preserved might in a few years become valuable timber".

A full account of the Government reserved and protected forests has been given in a special chapter of the District Gazetteer, and need not be repeated here. It will be sufficient to extract a relevant passage on page 71 which runs as follows:—

"In the southern part of the district which contains the reserved forests the population is at present so small that it is difficult to imagine how the past population succeeded in destroying the forests to an extent which is unapproached by any other jungly district of Bengal.—The reserves have been under protection during 30 years during which the Forest Department has spent on their preservation, and on such rough roads and buildings as have been constructed, Rs. 3,06,000 more than the revenue it has realized. \* \* \* \* In consequence of their protection the reserves now contain a promising young crop of sal, the bulk of the trees being 1½ to 2½ feet in girth and some 40 years old. \* \* \* \* It will probably take about 30 years to work up a substantial surplus and it will not be possible to work the forest to the full before 50 or 60 years hence."

These passages illustrate two truths which must, I think, be accepted by any but a superficial observer in Palamau:—

- (1) that the spoliation of the jungle is time-old, and not the consequence of the record-of-rights, and
- (2) that scientific forest development in Chota Nagpur involves loss of income instead of profit, for at least one, and probably for two generations.\* It is partly this fact which makes the private

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Foot note.—\*In this connection see also pages 21-22 of the Hazaribagh District Gazetteer



landlords so hostile to any of the schemes of forest preservation which have yet been proposed for their benefit. The other main cause is, of course, their fear that Government control may limit their own power to convert the jungles into ready money upon the first available opportunity.

402. *Attitude of the zamindars towards jungle conservation.*—An interesting example of the attitude of the private landlords in this matter was afforded by the late Raja of Chainpur. This gentleman's estate consists of about 40,000 acres of cultivated land and 180,000 of waste and jungle. The zamindar asked me to help him in getting the raiyats' rights of user extinguished in part of this jungle, on the ground that there would still be left ample area for the satisfaction of all their present and future needs. In consultation with the Deputy Commissioner I prepared a congregated map of the estate and marked off 120 square miles of jungle which could in our opinion be reserved without any undue restriction of existing rights of user. The Raja objected to this area as being too big. He did not wish to retain jungle on so large a tract. Moreover he declined to submit the proposed reserve to any kind of control or supervision, and would not undertake to work or protect it efficiently; or to abstain from selling the jungle wholesale to the first purchaser. I finally submitted a proposal officially that 100 square miles should be divided between the landlord and tenants—the two parties at present enjoying rights of user,—50 to be placed at the landlord's absolute disposal and 50 to be managed by Government on behalf of the raiyats with a view to forming a source of supply when, if ever, increasing population and the advance of the plough should have destroyed the rest of the existing jungle. As the landlord would not agree to this scheme, legislation was necessary to carry it through, but the case for legislation is strong. At present the area of jungle in Palamau is vastly in excess of the requirements of the people, and the country is very inaccessible. The natural conclusion is that, at this stage, vast areas of jungle might be reserved for the benefit of a future generation almost without practical loss or inconvenience to either landlords or tenants; while if nothing is done now by Government it is likely that the private landlords also will not move, for they cannot afford the expense of reservation, and this consideration alone would keep them inactive, apart altogether from the obstacles which are placed in their way by the existence of raiyats' rights. There is a danger, therefore, that the jungles of Palamau may never improve but may some day disappear. The case of the Chainpur forests is interesting as an instance of a fully worked out and tangible proposal, which failed because the landlord had no real instinct for jungle preservation.

403. *Jungle rights.*—There was no part of record-of-rights which received so much official criticism as the record of jungle rights, which is contained in Khatian Part II. and in the special incidents column of the landlords waste and jungle khatian, (*the qairmazrua malik khatian*), the latter of which describes the rights of the parties in respect of making new reclamation. This criticism was based, I believe, upon the impression, which has been mentioned above that the records of raiyats' rights and particularly the right of reclamation, must cause the destruction of the jungle. Concerning the latter right Mr. Murphy wrote at length in his report upon the memorials. I extract the following passage:—

404. *The right of reclamation.*—"The entry which has been made in the more jungle villages, is to the effect that a raiyat does not require the *malik's* permission before cultivating or reclaiming waste lands, subject, however, to the provision that the land must be suitable for cultivation and that a raiyat may not waste valuable timber or clear more ground than he can himself conveniently cultivate with the means at his disposal. The Settlement Officer informs me that it has been found that the landlord's permission to reclaim lands is always taken in those villages where a considerable portion of the jungle has been cleared, and where the area available for reclamation is in consequence restricted. In the more jungle villages the raiyats are in practice allowed to cultivate any uplands they please without reference to the landlord. I have no doubt that the facts are as stated by the Settlement Officer and that the custom has been correctly recorded. The absence of restriction on the reclamation of uplands follows from the very nature of the *pariadari* system which is still in force in the greater part of the district.

In spite of this I find it difficult to reconcile myself to an entry which practically takes away from the landlord a right which has never, so far as I know, been questioned except in Chota Nagpur, the right to prevent a tenant increasing the area of his holding at will. Still there is no doubt that the framers of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act were aware of, and intended to recognize as valid, the custom by which tenants in jungly areas reclaim lands without the landlord's permission. Section 61 (1) (b) is quite clear on the point. Section 64 (3) goes even further and declares that if a landlord wishes to eject a tenant who has reclaimed new lands without his permission and in defiance of the local custom, he must take action within two years.

The right of the raiyats to clear jungle for the purpose of cultivation without the landlord's permission is obviously capable of being abused. If they cleared the jungle only for the purpose of terracing it and making rice lands, the result would not, on the whole, be objectionable from the point of view of public policy. To clear it for the purpose of making *tanr* land, which will be cultivated only once in three years, is much more likely to lead to denudation of the soil. The practice of *jhuming* or burning the jungle merely to obtain a single crop, the land being afterwards abandoned, is the most wasteful. This practice is, however, not covered by the entry made in the records, and is said not to be very prevalent in Palamau, where successive Deputy Commissioners have strongly discouraged it. It was found to prevail in Mahuadanr to such an extent that the hills have practically been denuded of jungle. In that area the Settlement Officer disallowed the existing custom on the ground that as practised it was unreasonable and opposed to public policy. He recorded the right of the tenants to reclaim jungle for rice cultivation only (subject to the usual reservations as to wasting valuable timber, etc.) and added a note to the effect that the clearing of jungle for the purpose of turning it into *tanr* can only be done with the landlord's permission. In no other area has the Settlement Officer found it necessary or advisable on similar grounds to refuse to record the existing custom, or to interfere with the rights which the tenants are actually found to exercise.

It is obvious that the imposition of any restriction on the clearing of jungle is in the public interest, and to this extent the claim of the landlords that it should only be done with their permission is deserving of sympathy. Yet it may be doubted whether their discretion as to the giving or withholding of permission would be exercised in such a way as to check to an appreciable extent the waste of jungle. In the past they have failed in spite of the almost complete control over their tenants which they possess to exercise any restriction over the clearing of jungle, until in certain areas a stage had been reached at which jungle rights came to possess a monetary value. In those areas the curtailment of the raiyats' privileges has been recognized in the record-of-right. In the areas where jungle still exists in abundance, even if their claim to control its clearance be allowed, they will in all probability follow the same policy, and will refrain from exercising the right conferred on them until it can be made a source of immediate profit. On the other hand, to record as having legal sanction the customary rights now exercised over jungle throughout the greater part of Palamau, which is as yet in an early stage of development, will effectually prevent or at least render more difficult any curtailment of these rights by the landlord when the preservation of the jungle becomes a more urgent problem than it now is. This question however does not concern the Settlement Officer, whose duty is to record the existing custom. He cannot ignore the raiyats' existing rights, or transfer them to the zamindar, even were it certain that to do so would tend to preserve the jungle from destruction. Of all the rights in jungle possessed by raiyats, the right to clear it for the purpose of cultivation without the landlord's permission is most open to abuse, and is one the abolition of which would, if it were legally possible, produce the greatest public benefit at the least cost to the raiyats. The Settlement Officer concurs in this view but points out that in Palamau, where the raiyats' holdings are on the average small and comparatively unproductive, the curtailment of any of their jungle rights would be regarded by them as a hardship."

405. *Enlargement of holdings more urgent than conservation of jungle.*—When Mr. Murphy wrote this passage the economic condition of the cultivators of Palamau had not come to notice as prominently as it has since done. I have no doubt that he will agree with me now that public policy and humanity both alike require that no new restriction whatever should be put upon the reclamation of the whole of the 1,000 odd square miles of cultivable jungle which are still available. The most pressing need of the district is that the holdings of the tenants should be enlarged until they can support them. Its requirements in respect of forests will be amply met if the 2,000 and odd square miles of uncultivable forest are preserved from spoilation and erosion.

406. *Modification in the form of the entry.*—The results of the discussions and correspondence which took place on the subject of reclaiming rights was that the word "permanent" was inserted before the word "cultivation" in the special incidents column of the *gairmazrua khatian*. This does not mean

that cultivation must be made every year in newly reclaimed lands, but that there should be an intention of keeping such lands permanently under cultivation which may be either annual or periodical. It must be remembered that almost all cultivation in this district begun its career as 3rd class upland, under periodical cultivation only. The change of entry was aimed at the process of *jhuming*, by which the timber upon a plot of land is all cut and burned upon it to make manure. One or two crops are then grown and the land is afterwards permanently abandoned. This is a most wasteful and mischievous form of cultivation, but fortunately, though spectacular and sure to attract attention wherever it occurs, it is not now common except perhaps in Mahuadanr. That part of the district is totally unlike the rest of Palamau in respect alike of its people and its conditions. It is not therefore surprising that *jhuming* should have survived in Mahuadanr, while it has been relinquished by the more submissive raiyats of the north. In regard to the 4th year's area Government passed orders that the right to convert jungle plots into upland should be left open in the record-of-rights. The object of this order, also, was to discourage the raiyats who have the right, from clearing valuable forests by the process of *jhuming* (see Government letter No. <sup>6122R</sup><sub>5-107</sub>, dated the 5th August, 1919), but the right to clear these plots for making *korkar* was permitted to remain on the record, as also the right to make new upland cultivation in waste or scrub jungle plots. Before these orders were passed, however, the whole matter had been legally tried and it was found that the landlords themselves acknowledged the right to make upland reclamation both in jungle and waste much more freely than the right to make *korkar* in either. In fact, in this matter, as in all other aspects of the jungle question, their only interest was the financial one. They wished to control *korkar* reclamation so as to be able to assess it as early as possible, but they had no similar interest in upland reclamation because its assessment has not hitherto been considered to be worth while. The old *pariadari* theories still obtain; and where any such system of tenure has prevailed in a village up to the present settlement, it may be accepted as generally true that free rights of extending cultivation, not only without the landlord's permission, but also without further assessment of rent until the next periodical adjustment of the *paria* rates, have existed from time immemorial.

The area of more or less heavy jungle in which the right to reclaim for the ultimate purpose of upland cultivation only has been left unspecified in the record-of-rights is 82,613 acres or about 129 square miles.

407. *Other rights in jungle*.—The chief of the other rights in jungle possessed by the raiyats beside the right of extending cultivation (a right which only affects the area which is fit for cultivation) are the right to take wood for burning or for domestic or agricultural purposes, the right to graze their cattle in the jungle as well as on the waste and fallow lands, and the right to take jungle fruits and produce.

Paragraph 286 of the Hazaribagh report contains an interesting discussion of the legal nature of these rights by the Legal Remembrancer, (Mr. Chapman) and Lord Sinha. It was pointed out that these rights were not easements but *profits a prendre* enjoyed in common, not by the inhabitants of a village, but by all the holders of the village lands. Mr. Murphy's report on these rights in Palamau runs as follows :—

There appears to be an impression abroad that these rights have not been enjoyed by the Palamau tenants, but have been invented by the Settlement Officers on the analogy of the state of things found to exist in Hazaribagh and Ranchi. The Deputy Commissioner certainly suggests this in his indictment of the Settlement Department. As a matter of fact, however, the existence of these rights is not generally disputed by the landlords, and the only difficulty experienced in recording them was to decide to what limitations they are now subject. These limitations, like the rights themselves, are matters of custom. The limitations generally recognized are that a raiyat can cut only small trees for agricultural and domestic necessities. He may not cut trees for sale, and may not waste jungle. Certain kinds of valuable trees may not be cut under any circumstances. Certain species of trees are recognized as small and other species as large. *Sal* trees are considered as small until their girth three feet from the ground reaches 27 inches. The only purpose for which a raiyat may cut a large tree is for making a plough or for the centre beam

of his house. These rights as well as the right to graze his cattle and to take edible roots and jungle fruits (other than *mahua*, for which a special note is made) are sometimes subject to the payment of certain fees to the landlord. In most villages, however, no fees are taken or claimed. In some cases fees have been levied for many years and in others attempts have recently been made to impose fees.

In the great majority of villages there is no dispute, and the comparatively few disputes which have arisen in the area of which the records have been attested up to date, are chiefly concerned with the question whether certain fees claimed by the landlord should be recorded as payable. The problem in fact presents the same features as it did in Hazaribagh and Ranchi, and has been dealt with in precisely the same way.

408. *Rakhawats*.—Besides the question of fees, other questions of some importance have arisen. The first is that of *rakhawats* or reserved jungles. Some of the Palamau zamindars have, following the example of Government, reserved certain portions of their jungles from which the raiyats are excluded or in which their rights are materially curtailed. This policy is one to be encouraged. The question of whether any area has been reserved or not is, however, one of facts, and the Settlement Officer has frequently had to disallow the landlord's claims since enquiry showed that many of the alleged *rakhawats* had no real existence, and that no restriction had actually been imposed on the raiyat's rights. The *rakhawat* claims of the Raja of Chainpur are instances of this. The areas claimed by him as *rakhawat* were not demarcated on the ground. They were pointed out on the map by his agents but the boundaries indicated were not natural boundaries and merely followed the dotted lines by which large jungle plots are subdivided on the map for convenience in office work. The agents were ignorant of the position of these plots on the ground. Enquiry showed that the jungle in them was not distinguishable from that in the rest of the village and that trees had been cut in it by the raiyats as freely as in the portion not claimed as reserved. The Settlement Officer accordingly disallowed these claims. He informs me, however, that he has allowed every claim in which it appeared that a real effort had been made in the past to reserve any jungle. To do more than this would be to invite the landlords to claim as reserve any extent of jungle they pleased. In pargana Tori, as Mr. Bridge has stated in his reply to the memorial of the Tori landlords, *rakhawat* was claimed during attestation in 29 villages, and was allowed in 21. Under section 83, 31 objections were put in renewing not only the claims disallowed during attestation but raising 23 new claims. This fact alone indicates the necessity of scrutinizing the claims made. It must not be supposed however that the Settlement Officer is insisting on a high standard of proof, or is disallowing a claim when he finds that the raiyats in collusion with the landlord's local agents have been encroaching on an area which is generally recognized as *rakhawat*. He is in sympathy with any policy which will tend to preserve the forests. His functions are limited however, to recording as reserved the area which he finds to be so, and he has no power to create new reserves. He has invited the landlords to approach Government to help them in the matter, but I understand that his suggestion has hitherto met with no response, the reason for which is probably to be found in a fear that Government interference may lead to the formation of reserves in which restrictions will be imposed on the destruction of jungle by the landlords as well as by the raiyats."

409. *List of valuable trees*.—The valuable trees which might not ordinarily be destroyed are specified for each village in the Jungle Khatian (Khatian II); they were generally such trees as :—Karam, Kahua, Paisar, Nim, Mahua, Asan, Imli, Harra, Kend, Jamun, Kusum, Khair and big Sal trees, which are exempt from cutting except for the purposes specified by Mr. Murphy.

410. *Recent levy of jungle fees*.—The most notable attempts to assess jungle fees upon the raiyats in recent years were those of the Chainpur and Ranka zamindars, who signaled the failure of their memorial to Sir Edward Baker against the proposal to make a record-of-rights by imposing a general jungle tax called *chulkhar* throughout their estates. The raiyats objected to the tax at attestation and, as it had not been levied for a period of 12 years, the Attestation Officers, following the view expressed by Mr. Chapman and Lord Sinha, held that it was not legally established, and disallowed it.

411. *Rakhawats proclaimed by the Deputy Commissioner*.—The policy of making reserves is, as Mr. Murphy says, one to be encouraged among the zamindars, provided that the areas for reservation are fairly and suitably chosen, and that the reservation is a genuine one. It is a policy with which the local authorities have long been in general sympathy. During the settlement, claims to *rakhawats* were sometimes based upon proclamations issued on the application of the landlord, from the Deputy Commissioner's Office to

declare such and such areas to be *rakhawat*. These proclamations were issued apparently as a matter of routine and often without any previous investigation. As a result they were open to serious abuses, the landlords, as a rule, simply taking advantage of them to levy a new tax upon the raiyats, but making no attempt whatever to protect the jungle. For example, in village Babhni the entire jungle and waste of the village was proclaimed to be reserved; but the landlord himself admitted in attestation that he never made any attempt to stop uncontrolled reclamation and user of jungle rights in it. He simply levied an additional rent which he called *karaika*, or *uttakar* upon upland cultivation, and imposed a jungle tax on fuel, etc. He also instituted, on the strength of it, a criminal case, for ordinary user, against some raiyats who dared to state their claims against him before the Attestation Officer.

As the Deputy Commissioner's proclamations have no legal authority, they could only be accepted where the landlord had shown a *bonâ fide* desire to make a real reserve, and had taken active steps to do so. But as the raiyats are not debarred from relinquishing or selling their jungle rights, the Deputy Commissioner may in future effect a great deal towards the preservation of jungle by acting as an arbitrator in connection with *bonâ fide* applications of this nature. It will be necessary only to see that the raiyats understand, and consent to, the reservation, that they have received a reasonable consideration for any concession that they may make and that sufficient jungle still remains, exclusive of the proposed reserve, for the satisfaction of their reasonable domestic necessities. The chief difficulty is that there is little reason to believe that the landlords will maintain the reserves so given to them with any attempt at efficiency. If it were not for this danger much might be done, for instance, to carry out a part at least of the proposed reservation in Chainpur. Where, as in this case, the jungle is very extensive the compensation to be given to the raiyats for the loss of their rights of user in a part of it would be very small. And at the same time it would be all to their advantage to secure more general sympathy for their remaining rights than is at present entertained by the removal of all ground for apprehension that their exercise would contribute prominently to the total extinction of the jungle.

412. *Rakhawats should not be made in cultivable areas.*—It is very desirable that any new reserves should be confined to hilly and uncultivable country, where destruction of jungle is most harmful because it causes erosion and denudation of the thin layer of soil that covers the hills. The general reasons for this in Chota Nagpur have been so often stated that I need not repeat them here at length, but there is in Palamu the very cogent additional reason that all cultivable land is needed to support the population in any condition higher than serfdom.

413. *Modification of Khatian II.*—As a consequence of the Deputy Commissioner's criticism of the Form of Khatian II (see Appendix M), the Board added a column to show the rights enjoyed by non-agriculturists; and Government subsequently directed a note to be made to the effect that the expression "fixed rates" in column 3 means "permanently fixed rates." At the instance of the Deputy Commissioner I added another note on the jungle record to explain that all the recorded customs are only valid so long as their exercise is, in all the circumstances of the case, reasonable; but I doubt if there is any necessity for this addition since it is of the essence of a custom that it must be reasonable. As soon as a custom ceases to be reasonable, its validity can be assailed.

414. *Jungle fees.*—The fees which are sometimes levied for ordinary jungle user are known by many different names. The charges which were disallowed in Chainpur and Ranka were called *chulkhar*; in Mahuadanr they are levied at so much an axe every year and are called *tangikar*; sometimes they are levied with reference to the number of bullocks which a raiyat possesses and which he may employ for the purpose of fetching wood away from the jungle; elsewhere they are sometimes called *bankatti*. These charges are very seldom levied from a raiyat who confines himself to the jungles of his own village, and any payment of fees entitles the payer to supply his needs from any part of the landlord's estate. In the Bistrampur estate fees were

first introduced surreptitiously over 20 years ago by the disqualified proprietor when the estate was under management, and, as they have been continued ever since, they were accepted at attestation as having been established by prescription.

415. *Attachment of the raiyats to their jungle rights*—The raiyats in Palamau depend upon the leaves and roots and fruits of the jungle to supplement their other means of subsistence even in normal years, and still more so in a year of scarcity, when their crops fail, and when (a factor which affects them quite as much), employment is comparatively scarce. Although during the settlement the view was taken that the right to remove grass and fuel from the jungle *for sale* should not be admitted to the raiyats in the record-of-rights there is no room for doubt that such sales are common, are openly made without objection, and constitute an important item in the domestic economy of the very poor. This kind of traffic has hitherto been limited, not as a rule by the interference of the landlords, but by the smallness of the demand for these commodities in a jungle district. In all these circumstances it is not surprising that the raiyats, as a body, attach very great importance to their rights in jungle.

416. *Grazing rights*.—Grazing rights are almost always enjoyed by the raiyats over the waste and jungle lands of their village free of charge and over the cultivated lands of the village after the harvest has been gathered in. I have already described in Chapter IV the various charges which have been introduced and claimed in respect of grazing. Of these *karchari* is an old-established charge upon each head of she-buffalo possessed by professional graziers and makers of *bathan*, that is temporary stockades in the jungle to which during the hot weather and early rainy months, ahirs of Gaya and elsewhere bring their herds, when their own villages are entirely destitute of anything to graze upon. Other charges such as *bachhkar* and *bardauchha* have already been explained (paragraph 173). In many cases it was found that *karchari* had *recently* been extended to cows and bullocks, and to the she-buffaloes possessed in small numbers by raiyats who were not also graziers. These claims were disallowed, as were recent introductions of *bachhkar* and *bardauchha*. A rather unusual charge was claimed in the Untari Estate, called *sirahi*. *Sirahi* is a charge of so much *ghse* per year which is levied on each cowherd for the exercise of his profession. The amount varies with the number of *khuras* (each *khura* being 10 to 20 she-buffaloes) in his charge. This was distinct from *karchari*, which is a money payment per head of she-buffaloes payable by the *owner* in return for grazing; it was treated as a trade tax, which does not come within the scope of the record-of-rights.

417. *Lac*.—It is only within the last 30 years or so that the landlords of Palamau have begun to regard lac seriously as a source of income; but since then, spurred on no doubt by the booms in 1895 and 1905, they have done so to such good purpose that the raiyats' former privileges are in most villages completely annihilated. In a few villages, it is true, the raiyats still hold their lac-bearing trees rent free; in a very few the trees are included with the holdings in a common assessment and in a few more the trees are held upon a fixed rent. But in the great majority of cases lac settlements are entirely at the disposal of the landlord and (I quote Mr. Hignell, a former Deputy Commissioner) "the rates charged are only limited by the landlord's discretion and the tenant's inability to pay more than the lac on the tree will actually fetch in the market". The trees are let out just before sowing time. No count is actually made, but the tenant engages for a definite number of trees. The number has nothing to do with the actual facts and is a mere matter of haggling. The landlord's agent endeavours to make the raiyat agree for as large a number as possible, while the raiyat attempts to represent that there are not so many trees available. The rent is fixed later on by the landlord when the crop is ready for cutting; he considers current prices and the general nature of the crop from his own point of view, and acts generally in such a manner as to justify Mr. Hignell's criticism.

418. *Lac cultivation*.—A long discussion of crop-cutting experiments in *palas* trees, average outturns, the proportion of trees that fail to yield a crop, and the relation of the prices usually received by the raiyats to the market

rates, has been included in my rate report on the Government Estates. Here it is only necessary to say that the number of trees in which the crop is not successful in a normal year is very large. Taking these into consideration and allowing some of the crop to remain for seed, it is not safe to estimate the normal outturn for *palas* trees of all sorts at much more than a *pakka seer* a tree. A *palas* tree cannot be cultivated for many years in succession, as it is heavily pollarded in the process of reaping a successful crop. The crop itself is open to injury from a variety of causes and is very uncertain; and the raiyat gets only quite a small proportion of the market price for his crop after he has gathered it in.

It appears therefore that the Palamau raiyats take most of the risk and labour and but little of the profit of lac cultivation; and as might be expected the industry is no longer as popular among them as it used to be. It is instructive to observe that in Palamau formerly there was a tax upon silk cultivation but none upon lac. The silk industry is dead, and lac has been until recently popular. In the Kolhan, in Singhbhum, the conditions were reversed. Lac was originally taxed and silk was not. Silk cultivation flourishes, but lac is scarce. There seems to be a danger that the present unconscionable system of assessment may scotch the cultivation of lac in this district too. The enjoyment of lac-bearing trees, as of all other trees, according to the view of the law approved by Government, is regulated by custom, but it is to be hoped that the courts, if their assistance is even invoked, will declare the existing custom to be unreasonable, and inequitable.

419. *Mahuas*.—The mahua trees in the possession of the raiyats, unlike lac-bearing trees, have been found to be held together with the lands upon a consolidated rent in over 1,600 villages. They are held by the raiyats on separate rents in 450, and are held rent free in 350 more. They are exclusively the property of the landlords in about 250 villages. The remaining villages of the district are without mahuas. Mahua flowers are largely used for food in Palamau, and form a great stand-by for the villagers in the hungry months of the hot weather which precede the rains. The manner in which mahua trees, held with the lands, were dealt with at Fair Rent Settlement has been described in the chapter on that subject.

A separate rent on mahuas was assessed in several estates, notably in Chainpur and Ranka, by way of preparation for Settlement, and the former consolidated rents were applied without abatement to the land only. This was held to be an illegal enhancement and an infringement of custom, and was disallowed. A claim was sometimes made in respect to these new charges, that the trees had formerly been held rent free by custom, and that the charge could not therefore be an enhancement of their rent. Even if this view be accepted, the old custom had not been broken down for 12 years, and this charge, like *chulhar*, was not, therefore, legal.

420. *Conclusion*.—"Further discussion of jungle rights appears unnecessary. They are a natural consequence of the gradual reclamation of a jungly province by aboriginal tribes to whom the enjoyment of these rights is a matter of the utmost importance. The disputes which arise when, as the jungle gradually disappears, the landlords find it profitable to curtail them are no new feature. Neither is the question of the obstacles which these rights put in the way of the efforts of Government or of the landlords to conserve the forests. These matters have already been fully dealt with by Mr. Lister in a note written for the information of the Commission appointed in 1908, to inquire into the denudation of the forests in Chota Nagpur and Orissa. The only possible ground on which the record can be attacked is that the tenants enjoy no customary rights but merely privileges which can be withdrawn at the wish of the landlord. This ground of attack has not however been taken in Palamau."

This passage was written by Mr. Murphy in 1916, and the suggested line of attack was soon taken by the local officers. The argument that the *user* enjoyed by the *raiya*t from time immemorial, was merely a privilege terminable at the will of the landlord, is, contrary to the letter and spirit of the Tenancy Act and was not admitted by Government.



## CHAPTER XIII.

## CONCLUSION.

THE EFFECT OF THE SETTLEMENT.—COST AND RECOVERY OF COST.—  
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

421. *The change from a paternal system of administration.*—Before the Settlement the Tenancy Law was not current in this district; in the words already quoted from the Gazetteer, “the tenants nominally had their rights assured to them under the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Acts; but in its practical working the Act was almost a dead letter.” Instead they were left to the protection of the so-called competition for raiyats. In discussing the necessity, or otherwise, of making a settlement in the district, Messrs. Lyall and Hignell showed unmistakably (see Appendix O), that they recognized that a Settlement meant an effective substitution of the Tenancy Law for the old paternal system of administration through the landlords. Without this change a Record-of-rights has no significance. Under the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act the Deputy Commissioner is the guardian alike of the law, the Record-of-rights and the tenantry. He has power to fine summarily of his own motion, under section 54, if landlords refuse to give rent receipts, or make them incomplete or incorrect. He can punish any levy in excess of the legally payable rent, or any exaction of an *Abwab*, or of forced labour, on the application of the aggrieved tenant (section 63), and he can summarily restore a dispossessed raiyat who applies to him under section 71. With a view to making the public better acquainted with the law, and to inducing respect alike for the Record-of-rights and the powers of the Deputy Commissioner, it had always been the practice of the Settlement Department in Hazaribagh, to report bad cases of failure to grant rent receipts, to the Deputy Commissioner and to forward to him the applications of persons who were found after local investigation to have been seriously wronged by illegal exaction or illegal dispossession.

The same policy was commenced in Palamau, for in this district the people are utterly ignorant of the law and their rights, and it is not generally recognized by either party that the Deputy Commissioner possesses very effective *legal* powers to remedy abuses. Unfortunately the first cases which were reported had very disappointing results.

422. *Need for the support of the local officers.*—It is hardly necessary to observe that without the support of the local authorities the settlement record may be deprived of very much of its value. During the recent fair rent settlement, when inquiries were made in almost all the villages to ascertain how far the finally published record had been respected by the parties—in some cases a period of 2 or 3 years had already elapsed after final publication—it was found that it has only received a very partial measure of success. In many cases rent receipts are still not granted. *Begari* and *harai* are commonly demanded and often yielded; and rents in excess of the legally payable rents are not infrequently openly exacted. In a few cases the landlords have sought to regularize these demands by making the tenants execute registered documents agreeing to them. I do not think that these illegalities affect the majority of cases, but they form more than the thin end of the wedge and if they are permitted with impunity must soon result in a complete and general reversion to the old state of affairs. Except in respect to *begari* the bigger landlords such as the zamindars of Chainpur, Ranka and Ladi, have shown a general disposition to accept the Settlement, and have filed scarcely any appeals against the proceedings of the fair rent officers even where their rents were reduced. It may be safely prophesied that they will adhere to the record, if they are convinced that the Deputy Commissioner is determined to enforce it.

423. *The need for vigilance.*—But in the words of the Government Resolution on the Annual Report for 1917-18; “the greatest vigilance on the part of local officers will be necessary for many years after the Settlement proceedings are concluded to ensure that the Tenancy Law shall be observed and the Settlement record respected throughout the district.

The smaller landlords, who cannot maintain their present style of living if they allow the raiyats a just share of the produce and pay a just wage for labour, will only respect the record, if constant vigilance and a stern enforcement of sections 54, 63 and 71 compel them to do so. In fact the record and the law itself depend entirely upon the support of the Deputy Commissioner and his power to make his authority felt in the villages. It is futile to expect the raiyats, with such a history behind them, to bring forward their complaints or present their cases competently; they must therefore be reached in the *mufassal*, and made to feel confidence in the reality of their rights, and the ability of the local officers to enforce them.

424. *Two matters in respect of which landlords welcome the Record :—* There are two points in respect of which the big landlords have welcomed the record-of-rights. They have hitherto taken little active interest in the administration of their properties and have been at the mercy of imported *amlas* who kept very irregular accounts, and intercept much of the income which was intended for their employers. They are now in a much stronger position to control their own agents and to stop speculation. The other point is that the raiyats have now been pinned down to determinate holdings and although their right to extend upland cultivation without permission has generally been proved and recorded, they are no longer left the privilege of doing so without extra assessment of rent; for the Settlement maps will in future afford easy proof of such extensions, and the landlord can apply to the Deputy Commissioner for an increase of rent in respect of them under section 31. This is a point which has not been sufficiently appreciated and is a severe limitation of a time-old privilege of the raiyats.

In Appendix X is a note explaining the Settlement procedure, and the easiest way to obtain information on any particular subject. It has been adapted by Babu Sarbari Kanta Gupta, from Mr. McPherson's note on the record of the Santal Parganas, in the hope that it might be of use to executive officers. It has been revised and modified by the present writer.

425 *Costs of Settlement.*—The total cost of the Settlement is set down in the following table :—

Year.	Traverse.	Cadastral.	Settlement.	Total.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1912-13	22,460	...	...	22,460	
1913-14	44,167	78,219	...	1,22,386	
1914-15	45,061	1,03,114	37,741	1,85,916	
1916-16	45,996	1,05,210	73,376	2,24,582	
1916-17	12,574	1,16,399	98,418	2,27,391	
1917-18	...	44,231	1,05,588	2,54,109	
1918-19	...	...	1,91,135	1,91,135	
1919-20	...	...	37,543*	37,543	* Up to August 1919.
Total	1,70,553	4,47,510	5,98,811	12,16,869	
Rate per square mile	34	91	121	...	

It is estimated that the completion of the operation which consists almost only of recovery of costs for the last two years area will cost about another Rs. 22,000.

The grand total of expenditure thus comes to Rs. 12,38,869.

From this the following deductions are to be made :—

	Rs.
(a) Valuation of office buildings	50,627
(b) Valuation of tents and stores transferred to Marbhum	4,000

The net cost is therefore Rs. 11,84,242 and the cost per square mile is Rs. 252. It is anticipated that Rs. 4 more per square mile may be necessary to complete the operation, thus making the total cost per square mile Rs. 256. Of this, one-fourth share (Rs. 2,96,060) is payable by the Imperial Government and a further 10 per cent. of the balance (Rs. 88,818) will be paid by the

Imperial Government (see the Government of India's letter No. 866-263-2, dated the 19th July 1912), in respect of all private villages but not in respect of the Government Estate, on account of the special poverty of Palamau.

The amount recoverable from landlords and tenants thus becomes Rs. 7,99,364. The costs are Rs. 6 a square mile higher than in Hazaribagh, on account chiefly of the elaboration with which attestation proceedings had to be recorded, and of special investigations concerning landlords' improvements, *kamiauti* and land classification.

426. *Recovery of Costs.*—The following recovery rates per acre were sanctioned by Government for assessment upon the different classes of land in the first two years' area.

Rice land.			Upland.		
I	II	III	I	II	III
1-8-0.	2-0-0.	1-4-0.	2-0-0.	0-12-0.	0-8-0.

Uncultivated land 1 anna 9 pies per acre.

On account of the general fair rent settlement in the whole of the 3rd and 4th year's areas, and the unusual difficulty of the work it was thought necessary in those areas to increase the rates for the first 4 classes of land by 4 annas in each case. The rates for 2nd and 3rd class upland and for uncultivated lands were left unchanged. These modifications were approved by Government. At these rates the recoverable demand works out at the following figure for each year's area :—

Area			Total demand.	Amount recovered.
1			2	3
			Rs.	Rs.
1st year's area	...	...	180,522	1,33,018
2nd year's area	...	...	2,15,630	2,17,543
3rd year's area	...	...	2,53,301	14,696
4th year's area	...	...	2,18,258	300
Total			8,70,711	3,65,557

The amount\* hitherto recovered has also been shown in the statement. No recoveries were made last year under the order of Government on account of the comparative failure of the crops, and accordingly recovery from the 3rd and 4th year's area is to be taken up next field season. The sum of Rs. 45,000 still due in respect of the first two years' area, is payable almost entirely by the landlords to whom it was thought desirable to allow time for payment, for the same reason as led to the complete postponement of the 3rd year's recovery. After a sum of Rs. 17,633 has been set aside on account of the cost of maintenance of boundary pillars, and a margin of about Rs. 20,000 is allowed for irrecoverable demands there remains an excess collection of about Rs. 34,000. This is partly due to allowance having been made for unforeseen expenses which did not prove necessary, and partly to the fact that the fair rent settlement, made as it was upon principles laid down by Government, went through much more easily and cheaply than had been anticipated; the landlords having raised very few issues under section 83. Of the demand assessed upon any land in a tenant's occupation, one-half is paid by the landlord and one-half by the tenant.

427. *Acknowledgments.*—Mr. Sifton was Settlement Officer for the first year and a half of the district operations and saw through two Khanapuri seasons and the first year's attestation. The whole foundation of the Settlement was his work, and he left to his successor merely the task of carrying on. In writing this report I have in several Chapters followed Mr. Sifton's Hazaribagh report very closely, partly in the belief that the general reader will most easily find what he wants, if Settlement reports are similar in

\* Up to the end of July 1920 a total of Rs. 8,39,786 had been recovered.

method and arrangement and partly because where Mr. Sifton's remarks are applicable to Patna, I could not hope to improve upon them. Holding this view I have not scrupled to borrow sentences and even entire paragraphs.

Mr. Tuckey held the post of Settlement Officer while I was on privilege leave for 4 months and 8 days and held a charge for 1 year 11 months and 21 days. He supervised both Khanapuri and Attestation, and worked with energy and judgement. Mr. Dain held a charge for 5 months and 8 days and gave me valuable help. Mr. Boyce held the post of Settlement Officer for 1 month and 16 days, and held a charge under my predecessor for 10 months and 6 days. Of the Assistant Settlement Officers Khan Sahib Muhammad Hamid, Babu Basanta Kumar Roy, Maulavi Abdul Qadir Khan, and Lala Prem Nath Kapur deserve special notice. These officers did very valuable work in most trying and difficult conditions. I am indebted to Babu Basanta Kumar Roy for much help in writing this report. The following officers also deserve mention for their good work :—

*Deputy Collectors.* Babus Sarbari Kanta Gupta and Surendra Nath Sen.

*Munsiffs.*— Babus Kshetra Nath Singh and Nirmal Chandra Ghose.

*Sub-Deputy Collectors.*— Babus Nagendra Nath Ghose, Satya Narain Singh, Bijoy Kanta Sen, Mr. Dhan Masih Panna, Pandit Jaya Deva Misra and M. Muhammad Tahir.

Babu Sarada Prasad Hazra, Record-Keeper of the Commissioner's office placed a number of valuable records at my disposal in a very convenient form.

I am deeply indebted to Mr. P. W. Murphy for his assistance and counsel and for constant encouragement in times of difficulty; also to Mr. J. Reid for his help during the first year. Acknowledgments are due to Mr. C. H. Reid, Judicial Commissioner, who always took a great interest in the proceedings and made many helpful suggestions. To Mr. T. S. Macpherson, the Legal Remembrancer, I am indebted for valuable advice on many legal and other difficulties.



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# APPENDIX A.

## List of Officers employed in the Palamau Settlement.

Serial No.	Name of Officer.	Designation.	Periods.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5
			Y. M. D.	
1	J. D. Sifton, Esq., I.C.S. ...	Settlement Officer ...	1 5 18	
2	T. W. Bridge, Esq., I.C.S. ...	Ditto ...	4 8 6	
		Covenanted Assistant Settlement Officer in charge ...	0 11 22	
3	A. D. Tuckey, Esq., I.C.S. ...	Settlement Officer ...	0 4 8	
		Covenanted Assistant Settlement Officer in charge ...	1 11 21	
4	W. H. Boyce, Esq., I.C.S. ...	Settlement Officer ...	0 1 18	
		Covenanted Assistant Settlement Officer in charge ...	0 10 6	
5	J. R. Dain, Esq., I.C.S. ...	Covenanted Assistant Settlement Officer in charge... ..	0 5 8	
6	Babu Haranta Kumar Ray ...	Deputy Collector ...	4 11 27	
7	Khan Sahib Muhammad Hamid ...	Ditto ...	4 6 23	
8	Lala Premnath Kapur ...	Ditto ...	1 6 25	
9	Babu Surendra Nath Sen ...	Ditto ...	1 2 0	
10	M. Abdul Qadir Khan ...	Ditto ...	5 0 12	
11	Babu Sharbari Kanta Gupta ...	Ditto ...	1 7 0	
12	„ Arun Nath Chakravartti ...	Ditto ...	1 8 2	
13	M. Abul Hasan Muhammad Taiyab.	Ditto ...	1 1 19	
14	Ray Haranta Prashad ...	Ditto ...	0 4 5	
15	Babu Nand Lal Bhagat ...	Ditto ...	2 3 27	
16	„ Indramani Singh ...	Ditto ...	0 6 4	
17	„ Nand Kishor Chaudhuri ...	Munsiff ...	0 4 21	
18	„ Khetra Nath Singh ...	Do. ...	1 1 3	
19	„ Nirmal Chandra Ghosh ...	Do. ...	1 0 29	
20	M. Muhammad Ibrahim ...	Do. ...	1 6 0	
21	Saiyid Abul Fateh ...	Do. ...	0 11 0	
22	Mr. Dhan Masih Panna ...	Sub-Deputy Collector ...	0 11 10	
23	Babu Ramesh Chandra Chakravartti.	Ditto ...	0 4 8	

## APPENDIX A—concl'd.

Serial No.	Name of Officer.	Designation.	Periods.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5
24	Babu Nagendra Nath Ghosh ...	Sub-Deputy Collector ...	Y. M. D. 4 2 0	
25	„ Bijay Kanta Sen ...	Ditto ...	3 0 20	
26	M. Muhammad Tahir ...	Ditto ...	2 3 11	
27	Babu Satya Narayan Sinha ...	Ditto ...	1 8 16	
28	„ Narayan Nand... ...	Ditto ...	0 8 11	
29	Mr. Priya Ranjan Das ...	Ditto ...	1 5 6	
30	Babu Basudev Prashad ...	Ditto ...	0 5 2	
31	„ Chintamani Acharjya ...	Ditto ...	0 8 14	
32	Mr. Suresh Kumar Raut ...	Ditto ...	0 6 16	
33	M. Safdar Husain ...	Ditto ...	0 4 5	
34	M. Fazlur Rahman ...	Ditto ...	0 9 29	
35	Babu Atul Chandra Som ...	Ditto ...	0 5 0	
36	„ Surendra Nath Bhattacharji ...	Ditto ...	0 6 28	
37	Mr. J. E. Coutts ...	Ditto ...	5 2 16	
38	„ W. H. Alderson .. ...	Ditto ...	0 10 12	
39	Pandit Jayadev Misra ...	Ditto ...	4 10 14	
40	M. Saiyid Yusuf Husain ...	Ditto ...	0 5 25	
41	Babu Gangadhari Lal ...	Ditto ...	0 5 0	
42	„ Durga Prashad Singh ...	Ditto ...	0 5 0	
43	Mr. A. T. Bajpai ...	Ditto ...	1 0 0	
44	M. Muhammad Salam-ul Haqq ...	Ditto ...	0 3 20	
45	M. Muhammad Jalil ...	Ditto ...	0 4 27	
46	M. Muhammad Farid-ul Haqq ...	Ditto ...	0 4 11	
47	Babu Natabar Patnaik ...	Ditto ...	0 4 0	
48	„ Braj Lal Mathur ...	Ditto ...	0 8 16	
49	„ Dharanidhar Banarji ...	Ditto ...	0 6 19	
50	M. Muhammad Ishaq ...	Non-gazetted ...	0 4 10	
51	M. Iqbal Hesan ...	Ditto ...	0 6 13	
52	M. Muhammad Fakhr-ud-ddin ...	Ditto ...	0 5 23	
53	Babu Satya Prata Chattarji ...	Ditto ...	0 4 26	



## APPENDIX B.

## NOTIFICATIONS.

Number of Notification, with date.	Act.	Purport of Notification.
1	2	3
3291-R(A), dated the 31st August 1912.	Bengal Survey Act ...	Under section 3 for thanas Balumath, Latehar and Mahuadair.
4682-R., dated the 24th June 1913...	Ditto ...	Under section 3 for thanas Garhwa and Ranka
4681-R., dated the 24th June 1913...	Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.	Under sections 80, 106, 119 and 127 (1) for thanas Balumath, Latehar and Mahuadair.
7940-R. —, dated the 26th October 1914 S—194	Bengal Survey Act ...	Under section 3 for thanas Husainabad, Chhattarpur and Patan.
7938-R. —, dated the 26th October 1914 S—194	Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.	Under sections 80, 106, 119 and 127 (1) for thanas Garhwa and Ranka.
60-R. —, dated the 6th January 1915... S—6	Ditto ...	Notifying that the particulars described in clauses (C), (N) and (O) of sub-section 1 of Notification Nos. 3681-R., dated the 24th June 1913, and 7938-R. S—194, dated the 26th October 1914, should not be recorded in respect of any areas in the district of Palamau which have been declared to be protected forests under section 28 of Act VII of 1878.
5645-R. —, dated the 17th August 1915 S—133	Bengal Survey Act ...	Under section 3 for thana Daltonganj.
5644-R. —, dated the 17th August 1915 S—183	Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.	Under sections 80, 106, 119 and 127 (1) for thanas Husainabad, Chhattarpur and Patan.
3101-R. —, dated the 16th May 1915... S—94	Ditto ...	Under sub-section (2) of section 84 for thana Balumath.
6321-R. —, dated the 2nd September 1916 S—172	Ditto ...	Under sections 80, 106, 119 and 127 (1) for thana Daltonganj.
5630-R. —, dated the 10th September 1918. S—109	Ditto ...	Under sub-section (2) of section 84 for thanas Husainabad and Chhattarpur and portion lying within police-station Bismampur.
140-R. T., dated the 7th December 1918.	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for thanas Husainabad, Chhattarpur, Patna and Daltonganj.
7726-R. —, dated the 15th November 1918. S—194	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for thanas Balumath, Ranka, Garhwa and Latehar.
225-R. —, dated the 10th January 1917 S—210	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for thanas Latehar, Kerh and Balumath.
7583-R. —, dated the 9th November 1915 S—231	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for Government Estates villages.
2146, dated the 10th April 1919 ...	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Rood, thana No. 304, of thana Balumath.
2147, dated the 10th April 1919 ...	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Hesla, thana No. 301, of thana Balumath.

PPENDIX B—concl<sup>d</sup>

Number of Notification, with date.	Act.	Purpose of Notification.
1	2	3
148, dated the 10th April 1919 ...	Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Gali, thana No. 303, thana (Chandwa) Balumath.
2149, dated the 10th April 1919 ...	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for villages Chakla, thana No. 228, Nagar, thana No. 240, Semarsote, thana No. 207, Dhadhu, thana No. 212, and Girinja, thana No. 214, thana Balumath.
2150, dated the 10th April 1919 ...	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Gari, thana No. 81, thana Balumath.
2151, dated the 10th April 1919 ...	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Muka, thana No. 159, thana Balumath.
152, dated the 10th April 1919 ...	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Chamatu, thana No. 56, thana Balumath.
2153, dated the 10th April 1919 ...	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Chandwa, thana No. 285, thana (Chandwa) Balumath.
8447R. —, dated the 5th May 1919 ... S—83	Ditto ...	Under sub-section (2) of section 84, for thanas L. tehar, Ranka and Garhwa.
452R. —, dated the 5th May 1919 ... S—60	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Mutki, thana No. 201, thana Ranka.
3451R. —, dated the 5th May 1919 ... S—60	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Kutku, thana No. 219, thana Ranka.
3450 R. —, dated the 5th May 1919 ... S—60	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Paro, thana No. 182, thana Ranka.
3449 R. —, dated the 5th May 1919 ... S—60	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Bhago, thana No. 231, thana Balumath.
3448 R. —, dated the 5th May 1919 ... S—60	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Sancya, thana No. 221, thana Ranka.
3887-R. —, dated the 19th May 1919 ... S—60	Ditto ...	Under clause (ii) of sub-section (2) of section 85, for village Keri, thana No. 230, thana Balumath.
1092-R. —, dated the 22nd February 1917 S—18	Ditto ...	Apportionment order for thanas Garhwa (Nagar Utari), Ranka (Bhandaria) and outposts Keri and Garu under section 95.
650-R. —, dated the 6th November 1917 S—181	Ditto ...	Apportionment order for thanas Garhwa and Ranka.
8008-R. —, dated the 29th November 1918 S—193	Ditto ...	Apportionment order for thanas Husainabad, Chhattarpur, Patan and Daklonganj.



APPENDIX C.

सत्यमेव जयते

APPEN

MILAZ

Cropped

Serial No.	Thana.	Don.							
		Bhadol.		Aghani.		Rabi.		Total.	
1	2	3		4		5		6	
		Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.
1	Balumath ...	20,456	14	3,743	90	1,060	83	25,260	87
2	Mahudandr ...	9,559	52	2,004	80	143	19	11,707	29
3	Latehar ...	7,991	61	2,051	31	726	62	11,668	64
4	Banka ...	5,206	00	1,860	86	188	77	7,325	63
5	Garhwa ...	13,101	88	6,363	80	5,243	85	29,709	53
6	Husainabad ...	22,099	81	6,412	05	10,984	74	41,496	60
7	Chhattarpur ...	8,336	93	3,540	71	4,398	24	15,273	98
8	Patan ...	17,924	10	9,106	28	10,927	71	38,027	09
9	Daltonganj ...	17,469	34	7,888	10	11,308	73	36,664	18
	Total ...	127,335	33	44,869	69	45,030	98	217,134	71

Serial No.	Thana.	Taur—consolid.							
		Dofusla (twice-cropped.)		Total taur minus Dofusla (12-13).		Total of Don and Taur minus Dofusla.		Other cropped area, e.g., mango groves, tea, j an, plantain, etc.	
1	2	13		14		15		16	
		Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.
1	Balumath ...	17,071	53	88,227	20	112,696	45	183	75
2	Mahudandr ...	3,063	58	53,257	78	69,870	98	148	96
3	Latehar ...	6,678	66	47,266	00	56,333	48	97	27
4	Banka ...	2,984	03	44,117	01	51,296	29	77	02
5	Garhwa ...	14,405	63	105,946	25	130,004	86	440	86
6	Husainabad ...	21,680	93	109,592	15	141,492	80	433	28
7	Chhattarpur ...	8,326	37	52,501	41	64,204	38	187	23
8	Patan ...	15,030	45	82,451	60	110,679	86	175	33
9	Daltonganj ...	18,662	14	105,000	37	132,043	32	309	44
	Total ...	102,693	30	693,359	77	871,514	32	2,053	02

DIX C.  
KHASRA.

Area.

				Taur.									
Dofasia (twice-cropped).		Total Don minus Dofasia (6-7).		Bhadai.		Aghani.		Rabi.		Total.			
7		8		9		10		11		12			
Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.		
801	62	24,469	35	57,771	41	19,045	87	22,431	45	99,298	72		
94	29	11,613	10	43,105	02	7,106	09	5,720	33	61,321	34		
402	06	11,067	48	21,842	98	10,529	56	21,572	12	53,944	66		
144	35	7,181	22	20,833	62	9,208	67	16,960	75	47,101	04		
4,750	92	24,959	01	36,417	63	16,475	37	68,468	89	120,351	88		
9,595	05	21,900	65	44,851	70	11,801	64	74,819	94	131,473	08		
2,570	91	11,702	97	23,308	09	7,253	10	30,261	50	60,827	78		
9,798	83	28,228	20	38,856	04	17,932	07	41,263	04	96,083	05		
9,621	23	27,042	24	51,803	22	23,607	65	48,241	64	123,652	52		
38,980	16	178,154	54	343,979	50	123,263	01	329,810	56	796,063	08		
Culturable area other than current fallow.													
Total cropped area (15 + 16).		Current fallow.		Old fallow.		Groves not fruit-bearing <i>khaur</i> and bamboo.		Culturable jungle.		Other kinds.		Total.	
17		18		19		20		21		22		23	
Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.	Acrea.	Dec.
112,870	18	460	20	9,990	70	4	49	89,124	47	1,542	71	99,666	20
70,019	64	214	77	6,039	50	9	48	25,557	64	1,472	81	27,029	39
58,430	75	316	96	5,361	61	130	08	76,115	72	725	89	61,532	24
51,375	31	294	94	5,879	09	794	81	67,947	79	910	91	65,533	60
181,345	74	264	30	16,228	00	1	10	62,598	89	821	74	79,647	73
241,936	08	603	79	25,551	85	6	03	39,420	09	1,696	60	66,074	87
64,391	63	221	40	7,416	51	..	..	23,472	50	332	00	31,221	01
110,865	08	634	11	13,770	30	19	02	46,415	86	434	97	60,640	15
123,252	76	509	86	11,277	12	...	06	41,040	64	263	14	68,890	98
873,567	24	3,510	33	101,512	68	964	89	490,493	50	8,300	77	601,471	94

APPEN

MILAN

Cropped

Serial No.	Thana.	Area not available for cultivation.							
		House sites.		Water.		Jungle.		Other kinds.	
1	2	24		25		26		27	
		Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Dec.	Aores.	Dec.	Aores.	Dec.
1	Balumath ...	692	67	8,914	93	100,925	49	12,590	23
2	Mahudandr ...	234	02	5,670	22	100,245	00	3,894	20
3	Latehar ...	893	06	7,069	55	101,628	29	14,327	20
4	Banka ...	370	79	5,808	40	232,713	51	17,825	65
5	Garhwa ...	866	81	8,728	78	112,619	82	26,555	63
6	Husainabad ...	1,127	54	32,141	27	141,541	46	33,656	25
7	Chhattarpur ...	448	92	3,759	23	102,963	10	16,312	23
8	Patan ...	795	05	11,844	76	117,025	73	17,534	25
6	Daltonganj ...	1,105	06	13,600	52	137,210	45	19,964	46
	Total ...	5,934	12	37,441	66	1,227,291	84	161,664	23

Serial No.	Thana.	Area irrigated from different sources of irrigation—concd.							
		Other sources of irrigation belonging to Government.		Ahars and tanks.		Other sources of irrigation.		Rice.	
1	2	34		35		36		37	
		Aores.	Dec.	Aores.	Dec.	Aores.	Dec.	Aores.	Dec.
1	Balumath ...	...	...	1,698	97	41	74	1,678	51
2	Mahudandr ...	...	...	585	44	459	50	1,019	90
3	Latehar ...	...	...	2,818	95	15	22	2,818	95
4	Banka ...	...	...	799	03	...	...	799	03
5	Garhwa ...	...	...	14,600	86	160	61	14,600	86
6	Husainabad ...	...	...	21,295	65	609	68	21,295	65
7	Chhattarpur ...	...	...	5,769	50	96	02	5,769	50
8	Patan ...	...	...	16,962	83	276	45	16,962	83
9	Daltonganj ...	...	...	16,664	13	195	04	16,664	13
	Total ...	...	...	61,195	36	1,854	26	61,629	36

## DIX C—concluded.

## KHASRA.

## Area—concl'd.

Area irrigated from different sources of irrigation											
Total.		Total noncultivated (18+23+28).		Total area (17+29).		Total area under irrigation.		Wells.		Government canals.	
28		29		30		31		32		33	
Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.
213,123	06	313,246	14	426,116	32	1,066	05	215	34	...	...
110,050	14	143,344	20	213,364	13	1,084	09	9	15	...	...
123,618	60	206,209	00	264,699	75	2,852	98	18	81	...	...
246,816	35	342,633	89	894,000	20	611	01	11	98	...	...
148,171	24	228,883	27	360,229	01	15,500	28	828	79	...	...
208,497	22	273,145	58	417,071	66	24,927	15	3,021	82	...	...
123,403	63	154,846	04	219,237	69	7,170	69	1,305	17	...	...
147,000	39	208,274	65	319,129	73	18,792	22	1,532	94	...	...
170,580	53	224,671	34	367,024	15	17,401	15	541	98	...	...
1,492,331	96	2,097,311	24	2,970,681	59	90,535	60	7,465	98	...	...
Crops irrigated.											
Crops irrigated.								Number of Wells.		Remarks.	
Wheat.	Cereals and pulses.			Miscellaneous food-crops.			Non-food crops.	Pukka.	Kacha.		
36	39			40			41	42	43	44	
Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.	Acres.	Dec.				
19	12	49	70	103	41	105	31	247	391		
...	...	12	42	...	71	1	06	22	18		
...	61	12	53	11	74	9	15	63	151		
...	98	3	92	5	55	1	53	24	174		
110	32	416	97	266	32	187	79	339	2,109		
352	67	1,410	36	1,257	56	610	91	642	2,030		
351	60	432	90	482	63	133	47	234	1,355		
98	90	228	04	1,319	75	162	70	354	2,128		
30	27	64	04	555	16	87	55	572	1,622		
973	76	2,629	88	4,603	1	1,299	47	2,497	9,968		



## APPEN

## CROP

		CEREALS						
Serial No.	Name of Thana.							
		Bhadol Don.	Aghani Don.	Tewa Don.	Gora Rice.		Wheat.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
		Gross.	Gross.	Gross.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.
		Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.
1	Bahumath ... ..	20,400'03	2,833'42	..	4,816'30	2,550'05	621'09	594'72
2	Mahuadanr ... ..	9,536'26	1,973'06	20'23	7,319'07	2,036'09	62'00	52'16
3	Latchar ... ..	7,979'03	2,801'05	1'61	932'82	445'24	218'02	206'31
4	Rauka ... ..	5,278'05	1,833'43	...	277'11	139'10	91'20	90'33
5	Garhwa ... ..	17,912'78	6,182'26	...	100'30	104'33	2,119'32	2,081'03
6	Musalnabad ... ..	21,601'73	8,271'73	...	320'04	308'11	3,537'21	3,487'44
7	Chhattarpur ... ..	8,271'26	2,310'03	...	16'80	15'45	1,571'57	1,554'83
8	Patan ... ..	17,625'23	8,739'59	...	51'11	43'33	3,091'53	2,980'23
9	Daltonganj ... ..	17,574'59	7,344'22	...	83'19	73'53	8,357'48	8,276'81
	Total ... ..	125,891'01	43,220'84	30'44	13,956'10	6,616'01	11,582'36	14,303'06

Serial No.	Name of Thana.	CEREALS AND PULSES—contd.							
		Gram.		Gondli.		Urid.		Other food grains including pulse.	
1	2	13		14		15		16	
		Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.
		Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.
1	Balamath ...	4,473'16	3,227'64	34,488'08	13,84'03	2,326'33	1,204'27	11,872'12	7,481'34
2	Mahuadaur ...	1,647'93	515'41	34,906'24	12,702'03	1,083'13	721'37	2,912'20	1,450'07
3	Lstchar ...	4,170'19	3,197'08	5,687'27	2,628'06	1,414'24	839'67	17,936'16	10,048'56
4	Rauka ...	2,559'61	1,749'82	6,522'48	2,737'33	530'03	322'69	16,759'35	9,741'84
5	Garhwa ...	18,789'79	18,443'57	3,740'14	2,106'09	3'06'63	2,226'64	49,063'55	35,060'38
6	Musalnabad ...	30,079'32	26,873'53	48'37	31'36	1,079'81	1,378'10	44,322'64	36,630'40
7	Chhattarpur ...	15,158'47	13,123'95	39'14	17'36	688'66	552'03	17,710'38	13,460'47
8	Patan ...	17,246'68	15,044'61	1,070'08	951'14	2,507'38	2,025'86	40,177'00	30,683'03
9	Daltongani ...	16,961'63	14,408'42	1,460'60	893'34	2,761'65	2,080'62	51,021'40	36,611'60
	Total ...	112,016'01	93,578'06	89,580'16	35,708'39	16,610'57	11,445'64	252,575'99	181,874'39

DIX D.  
STATEMENT.

AND PULSES.

Barley.		Millet.		Gangai.		Marua.		Maize.	
8		9		10		11		12	
Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.
Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.
1,032'64	916'86	120'57	88'32	...	...	3,786'70	2,433'78	9,568'44	8,826'39
384'16	281'67	7'25	5'11	...	...	1,128'66	580'54	3,850'09	2,288'58
1,808'31	1,190'67	79'29	71'25	...	...	1,932'66	1,442'52	6,105'61	5,880'33
1,131'80	1,305'03	168'63	158'90	...	...	2,356'59	1,709'66	4,981'36	4,656'48
7,013'97	6,765'26	217'17	208'92	...	...	2,080'87	1,820'15	7,421'08	7,207'97
15,627'70	15,155'10	107'66	94'40	...	...	3,343'60	3,187'81	10,801'04	10,035'30
2,510'57	2,436'20	281'80	250'23	...	...	1,620'41	1,600'08	7,409'11	7,331'54
6,789'37	6,483'54	516'05	467'03	...	...	2,719'93	2,624'12	8,082'26	8,549'58
6,319'82	7,990'70	657'81	604'50	...	...	3,291'61	2,912'36	12,464'53	12,137'48
41,837'93	42,641'93	2,157'16	1,968'32	...	...	22,297'31	18,117'00	68,820'42	66,835'35

## OIL SEEDS.

Linseed.		Mustard.		Til or Gingili.		Sar. uja.	
17		18		19		20	
Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.
Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.
1,089'66	697'27	...	...	3,384'36	1,693'36	14,002'21	6,681'43
11'12	7'61	...	...	1,405'13	610'51	5,470'37	2,096'85
206'48	141'27	...	...	9,102'08	4,408'93	1,564'90	746'76
95'36	61'16	...	...	9,270'05	4,150'38	1,035'01	507'41
2,027'22	1,627'30	...	...	26,654'39	12,287'73	38'69	19'76
7,853'52	6,209'62	5,776'95	5,576'65	15,809'38	7,914'65	16'57	13'13
1,706'03	1,538'87	4,698'74	4,553'47	10,748'20	5,333'07	49'08	26'31
2,482'14	2,801'62	5,715'01	5,594'35	18,930'60	7,009'40	659'70	357'71
3,401'64	2,687'21	8,177'78	7,914'12	21,184'37	10,237'17	498'41	300'73
20,076'17	15,760'88	24,367'48	23,632'70	111,198'58	53,652'80	24,200'91	10,577'27

## APPEN

## CROP

Serial No.	Name of Thana.	Oil seeds— <i>concl'd.</i>		Spices.	Sugar.				
		Others.			Sugarcane.	Others.			
1	2	21		22	23		24		
		Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1	Balumath ...	7,971.15	7,785.90	228.28	212.83	67.03	61.54	...	...
2	Mahumadpur ...	1,841.07	1,778.00	55.16	50.20	...	...	...	...
3	Latchar ...	3,648.77	3,737.61	153.80	143.10	9.55	8.47	...	...
4	Hanka ...	938.24	947.22	43.19	42.25	.70	.70	...	...
5	Garhwa ...	1,318.97	1,278.83	475.25	471.83	203.78	201.73	...	...
6	Husainabad ...	419.19	415.43	1,157.70	1,144.96	1,684.32	1,67.78	...	...
7	Chhattarpur ...	196.46	193.50	220.39	216.95	607.09	597.72	...	...
8	Patan ...	221.85	216.95	655.95	648.58	1,549.19	1,617.93	...	...
9	Daltonganj ...	66.03	82.15	475.52	466.07	927.12	813.20	...	...
	Total	16,891.70	16,308.19	8,364.98	3,295.77	5,088.76	4,875.14	...	...

Serial No.	Name of Thana.	Mango groves, Pan, Plantain, Guavas, etc.	Garden Produce, Orchards, other than column 32.	Miscellaneous Food.			
				Potato.		Yams	
1	2	32	33	34		35	
		Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.	Gross.	Net.
		Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.
1	Balumath ...	163.73	148.62	142.61	39.42	39.26	38.32
2	Mahua-daur ...	148.88	71.00	69.13	.82	.55	5.32
3	Latchar ...	97.27	26.94	27.38	1.90	1.90	.65
4	Hanka ...	77.02	79.59	77.25	...	...	.43
5	Garhwa ...	440.88	199.38	197.89	2.50	2.50	66.69
6	Husainabad ...	433.28	161.72	181.42	35.81	38.61	203.66
7	Chhattarpur ...	167.23	53.96	53.78	4.54	4.54	12.54
8	Patan ...	175.22	108.47	105.74	29.54	29.54	37.31
9	Daltonganj ...	309.44	196.78	187.94	36.63	35.53	21.89
	Total	2,068.02	1,007.44	1,043.17	150.16	149.63	387.22

DIX D—concl'd.

STATEMENT—concl'd.

Fibre.				Dyes.		Drugs and Narcotics.			
Cotton.		Jute and others.		Indigo.	Barac or Kusum.	Opium.	Tea.	Tobacco.	
25		26		27	28	29	30	31	
Gross.	Nett.	Gross.	Nett.	Gross.	Gross.	Gross.	Gross.	Gross.	Nett.
Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.
78'08	33'53	57'47	37'08	...	...	...	...	'08	'08
847'43	342'72	20'77	9'23	...	...	...	...	6'55	6'55
12'15	0'32	45'08	82'18	...	...	...	...	'00	'00
17'59	8'10	112'43	75'40	...	...	...	...	'46	'46
140'25	86'94	624'05	454'59	...	...	...	...	'14	'14
72'84	43'87	107'33	88'83	...	9'68	...	...	'19	'19
7'62	6'23	90'87	79'49	...	'06	...	...	'88	'88
25'29	18'41	169'34	123'34	...	9'83	...	...	'51	1
20'13	11'78	311'03	243'38	...	22'86	...	...	'29	'29
1,210'98	557'91	1,537'82	1,143'97	...	42'53	...	...	9'14	91'4

Grand Total.		Area cropped more than once.		Cropped area.		REMARKS.
36		37		38		39
Gross.	Nett.	Gross.	Nett.	Gross.	Nett.	
Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	Aores.	
124,743'33	83,017'46	11,879'15	10,910'81	112,870'18	72,106'85	NOTE.—Figures for mustard in column 18 of thanae Balunath, Mahanagar, Latchar, Banka and Garhwa have been amalgamated in figures in column 21 of the statement.
73,177'69	38,114'28	3,157'85	2,492'20	70,019'84	35,622'08	
65,711'47	47,092'98	7,250'72	6,827'76	58,430'75	40,265'22	
54,508'60	35,905'15	3,128'33	2,702'55	51,375'31	32,875'60	
150,569'29	114,239'65	19,156'55	17,953'91	131,345'74	96,265'77	
173,402'98	150,991'90	31,476'89	30,770'15	141,928'09	120,221'75	
76,288'88	63,530'99	11,897'23	11,721'20	64,391'60	51,859'79	
136,284'36	114,589'21	25,429'28	24,002'58	110,855'08	89,683'63	
160,629'14	128,639'87	28,273'37	27,479'02	132,352'76	101,160'84	
1,015,240'81	775,831'52	141,073'46	135,851'08	873,587'24	640,001'33	

## APPENDIX E.

*Agricultural Stock List.*

Serial No.	Name of Thana.	Cows.	Bullocks.	Young stock.	Ordinary Bolls.	Buffalo Bulls.	Buffalo Bullocks.	Buffalo cows.	Buffalo calves.	Sheep.	Goats.	Horses and Ponies.	Mules.	Donkeys.	Ploughs.	Carts.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Balumath	16,379	20,553	12,599	733	232	1,576	4,566	3,156	86	19,567	436	...	...	10,907	34
2	Mahuadanr	7,542	10,455	6,320	247	243	666	1,934	1,116	125	6,652	322	...	...	5,477	2
3	Latehar	12,120	15,048	9,403	394	95	272	2,034	1,437	4	11,734	467	...	...	6,735	1
4	Ranka	14,325	10,706	10,452	332	135	247	4,408	2,374	12	10,205	745	...	...	5,009	17
5	Garhwa	22,147	30,389	17,241	817	178	622	7,614	4,511	10,341	15,046	1,236	...	...	13,257	133
6	Husainabad	28,621	32,427	16,789	472	283	266	11,467	6,302	11,338	9,868	566	1	5	14,530	65
7	Chattarpur	11,206	13,114	8,460	260	175	127	7,000	3,735	1,177	9,901	308	...	8	6,274	139
8	Patan	17,675	24,701	13,759	636	193	498	6,867	3,951	3,991	9,844	708	...	...	11,775	89
9	Daltonganj	19,906	27,268	15,146	405	117	414	6,435	3,658	3,169	11,850	1,071	...	1	12,812	116
	Total	144,721	162,661	110,169	4,896	1,701	4,088	53,265	30,832	30,306	104,867	6,149	1	14	86,665	633

## APPENDIX F.

*Statistics of landlords' privileged lands.*

Serial No.	Name of Thana.	Area recorded as privileged lands.			Percentage of recorded lands to total cultivated area.		
		Dhankhet.	Taur.	Total.	Dhankhet.	Taur.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1	Balumath	194'85	30'33	225'18	'79	'03	'19
2	Mahuadanr	20'34	...	20'34	'17	...	'08
3	Latehar	21'63	21'21	42'84	'20	'04	'07
4	Ranka	139'56	39'82	209'38	2'36	'09	'41
5	Garhwa	951'75	514'22	1,465'97	3'08	'46	1'12
6	Husainabad	168'81	142'81	309'65	'52	'13	'22
7	Chhattarpur	144'54	161'00	305'54	1'24	'31	'46
8	Patan	268'94	226'54	495'28	'92	'27	'44
9	Daltonganj	223'12	113'56	336'68	'82	'11	'26
	Total	2,151'47	1,255'29	3,406'76	1'21	'18	'39

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APPENDIX G.

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## APPEN

Gosh

Serial number.	Thana.			Manjhihas or Zirat.				Bakasht Malik.				Bakasht		
				Cultivated.				Cultivated.				Khatians.		
				Khatians.	Paddy land.		Upland.	Total.	Khatians.	Paddy land.			Upland.	Total.
				3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
1	Balumath	...	...	86	194'85	30'33	225'18	1,006	1,900'15	11,919'32	16,819'47	...		
2	Mahadandur	...	...	3	20'34	...	20'34	162	987'22	2,227'02	3,214'24	1		
3	Latehar	...	...	3	21'63	21'21	42'84	900	2,217'51	6,231'98	8,449'49	10		
4	Banka	...	...	11	169'56	39'62	309'38	250	1,287'11	5,503'27	6,790'38	...		
5	Garhwa	...	...	164	951'75	514'22	1,465'97	4,055	9,754'41	33,187'46	42,941'87	...		
6	Husainabad	...	...	40	166'84	142'81	309'65	4,875	10,034'18	29,406'79	39,440'97	...		
7	Chattarpur	...	...	29	144'54	161'00	305'54	673	1,998'24	6,615'10	8,613'34	...		
8	Patun	...	...	19	958'94	226'31	1,185'25	5,511	10,311'99	26,723'44	36,035'43	...		
9	Daltonganj	...	...	26	223'02	119'56	342'58	5,035	9,911'71	29,170'51	39,082'22	...		
Total				...	331	2,151'47	1,255'20	3,406'76	22,157	51,403'39	150,053'59	201'456'98	11	

Kajal

Serial number.	Thana.	Khatians.	Cultivated.				Jinal.		
			Cultivated.		Total.	Jinal.			
			Paddy land	Up and.		Paddy land	Upland.		
1		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Balumath	...	215	16,110'28	83,719'41	2,714'52	81,004'19	54'21	{ Gair 118'69'48
	Mahadandur	...	4,811	8,527'72	14,081'31	2,007'44	55,276'47	163'15	{ Gair 892'38'11'06
3	Latehar	...	8,301	7,616'15	33,300'13	1,707'74	42,633'02	38'45	{ Gair 119'84'1'12
4	Banka	...	5,015	4,183'36	29,405'23	1,458'03	31,107'20	'38	'31
5	Garhwa...	...	20,574	11,978'51	59,231'83	2,230'13	72,840'17	301'95	{ Gair 447'59'2'80
6	Husainabad	...	27,815	11,362'18	55,695'01	2,376'97	72,434'16	8,697'52	{ Gair 8,808'33'312'01
7	Chhattarpur	...	9,465	7,031'48	39,232'11	1,519'04	41,782'64	1,551'92	{ Gair 1,624'03'80'05
8	Patun	...	21,215	15,023'20	47,513'08	2,293'40	64,830'68	97'855	{ Gair 516'19'6'26
9	Daltonganj	...	26,295	14,602'38	64,747'15	2,321'31	81,630'82	190'22	{ Gair 458'84'6'17
	Total	...	134,836	95,925'23	435,594'14	12,815'18	520,135'65	12,398'3	{ 12,500'75'369'98

1.		Khuotkatti.								
ed.	Unulti- vated.	Total.	Khatians.	Cultivated.		Uncultivated.	Total.	Jinsi.		Re
				Paddy land.	Upland.			Paddy land.	Upland.	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
...	...	...	88	21.44	791.85	47.40	1,050.69	...	...	1
19 21	...	28.99	4	22.48	64.19	3.36	69.93	...	...	1
15.59	340.32	357.28	156	100.62	870.65	40.87	1,027.81	1.27	...	7
...	...	...	84	113.10	783.71	65.59	913.40	...	...	4
...	...	...	22	20.88	197.46	14.40	232.84	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	24	17.53	71.35	1.73	90.61	.50	3.22	2
...	...	...	15	29.03	121.26	8.97	150.26	...	...	...
...	...	...	19	23.44	177.09	11.22	211.76	...	...	1
34.80	340.32	386.27	312	514.57	3,036.76	193.64	3,774.87	1.77	3.22	2.4

Dakhalkar.								
Khatians.	Cultivated.		Uncultivated.	Total.	Jinsi.			
	Paddy land.	Upland.			Paddy land.	Upland.		
32	33	34	35	36	37	38		
2 6	2,953	2,201.80	9,783.04	352.07	13,116.41	6.66	1.78	
7 0	1,392	1,192.71	9,216.91	471.87	9,861.32	43.54	{ Gair 13.90 78 }	
6 6	1,905	775.81	5,209.03	1254.76	6,240.10	4.85	3.83	
1 4 6	2,505	1,187.74	9,215.55	497.87	9,811.16	...	...	
1 0 2	1,751	1,925.78	11,164.18	310.44	13,400.40	30.91	{ Gair 28.36 17 }	
7 11 8	5,207	707.95	10,568.99	291.13	11,568.07	527.08	{ Gair 1,420.04 18.84 }	
1 12 1	1,375	610.03	6,877.51	1232.12	7,519.76	33.96	{ Gair 42.53 1.77 }	
1 8 2	3,031	1,200.54	7,562.20	311.08	9,773.82	114.40	{ Gair 83.99 1.82 }	
5 0 6	5,213	1,197.18	9,821.51	276.22	11,067.95	118.06	{ Gair 129.80 4.06 }	
7 3 1	28,995	10,709.04	77,008.58	2,907.45	90,709.08	878.34	{ Gair 1,724.23 28.04 }	



Serial number.	Thana.	Gair Dakhalakar.							
		Khatians.	Cultivated.		Uncultivated.	Total.	Jinai.		Rent.
			Paddy land.	Upland.			Paddy land.	Upland.	
1	2	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
1	Bahnurath ...	200	16'55	490'75	16'55	433'85	9'84	{ Gair 21'49 59	Rs. a. p. ...
2	Mahudaur ...	551	25'01	1,059'56	24'40	1,109'57	61'22	{ Gair 271'30 2'71	...
3	Latehar ...	734	22'74	971'16	38'09	1,032'59	8'30	{ Gair 59'87 35	36 3 9
4	Banka ...	440	28'03	601'06	31'20	680'89	38	{ Gair 7'19 4'02	...
5	Garhwa ...	117	58'85	970'60	27'48	1,054'91	42'17	{ Gair 55'91 22	282 14 3
6	Husainabad ...	415	38'31	681'05	21'92	730'28	20'11	{ Gair 16'18 11	...
7	Chhattarpur ...	741	20'74	623'94	16'51	587'10	211'08	{ Gair 400'99 3'78	...
8	Patna ...	306	13'46	385'05	4'93	403'41	37'09	{ Gair 19'55 08	150 4 1
9	Daltonganj ...	288	12'92	322'61	4'05	339'78	...	{ Gair 3'66	19 8 0
	Total ...	4,582	239'81	5,915'98	245'71	6,401'50	390'88	{ Gair 955'32 12'16	498 14 1

Serial number.	Thana.	Kaisar-i-Hind.		Grand Total.			Uncultivated,	Total.
		Khatians.	Area.	Khatians,	Cultivated,			
					Paddy land.	Upland.		
1	2	50	60	61	62	63	64	65
1	Bahnurath ...	73	{ Taur ... 346'20 7'05 }	17,928	24,459'25	88,410'93	318,240'14	426,116'32
2	Mahudaur ...	71	{ Taur ... 334'54 3'79 }	8,090	11,013'10	58,406'74	143,344'29	213,348'13
3	Latehar ...	64	{ Taur ... 341'69 }	14,481	11,007'48	47,383'27	206,260'00	264,699'75
4	Ranka ...	23	{ Taur ... 150'43 1'08 }	3,943	7,181'28	44,194'03	342,033'89	394,009'20
5	Garhwa ...	85	{ Taur ... 483'28 1'48 }	37,287	24,958'01	106,387'13	228,888'27	360,229'01
6	Husainabad ...	122	{ Dhan ... 351'47 12'10 Taur ... 21'29 }	44,379	31,900'65	110,025'43	275,115'58	417,071'66
7	Chhattarpur ...	64	{ Taur ... 262'74 1'50 }	14,049	11,702'97	52,688'63	154,848'04	219,237'64
8	Patna ...	115	{ Dhan ... 473'86 3'75 Taur ... 1'08 }	37,040	28,228'20	82,628'82	208,271'65	310,129'73
9	Daltonganj ...	186	{ Dhan ... 747'78 1'25 Taur ... 2'47 }	43,851	27,042'04	105,309'82	224,671'38	375,034'15
	Total	753	{ Dhan ... 3,497'95 17'10 Taur ... 19'06 }	227'651	178,154'54	695,412'80	2,087,814'24	2,970,881'59

Nankana.					Maknabari.				Gairabad.	
Khatians.	Cultivated.		Uncultivated.	Total.	Khatians.	Upland.	Uncultivated land.	Total.	Khatians.	Area.
	Paddy land.	Upland.								
48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
585	923'99	2,545'12	194'89	3,664'00	200	62'10	7'07	69'77	1,324	309,535'40
319	549'34	858'01	84'22	1,492'57	397	97'31	15'55	112'86	398	140,318'57
391	252'60	358'87	43'13	652'60	734	181'51	17'02	198'53	1,246	203,438'32
351	210'45	476'82	44'10	731'37	605	151'01	21'51	172'52	569	340,444'54
2,048	492'05	4'7'12	16'01	975'18	832	{ Dhan ... 120'92'25 }	40'41	161'58	3,888	225,787'31
1,470	333'14	900'88	27'85	1,621'87	537	{ Dhan ... 48'45'32 }	45'23	90'97	4,008	{ Taur ... 271,700'35'1'33 }
419	73'68	225'02	7'52	306'42	191	{ Dhan ... 10'07'08 }	10'65	21'68	1,168	152,760'03
1,871	258'31	444'30	18'89	721'55	106	19'09	0'39	25'47	4,761	{ Taur ... 205,180'19'10'31 }
2,305	398'78	512'23	18'43	927'44	390	35'14	19'52	54'66	4,164	231,362'63
9,747	3,490'63	6,548'33	408'03	10,443'99	4,222	{ Dhan ... 728'50'3'69 }	183'94	914'04	21,606	{ Taur ... 2,070,512'93'11'94 }
Dar Raiyat.										
Khatians.	Cultivated.		Uncultivated.	Total.	Jinsl.		Rent.	Remarks.		
	Paddy land.	Upland.			Paddy land.	Upland.				
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74		
1,067	123'86	592'13	17'76	733'75	26'21	{ Gair ... 145'95'05 }	713 3 6			
685	62'46	430'40	18'83	520'69	111'33	... 198'97	232 0 6			
1,939	157'47	1,440'82	44'04	1,643'23	7'74	{ Gair ... 34'53'02 }	8,451 10 0			
850	38'61	292'45	9'28	340'44	63	... 2'68	434 1 6			
1,100	151'01	986'40	14'59	1,182'90	15'89	{ Gair ... 19'96'75 }	1,608 3 0			
1,060	74'79	747'89	13'80	835'10	52'60	{ Gair ... 104'22'28 }	1,416 12 3			
1,318	83'77	1,134'16	25'47	1,213'70	77'32	{ Gair ... 217'78'61 }	1,521 15 0			
2,629	188'33	1,340'73	32'00	1,570'05	34'20	{ Gair ... 53'99'13 }	2,692 13 0			
3,065	194'78	1,549'10	35'32	1,779'89	37'45	{ Gair ... 90'14'05 }	2,663 9 6			
13,226	1,076'06	8,512'29	212'20	9,800'55	368'40	{ Gair ... 668'22'1'87 }	19,934 4 9			

## APPENDIX H.

## Statement of areas according to classification of soils.

Serial No.	Name of Thana.	Dhankhet.			Total.	Tant.			Total.	Total of columns 8 and 10, i.e., cultivated area.	Uncultivated area.	Total of columns 11 and 12.	Remarks
		I	II	III		I	II	III					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Balumath	583-22	3,085-31	30,790-72	24,439-25	7,513-5	15,093-61	65,804-26	88,410-93	112,870-18	313,46-14	426,116-32	
2	Mahadaur	282-15	1,702-47	9,628-48	11,613-10	1,503-21	3,189-82	59,713-71	58,406-74	70,019-84	143,344-29	213,364-13	
3	Latohar	792-97	2,122-46	8,152-05	11,037-48	2,984-00	9,841-61	31,637-66	47,363-27	58,430-75	206,269-0	264,639-75	
4	R nka	411-50	1,424-03	5,345-75	7,181-28	1,162-55	8,772-92	34,758-56	44,194-63	51,375-31	342,638-89	394,009-20	
5	Garhwa	581-19	5,704-38	18,672-94	24,558-61	5,791-82	25,612-99	74,982-32	106,387-13	131,345-4	228,483-27	360,220-61	
6	Husainabad	849-22	6,701-84	24,349-59	31,900-65	11,602-92	40,569-60	57,832-91	110,025-43	141,920-08	275,45-58	417,071-66	
7	Chhartarpur	83-66	2,205-96	9,313-35	11,702-97	3,937-16	14,798-99	33,952-48	52,688-63	64,391-60	154,860-04	219,227-64	
8	Patan	1,546-03	7,387-91	19,294-32	28,228-26	7,522-74	25,410-79	49,693-29	82,626-82	110,855-08	208,274-65	319,129-73	
9	Daltonganj	1,17-22	6,344-72	19,520-00	27,442-94	8,467-98	29,916-41	66,925-43	105,309-82	132,352-76	224,671-39	357,024-15	
	Total	6,108-26	36,679-08	135,467-20	178,154-54	50,485-44	172,706-74	472,220-63	695,41-80	872,567-34	2,097,314-25	2,970,881-59	

## APPENDIX 1.

## Statements of transfers and mortgages of raiyati lands.

## A.—Statement showing illegal sales.

Serial No.	Name of thana.	No. of cases of illegal sales	Total area transferred.	Consideration.	Details of cases in column 3, transferred by raiyats to			Remarks.
					Raiyats.	Mahajans.	Others.	
		3		5	6			
			Acres.	Rs. a. p				
1	Balumath ...	3	5.12	42 0 0	1	2	...	
2	Mahuadanr ...	2	5.07	52 0 0	1	...	1	
4	Latehar ...	25	150.11	798 9 0	19	6	...	
4	Ranka ...	1	.13	45 0 0	...	1	...	
5	Gachwa ...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	
6	Husainabad ...	8	14.34	428 13 0	8	...	...	
7	Chhattarpur ...	2	.12	44 0 0	1	1	...	
8	Patan ...	9	18.79	258 0 0	7	2	...	
9	Daltonganj ...	46	55.14	1,715 5 6	38	4	4	
	Total ...	96	257.82	3,383 11 6	75	16	5	

## B.—Statement showing illegal mortgages.

Serial No.	Name of thana.	No. of cases of illegal mortgage			Total area transferred.	Details of cases in column 5, transferred by raiyats to			Remarks.
		Verbal.	Written.	Total.		Raiyats.	Mahajans.	Others.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Balumath ...	49	29	78	110.31	50	24	4	
2	Mahuadanr ...	7	12	19	16.28	9	8	2	
3	Latehar ...	8	4	12	22.13	7	...	5	
4	Ranka ...	3	...	3	...	1	1	1	
5	Gachwa ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
6	Husainabad...	31	68	99	216.86	71	5	23	
7	Chhattarpur ...	1	...	1	1.28	...	...	1	
8	Patan ...	6	12	18	44.80	17	...	1	
9	Daltonganj ...	11	42	53	50.47	29	2	22	
	Total ...	116	167	283	493.12	184	40	59	

## APPENDIX J.

Crop-cutting experiments made by the officers of the Settlement Department in the district of Palamanu.

Serial No.	Name of thana.	Dhankhet I.			Dhankhet II.			Dhankhet III.			Remarks.		
		Number of experiments.	Average outturn per acre.			Number of experiments.	Average outturn per acre.			Number of experiments.	Average outturn per acre.		
			Mds.	St.	Ch.		Mds.	St.	Ch.		Mds.	St.	Ch.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Bainmathi ...	9	22	24	12	6	10	1	10	1			
2	Latchar ...	1	24	15		2	11	5		6	6	27	5
	Average per acre for the year 1914-15.	10	23	17	14	8	18	23	5	7	7		12
1	Latchar ...	2	30	16	14	4	10	2	10	6	7	9	4
2	Ranka ...	4	30	12	6	5	16	5	1	6	10	21	15
3	Garhwa ...	6	25	22	4	15	18	20	3	15	9	34	
	Average per acre for the year 1916-17.	12	25	3	14	24	10	35	15	26	9	8	6
1	Hussainabad ...	4	19	37	13	17	11	30	11	14	8	15	14
2	Chhattarpur ...	1	26	20		5	22	12	12	5	7	34	10
3	Patan ...	6	26	17	8	12	17	20	11	27	6	18	8
4	Daltonganj ...	3	20	16	11								
	Average per acre for the year 1916-17.	14	23	3		31	15	16		46	7	8	13
1	Latchar ...	15	23	16	12	20	21	19	6	16	14	12	2
2	Patan ...	17	20	23	4	42	16	4	6	36	11	37	14
3	Daltonganj ...	38	20	31	10	61	16	24	8	78	9	29	4
	Average per acre for the year 1917-18.	65	21	13	14	123	17	9	4	120	10	34	15
1	Latchar ...					7	10	12	2				
2	Ranka ...					2	10			2	2	27	3
3	Hussainabad ...	1	36			5	12	18	4	17	7	17	11
4	Patan ...									19	6	9	8
	Average per acre for the year 1918-19.	1	36			14	11	3	7	36	5	18	2

The rainfall this year was above the average and the crops above normal.

Ditto.

The year, owing to excessive rains, was very favourable for 2nd and 3rd class paddy land.

The number of experiments on 1st class land was insufficient to give a true average. Although there was surplus rainfall this year it stopped too early.

APPENDIX J.—*concl'd.*

Serial No.	Name of thana.	Dhankhet I.				Dhankhet II.				Dhankhet III.				Remarks.			
		Number of experiments	Average outturn per acre.			Number of experiments	Average outturn per acre.			Number of experiments	Average outturn per acre.						
			Mds.	Sr.	Ch.		Mds.	Sr.	Ch.		Mds.	Sr.	Ch.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
	ABSTRACT.																
	1914-15	10	28	17	14	8	13	23	5	7	7	30	12				
	1915-16	12	25	3	14	14	16	35	15	26	9	8	6				
	1916-17	14	23	3		34	15	16		10	7	8	13				
	1917-18	15	21	13	14	123	17	9	4	130	10	36	1				
	1918-19	1	16			14	11	3	7	34	5	18	2				
	Average for district	102	22	19	12	203	15	15	12	247	9	13	9				
Serial No.	Crop.	Number of cuttings	Taur I.				Number of cuttings	Taur II.				Number of cuttings	Taur III.				Remarks.
			Average result per acre.					Average result per acre.					Average result per acre.				
			Mds.	Sr.	Ch.	Mds.		Sr.	Ch.	Mds.	Sr.		Ch.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
1	Mukui	40	13	26	5	13	7	27	9	3	2	22	4				
2	Surno	23	8	13	1	16	6	10	8								
3	Barley	19	6	26	1	6	6	16	7	3	4	5	18	1 *			
4	Gram	6	4	19	9	16	5	1	2	19	2	33	13				
5	Marua	2	4	37	5	12	6	32	10	4	5	2	13	3 †			
6	Wheat	2	5	14	7	11	5	23	4	2	4	10					
7	Rahar	2	6	9	11	1	3	10									
8	Masuri	4	5	34	12	1	4	39	12	1		11	4				
9	Kodo					1	13	20		10	7	10	10				
10	Tisi	1	1	28	2	1	2	10		16	1	23	12				
11	Til									21	1	25					
12	Sawan									15	2	11	3				
13	Sarguja									5	1	12	6				
14	Kurthi									4	3	12	6				
15	Barai									6		20	4				
16	Gondli									2	1	39	6				
17	Urtd					1	2	4	6	1	2	10					

\* 1. In three cases of Taur I and in case of Taur II barley was mixed with gram and wheat.

† 2. In two cases of Taur I, two cases of Taur II and in three cases of Taur III gram was mixed with wheat.

Sugarcane outturn } No. of cuttings. Dhankhet II.

in Gur. } 12 Mds. 36 Srs. 2 ch.

Dhankhet III.

Khasari 1 30 acers.

13. 2nd class land producing a single crop sometimes gives a better outturn of that crop than *dojash* 1st class lands.

## APPENDIX K.

## GLOSSARY OF SETTLEMENT TERMS ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

*Abwavs*.—Charges levied from raiyats other than rent. Some of these are included in the definition of predial conditions, and called *rakumats*, vide definition XIX, section 3, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

*Adhbatai*.—Rent in kind, when the produce is equally divided between the *malik* and the raiyat, either with or without (generally with) the previous deduction of customary allowances to the raiyat.

*Aghani*.—When applied to crops generally means the winter rice crop.

*Agwar*.—Payment made for watching the crops when ready for harvesting; hence, also, an allowance to raiyats deducted from the undivided crop in cases of *produce-rent*, before it is divided between the landlord and the tenant.

*Ahar*.—A reservoir of water, made by the construction of a dam or embankment.

*Ail*.—The ridge of a rice field, intended to hold up the water.

*Alamat*.—A "conventional sign" upon a map.

*Al aulad*.—Words signifying a mode of inheritance.

*A'lo*.—A system of payment to the *Baiga* or village priest by the villagers. Immediately before commencing the reaping of crops, the *Baiga* is allowed to cut and appropriate the produce of an area equivalent to that of a circle with the *Baiga's* length of arm as radius.

*Allamgha*.—A revenue-free grant of land made by the Mughal Emperor.

*Amin*.—A surveyor.

*Amti*.—A kind of tree. Both the fruits and green leaves are eaten by the poor.

*Anna*.—A nominal unit of land measure; a subdivision of a *para*, or *patti*.

*Angur Batao* (*Anguli se batao*).—An area indicated merely by a wave of the hand; a rough assessment of a lump rental without particular regard to the area or quality of the land assessed.

*Ariant*.—Korkar.

*Arhwar*.—The ground on which the village cattle are collected before going to their daily grazing, and on their return.

*Asiae-Mashhur*.—The reference list of notable objects for map headings on the map. App. (See 86).

*Bair*.—A kind of fruit-tree. There are two kinds of such tree. The big trees (generally near homesteads) yield large fruits. The smaller are little more than shrubs in the jungle and the fruits are very small. The ripe fruits are collected by the poor people and are dried and eaten. Lac is set on the bigger variety.

*Bachkar*.—A tax on cows; see paragraph 173.

*Bad*.—Or *Uparwar*, sometimes called *Chaur* or *Tarkha*, means inferior rice land.

*Baiga*.—Village priest; same as *Pahan* in Ranchi.

*Bai*.—A transfer, generally a sale with or without the reservation of a quit rent.

*Bakasht khuntkatti*.—Lands in the  *khas*  possession of *khuntkatti* tenure-holder.

*Bakasht malik*.—Lands, other than privileged lands, in the  *khas*  possession of a landlord.

*Bandh*.—The embankment with which the water of a channel is dammed; or the catchment of a slope is held up.

*Bani*.—Wages for daily labour—generally a mere dole of food.

*Bandhak*.—Simple mortgage.

*Barkur*.—A jungle tax.

*Bar*.—A unit of rate in *Chhatisa* rent assessment.

*Barahil*.—A servant of the landlord.

*Bardauchha*.—A periodic payment by a tenure-holder to the superior landlord or by a raiyat to the *malik* in the shape of one bullock or its price. This is usually given once in three years.

*Bathan*.—A temporary enclosure for cattle in jungles or on waste lands near grazing ground.

*Batta*.—Since rupees were replaced by Company's coins in 1836, the value of the latter being roughly one anna less than the former; *batta* represents a charge to compensate for the alteration in the currency.

*Bata khewat* (See *samilat khewat*).

*Batai*.—Produce-rent.

*Baya*.—The seller.

*Begari*.—Included in "predial conditions"—the rendering of personal services by raiyats to their *maliks* in the shape of ploughing, transplanting, fetching fuel from the jungle and the like.

*Bel* (*Bengal quince*).—A kind of fruit.

*Belagan*.—Without rent.

*Belagan-Qabil-lagan* lands. —Lands which are for the time being enjoyed free of rent but are liable to assessment.

*Beora and Daka or Jhuming*.—Burning down jungles for raising snatch-crops.

*Bhadai crop*.—The rains crop.

*Bhao*.—The opening or sluice-gate in an *ahar* or *bandh*. It is often merely a pipe, which is dammed with earth when shut.

- Bhind or pind.*—The embankment of an *ahar*.
- Bhugat or Bhugatbandha.*—Usufructuary mortgage where the usufruct in time extinguishes both principal and interest.
- Biaur.*—A she-buffalo with a calf. For realizing *karchari* she-buffaloes are distinguished in the following way. *Biaur.*—With a calf. *Bohtar.*—In calf. *Tharha.*—A heifer.
- Benrai or Bernahi or Beraini.*—A kind of jungle creeper.—The roots are boiled and eaten by jungly people. The fruit is called *kundri* and is eaten as a vegetable.
- Brahmotar.*—Gift to the Brahman family priest.
- Brit.*—Tenancies held on condition of rendering services other than menial services. These are generally given for religious purposes.
- Brit-Pujai.*—The status of the service-holding of the *Pahan*, the worshipper of the village deities.
- Buha.*—The system of hiring a plough-bullock for one agricultural season (6 to 9 months) in return for about 7 maunds of grain to be paid out of the harvest.
- Bujharat.*—The explanation of the contents of the record-of-rights, preliminary to attestation.
- Butad.*—Food. A payment for a day's labour—*bani*.
- Chakat.*—A block of land. A settlement of a block of land on a lump rental—generally a reclaiming settlement.
- Chakr.*—A kind of *sag*, eaten like spinach.
- Chakaran.*—(*chaukidari*).—A service-holding held by a *chaukidar* in lieu of payment.
- Chanda.*—A *rakumat* levied by *maliks* as contribution for defraying the expenses of worshipping village deities, liked *Chulhar Kuar*.
- Chhaparbandi.*—A house-tax, occasionally realized for the *Makans* and *Baris* of non-agricultural people.
- Chakook.*—Isolated villages resumed by Raja Ghansham Singh, and incorporated in the Government Estate by Mr. N. Smith.
- Chaur or Chatar.*—2nd or 3rd class rice-land. *Chatar* is applied only to the 3rd class.
- Churkar.*—A tax imposed on each oven for extraction of catechu (*kath*). It is also applied to the tax imposed by a landlord on the distillation of country liquor.
- Chulkhar.*—A jungle-fee charged for taking fuel from the jungles.
- Chitha.*—Measurement papers.
- Commutation Form No. 1.—Contains a general statement of the predial conditions found to be renderable in a village and their cash value.
- Commutation Form No. II.—Is a schedule of the details of the holdings of a village used for deciding whether the value of commuted predial conditions should be struck out of the rent of particular holdings according to section 105 (2) (proviso) Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.
- Commutation proceedings.—Consist of the evidence recorded by the attestation officer in each village about predial conditions (*rakumats* and *begari*) and his finding about the value of the same.
- Dahi.*—(1) Butter-milk or curdled milk, (2) a *rakumat* levied by *maliks* on the occasion of births, deaths, and marriages in their family. All such imposts were prohibited at the time of the Decennial Settlement.
- Dakhilkar.*—An occupancy raiyat.
- Dakhila.*—(1) A receipt for part payment of rents. (2) The process of depositing Settlement records in the Deputy Commissioner's office.
- Danabandi.*—See paragraph 209... A kind of produce rent, when the annual demand is settled by appraisalment of the standing crops.
- Dar-raiyat.*—An under-raiyat.
- Dasai or dasahra salami.*—An *abwab* realized by *maliks* for defraying the cost of celebrating the *Dasahra* festival. It is generally not connected with the use or occupation of land and therefore not a legal *rakumat*.
- Debotar.*—A gift in the name of a God.
- Debar or Dewar.*—A lieutenant of the *Baiga*.
- Devimanda.*—Is a place where the villagers worship Hindu deities, generally the Goddess Bhagavati or Kali. It is generally the common property of the villagers.
- Dhaibar.*—(A corruption for *Adhaibar*): A system of produce-rent under which the *malik* gets 40 and the raiyat 60 per cent. of the produce.
- Dorasa.*—A mixed soil, clay and sand, or clay and stones.
- Dub.*—The bed of an *ahar* generally growing wheat or barley after the water has been drained off. No land which is not continuously submerged for several weeks is genuine *dub*.
- Dusra.*—A remission of 2 seers per maund in favour of the cultivator after *Bani* and *Agwar* have been paid, in some cases of produce-rent.
- Dubri.*—Repayment two-fold of seed loans, etc.
- Dumar or Gular.*—A kind of fig: The green fruits are used as a vegetable. The ripe fruits are also eaten, generally by the poor people.
- Fard-Badar.*—A list of "mistakes" found and corrected.
- Fard-Hawala.*—A list of live-stock.
- Fard-Tanaza.*—The dispute list, containing the details of disputes with the decisions of *khanapuri* and attestation officers.
- Farkhati.*—A receipt for full payment of rents.
- Farkhatiawan.*—An illegal charge levied by the landlord for giving a receipt for full payment of rent, like *rasid-likhai*.



*Gair dakhilkar*.—Non-occupancy raiyat.

*Gair-Mazrua Am*.—The status applied to the khatian containing village roads, pathways, places of worship, resting-places for the cattle of the village, public tanks or *bandhs*, village commons and the like, the rights in which are vested in the village community. Neither the landlord nor the villagers have any right to encroach upon such lands nor divert them from their assigned purpose. (See Appendix X).

*Gair-Mazrua Khas*.—The un-cultivated lands of the village in the possession of the landlord. The proprietary right in these lands is not absolute but is limited by the tenants' customary rights of user, which will be found recorded in the "Special Incidents" column of the khatian. (See Chapter IV and Appendix X).

*Ganda*.—A unit of weight, 12 *gandas*=45 *tolas*=one *kachi seer*.

*Gushti-Salami*.—A *rakumat* realized by the *malik* when he goes out on tour.

*Ghat*.—A hill, a pass, a river crossing.

*Gendhari*.—A kind of *sag*, used as vegetable.

*Genthi*.—A kind of jungle root, eaten by jungly people. It is boiled with ashes before taking, to eliminate its poisonous elements.

*Goshwara*.—The abstract of the *Terij*. Thana *Goshwaras* are contained in the appendix.

*Gorait*.—A local agent of the *malik*, generally residing in the village, who makes new settlements, accepts surrenders and, where necessary, measures lands.

*Goti*.—Delivery of symbolical possession by the landlord, by handing the raiyat a piece of earth or a pebble (when a new settlement is made).

*Ganj*.—One of the old *sayer* taxes, imposed on dealers at markets.

*Hakiat*.—Nature of right under which land is held.

*Hakuknama (Pradhani)*.—A record showing the rights and obligations of the *Pradhan*, or Headman, of a village, if any, prepared under Section 127 (1), Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, and attached at the end of the record-of-rights for the village concerned. The entries therein are conclusive evidence of the rights and obligations of the *Pradhan*. (See Appendix M for the form in English.)

*Hawalgi lagan*.—(i) When a tenure falls in two or more villages the full rent and cesses of the tenure are recorded in each village, with a note in the remarks column, that the rent and cesses include the rent and cesses payable for the tenure in village so and so.

(ii) When a holding is in possession of two persons and has been surveyed in separate khatians according to possession, the rent and cesses are entered in the last khatian with a note that it includes the rent of khatian number so and so. In the first khatian it is noted that the rent is included in the rent of khatian Number so and so. These cross references are called *Hawalgi*, and *lagan* is the word for rent.

*Harui*.—*Harui* is that form of *begari* in which the raiyat supplies a plough and bullocks as well as his personal services.

*Haraika or Haraki*.—A system of payment of rent according to the number of ploughs owned by the raiyat. No account is taken of the area cultivated by the tenant.

*Hin Hiya'i*.—Tenures granted for the life time of the occupant only.

*Ijara*.—Used in Palamu to express tenures of almost every description except rent-free *minhai* grants and *jagirs*.

*Jah, Aj*.—Very wet rice land.

*Jagir*.—A species of tenure resumable on failure of *all* male heir of the original grantee.

*Jama-Brit Mukarrari*.—A permanent and heritable lease with rent fixed in perpetuity.

*Jamabandi*.—The account book showing the annual demand and arrears.

*Janch*.—The scrutiny of the record-of-rights after draft-publication for correction of clerical mistakes and omissions from the record.

*Jar-war*.—A *rakumat* levied by the landlords from the tenants, generally through the Headman, for purchasing winter clothes; not common in Palamu.

*Jinsi*.—(i) Paying rent in kind, if used as an adjective and applied to a holding; (ii) A produce rent or *rakumat*.

*Jinswar*.—The crop-statement. Contained in Appendix D.

*Joti*.—A trade tax, levied from Chamars and consisting of leather thongs for tying the yoke to the *harish* (part of the plough); like other trade taxes, forbidden by the terms of Suiva Prasad Singh's *patta*.

*Kabilzabti*.—Used of a tenure means "liable to be resumed", vide definition, in Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 3, XXIV.

*Kamia*.—Generally the same as *Sawak*; an agricultural slave.

*Kanwa*.—Unit of land-measure, or rent assessment; 1-16th of an entire village. The landlord assesses only the gross rental of the whole village. The raiyats apportion it among themselves, a *kanwa* includes lands of all kinds, trees, waste, and jungle.

*Kunwadari*.—The system of rent under which an "anna" or "*Kanwa*" is the unit of assessment.

*Kunwah*.—A small channel connecting fields capable of irrigation, with the source of irrigation; also a cutting in the flanks of the *bind*. It is generally used only when there is surplus water available, in contrast to "*bhao*" or central drainage pipe which comes regularly into use in normal circumstances.

*Kar (Maswar)*.—A form of rent in kind generally payable for upland. The raiyat has to give as rent as much grain as is required to sow the field. Rent is given only in the year in which there is a crop grown. The system is met with in the areas adjoining Ranchi.

*Kharh*.—Low level land by the side of a river or a channel, which grows sugarcane or vegetables.

*Khanrh*.—The opening made in the "Pind" by cutting it when the "Bhao" get choked.

*Karmi or kayami*.—The status of a settled raiyat.

*Kanda*.—A kind of tuber, one generally used as a vegetable, is grown on cultivated fields. (It is also called *Sakin*). The jungle *Kanda* is collected and eaten by the poor people after boiling.

*Kanad*.—A kind of jungle fruit, like the black-berry, eaten when ripe.

*Karail or Harua*.—Young shoots of bamboo, eaten as vegetables by the poor.

*Katawat*.—The opposite of *Rakkawat*; denotes jungle in which the raiyat can exercise the right to take forest produce freely.

*Kona*.—A kind of *sag*. The tender leaves are eaten.

*Kewal*.—The best class of soil with plenty of clay. Its great virtue in a dry district is its power to absorb and retain moisture; but it is too adhesive and clogging.

*Khalihan*.—Threshing floor.

*Khanapuri*.—Vide paragraph 145.

*Khasra*.—The field index prepared at *khanapuri*, which is also utilized for the collection of crop statistics. It does not form part of the record-of-rights; but instead of it an abbreviated plot index is bound up with each volume of *khatans*.

*Khasia Tanaza*.—The index of the plots involved in a boundary dispute case. It shows the alleged occupants of each plot according to both sides, and is a distinct record by itself apart from the ordinary *khasra*.

*Khas Sart*.—A column in the *khatian* where the special incidents are noted.

*Khatian*.—Contains details about each tenancy showing the name, parentage, residence status and caste of the tenant, with the name and *khewat* number of the landlord. It also shows the number of subdivisions of each plot with its classification and area, the attested rent, particulars of shares (if any), special incidents and details of trees growing on the holding or enjoyed by the tenant.

*Khatian Part II*.—This record contains details of customary rights of tenants in respect to forest-produce and grazing. It is to be found at the end of the records of the village.

*Karchari*.—A grazing fee. Generally levied on each head of she-buffaloes. The charge is made from professional graziers and is not generally paid by the villagers themselves, if they have only 2 or 3 she-buffaloes.

*Khewat*.—The record-of-rights of proprietors and tenure-holders in each village.

*Kharwar*.—Payment to any village official or priest or to any artisan at a certain proportion of the actual produce.

*Khunkatti*.—See section (7), Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

*Khunkatti proceedings*.—The evidence recorded by the attestation officer and his finding about the existence of riyats having *khunkatti* rights.

*Kishwar*.—Cadastral survey.

*Kutain*.—A block or blocks of lands held on a lump rental assessed irrespective of area and class of land.

*Kolhkir*.—A tax imposed by landlord on iron-smelting.

*Korkal*.—A tenure sometimes found among *Korwas*.

*Korkur*.—Rice-land reclaimed by a raiyat (see definition in the Act).

*Kun or Ain*.—A fixed produce-rent payable for *muhars* held on this condition.

*Kurur*.—An agricultural implement used in converting upland into rice-land.

*Kus*.—Same as *Kushrit*.

*Kuchnar (Bauhinia)*.—A kind of tree. Both the flowers and leaves are eaten by the poor as vegetables.

*Lakkar*.—Payment for growing lac.

*Lagan*.—Rent.

*Lagan Tanr*.—Uplands which are held as complementary to the rice-land of raiyati holdings, under almost all aboriginal systems of tenure.

*Lagvi*.—A standard pole for measuring lands.

*Lakkiraj*.—Revenue-free lands (as distinct from rent-free).

*Land measurement*.—The various nominal units of land measure obtaining in Palamu are as follows:—*Anna, Kanwa, Patti, Pawa, Pie, Paria, Bigha*. None of them, as a rule, imply any actual measurement.

*Mafi*.—Tenancies or holdings, the rent of which has been remitted for services rendered or some other special consideration.

*Mahaldarun*.—A maintenance grant to the proprietor's wife in Deogan.

*Mahlo*.—(1) A village official whose duty consists mainly in gathering riyats for rent collection. He enjoys some lands or some remission of rent in lieu of his services. (2) Synonymous with *Pradhan*, a village headman. In Palamu the word *Pradhan* usually signifies a servant of the *Malik*. (3) In the Government Estates the *Mahlo* is a head raiyat appointed to carry out Government works of improvement and to help the *Mutation Peshkars* to find new cultivation.

*Makua (Bassia latifolia)*.—A well known tree in Chota Nagpur. The flowers are dried and eaten. The calyx (called *Koinda*) of the fruit is also eaten after boiling. Oil is pressed from the seed and used for cooking food and also for burning. The flowers are commonly used for distilling country spirit.

- Manjhihas*.—Vide paragraph 238.
- Mangan*.—An *abwab*.
- Mausume*.—The term used to denote the transferee of a tenancy.
- Maswar*.—Vide *Kar*.
- Milan Khasra*.—A statement of the area of different classes, harvest by harvest, of cultivated and uncultivated lands. See Appendix C.
- Minhai*.—Rent-free grants made by the *hajas* of Palamau. They were generally small and the recipients as a rule were Brahmans or doctors. The history of these tenures has been given in Chapter III.
- Moina*.—The comparison of the draft record with the fair copy intended for final publication.
- Mujmili*.—A skeleton map showing the distribution of any local area by *mauzas* (villages).
- Mukarrari*.—A permanent lease with an unalterable quit rent reserved. See paragraph 258.
- Munsarim*.—A clerk who, at an attestation camp, reads out and explains the record-of-rights to the villagers under the supervision of the Assistant Settlement Officer.
- Murtahin*.—A mortgagee.
- Mushtari*.—A buyer.
- Mustahri*.—Publication.
- Mutafaraka*.—Miscellaneous charges and trade taxes. See para 163.
- Nadka*.—An *abwab* of leather thongs from *Chamars* for tying bullocks to the *yoke*.
- Naukrana*.—The status of a service-holding. (See para.....)
- Naqdi*.—When applied to rent means rent in cash; when applied to lands means land held on cash rent.
- Nawaiyat*.—The status of a tenant in his lands.
- Nawishte*.—Transferor.
- Naya Arakh*.—The Protected Forest.
- Niksari mal*.—Quit rent, generally reserved in case of *zarpeshgi*.
- Neg*.—A kind of *rakumat*.
- Pahan*.—Same as *Baiga*.
- Palhath*.—Service-holding of a *Kamia*; about 1-5th acre, generally of bad rice-land. The *kamia's* house and *bari* are not *Palhath* and are not resumable on his emancipation.
- Paras (pilas)*.—Butea frondosa; a small tree on which lac is reared.
- Parcha*.—The counterpart of the draft *khatian*, distributed for information to the raiyats and landlords.
- Paria*.—A system of land tenure when the rent is assessed periodically upon the riceland and the raiyat is allowed a free hand with upland cultivation.
- Pariadari*.—The system of rent under which a "*paria*" is the nominal unit of assessment.
- Parjanta*.—A tax on certain classes; somewhat similar to *Chhaparbandi*, levied by the Untari zamindar by virtue of his overlordship. It is not a legal *rakumat*. See para 214.
- Patautan*.—*Waslat* thika or same as *Bhugut*.
- Pattal*.—Is a *rakumat* of leaf-plates realized on the occasion of births, deaths and marriages in the *malik's* family.
- Patti*.—See land measurement.
- Pawa*.—Ditto.
- Phuldharra*.—Same as *Debar*.
- Pyne*.—A channel for the flow of irrigation water, longer and broader than a *kanwa*.
- Purana Arakh*.—The reserved forest.
- Piar*.—A jungle fruit relished by the people. The ripe fruits are eaten. The kernel of the fruit is called *Chiraunji*, and is used like almonds.
- Pakuu*.—Fruit of the *pipal* tree, eaten by the poor people.
- Rahin*.—Mortgage.
- Rakhawat*.—See *katawat*. *Rakhawat* is jungle reserved from the exercise of tenant's rights.
- Rakumats*.—Charges other than rent. Legalized *abwab*. See definition of *predial conditions*. No *rakumats* can be created after 1908. All *rakumats* in the district have now been commuted by the Settlement Department. *Rakumats* and *begari* are therefore legally abolished.
- Rasidlikhai*.—A charge for writing rent receipts (illegal).
- Rehan*.—Mortgage (Usufructuary).
- Rehandar*.—Mortgagee.
- Rent proceedings. Contain the evidence recorded by the attestation officer and his finding as to the legally payable rent or rate of rent.
- Rewaj*.—Custom.
- Safai*.—The fair-copying of the record-of-rights.
- Saika*.—A form of rent in kind—a fixed quantity of produce being payable independently of the success of the crop.
- Sajha*.—Same as *adhbatai*.
- Salami*.—(i) A *rakumat*. (ii) An entrance fee levied from a new tenant at the beginning of his tenancy.

*Samilat Khewat*.—When two or more sharers in a tenure hold their shares separately they are entered in the *khewat* with fractional numbers. These are known as *Batu Khewats*. When two separate tenure-holders, or two co-sharers having *Batu khewats*, hold a portion of their lands jointly or collect rent jointly from any tenants, they are entered together in a special *khewat* entry called a *Samilat khewat* in respect of the joint lands or rents.

*Sandy soils*.—*Balsundur, Pamar, Bal.*

*Sarai*.—The fruits of *sakhuu* trees. They are collected and eaten by the poor people, especially jungly ones.

*Sarna*.—A sacred grove, belonging to the village community also called a *Jahira* or *Jahirthan*.

*Saru* or *Sarnath*.—A kind of jungle-roots used by the poor people. The leaves and stems are also eaten.

*Sawar*.—An allowance of 20 per cent. taken from the crop in some cases of produce rent before division with the landlord.

*Sawak* (a *kamut*).—An agricultural labourer bound to serve a particular master.

*Sayer*.—Various miscellaneous charges, such as tolls on bazars, *ganjes* and *hats*. 'Transit duties. It is not now possible to find out how many charges were formerly included in this designation, but all of them were either forbidden or commuted by Government. In modern use, and possibly in ancient practice, the term extends to such charges as *lac* rent.

*Sayer*.—A swing basket for irrigation.

*Sazawal*.—An officer charged with collection of revenue.

*Schadla*.—Same as *Tehara*.

*Seaka*.—Collection papers showing collections from day to day.

*Shikast*.—An allowance to the raiyat in case of produce rent. *Dusri Shikast*—an extra allowance of 4 per cent. to make up for the area of *ails*, allowed in *Dunbandi*.

*Sindurtari*.—A maintenance grant given to a woman by her husband or his family on her marriage.

*Siahi*.—The word is derived from "seer". It is generally applied to the "seers" of *gher* paid by herdsmen as a trade tax. It is not a legal *rakumat* nor appurtenant to the use and occupation of land; and is not a grazing fee.

*Stony soils*.—*Akrant, Ankari, Puthli, Pakhal.*

*Sunsat law*.—The drastic law for the recovery of Government revenue.

*Tamlik*.—A kind of *khorphosh* grant.

*Tangikari*.—See paragraph 414. A charge calculated on each axe for the enjoyment of forest produce.

*Tankar*.—A tax paid by *Jol-shas* (weavers) on their profession.

*Tanr*.—(1) Upland cultivation as opposed to riceland. (2) Inferior upland fields as opposed to *bari* and *bhita*.

*Tappa*.—A minor fiscal division.

*Tarkari*.—A *rakumat* of vegetables.

*Tari*.—Land by the river side. Same as *khark*. Also (2) the sweepings of the threshing floor.

*Tasdiq*.—Attestation.

*Tehara*.—A trijunction mark.

*Tend*.—A kind of jungle fruit relished by poor people. The pulp of the fruit is eaten.

*Teri*.—An abstract of the khatian containing the names of tenants, the area of each holding and the rent.

*Thana*.—A fiscal division. Applied also to the jurisdiction of a police station.

*Thikadar*.—A farmer of rents; one who lives by rent collection rather than cultivation.

*Thoka line*.—A line drawn on a village map at each trijunction indicating the direction of the boundary of the other two villages meeting at that point.

*Tikur*.—A kind of arrowroot. The roots are eaten. They are dried and pounded into pulp.

*Tikuri*.—System of produce rent under which *malik* gets 1-3rd and the raiyat 2-3rd of the total produce.

*Tola*.—A subdivision of a village, having recognized boundaries of its own.

*Uttakar*.—See paragraph 247. The term is frequently used to express a system of annual changes in the rent; and frequent ejectments. This system is illegal. It is also applied (1) to assessments of upland imposed in addition to the *paria* rent, and (2) to assessments where there is no *paria* or similar system, and lump rentals prevail. The law of "settled raiyats" gives the majority of raiyats a statutory occupancy right in "Uttakar" land.

*Wasil Baki*.—The account book showing annual demand, arrears and collections, side by side.

*Wasilati Thika*.—Same as *Bhugut Bhanda*.

*Yaddasht*.—A memorandum attached to the *khassa* at *khannapuri* on which orders are passed by inspecting officers concerning technical difficulties.

*Zarbharua*.—Same as *Bhugut*.

*Zirat*.—Means privileged lands as defined in section 118, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. A complete record of privileged lands has now been made in Palamanu, and is final. Under the law the land declared in the record to be *zirat* may lose its privileged character, but no other land can, in any circumstance, acquire it.

*Zirat malik*.—The status of the khatian which contains the entry of privileged lands.

*Zirat Proceedings*.—Contain the evidence recorded by the attestation officer and his finding about the existence of privileged lands in the village.

## APPENDIX L.

## LIST OF ESTATES AND THEIR AREAS.

## A.--Revenue paying Estates.

Serial number.	Name of Estate.	Tauzi number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue.	Road cess.	Police and Digwari contribution.	Name of the thana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Chota Nagpur	1	426,116.32	Rs. a. p. 14,364 0 0	Rs. a. p. 1,19,577 11 0	Rs. a. p. 2,023 6 0	Balumath	The figures are for both Rauchi and Palaman.
2	Part. Kusbani	2	5,209.13	139 4 0	41 7 0	...	Husainabad.	
3	Labarpanda	3	2,564.90	82 0 0	45 0 0	...	Do.	
	Do.	3	...	214 12 0	128 15 0	...	Do.	18 separate shares.
4	Dema (Sonepura)	1-18 4	229,921.94	7,883 12 0	8,672 4 0	...	Do.	
5	Matangura	5	1,198.98	178 8 0	25 11 0	...	Do.	
6	Nacharua Khurd	6	1,155.27	3 5 0	6 10 0	...	Chhattarpur.	
	Do.	6	...	186 11 0	120 9 0	...	Do.	4 separate shares.
7	Arna Kalan	1-4 7	2,246.16	4 1 2	25 3 0	...	Do.	
	Do.	7	...	198 9 0	123 0 0	...	Do.	8 separate shares.
8	Pipri	1-8 8	184.32	51 6 9	17 2 0	...	Husainabad.	
	Do.	8	...	26 9 3	8 8 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
9	Jharna	4,6 & 7 9	142.60	17 5 4	11 1 0	...	Do.	
	Do.	9	...	34 10 8	22 2 0	...	Do.	
10	Chanddih	1 10	1,442.58	36 15 10	41 14 6	...	Do.	
	Do.	10	...	31 5 2	45 13 3	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
11	Darna	1 & 2 11	706.27	60 0 0	44 12 0	...	Do.	
12	Ganakupura	12	85.35	51 0 0	9 6 0	...	Do.	
13	Karkata	13	505.30	17 7 0	13 5 0	...	Do.	
	Do.	13	...	36 5 0	27 12 0	...	Husainabad	3 separate shares.
14	Kush Kajru	1-3 14	274.02	18 12 3	22 8 0	...	Do.	
	Do.	14	...	4 11 1	5 10 0	...	Do.	
	Do.	1	...	32 13 8	39 2 0	...	Do.	5 separate shares.
15	Mahuli	1, etc. 15	502.50	56 7 0	30 12 9	...	Do.	
16	Mandra Nisf	16	129.42	21 10 8	9 12 0	...	Do.	
	Do.	16	...	30 5 4	13 10 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
17	Pande Munshikhap	1-2 17	264.83	34 9 0	15 5 0	...	Do.	
	Do.	17	...	22 15 0	11 0 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
18	Sahu Munshikhap	1, 3, 4 18	265.84	57 8 0	26 5 0	...	Do.	
19	Hargawan	19	684.03	56 0 3	35 12 3	...	Do.	
	Do.	19	...	18 10 9	11 15 0	...	Do.	
20	Uma	1 20	495.16	33 0 0	8 6 0	...	Do.	
21	Pathak Asnoulia	21	165.87	29 8 0	17 12 0	...	Do.	
22	Belopati	22	45.59	27 4 0	9 6 0	...	Do.	
23	Bhalubi	23	244.23	44 8 0	23 12 0	...	Do.	
24	Sahu Asnoulia	24	165.86	29 8 0	11 9 0	...	Do.	
25	Panditpura	25	38.30	16 0 0	3 4 0	...	Do.	
26	Pipri	26	573.36	16 6 0	18 4 0	...	Do.	
27	Pirthipur	27	79.43	48 0 0	14 6 0	...	Do.	
28	Teliabandh	28	82.12	34 0 0	8 0 0	...	Do.	
29	Hendeyn alias Baitri	29	1,334.13	23 0 0	7 9 0	...	Do.	

APPENDIX I.—*contd.*

Serial number.	Name of estate.	Tauzi num. cr.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue.	Road cess.	Police and Digwari contribution.	Name of the thana to which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			
30	Jogipur ...	30	104.59	28 3 0	10 1 0	...	Husainabad.	
31	Chonkhaadi ...	31	49.98	27 5 0	4 12 0	...	Do.	
32	Cheeharia Khurd... Do. ...	32 32	157.69	17 6 7	5 14 0	...	Do.	
33	Chhattarpur ...	1—2 33	155.13	16 3 2	3 2 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
34	Dhelka ...	34	135.96	36 0 0	17 11 0	...	Do.	
35	Sarsotia ...	35	613.09	20 12 0	12 10 0	...	Do.	
36	Schaldeo ... Do. ...	36 36	50.23	21 12 0	6 7 6	...	Do.	
37	Katri ... Do. ...	1 37 37	415.37	5 15 8	2 0 0	...	Do.	
58	Kulia ... Do. ...	1 38 38	691.63	9 10 2	11 6 0	...	Do.	
39	Khara ... Do. ...	1, etc 39 39	656.92	21 8 10 2 8 8	25 2 0 4 3 0	...	Do.	6 separate shares.
40	Kundwa Khurd...	1 40	5.17	27 15 4 37 0 0	46 5 0 14 15 0	...	Do.	
41	Rusa urf Hengabar Do. ...	41 41	21.42	6 10 0	2 15 0	...	Do.	
42	Marhatia ...	1 42	11.74	6 10 0	2 15 0	...	Do.	
43	Majhawan ... Do. ...	43 43	384.18	38 13 0 12 8 0	15 4 0 8 0 9	...	Do.	
44	Misroulia Sahu ... Do. ...	1 44 44	33.85	37 8 0 8 8 0	24 2 3 6 12 0	...	Do.	
45	Husru ... Do. ...	1 45 45	2,219.90	8 8 0 17 7 0	6 12 0 13 8 0	...	Do.	
46	Hurka ... Do. ...	1—3 46 46	676.03	17 7 0 20 0 0	13 8 0 11 2 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
47	Gopalpur ... Do. ...	1 47 47	75.88	20 0 0 2 11 3	11 2 0 5 3 0	...	Do.	
48	Ledki ...	1 48	20.01	4 8 9 4 10 0	8 10 0 3 10 0	...	Do.	
49	Chandna ... Do. ...	49 49	87.21	1 1 6	0 5 0	...	Chhattarpur.	
50	Pagar Khurd ... Do. ...	3—5 55 55	2,122.63	25 2 6 52 1 3	6 15 0 88 8 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
51	Chainpur ...	1 56	141,832.95	26 13 9 1,695 11 0	25 0 0 4,189 8 0	...	Patan, Daltonganj. Do.	
52	Lanka ... Do. ...	57 57	3,119.34	30 2 2 20 9 10	60 12 0 63 7 0	...	Patan, Ranka Daltonganj. Latehar and Daltonganj. Do.	3 separate shares.
53	Bargan ... Do. ...	1, 2, 4 58 58 1	5,556.26	40 8 0 20 0 0	79 8 0 26 1 0	...	Latehar. Do.	
54	Champi ...	59	2,348.16	23 1 0	53 4 0	...	Daltonganj.	
55	Dabra ... Do. ...	60 60	4,791.29	11 0 6	151 8 0	...	Do.	
		1—2		19 5 6	85 9 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.

APPENDIX L—continued.

Name of Estate.	Tanai number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue.	Road cers.	Police and Digwari contribution.	Name of the thana in which the Estate is situated.	F
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			
andaigir ...	61	16,410.45	2 12 2	16 4 0	...	Patan, Chhatarpur, Garhwa or Daltonganj.	
Do. ...	61		216 7 7	1,952 15 0	...	...	*
	1-42*						1
							1
							1
							50
							8
augri ...	62	122.70	17 8 0	39 7 0	...	Daltonganj.	
ela ...	63	366.16	10 7 0	23 3 0	...	Do.	
Do. ...	63		51 14 3	118 11 0	...	Do.	11
	1-11						8
asgara ...	64	627.54	6 1 8	23 9 0	...	Do.	
Do. ...	64		49 12 0	137 11 0	...	Do.	14
	1-10						
urmushi ...	65	77.50	2 5 0	9 2 0	...	Do.	
Do. ...	65		3 0 2	11 11 0	...	Do.	2
	12 & 4						
andepura ...	66	507.46	12 6 9	19 4 0	...	Patan.	
Do. ...	66		16 6 3	26 7 0	...	Do.	4
	1-4						
hapohhatarpur ...	67	1,436.97	20 6 6	51 3 0	...	Patan and Daltonganj.	
Do. ...	67		42 3 6	141 10 0	...	Do.	3
	1-3						
awdiha ...	68	7,917.82	105 2 9	136 8 0	...	Do.	
Do. ...	68		418 2 8	761 1 0	...	Patan, Daltonganj and Garhwa.	35
	1, etc.						
an Dabra ...	69	242.89	5 15 1	8 0 1	...	Daltonganj.	
Do. ...	69		20 5 0	26 1 0	...	Do.	
	1						
da ...	70	655.60	12 9 6	21 12 0	...	Do.	
Do. ...	70		29 15 6	54 15 0	...	Do.	2
	1-2						
para ...	71	1,207.29	17 6 0	19 13 0	...	Do.	
Do. ...	71		1 5 0	1 8 9	...	Do.	
	1						
adiha ...	72	264.98	11 14 6	34 13 0	...	Do.	
Do. ...	72		3 15 0	11 9 0	...	Do.	
	1						
a ...	73	12,214.55	45 4 0	311 5 0	...	Garhwa.	
Do. ...	73		1 1 0	7 5 0	...	Do.	
	1						
sechheri ...	74	153,365.81	433 10 0	1,164 6 0	75 4 0	Mahadaur.	
tra ...	75	827.46	22 15 0	25 0 0	...	Daltonganj.	
an Bujrag ...	76	1,573.83	58 2 0	150 12 0	...	Garhwa.	
Do. ...	76		6 11 0	17 0 0	...	Do.	
	1						
minhi Tactappur ...	77	3,773.36	2 7 11	10 0 0	...	Do.	
Do. ...	77		52 10 1	103 8 0	...	Do.	4
	1-4						
ppo ...	78	13,093.27	10 15 7	69 12 0	...	Latehar.	
Do. ...	78		26 8 5	99 10 0	...	Do.	6
	1-6						
adilih ...	79	372.25	20 5 6	32 14 6	...	Daltonganj.	
Do. ...	79		1 2 0	18 11 0	...	Do.	
	1						
ap ...	80	1,000.07	113 1 10	241 9 0	...	Do.	
Do. ...	80		13 2 2	28 0 0	...	Do.	3
	12-14						

## APPENDIX L.—continued.

Serial number.	Name of Estate.	Tansi number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue	Road cess.	Police and Digwari contribution.	Name of the thana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			
76	Daudar Kalan ...	81	2,859-79	6 1 4	3 6 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	81	...	101 1 1	113 9 0	...	Do. ...	10 separate shares.
		1-10						
		81	...	10 8 0	13 12 0	...	Do.	
77	Do. ...	2						
	Bharri ...	82	2,305-59	12 4 0	22 1 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	82	...	88 10 0	179 10 0	...	Daltonganj and Patan.	13 separate shares.
78	Sonbarsa ...	1-13	851-58	82 6 0	47 7 0	...	Garhwa.	
	Do. ...	83	...	41 11 0	70 5 0	...	Daltonganj and Garhwa.	11 separate shares.
79	Nawagarh-Champl ...	1-11	58,169-42	59 9 0	339 13 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	84	...	591 15 7	1,264 5 0	...	Latchar and Daltonganj.	57 separate shares.
80	Sandtap ...	1-57	1,489-89	28 0 0	99 2 10	...	Daltonganj.	
81	Jaimaran Pathra ...	85	464-37	0 1 5	0 3 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	86	...	50 6 7	88 6 0	...	Do. ...	5 separate shares.
		86						
82	Nawdiha Namudag ...	1-etc.	27,085-15	7 0 0	52 11 0	...	Chhattarpur.	
	Do. ...	87	...	438 5 0	107 1 0	...	Do. ...	15 separate shares.
83	Deogan ...	1-etc.	209,415-34	2,050 0 0	7,324 0 0	745 14 0	Latchar, Chhattarpur and Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	88	...	15 0 0	53 7 0	...	Chhattarpur	2 separate shares.
		88						
84	Ranka ...	1-2	267,076-49	885 8 0	4,993 13 0	195 0 0	Daltonganj and Ranka.	
85	Lokeya Narainpur ...	90	21,510-76	456 8 6	843 4 0	...	Patan, Garhwa and Daltonganj.	
86	Kochan ...	91	3,566-77	6 13 0	207 7 0	...	Daltonganj and Patan.	
	Do. ...	91	...	81 6 0	165 10 0	...	Do. ...	8 separate shares.
87	Mangarpur ...	9-15	7,035-02	101 0 2	105 15 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	92	...	210 11 10	328 1 0	...	Patan	9 separate shares.
88	Jerna ...	1-9	1,247-19	4 12 4	15 6 0	...	Latchar and Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	93	...	16 11 8	53 15 0	...	Do. ...	6 separate shares.
89	Bohta ...	1-6	3,175-12	16 3 6	75 1 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	94	...	9 6 6	52 11 0	...	Do.	4 separate shares.
		94						
90	Kalipokhari ...	1-4	1,403-86	11 1 0	50 9 0	...	Latchar.	
	Do. ...	95	...	0 8 6	1 15 0	...	Do.	
91	Ghutua ...	1	1,924-70	1 2 6	10 1 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	96	...	2 15 6	25 13 0	...	Do.	
92	Sawa ...	1	2,823-95	2 13 7	29 2 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	97	...	13 7 9	137 13 0	...	Do. ...	6 separate shares.
93	Polpol ...	1-6	2726-98	20 4 0	92 15 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	98	...	10 5 7	47 10 6	...	Do. ...	8 separate shares.
94	Rabda ...	2-9	1,905-22	21 1 7	194 2 0	...	Latchar and Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	99	...	21 9 5	57 3 0	...	Do. ...	2 separate shares.
95	Dawa ...	1-2	404-54	7 12 6	20 2 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	100	...	22 2 6	56 11 0	...	Daltonganj and Latchar.	7 separate shares.
		100						
96	Hanumanr ...	1-etc.	3,769-18	5 1 2	8 12 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	101	...	52 3 10	91 0 0	...	Latchar	3 separate shares.
		101						
		1-2						



## APPENDIX L.—continued.

Serial number.	Name of Estate.	Tauzi number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue.	Road cess.	Police and Diywari contribution.	Name of the thana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
97	Khamdih ...	102	927.43	Rs. a. p. 8 6 6	Rs. a. p. 66 15 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	102	...	0 4 6	2 3 0	...	Do.	
98	Dulsulma ...	103	902.85	23 13 0	43 10 0	...	Do.	
99	Karma ...	104	855.05	6 15 0	30 2 0	...	Do.	
100	Saraidih ...	105	996.44	6 4 0	66 2 0	...	Latehar.	
101	Gadi ...	106	2,676.71	8 7 0	51 5 0	...	Do.	
102	Bekoia ...	107	139.03	1 13 6	17 0 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	107	...	1 13 6	11 0 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
103	Merma ...	108	358.85	15 14 0	23 8 0	...	Do.	
104	Nawadih ...	109	300.18	5 4 0	25 7 0	...	Latehar.	
105	Kutnu ...	110	855.83	13 5 0	55 13 0	...	Do.	
106	Manasoti ...	111	10,812.27	28 4 6	163 7 0	...	Daltonganj and Latehar.	
	Do. ...	111	...	17 6 6	133 10 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
107	Ekta ...	112	1,424.66	10 0 0	28 12 0	...	Do.	
108	Kundolwa ...	113	1,717.79	2 8 0	51 6 0	...	Do.	
109	Ipthey ...	114	418.70	16 14 0	52 13 0	...	Do.	
110	Haratna ...	115	421.58	16 8 0	45 4 0	...	Do.	
111	Rajhara ...	116	2,570.80	12 1 6	50 12 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	116	...	12 1 6	50 12 0	...	Do.	
112	Chillo Majhiawan ...	117	1,880.62	1 0 11	2 14 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	117	...	75 10 1	143 1 0	...	Do.	6 separate shares.
113	Padma ...	118	7,196.24	33 15 6	77 13 0	9 11 0	Patan.	
	Do. ...	118	...	72 6 2	158 5 0	...	Do.	5 separate shares.
114	Tarkadih ...	119	162.42	7 5 0	82 7 3	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	119	...	1 6 0	6 14 3	...	Do.	
115	Manatu ...	120	18,531.07	148 9 0	613 9 0	121 8 0	Patan.	
116	Siki Katan ...	121	1,025.06	11 9 0	47 11 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	121	...	9 13 0	40 11 0	...	Patan	2 separate shares.
117	Patania ...	122	1,693.73	8 6 0	27 8 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	122	...	22 15 0	41 15 0	...	Daltonganj	4 separate shares.
118	Loharsi ...	123	231.43	15 1 0	30 2 0	...	Do.	
119	Ledki ...	124	1,169.80	10 7 0	18 5 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	124	...	4 10 0	8 1 0	...	Do.	
120	Cherawar ...	125	630.46	8 7 4	15 1 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	125	...	3 11 8	6 7 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
121	Saltua ...	126	5,144.46	8 6 0	51 10 0	...	Do.	
122	Sakra ...	127	5,439.07	0 2 0	0 4 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	127	...	27 5 5	199 10 0	...	Do.	6 separate shares.
123	Matuli ...	128	27,004.31	154 11 0	797 9 0	54 0 0	Patan and Latehar.	
124	Kindi ...	129	1,322.10	1 0 0	8 15 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	129	...	11 15 9	80 9 9	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
125	Kurku ...	130	12,829.33	168 1 0	585 14 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	130	...	20 15 6	73 1 0	...	Patan	
126	Muyapur Kallan ...	131	8,452.85	1 0 0	2 12 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	131	...	80 5 0	401 11 0	...	Do.	11 separate shares.
		1-11						

## APPENDIX L—continued.

Serial number.	Name of Estate.	Tanai number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue.	Road cess.	Police and Digwari contribution.	Name of the thana in which the Estimate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
127	Mayapur Khurd ...	132	281.93	7 14 9	6 6 9	..	Patan.	
	Do. ...	132	...	14 2 5	15 1 3	...	Do.	4 separate shares.
128	Meral ...	133	2,133.24	25 10 0	120 4 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	133	...	6 3 0	29 0 0	...	Do.	
129	Patrata ...	134	598.72	0 5 0	2 9 0	...	Latehar	
	Do. ...	134	...	3 1 0	31 11 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
130	Turidih ...	135	1,417.79	0 0 6	1 12 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	135	...	6 14 6	52 14 0	...	Do.	4 separate shares.
131	Richughata ...	136	839.07	0 2 1	9 1 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	136	...	0 0 11	3 9 0	...	Do.	
132	Ghutua ...	137	1,153.88	2 8 4	27 10 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	137	...	0 3 8	2 12 0	...	Do.	
133	Ichak ...	138	877.36	2 4 0	57 1 6	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	138	...	0 12 0	19 0 6	...	Do.	
134	Jalim Khurd ...	139	838.31	3 7 0	77 1 0	...	Do.	
135	Shishi ...	140	1,483.90	5 3 0	96 1 0	...	Do.	
136	Kaleyampur ...	141	1,841.80	6 3 3	41 5 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	141	...	12 6 9	112 3 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
137	Pestur ...	142	2,535.53	2 54.2	15 11 4	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	142	...	5 1 10	35 12 0	...	Do.	
138	Rebaldag ...	143	325.37	3 2 0	38 15 0	...	Latehar.	
139	Deou ...	144	1,975.80	1 12 1	24 12 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	144	...	3 5 11	47 13 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
140	Haudra ...	145	977.69	3 0 0	21 13 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	145	...	5 11 0	41 11 0	...	Do.	
141	Bariatu Nisf ...	146	1,658.43	3 12 1	19 8 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	146	...	8 11 11	61 11 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
142	Husir ...	147	804.44	0 2 7	1 3 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	147	...	6 2 5	37 12 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
143	Baijalpur ...	148	2,963.75	7 14 0	39 0 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	148	...	2 10 0	13 0 0	...	Do.	
144	Sohandi Deori ...	149	887.84	9 11 11	20 8 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	149	...	3 0 1	16 8 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
145	Kushdih ...	150	1,366.86	5 9 7	20 14 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	150	...	1 1 5	3 14 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
146	Batat ...	151	293.73	5 9 3	24 9 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	151	...	1 13 9	8 3 0	...	Do.	
147	Panki ...	152	490.9	24 0 0	18 4 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	152	...	48 0 0	36 0 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
148	Basaria Khurd ...	153	1,248.40	5 5 0	18 10 0	...	Daltonganj.	
149	Garhgaon ...	154	397.38	9 3 0	27 0 0	...	Patan.	
150	Taria ...	155	100,941.21	1,281 1 0	3,570 12 0	...	Latehar, Patan and Chhattarpur.	
151	Patan ...	156	4,006.95	25 8 1	82 14 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	156	...	97 13 1	400 6 0	...	Do.	22 separate shares.
		2 etc.						

## APPENDIX L.—continued.

Serial number	Name of Estate.	Tazzi number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue.	Road cess.	Police and Digwari contribution.	Name of the rana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			
152	Bariata ...	157	220.57	23 0 0	26 12 0	...	Patan.	
153	Fukari ...	158	1,231.85	26 11 0	91 2 0	...	Do.	
154	Pakaria ...	159	760.34	36 0 9	67 10 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	159	...	13 6 3	30 12 0	...	Do.	
		1						
155	Ganeshpur Sonapurwa ...	160	1,338.00	110 11 0	127 7 0	...	Patan.	
156	Narainpur ...	161	2,393.34	15 0 0	61 4 0	...	Garhwa.	
	Do. ...	161	...	25 0 0	61 4 0	...	Do.	
		2						
157	Chauka ...	162	495.97	26 11 0	66 6 0	...	Patan.	
158	Gore ...	163	1,593.15	8 6 0	9 12 0	...	Daltonganj.	
159	Chando ...	164	14,340.75	99 5 0	275 2 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	164	...	14 4 0	39 8 0	...	Daltonganj.	2 separate shares.
		1-2						
160	Baghi Hundroo Kachau ...	165	11,921.17	38 6 0	286 11 0	...	Do.	
161	Harlong ...	166	848.61	11 7 0	47 9 0	...	Do.	
162	Patra ...	167	135.39	4 4 0	7 6 0	...	Patan.	
163	Lukua ...	168	906.36	5 14 0	15 7 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	168	...	5 14 0	15 7 0	...	Do.	
		1						
164	Siddilia Khajuri ...	169	4,346.33	11 11 10	108 15 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	169	...	8 4 2	45 8 0	...	Do.	4 separate shares.
		1-2						
165	Morwai Kalan ...	170	10,355.86	5 13 1	61 10 9	...	Latehar.	2 separate shares.
	Do. ...	170	...	3 7 11	55 0 0	...	Do.	
		1-2						
166	Chemo Saneya ...	171	36,572.12	43 12 0	325 12 0	...	Ranka.	Part of the Chainpur Estate.
167	Hosir ...	172	3,442.33	2 0 2	7 0 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	172	...	22 1 10	76 8 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
		1-3						
168	Hurdag ...	173	14,698.53	67 13 4	109 13 0	...	Mahadeaur.	
	Do. ...	173	...	6 2 8	10 0 0	...	Do.	
		1						
169	Rud Paraswar ...	174	31,231.81	46 15 0	289 10 0	...	Raukq.	
170	Barkol ...	175	31,612.21	90 11 0	228 11 0	...	Do.	1a Chainpur.
171	Baka khap ...	176	87.32	5 5 0	17 10 0	...	Daltonganj.	
172	Sarjamatu ...	177	790.11	6 5 4	21 7 0	...	Patan.	
173	Banna ...	178	538.22	3 4 9	12 10 0	...	Daltonganj. and Patan.	
	Do. ...	178	...	4 11 3	21 12 0	...	Do.	
		1						
174	Kotara ...	179	431.65	1 11 0	15 5 5	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	179	...	5 6 3	10 0 0	...	Do.	3 separate shares.
		1-3						
175	Buchilami ...	180	147.69	3 12 2	24 4 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	180	...	1 8 10	37 7 0	...	Do.	2 separate shares.
		1-2						
176	Chandeya ...	181	203.41	6 6 0	31 13 6	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	181	...	4 4 0	1 4 0	...	Do.	
		1						
177	Majhgawan ...	182	200.22	5 5 0	29 5 0	...	Daltonganj.	
178	Tuleya ...	183	466.44	51 9 2	13 10 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	183	...	30 0 0	7 12 0	...	Do.	4 separate shares.
		1-4						
179	Rampur ...	184	2,630.57	5 5 6	31 14 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	184	...	6 5 6	31 13 0	...	Do.	
		1						
180	Palhe Bagdah ...	185	3,067.22	54 14 0	68 13 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	185	...	310 0 4	271 13 0	...	Do.	16 separate shares.
		1-16						

## APPENDIX I.—continued.

Serial number.	Name of Estate.	Tauzi number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue.	Road cess.	Police and Digwari contribution.	Name of the Thana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
181	Nawadih ...	186	1,430.69	14 12 0	52 8 0	..	Garhwa.	
	Do. ...	186	...	29 0 0	115 2 0	..	Do.	2 separate shares.
182	Banka Nisf ...	187	654.75	39 1 0	53 14 0	..	Do.	
183	Banka Nisf ...	188	350.93	37 14 0	30 1 0	..	Do.	
184	Khiriwar Sonparwa ...	189	93.98	54 7 3	80 0 0	..	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	189	...	35 3 7	44 3 0	..	Do.	8 separate shares.
		1-8	...	...	...	...	Do.	
185	Babhandi Kalan ...	190	455.16	21 7 6	23 3 8	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	190	...	27 9 6	29 13 0	..	Do.	3 separate shares.
		1-3	...	...	...	...	Patna.	
186	Henda ...	191	355.05	16 0 0	12 10 0	..	Patna.	
187	Pasoura ...	192	193.61	1 6 3	11 12 0	..	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	192	...	4 15 0	41 14 0	..	Do.	3 separate shares.
		1-3	...	...	...	...	Do.	
188	Bairia Nisf ...	193	314.37	22 2 4	13 15 8	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	193	...	3 2 8	2 0 0	..	Do.	
		1	...	...	...	...	Patna.	
189	Taudwa ...	194	134.89	18 11 0	32 4 0	..	Patna.	
190	Lalgara ...	195	950.09	9 10 0	60 5 0	..	Do.	
191	Ambawar ...	196	460.07	7 3 4	13 11 0	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	196	...	5 9 9	10 10 0	..	Do.	
		1	...	...	...	...	Garhwa.	
192	Marhua Khajuri ...	197	1,188.58	16 11 2	37 11 0	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	197	...	16 9 10	30 7 0	..	Do.	4 separate shares.
		1-4	...	...	...	...	Patna.	
193	Alhuri ...	198	301.52	16 0 0	32 14 0	..	Daltonganj.	
194	Murmasi Nisf ...	199	155.00	11 14 0	43 1 0	..	Do.	
195	Bhairaon ...	200	6,142.85	6 1 0	30 2 0	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	200	129 3 3	...	3,841 3 9	..	Do.	31 separate shares.
		1 etc.	...	...	...	...	Daltonganj and Patna.	
196	Baidi Kalan ...	201	615.47	24 9 6	46 1 0	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	201	...	12 12 6	27 12 0	..	Patna.	
		1-2	...	...	...	...	Do.	
197	Rabdi Derwa ...	202	1,480.96	4 5 3	48 5 0	..	Do.	
		...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Do. ...	202	...	3 6 9	30 2 0	..	Patna.	2 separate shares.
		2-3	...	...	...	...	Garhwa.	
198	Boalia ...	203	505.71	18 10 6	31 14 0	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	203	...	18 10 6	31 14 0	..	Do.	3 separate shares.
		1-3	...	...	...	...	Latchar.	
199	Palhey ...	204	2,418.23	16 0 0	40 14 0	..	Daltonganj and Patna.	
200	Chandwar ...	205	8,638.69	43 13 0	192 7 0	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	205	...	32 5 0	122 8 6	84 0 0	Do.	7 separate shares.
		1, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	
201	Mahadag ...	206	219.25	11 12 0	15 4 0	..	Garhwa.	
202	Bhikhhi ...	207	2,787.16	5 3 6	42 2 0	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	207	...	7 9 6	61 4 0	..	Do.	8 separate shares.
		1-3	...	...	...	...	Patna.	
203	Batsara ...	208	1,154.03	0 12 2	33 2 0	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	208	...	2 6 13	105 3 0	..	Do.	4 separate shares.
		1-4	...	...	...	...	Do.	
204	Chaitu ...	209	394.56	3 3 0	8 2 0	..	Do.	
	Do. ...	209	...	3 3 0	8 2 0	..	Do.	
		1	...	...	...	...	Latchar.	
205	Sardamdag ...	210	1,219.47	4 4 0	23 5 0	..	Garhwa.	
206	Saigara ...	211	75.19	2 2 0	11 8 0	..	Do.	
207	Kitasoti ...	212	375.11	2 2 0	16 3 0	..	Do.	

## APPENDIX L—contd.

Serial Number.	Name of Estate.	Taxi Number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue.	Road cess.	Police and Digwari contribution.	Name of the Thana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			
208	Chianki Cankru ...	213	7,657.10	6 0 0	14 10 0	...	Daltonganj.	In Chaiampur property.
	Do. ...	213	...	55 8 0	223 1 0	...	Do.	6 Separate shares.
209	Hatta ...	1-6	690.63	2 6 0	12 3 0	...	Latchar.	
	Do. ...	214	...	2 6 0	12 3 0	...	Do.	
		214	...	...	...	...	...	
		1	...	...	...	...	...	
210	Bijra ...	215	61.09	1 9 6	10 4 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	215	...	0 8 6	3 7 0	...	Do.	
		1	...	...	...	...	...	
211	Saji ...	216	340.35	21 11 1	51 7 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	213	...	3 15 11	9 5 0	...	Do.	
		1	...	...	...	...	...	
212	Sakhui ...	217	96.1	1 14 6	4 7 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	217	...	3 7 6	8 1 0	...	Do.	3 Separate shares.
213	Chetma Rabdi ...	1-3	1,287.51	7 2 3	38 6 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	218	...	5 10 9	33 11 0	...	Do.	3 Separate shares.
		218	...	...	...	...	...	
		1-3	...	...	...	...	...	
214	Dolsulmi ...	219	175.60	6 11 0	19 3 0	...	Daltonganj.	
215	BarJiha ...	220	192.65	9 0 6	18 6 6	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	220	...	27 1 6	55 2 6	...	Do.	8 Separate shares.
		1-8	...	...	...	...	...	
216	Ramchand Dabra ...	221	179.05	77 9 0	39 12 0	...	Daltonganj.	
217	Hehagara ...	222	3,552.97	0 15 10	6 7 0	...	Daltonganj and Latchar.	
	Do. ...	222	...	10 12 6	69 10 0	...	Do.	3 Separate shares.
		1-3	...	...	...	...	...	
218	Tali ...	223	16.07	48 6 0	13 3 0	...	Do.	
219	Samra ...	224	6,448.70	113 1 0	199 9 0	...	Do.	
220	Dugila ...	225	63.81	38 6 8	18 8 0	...	Do.	
221	Rajhara ...	227	1,110.49	197 12 0	67 3 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	2-6	...	197 12 0	67 3 0	...	Do.	4 Separate shares.
		1-3-6	...	...	...	...	...	
222	Pakari ...	227	211.56	22 0 0	18 14 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	227	...	29 2 4	17 5 0	...	Do.	3 Separate shares.
		1-3	...	...	...	...	...	
223	Karua Khurd ...	228	41.60	97 7 11	66 9 0	...	Garhwa.	
	Do. ...	228	...	29 7 1	19 1 0	...	Do.	4 Separate shares.
		1-1	...	...	...	...	...	
224	Masuria ...	229	100.45	34 13 3	13 5 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	229	...	19 8 9	7 8 0	...	Do.	3 Separate shares.
		1-1	...	...	...	...	...	
225	Sikwa ...	2-0	229.87	7 10 0	38 0 0	...	Daltonganj	
226	Basdiha ...	231	272.12	5 5 0	35 12 0	...	Do.	
227	Dhonti ...	232	654.59	2 2 0	15 9 0	...	Garhwa.	
228	Baligarh ...	233	582.50	5 5 0	24 13 0	...	Do.	
229	Huruhasa ...	234	137.66	11 9 0	28 6 0	...	Patan.	
230	Nagesar ...	235	2 2 11	0 9 1	12 14 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	235	...	1 0 11	23 15 0	...	Do.	2 Separate shares.
		1-2	...	...	...	...	...	
231	Jogia Pokhri ...	236	170.90	8 15 0	28 10 0	...	Daltonganj.	
232	Sonpurwa ...	237	68.97	4 4 0	18 19 0	...	Do.	
233	Pagar Khurd ...	238	431.56	12 11 0	43 10 0	...	Patan.	
234	Jharaha ...	239	235.23	0 8 6	2 7 0	...	Do.	
235	Bahera ...	240	203.84	4 4 0	37 6 0	...	Do.	
236	Dandar Khurd ...	241	155.87	16 0 0	50 8 0	...	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	241	...	9 12 0	50 3 2	...	Do.	2 Separate shares.
		1-2	...	...	...	...	...	
237	Karmatarmi ...	242	23 963.30	39 8 0	46 6 0	...	Do.	
238	Nawdiha Harbas ...	243	431.53	16 0 0	44 8 0	...	Patan.	

APPENDIX L—*contd.*

Serial Number.	Name of Estate	Tauzi Number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Government Revenue.	Road cess.	Police and Bigwari contribution.	Name of the Thana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
239	Areyu ...	244	423 82	4 4 0	16 7 0	...	Garhwa.	
240	Banpurwa ...	245	552 66	5 5 0	35 12 0	...	Do.	
241	Kharoundha ...	246	1,528 37	37 5 0	21 13 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	246	...	2 3 0	36 6 0	...	Do.	2 Separate shares.
		1-2						
242	Kirto ...	247	73 02	13 5 0	13 5 0	...	Daltonganj.	
243	Maribhang ...	248	490 73	11 10 0	21 14 0	...	Do.	
244	Guraha ...	249	658 73	24 11 9	35 14 0	3 12 0	Patan.	
	Do. ...	249	...	21 9 3	31 1 0	1 4 0	Do.	2 Separate shares.
		1-2						
245	Bandi ...	250	1,350 74	6 11 0	31 1 0	...	Daltonganj.	
246	Kolhua Khurd ...	251	175 00	7 2 0	26 8 0	...	Do.	
247	Amwa ...	252	465 29	11 12 0	34 12 6	...	Do.	
248	Musi ...	253	77 49	2 8 11	9 2 0	...	Do.	
	Do. ...	253	...	3 5 1	11 11 0	...	...	2 Separate shares.
		2-1						
249	Golhana ...	254	828 56	36 4 0	69 6 0	...	Patan.	
250	Kanai Koria ...	255	378 50	30 0 0	40 15 0	...	Do.	
251	Bairia ...	256	50 72	5 5 0	15 1 0	...	Daltonganj.	
252	Jura ...	257	1,022 12	22 8 0	99 5 0	...	Do.	
253	Kuarbandh ...	258	451 34	2 8 0	5 5 0	...	Patan.	
	Do. ...	258	...	13 8 0	28 12 0	...	Do.	2 Separate shares.
		1-2						
254	Jodhi ...	259	674 51	42 5 0	47 8 0	...	Daltonganj.	
255	Government Estate ...	50	54 68	...	...	...	Husainabad.	
	Ditto ...	51	217,319 91	...	...	...	Mahudamr, Ranka, Garhwa, Latchur, Patan and Daltonganj.	
	Ditto ...	53	173 63	...	...	...	Husainabad ...	Deduct Chota Nagpur figures and the district Revenue becomes Rs. 25,345, 7, 11 and cess Rs. 27,022 8 10.
	Total ...		2,019,378 42	19,79 7 11	1,77,207 14 10	3,238 0 0		

APPENDIX L—*contd.*

## B—Revenue-free Estates.

Serial Number.	Name of Estate.	Tauzi Number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Road cess.	Name of the Thana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Rs. a. p.		
1	Kerimandi-Ahmalnagar ...	1	128.85	24 0 0	Husainabad,	
2	Amwa ...	2	101.50	30 0 0	Patan.	
3	Arka ...	3	113.68	15 12 0	Do.	
4	Arakunda ...	4	85.92	17 2 0	Do.	
5	Ajan Mayapur ...	5	363.76	25 0 0	Do.	
6	Bedouli ...	6	145.31	5 0 0	Daltonganj.	
	Do. ...	1	...	11 0 0	Do.	
7	Bedani Kalan ...	7	157.00	15 10 0	Patan.	
8	Bhalngari ...	8	401.79	19 2 0	Do.	
9	Baliari ...	9	173.41	29 6 0	Do.	
10	Baligara ...	10	215.85	32 8 0	Do.	
11	Burhi ...	11	225.54	7 11 0	Daltonganj.	
12	Baida Khurd ...	12	56.72	22 8 0	Do.	
13	Bihari Khap ...	13	132.69	38 7 0	Patan.	
14	Bulgara ...	14	637.53	48 10 0	Do.	
15	Bhandaria ...	15	169.39	29 1 0	Do.	
16	Dunu ...	16	208.99	43 12 0	Do.	
17	Deharia ...	17	141.79	29 14 0	Do.	
18	Dadha ...	18	162.58	33 12 6	Do.	
19	Dandur Khurd ...	19	291.60	15 10 0	Do.	
	Do. ...	1	...	22 13 0	Daltonganj.	
20	Delha ...	20	972.40	32 10 0	Patan.	
	Do. ...	1	...	4 14 0	Do.	
21	Damari ...	21	1,188.35	31 4 0	Do.	
22	Dandai ...	22	299.51	13 4 0	Do.	
	Do. ...	1	...	13 4 0	Do.	
23	Dhangaon ...	23	162.24	25 0 0	Do.	
	Do. ...	1	...	12 8 0	Do.	
24	Dhangain ...	24	99.50	22 8 0	Do.	
25	Gangtua ...	25	236.47	85 5 0	Do.	
26	Hardi ...	26	174.87	7 1 0	Do.	
27	Jaidu ...	27	473.86	25 0 0	Do.	
28	Kateya ...	28	401.50	48 0 0	Do.	
29	Kunhua ...	29	13.29	16 12 0	Do.	
30	Khicharia ...	30	355.84	37 8 0	Do.	
31	Karouna ...	31	359.97	21 2 0	Do.	
32	Khaira Chhechani ...	32	810.00	49 0 0	Do.	
33	Mayapur ...	33	102.86	25 0 0	Do.	
34	Majhgawan ...	34	239.64	50 0 0	Do.	
35	Majhinwan ...	35	163.17	36 1 0	Do.	
36	Misirpatra ...	36	229.72	11 6 9	Do.	
37	Siridan ...	37	71.06	19 15 0	Do.	2 separate shares.

APPENDIX L (B)—*contd.*

Serial Number.	Name of Estate.	Taxi Number.	Area of Estate in acres.	Road cess.	Name of the Thana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Rs. a. p.		
38	Sangaldipi ...	38	54.70	11 4 0	Patna.	
39	Saguna ...	39	411.57	32 3 0	Do.	
40	Sirma ...	40	329.80	81 12 0	Do.	2 Separate shares.
41	Selari ...	41	231.66	31 4 0	Do.	3 Separate shares.
42	Selari ...	42	2,214.23	102 12 0	Do.	
43	S.rai ...	43	224.90	23 7 0	Do.	
44	Sinjo ...	44	654.56	18 12 0	Do.	
45	Tilara ...	45	134.77	15 10 0	Do.	
46	Teldiha ...	46	37.40	10 12 0	Do.	
47	Uchhabara Kalan ...	47	138.61	6 14 0	Do.	
48	Uchhabara Khurd ...	48	130.19	23 3 0	Do.	
49	Uparmaudi ...	49	108.11	7 13 0	Do.	
50	Amwa Khurd ...	50	551.33	31 5 0	Daltonganj.	
51	Asalpahari ...	51	200.80	36 10 0	Do.	
52	Ajodhya Kolhna ...	52	585.04	50 5 0	Do.	
53	Baksidabra ...	53	138.05	8 12 0	Do.	
54	Bandhey Dohar ...	54	123.59	12 0 0	Do.	
55	Bariatu ...	55	237.62	17 3 0	Do.	
56	Baigia Nisf ...	56	344.37	16 13 0	Do.	
57	Balidih ...	57	227.03	12 8 0	Do.	
58	Baraota ...	58	713.66	58 14 0	Do.	
59	Basdih ...	59	610.51	34 2 0	Do.	
60	Chandarpur ...	60	218.69	35 4 0	Do.	3 Separate shares.
61	Chandarpur ...	61	401.07	21 0 0	Do.	
62	Choura ...	62	620.55	62 8 0	Do.	2 Separate shares.
63	Chandarpur ...	63	350.59	37 0 0	Do.	2 Separate shares.
64	Nawadih ...	64	56.96	13 7 0	Do.	2 Separate shares.
65	Badari Kalan ...	65	253.77	28 2 10	Do.	4 shares.
66	Dulbi ...	66	309.06	26 4 0	Do.	
67	Dhobdiha ...	67	19.82	8 14 0	Do.	
68	Jor ...	68	927.22	48 12 0	Do.	
69	Jamundih ...	69	193.78	27 6 0	Do.	
70	Jharkatia ...	70	68.78	25 9 0	Do.	2 shares.
71	Julanga ...	71	446.90	11 0 8	Do.	2 shares.
72	Chhapat ...	72	311.29	15 10 0	Do.	
73	Kund ...	73	323.56	8 2 0	Do.	
74	Bhatkohna ...	74	84.40	15 10 0	Do.	
75	Kudaga-Bujrug Kalan ...	75	438.61	66 6 0	Do.	
76	Kanouda ...	76	147.91	25 0 0	Do.	
77	Karamdih ...	77	606.40	73 8 2	Do.	
78	Khutar Khurd ...	78	93.91	13 7 6	Do.	
79	Khutar Kalan ...	79	143.44	10 8 0	Daltonganj and Patan.	



APPENDIX L (B)—*contd.*

Serial Number.	Name of Estate.	Tauzi Number	Area of Estate in acres.	Road cess.	Name of the Thana in which the Estate is situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Rs. a. p.		
80	Lobadi ... ..	80	124.69	23 7 0	Daltonganj.	
81	Mahugain ... ..	81	526.55	41 14 0	Do.	
82	Madhunabi ... ..	82	310.92	29 13 0	Do.	
83	Mathura Dohar ... ..	83	88.93	11 14 0	Do.	
84	Nawagarh ... ..	84	1,100.37	25 3 0	Do.	3 shares.
85	Taiya Patida ... ..	85	1,008.22	103 12 0	Do.	2 shares.
86	Pachamu ... ..	86	374.02	19 8 0	Do.	
87	Parsua ... ..	87	719.96	70 15 0	Do.	3 shares.
88	Furaini ... ..	88	91.09	24 6 0	Do.	
89	Pathrahi ... ..	89	55.38	15 0 0	Do.	
90	Ramagar ... ..	90	6,293.53	678 2 0	Ratan and Chattarpur.	11 shares.
91	Berama ... ..	91	1,497.02	63 12 0	Daltonganj.	
92	Ramanand Dobra ... ..	92	59.68	20 0 0	Do.	
93	Rajogadi ... ..	93	144.01	34 11 0	Do.	
94	Schadi ... ..	94	845.38	36 8 0	Do.	
95	Surjoun ... ..	95	138.33	21 4 0	Do.	
96	Turaktaleya ... ..	96	550.87	56 14 0	Do.	4 shares.
97	Biritpurwa ... ..	97	304.70	15 15 0	Latchar.	
98	Bisunpur ... ..	98	1,468.35	67 10 0	Do.	3 shares.
99	Betla ... ..	99	225.75	36 5 0	Do.	
100	Chamardih ... ..	100	619.17	14 13 0	Do.	
101	Harata ... ..	101	6,330.39	137 4 0	Do.	
102	Haritog ... ..	102	1,083.83	28 3 0	Do.	
103	Kanchanpur ... ..	103	638.09	25 0 0	Do.	
104	Ladogah ... ..	104	1,267.11	31 9 0	Do.	
105	Mangra ... ..	105	1,163.99	23 15 0	Do.	3 shares.
106	Manatu ... ..	106	549.84	20 12 0	Do.	
107	Opang ... ..	107	609.64	29 6 0	Do.	3 shares.
108	Bagha ... ..	108	132.22	31 4 0	Chhattarpur.	2 shares.
109	Bhojua ... ..	109	102.86	30 10 0	Do.	
110	Drogan ... ..	110	16,247.8	260 12 0	Do.	
111	Drogan ... ..	111	675.34	44 12 0	Latchar.	
112	Lejadhari w/f Bhilki ... ..	112	99.75	28 2 0	Chhattarpur.	
113	Chhetki ... ..	113	38,650.62	204 6 0	Ranka-	
114	Barigarh w/f Jurigarh ... ..	114	10,236.92	179 1 0	Do.	
115	Achla ... ..	115	654.44	116 9 0	Garhwa.	2 shares.
116	Achli ... ..	116	49.28	7 11 0	Do.	
117	Bana ... ..	117	344.36	42 8 0	Do.	
118	Barahia ... ..	118	355.43	25 0 0	Do.	
119	Bargachha ... ..	119	304.39	26 15 0	Do.	
120	Iat Belhara ... ..	120	962.72	48 6 0	Do.	
121	Danda ... ..	121	3,752.68	264 13 0	Do.	10 shares.
122	Godheya ... ..	122	600.59	53 2 2	Do.	
123	Jata ... ..	123	706.28	65 0 0	Do.	

APPENDIX L (B)—*concl.*

Serial Number	Name of Estate.	Tauzi Number	Area of Estate in acres.	Real cesa.	Name of the Thana in which the Estate situated.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Rs. a. p.		
124	Karna Khurd ... ..	124	421.22	30 5 0	Garhwa.	
125	Kamta ... ..	125	315.10	42 13 0	Do.	
126	Lap ... ..	126	433.36	40 5 0	Do.	
127	Murka ... ..	127	129.16	21 8 0	Do.	
128	Pipra ... ..	128	496.54	51 8 0	Do.	
129	Jhura Utari ... ..	129	263,750.66	10,200 11 0	Garhwa and Potan.	
130	Dowankura ... ..	130	46,421.16	23 11 0	Husainabad.	
	Do. ... ..	130	...	1,765 11 0	Do.	18 shares.
	Do. ... ..	130	...	...	Do.	
131	Alinagar (Japla) ... ..	131	111,434.21	127 9 0	Do.	
	Do. ... ..	131	...	13,181 0 0	Do.	423 separate shares.
	Do. ... ..	131	...	...	Do.	
132	Saledaguri Dalpatpur ... ..	132	279.09	37 19 0	Shuttarpur.	
133	Kusaba ... ..	133	20.14	5 8 0	Daltongauj.	
134	Matkho ... ..	134	15.05	0 15 0	Latehar.	
135	B'ajunia ... ..	135	735.85	2 13 0	Husainabad.	
	Total ... ..	...	5,51,498.32	50,737 6 5	...	

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# APPENDIX M.

Samples of the forms contained in the Record-of-rights volumes.

Name and number of village                      Pargana                      Thana                      District                     

Name of landlord with khewat number	Serial number.	Khatian number.	Name of raiyat with percentage and residence.	Area.										Total.	Rent before commutation.	Rent after final commutation.	Remarks.											
				Nakdi.	Jusi.	Bajaga.	Other kinds.	Cultivated.																				
								Cultivated.	Uncultivated.	Cultivated.	Uncultivated.	Dhoni-khet.	Taur.					Dhoni-khet.	Taur.									
																				Cultivated.	Uncultivated.	Dhoni-khet.	Taur.					
																								Cultivated.	Uncultivated.	Dhoni-khet.	Taur.	
Cultivated.	Uncultivated.	Cultivated.	Uncultivated.	Dhoni-khet.	Taur.	Dhoni-khet.	Taur.	Dhoni-khet.	Taur.	Dhoni-khet.	Taur.	Dhoni-khet.	Taur.	Uncultivated.	Total.													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

## B.—Khevat

Name of village			Thana			Thana Number				
Serial number.	Name, etc. of interested person.	Name of party under whom he holds.	Nature of right.	Resumable or not.	Other conditions.	Yearly rent.	Present Cess.	Dues other than rent and services.	Area.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

## C

### Khatian Form.

Serial No. of Kharian.	Name, parentage, caste, and residence of tenant.	Khasra No. of Field and boundaries.		Name of land.	Number of kharries.	Nature of land.	Class of land.	Area in acres and decimals.				Rent payable as ascer- tained by Revenue Officer, including the value of all Bakumats and Bega, remainder in respect of the tenancy and commuted under Section 11 of Act VI, B. C. of 1908.	Fair rent settled by Revenue Officer, if any.	1. Status. If non-oc- cupancy, length of possession.  2. rent how fixed and particulars, if pro- gressive.  3. Special conditions and incidents (if any).	Notes made under sec- tions 88, 112, 131, and 254 of Act VI (B.C.) of 1908 (if any).	Remarks.			
		Number.	Boundaries.					Cultivated.	Un- cultivated.	Total.	Acre.						Decimal.	Acre.	Decimal.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				

## D.—KHATIAN, PART II.

## KHATIAN PART II—(Jungle Khatian).

Name of M  
Thana  
Thana No.

## PART A.

Record of tenants' rights to timber, fruits and other Jungle-produce and of their rights of grazing  
(Prepared under section 81 (a) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.)

Nature of right.	Free of charge.	Fixed fees or price.	Name of village.	Plot No.	Remark
1	2	3	4	5	6
Right to cut down big trees for building or repairing the tenants' own houses.					
Right to cut down big trees for making the tenants' own agricultural implements.					
Right to cut down big trees for sale.					
Right to cut down small trees for building or repairing the tenants' own houses.					
Right to cut down small trees for own domestic agricultural purposes.					
Right to cut down small trees for fuel for own consumption.					
Right to cut down small trees for sale.					
Right to graze cattle in the jungle.					
Right to collect <i>makhua</i> seeds from trees within the jungle.					
Right to take other produce from the jungle.					
Right to collect <i>chope</i> from the jungle.					
Right to grow and take produce from the jungle.					
Right to take other produce from the jungle.					
General Remarks.					

## PART B.

Right of residents or other persons, if any, who are not "tenants" to take forest produce.  
Signature of landlord or his agent.

Signature of Revenue Officer.

Report of D. P. Kanungo—The form has been draft published on the

Kanungo.

Signature of Revenue Officer with date after draft publication.

Report of the final publication Kanungo.....finally published on

Signature of Revenue officer with date }  
after final publication.

## BINDING SPACE.

E.

## COMMUTATION FORM No. I.

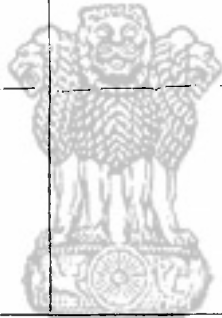
STATEMENT OF RAKUMATS AND BEGARI PREPARED UNDER SECTION 111(1) OF THE CHOTA NAGPUR  
TENANCY ACT.

Name of village \_\_\_\_\_ Thana \_\_\_\_\_ Thana No. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF LANDLORD.

Number of Khewat entry.

Description of Rakumat and Legari.	Value.	Remarks.
1	2	3
(a) Rakumat.		
(b) Begari.		



Date

सत्यमेव जयते

This form was draft published by me.

Revenue Officer. This form was finally published by me.

Signed:

Kanungo.

Kanungo.

Countersigned

Revenue Officer. &amp; Countersigned.

Revenue Officer.

Date

Date

## APPENDIX M—concl'd.

## F.—PRADHANI HAKUKNAMA.

## PALAMAU SETTLEMENT.

Record of rights and liabilities of the Pradhan in Pradhani villages.

Name of village \_\_\_\_\_ Thana \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pargana \_\_\_\_\_ Zila \_\_\_\_\_

Name of <i>Pradhan</i> , father's name, caste and address.	3. Right of the <i>Pradhan</i> to retain the lands of (1) and (2) even if ejected from the <i>Pradhani</i> .
<b>A—PATTA AND PERIOD.</b>	
1. Term of the <i>Patta</i> , if any, under which the <i>Pradhan</i> holds with date of execution and expiry.	4. The number of the <i>khatian</i> containing the <i>bakast</i> lands, or lands of other description of the <i>pradhan</i> with plot numbers.
2. Right of <i>Pradhan</i> to take fresh settlement on expiry of the present lease, if any.	5. Whether the <i>Pradhan</i> forfeits the lands in (4) on removal from the <i>pradhani</i> .
3. The right of the <i>Pradhan</i> to retain his tenure either without lease or until a new lease is executed.	6. The right of the <i>Pradhan</i> to settle abandoned holdings or to reclaim waste land, or to settle waste lands for reclamation by others.
<b>B—RENT OF THE PRADHANI TENURE.</b>	
1. Annual rent payable to the proprietor or superior tenure-holder.	7. Have the resident raiyats of the village a prior right to take settlement of abandoned holdings before they are offered to <i>Pahi</i> raiyats?
2. <i>Kists</i> according to which the rent is payable to the proprietor or superior tenure-holder.	8. Is the <i>Pradhan</i> entitled to take <i>salami</i> on making new settlement?
3. Right of the <i>Pradhan</i> to abatement on account of desertion of their holdings by tenants, through drought, flood or any other causes.	9. The right of the <i>Pradhan</i> to appropriate the rents of lands reclaimed and assessed to rent during the period of the lease or until a fresh settlement is made.
4. The right of the proprietor or superior tenure-holder to enhance the rent within the term of the lease.	10. Can the <i>Pradhan</i> prepare tanks, <i>bandas</i> and irrigation channels in the waste lands of the village for the purpose of reclamation or cultivation without the consent of the proprietor or superior tenure-holders?
<b>C—CONDITIONS OF REMOVAL OF PRADHAN.</b>	
1. Right of the proprietor or superior tenure-holder to settle the village with a third person.	<b>E—TRANSFER AND INHERITANCE.</b>
2. The grounds on which the <i>Pradhan</i> may be ejected and the manner of ejectment.	1. Has the <i>Pradhan</i> the right to divide or partition the tenure?
<b>D—THE RIGHTS OF THE PRADHAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE LANDS OF THE VILLAGE.</b>	
1. The number of the <i>khatian</i> containing the <i>khuntkatti</i> lands of the <i>Pradhan</i> with plot numbers.	2. Has the <i>Pradhan</i> the right to transfer the tenure or any part of it by sale, mortgage or otherwise?
2. The number of the <i>khatian</i> containing the raiyati lands of the <i>pradhan</i> with plot numbers.	3. Is the tenure of the <i>Pradhan</i> heritable or not?

Signature of the landlord or his agent.  
 Signature of the Assistant Settlement Officer.

This form was draft published by me on \_\_\_\_\_  
 Countersignature of the Assistant Settlement Officer.

This form was finally published by me on \_\_\_\_\_

Kanungo.

Kanungo.

## APPENDIX M—concl'd.

Village

Form of Irrigation Record, District Palamau

Thana

Pargana

Number

Serial Number	Source of irrigation and name, if any, with plot number. State whether it is a reservoir or channel. If it is capable of being used for irrigation in (a) dry years. (b) very dry years.	(a) Name of person constructing, date of construction and cost, if known. State whether contributions were levied or not. (b) Name of person effecting considerable work of renovation or enlargement, with date and cost, if known. (c) If the maker was a raiyat or tenure-holder, did he receive any remission of rent or part payment from the landlord? If so, how much?	Name of person responsible for maintenance, and whether any fees can be levied for this purpose; if so from whom? State how emergent repairs are done.	(a) Harvest, and area irrigated. If an entire block of rice land, the name of the block should be given as well as the plot numbers. (b) State whether irrigated plots are <i>ekant</i> or <i>raiya</i> .	The time and conditions of opening the <i>bhas</i> or cutting the <i>bans</i> of an <i>ahar</i> . State whether consent of <i>malik</i> is required or not. Rights of the tenants Rights of cultivators to have the water drained off in order to cultivate the bed of the <i>Ahar</i> .	Method of distributing the water. Number and description of openings of <i>ahars</i> .	Disposal of surplus water. (a) The rights of cultivators holding land above the reservoir to have surplus water drawn off by a <i>kawato</i> save their fields from submergence. (b) <i>Ahars</i> or fields entitled to receive water from this <i>Ahar</i> after the water has risen to a certain level. Record plot number and priority of rights with method of irrigation, e.g. by <i>kawato</i> .	Arrangements, if any, which exist for deciding disputes between tenants.	Source of feeding the <i>ahars</i> with reference to serial number (column 8 of form) and villages if a different village.	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11



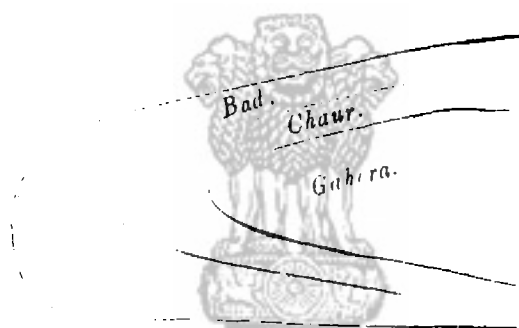
## APPENDIX N.

### *Circulars on land classification*

No. 1 [A circular issued at the beginning of each season with the instructions of the preceding year.]

All Circle Officers will submit by 12th December at latest a careful report on the classes of rice land and of *tanr* upland found in their circles. Last year it was found expedient to divide *dhankhet* and upland each into three classes. Assistant Settlement Officers should enquire: (a) How many kinds of *Dhankhet* are recognized and the local names of these kinds. (b) The kinds of *Dhan* seed sown or transplanted in them, respectively. (c) The months in which the different classes are harvested. This enquiry should be treated as important.

No. 2. The system of classifying rice lands according to the time of harvesting which was adopted last year in Hazaribagh has proved unsatisfactory. In some villages it resulted in practically all the third class lands being recorded as second class: in one village 1 find 607 acres of 2nd class and only 42 acres of 3rd class. The three classes recognized almost universally are *Gahera*, *Singha* and *Bad*. A small fourth class in which *Karheni* and *Sati dhan* are grown is distinguishable, but may be classed as "*Bad*". The classification at *Khanapuri* must be made by following intelligently the local views of the class to which a field belongs. There is no difficulty in recognizing first class land: it bears a heavy crop of *Agham* rice and has moisture still in the soil at the present time. It is generally found below a bandh or a spring or in the bed of a reclaimed *nala*. *Bad* or third class land includes by far the greatest portion of the terraced fields. It is generally land converted from *tanr* which retains moisture for some time on account of the terracing and the *ails* but which is dependent on the surface rainfall for its water. The crops are cut up to the middle of *Kartik*. The area of second class land (called *Singha* or *Chaur*) is very small. It is land which receives a little more moisture than *bad*; in larger stretches of terraced land a narrow strip of 2nd class land is often found between the *bad* and the *gahera*, on either side of the stretch: at the higher end of the *gahera* there will also be a few fields of 2nd class land. The common formation is in the shape of the illustration:—



2nd class land is also found, where there is no *bad* or *gahera* in *Korkar* lands with high ground on three sides but not sufficiently moist to make rice land of the first class. There can be no hard and fast rule of classifying according to harvest. Classification will ordinarily follow the local nomenclature and can only be made by inspection of the lie of the ground. Approximately 70 per cent. of the fields are *bad*, 10 per cent. *Singha* and 20 per cent. *gahera* in the ordinary village of Hazaribagh. All circle officers must get out instructions at once through the inspectors to amins working at *Khanapuri*.

No. 3. The general principles on which rice lands are to be classified were detailed in last year's circular: the following notes are supplementary to that circular. (a) *First class land* is called in different parts *Gahera*, *Bahur*, *Ghoghra*. The best land which is wet for most of the year is known in some places as *jobi* or *daiki*. Many villages contain no first class land at all. The kinds of rice most commonly grown on 1st class land are *ratgoli*, *kalamdani*, *dhusri*, *parsadbhog*, *balbhog*, *basmati*, and *karibank*. (b) *Second class land* is commonly called *kandi*, *singha*, or *ghugri*. It is commonly found in long strips in jungle, where a *nala* has been dammed, or below an *ahar* or in any other position in which it receives from drainage considerably more moisture than is given by the surface rainfall. The kind of rice most commonly found on it are *chandragahi*, *ras*, *tilewar*, *jonga*, *karka*, and *lochi*. (c) *Third class land* is commonly known as *bad*: other names found are *tarkha*, *sathiar*, *tarkhet* and *badhian*. This class covers from two-thirds to three-quarters of rice land. While *gahera* and *singha* are depressions, such as *nalas* converted into rice fields, *bad* is the ordinary undulating *tanr* land terraced and surrounded with "*ails*" to retain the surface moisture a little longer than the *tanr* lands. The kinds of rice grown on it are *sathi*, *karhani*, *dighi*, *badras*, *ranji*. The ordinary time of harvesting is for 1st class the latter part of *Agham*; 2nd class, end of *Kartik* and beginning of *Agham*, 3rd class, *Asin* or *Kartik*. The date of harvesting this year cannot be made a criterion of classification as some third class lands were harvested as late as *Agham* on account of the late rainfall. Similarly the kind of rice grown on the land cannot be taken as certain test, as the rice grown on different classes of land is often interchanged. In testing the classification of land an officer will observe the situation of the land, enquire by what name its class is locally known, what kind of rice it is capable of producing and when it is harvested in an ordinary year, and will decide



the class after considering all these points. It will often be found in rice lands newly formed that though the situation and the amount of moisture would justify a description of the land as 1st or 2nd class the quality of the soil is so bad that the crop produced is of very little value; such land will be improved later on into 1st or 2nd class, but must be shown now as third Class. Each circle officer must give all his Inspectors a good working knowledge of the principles of classification by taking them round the fields and demonstrating to them his decision of the different classes and pointing out the distinction. The Inspectors in turn will be responsible for demonstrating the classification to the *amins*. I have already ordered that the classification of each field is to be noted in the *khasra* as well as the *khatian* this year and that the Assistant Settlement Officer at his *khanapuri* inspection shall check a large proportion of field classification in addition to his complete check of particular plots.

3. Upland is divided into three classes;—(1) *Bari* or *Gharbari*. This is the fenced land around the dwelling houses, continually manured and generally growing two crops in the year. Besides the *gharbari* the first class will include land on which sugarcane is commonly grown, this is known as *ketaribari*, or where it is situated near the bed of a river, as *tari*, *kudar* or *pah*. (2) *Maruabari*, *bahirbari*, *bhila*, *chira* are the names commonly used for the second class lands. These lands are generally found contiguous to the *bari* lands and are also manured, though less heavily than the *bari* lands. These lands also frequently bear two crops, such as *marua* followed by *kurthi*, *rahar*, *urid*, *gohum*, *jao*. (3) The third class is known everywhere as *tanr*. It is situated away from the *bari*, and is cultivated in some villages every year, in others according to a cycle of years; the frequency of the cultivation depends largely on the quantity of *tanr* available in the villages. The worst kind of *tanr* is known as *rugari tanr* or *Gurgaria tanr* and is stony land very rarely cultivated at all.

No. 4. The rules for the classification of land which were issued last year and are contained in the circular orders will hold good this year. The following points should however be noted:—(1) Land which is lightly terraced and grows an early crop of rice followed by a good rabi crop will be classed as *Dhankhet II*; such lands are sometimes called *Gondra* and sometimes *Satihar*. (2) Fields which bear two good upland crops but are away from the *bari* and unfenced will be classed as *Tanr II*, corresponding to the *Chirabari* of last year. (3) Fields bearing only an occasional crop of sugarcane every third or fourth year with alternation of other crops, either rice or upland crops, will ordinarily be classed as *second class*. (4) In most parts of the area under survey, only two classes of rice land are distinguished—*Tarkha* or *Bad* and *Gahera*. The latter includes both first and second class; the second class is often known as *Adh-gahera* but the distinction is not always made. Officers must be careful to distinguish first and second class lands among the *Gahera* and not accept as first class all lands so described (i.e., as *Gahera*) by the cultivators.

No. 5. Land Classification in Palamanu. There will be three classes of rice land and three classes of upland in this year's *khanapuri* and the classification will be made in the same way as in recent years in Hazaribagh. The 1st class of rice land is commonly known as *Dohar*, *Garha* or *Jah*. It is almost always situated in the bed of a nala or below an *ahar* or *banah* and the crop is harvested in Aghan. Second class rice land is known as *Chaur*. This land also derives some of its moisture from *ahars* or from its low situation. The rice from it is harvested in Kartik and Aghan. Third class is sometimes included under *Chaur* being of a worse quality than 2nd class *Chaur* and sometimes is called *Surke bad* or *baluahi*. It is higher terraced land which depends for its moisture upon the rainfall over its own surface and derives nothing from springs, nalas, *ahars* or any other source of irrigation. Upland is divided into *Bari* (1st class), *Bhitha* (2nd class), *Tanr* (3rd class). The first two classes are manured, the third class is not. On *Bari* Makai, Sarso, Jau and Gehum are generally grown, on *bhitha*, Marua, Rahar, Boot, Jau, Gehum, Bajra Kudrum and Tisi; on *tanr*, Kodon Kurthi, Sawan, Mijhri and Til, generally one crop in two or three years. This classification does not differ in any essentials from that already described in the *khanapuri* rules.

No. 6. There will be three classes of riceland and three classes of upland in this year's *khanapuri* area and the classification will be made in the same way as in recent years. The first class of rice land is commonly known as *Gaheri*, *Dohar*, *Jah*, *Sot* or *Johe*. It is almost always situated in the bed of a nala or below an *ahar* or *banah* and the crop is harvested in Aghan. These lands are always protected either by natural or artificial irrigation from the effects of sheet or badly distributed rainfall. Second class rice land is known sometimes as *Dohar* and sometimes *Chaur*. It derives some of its moisture from *ahars* or from its low situation. The rice is harvested in Kartik or early Aghan. In a good year some second class lands will produce almost as good a crop as first class lands but they are more affected by the vicissitudes of the rainfall. Third class (Korhan and Gora) land is called *chaur*, of an inferior quality to second class *chaur* land, *uchath*, *uperawar*, *Serhihari* or *Satihar*. This is higher terraced land and depends for its moisture largely upon rainfall, over its own surface; but derives a little from other sources of irrigation. It is reported that rainfall is so short in the present year's area that no rice can be grown in an average year with the help of surface rainfall only. Upland is divided into *Bihari* or *Kola* (1st class), *Bhitha* (2nd class), *Tanr* or *Tikar* (3rd class). The first two classes are manured and generally grow two crops a year, the third class produces either one inferior crop every year or only a crop in a cycle of years. On *bari* Makai, Sarso, Jau, and Gehum are generally grown. In this class good *dub-lands*, river-side lands which are fertilized by alluvial deposits from a river and grow a good rabi crop without the aid of manure, and sugar-cane lands should generally be included. Sugarcane is, however, sometimes grown on second class rice land and also on second class upland. On *Bhitha* the following area grown: Marua, Rahar, Sawan,

Jau, Bunt, Gehum, Bajra and Kudrum and on *tikar*, Kodo, Kurthi, Sawan, Minjri, Rahar and Til. It should be noted that owing to heavy rain late in the season there is a larger amount of moisture present in the soil this year than in a normal year. In making the classification officers must consider the circumstances for a normal or average year or series of years, and must be careful not to be misled by the exceptional conditions prevailing this year into classifying lands too high.

No. 7. Last year's classification circular will be generally followed. First class land is fully protected by artificial or natural means and does not vary much with the vicissitudes of the season. It is reaped in Aghan and produces first class rice such as srikamal, samjira, komod, basmati, prasad bhog. It sometimes also produces worse kinds of which Gajpati is a type but these kinds are also found in 2nd class lands. It is called *jah*, *gahera*, *set*, etc. Second class land is partially protected, but varies with the season. The present season is reported to be very favourable and 2nd class land will sometimes attain this year the standard of first class. It is reaped generally in Aghan. (N. B.—Aghan commenced this year 10 days earlier than last year). It is called *dohar*, *doem kiari* and sometimes *chaur* and *gahera* and produces inferior *Jarhan* rice. The third class receives enough protection to enable it to produce rice but not to protect it from the vicissitudes of the season or to grow the slow-ripening paddies. It is, therefore, confined to the *korhan* varieties, but includes also *sati*, *seri*, *bakar* and other *gora* rice which receive no protection at all and are grown during the early rains. It generally is reaped in Asin and Kartik. It is called *chaur*, *uparwar*, *Serhi bari*, etc., Normal outturn is always the true criterion of classification and the tests enumerated above are intended to be indications to be used in estimating normal outturns. The size, depth, and catchment area of *ahars* should always be carefully observed as well as the number of *Bhaos* and *Kanwas* or other means of irrigation with which they are provided. Flat stretches of rice land scantily irrigated by shallow *ahars*, and having small *ails* will be sometimes included in the 3rd class. The normal outturns estimated for each class of land in the areas hitherto finished are as follows :—

I	DHAN KHET.	III
20 to 30 maunds.	12 to 20 maunds.	1 to 12 maunds.

There is nothing to be added concerning uplands.



## APPENDIX O.

*The original correspondence regarding the necessity for a record-of-rights in Palamau, together with a Memorial by the Landlords against the proposal and the letters arising from it.*

No. 414-R., dated Ranchi, the 5th May 1911.

From—H. J. McINTOSH, Esq., I.C.S., Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division,  
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

I have the honour to refer to my letter No. 582-L.-R., dated the 19th June 1909,

1. A memorial, in original, addressed to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor by certain zamindars and jagirdars of the Palamau district.

2. A copy of a letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Palamau, No. 1737, dated the 23th February 1911.

3. A memorandum, dated the 30th March 1911, by the Settlement Officer of Chota Nagpur, on the proposed extension of survey and settlement proceedings to the district of Palamau.

to the address of the Board of Revenue, on the subject of the operations of the Settlement Department in Chota Nagpur, and to submit for the consideration and orders of Government the papers noted

in the margin.

2. When the Lieutenant-Governor visited Daltonganj last January, certain zamindars, who were accorded interviews by His Honour expressed strong objections to the survey and settlement operations being extended to the Palamau district. His Honour therefore desired that the matter should be re-examined. This has now been done. The late Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Streatfeild) is opposed to the extension of the operations of the Department in Palamau and he has suggested that all proceedings should be held in abeyance for a period of at least ten years. The arguments adduced by Mr. Streatfeild in support of his proposal have been examined by the Settlement Officer, Mr. Sifton, in a very able and exhaustive note.

3. A strong case for the early inception of operations in Palamau was made out by Messrs. Lyall and Hignell, two officers who had long and intimate knowledge of the district and its requirements. The views expressed by these officers were communicated to Government with my letter No. 582-L.-R., dated the 19th June 1909, and in paragraph 5 of that letter I supported their recommendations, and summarized under six heads the chief reasons which led me to do so.

4. I am of opinion that there is nothing in the memorial of the zamindars or in Mr. Streatfeild's letter to cause me to modify the views I have already expressed. On the contrary, I am of opinion that the case for a survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights is materially strengthened by these two documents. The memorial and Mr. Streatfeild's letter may be taken as the strongest possible case that can be made out against the settlement, but in my judgment their case is completely demolished by Mr. Sifton's clear and forcible note. Mr. Sifton leaves no point without dealing fully with it, and after he leaves it there is very little to be said. The position now is that two District Officers, having exceptionally intimate knowledge of the district, neither of whom would be predisposed naturally to favour the Settlement Department, have pressed strongly for the early preparation of a record-of-rights, while a third District Officer with the advantage of having before him the matured views of his predecessors has taken a different line and has remonstrated against the settlement operations, with the result that his arguments have been completely demolished when examined dispassionately by the Settlement Officer.

5. I am clearly of opinion that, for the reasons already given by me in my letter of the 19th June 1909, a survey and record-of-rights should be made in Palamau. The reasons given by me have now been carefully elaborated by Mr. Sifton in the light of the criticism to which they have been subjected. I do not propose to go over the whole ground again, and I consider it sufficient to say that I entirely endorse everything that Mr. Sifton has said. I am of opinion that, in a district like Palamau where there is a large Government estate which is now due for re-settlement and which is a standing example not only of the possibility of making a survey and record-of-rights but also of the benefits that accrue from such proceedings and where elsewhere there is a total absence of anything like an authoritative record, the preparation of a record-of-rights is an imperative necessity. My sympathies are with Mr. Streatfeild, when he seeks to avoid any interference with the satisfactory relations which he believes to exist between landlords and tenants, but I cannot help thinking he has greatly exaggerated this part of his case. No doubt there are good landlords in Palamau as elsewhere, and many of them too. But when we remember that over an area comprising about one-fifth of the district, the landlords are so incapable of managing their estates and affairs that they have to be afforded the protection of the Encumbered Estates Act and are thus disqualified from managing their estates and conducting any relations at all with their tenants, and that elsewhere any rights of the tenants are either unknown or are practically ignored, it is surely quite out of the question to assume that the relations between landlords and tenants are really satisfactory. In my opinion they are, and must be, exactly the reverse in such circumstances.

6. Stress has been laid on the fact that in some parts of the district the system of cultivation is shifting. This is a system which is not unknown in other parts of Chota Nagpur, and it has been dealt with successfully by the Settlement Department. I agree with Mr. Sifton that, for the reasons given in paragraphs 4, 13 and 14 of his note, the known existence of this system is no valid objection to the preparation of a record-of-rights.

7. Lastly, the question of cost has been dealt with in paragraph 16 of Mr. Sifton's note. I am not in a position to verify the *data* he has given, and assuming they are correct, (as doubtless they are), I see no reason to suppose that the cost will be prohibitive or out of proportion to the benefits which we may confidently expect to accrue. I would however, certainly recommend that, as in the case of the Ranchi district, the Government of Bengal should be authorized to grant remissions up to a limit of 10 per cent of the total sums recoverable.

8. In this view, I strongly advocate the early inception of operations in Palamau. I consider this to be an urgent administrative necessity, and I am unable to support any proposals for postponement. The people have now known for some time that the preparation of record-of-rights is imminent and they have prepared for it. The sooner then the task is grappled, the better it will be. Delay or postponement will only serve to prolong the discussion, to render the task of the Settlement Officers more difficult and to keep open the door for the fabrication of evidence by unscrupulous landlords. I had until lately considered that the remaining portion of Manbhum was in more urgent need of a record-of-rights than the Palamau district, but I am no longer sure that I was right in so thinking, and I now definitely recommend that the programme of the Settlement Department be allowed to stand, and that Palamau should take priority over Manbhum as already contemplated in the programme.

To—His Honour Sir EDWARD NORMAN BAKER, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

The humble memorial of certain  
Zamindars and Jagirdars of the  
Palamau district.

We, the undersigned zamindars and jagirdars of the Palamau district, beg most respectfully to approach Your Honour with this our humble memorial and hope that it will receive kind attention and a favourable consideration at Your Honour's hands.

1. That in some of the districts of Chota Nagpur, cadastral survey operations are going on, and it is expected that after the survey operation is finished in the district in which it has at present been taken up, it will be taken up in this district.

2. That this district being for the most part jungly and waste and the population being poor, a survey operation which is necessarily very expensive would entail great hardship on the poor tenants.

3. That the physical characteristics of the lands and the general features and circumstances of the tenancies of this district differ widely from those of the Bengal, Bihar and Lohardaga districts, and therefore the advantages calculated to arise from survey and preparation of record-of-rights in other districts would not accrue to this district; on the other hand it would give rise to endless litigation between landlords and tenants.

4. That the lands of this district, especially of pargana Palamau, are for the most part jungly waste and unproductive, as a rule, even the small areas of lands that are brought under cultivation in any particular year have to be left fallow for a number of years to render them fit for growing even crops like *maka*, *sarso* and *til* in subsequent years.

5. That under the circumstances stated above, it will be of no use to the tenant to have a record-of-rights prepared for lands which he cannot use for cultivation every year. On the other hand, the landlord would be very much handicapped in bringing these lands to his own use or in settling them with other persons on account of the entry of the tenant's name in respect thereof.

6. That in the jungly villages of the pargana Palamau, the people of a number of neighbouring villages keep their cattle together for grazing for a number of months. The particular place where the cattle are herded is rendered fit for cultivation by the cowdung manure which accumulates during the year the cattle are kept. But as soon as the manure is exhausted, the lands become altogether unfit for cultivation and is given up by the tenants. To prepare a record-of-rights of such lands at a tremendous cost would be ruinous both to the landlord and the tenant as it would not produce commensurate benefit either to the one or to the other.

7. That unlike the districts of Bengal and Bihar Provinces, litigation between landlord and tenant is very rare in this district. Therefore Your Honour's humble memorialists most respectfully venture to submit that the necessity of survey operations and preparation of record-of-rights so urgently needed in other districts for safeguarding the interests of the tenantry, does not at all exist here.

8. That the soil of this district especially of pargana Palamau, being mostly hilly and generally of undulating nature, the labour and costs required in preparing *kharias* (paddy lands) is so great that the poor tenants can hardly afford to prepare them. Your Honour's humble memorialists respectfully beg to submit that the small areas of paddy lands found

in the district have mostly been prepared by the zamindars at their own cost and there are very few tenants in the district who have been holding the same lands from generations to generations. The memorialists therefore respectfully venture to submit that the starting of survey operations in this district would be detrimental to the interests of the zamindars and the tenants alike.

9. That the vast majority of the tenants of this district being of the aboriginal tribe are not sufficiently intelligent to understand their rights. The advantage likely to accrue from the preparation of record-of-rights in the most advanced districts of Bengal and Bihar would not therefore be reaped to any appreciable extent by the tenants of this backward district.

10. That Your Honour's memorialists further venture to submit that considering the backward state of this district and the general features of its lands, all the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers (before Palamau was raised to the status of a district) that have come here from time to time have unanimously agreed in sharing the view that survey operations are not at all necessary in Palamau.

For the above reasons as well as for other reasons too numerous to enumerate, Your Honour's humble memorialists most humbly and respectfully venture to approach Your Honour with this their humble memorial in the hope that in consideration of the backwardness of the district as well as the variable nature of the tenancies and the physical drawbacks of the soil of the district, Your Honour will be most graciously pleased to pass orders for the exemption of the pargana Palamau at least, if not the whole district, from the operation of the cadastral survey.

And for this act of kindness, Your Honour's humble memorialists shall, as in duty bound ever pray.

No. 1737, dated Daltonganj, the 25th February 1911.

From—H. C. STREETFIELD, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner of Palamau,

To—The Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division, Ranchi.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the subject of a survey and settlement of this district.

2. The question has already been reported on shortly by Mr. Lyall in his letter No. 1190-R, dated the 27th March 1906, and at length by Mr. Hignell, in his note, dated the 21st May 1909. Both these officers were in favour of an early extension of the survey and settlement proceedings to this district and I differ from them with great hesitation.

3. I do not for a moment deny the theoretical advantages of a permanent and authentic record-of-rights. I also agree with Mr. Lyall and Mr. Hignell that, as regards pargana Tori, and Tappah Chechari, such a record would be practically useful, and I think the same applies to pargana Japla which came over from Gaya in 1872, and is more settled than other parts of the district. The fact that in certain areas a survey and record-of-rights is called for does not, however, in my opinion, afford any justification for inflicting on the whole district a burden heavier than it can bear. Piecemeal proceedings are, I take it, out of the question on the ground of inconvenience and expense, and I would not recommend them.

4. While I am not prepared to dispute the accuracy of the picture which Mr. Hignell has drawn of the exactions of landlords, I am personally of opinion that the actual effect of such exactions on the comfort and prosperity of the tenants is not really serious. The Untari estate has always been held up as the leading example of landlord's oppression. I have recently camped through that estate, and I can say that there is no sign of poverty among the tenants. In no part of the district has so much been done to extend cultivation and to bring in cultivators by the building of irrigation works on the soundest principles and almost regardless of expense, and the standard of cultivation is throughout the estate exceedingly high. The tenantry seem prosperous and contented and as the proprietor has let most of his villages out in *thica* on registered leases, and as most of the exactions complained of are made from the *thicadars* and not from the cultivators, it is difficult to see how a survey and record-of-rights would help matters.

5. Mr. Hignell had dwelt on the advantages of security in the tenant's tenure. Would he get such security from a record-of-rights? I very much doubt it. The zamindars would oppose any claims to occupancy rights, the cultivators would very rarely think it worth their while to try and prove such rights, and, thanks to the prevalence of such vague agrarian systems as the *pariadari* and *ultakari*, where a tenant pays rent not for a definite plot of land which he cultivates permanently, but for the area which he happens to cultivate in each particular year, they would have great difficulty in proving such rights even were they to claim them.

6. Mr. Hignell also dwells on the importance of defining tenant's rights in trees, jungle produce generally, fisheries, grazing grounds, and sources of irrigation. In these respects, except as regards *mahua* trees, I have hesitation in saying that tenants could prove no rights at all. As regards lac, even in the Government villages, we claim absolute rights to make annual settlements of lac-bearing trees at our discretion and no zamindar would admit and no tenant could prove any permanent right in them in any of the estates of this district. Even as regards *mahua* trees which are usually allotted with tenant's holdings, whatever the system in force, I doubt if one tenant in fifty could establish any permanent right to any particular tree in face of his landlord's opposition; and there is no doubt whatever that the landlords would oppose, tooth and nail, all such claims on the part of the tenants, were the matter under decision in a Settlement Court, although they now tacitly allow the tenants rights.

7. It cannot be too strongly insisted on that in this district, unlike Ranchi, it is the zamindars and not the cultivators who have made the villages. Mr. Hignell has written:— "In many parts it would be impossible to find a single tenant who has converted a bigha of waste land into *kiari* or paddy land. All the *kiaries* are made by the landlord". This is a correct statement of the case. The landlords have made the villages, made the reservoirs, and made the *kiaris*. The tenants have been given such lands and such privileges as regards forest produce, etc., as will induce them to settle and remain in the villages. They are, moreover, a floating population at the best. Mr. Hignell wrote on this point—"In many parts of the district there is a competition for tenants, while landlords of villages adjoining the Government estate know that, if their oppression be more than the raiyats can bear, they will desert to a Government village. At the same time there exists amongst the tenants a natural disinclination to leave the villages where they have settled, which results in their enduring oppressions, which to others would seem intolerable. I have found myself that the "natural disinclination" alluded to is remarkably faint in this district. Even Government tenants, with profitable holdings, leave them constantly and go off to Sarguja or elsewhere for such reasons as ill-health, or a death in the family, without apparently either hesitation or regret. In this connection, I invite attention to paragraph 94 of Mr. Sunder's report on the Survey and Settlement of the Palamau Government Estate, 1894-97, here he writes "The raiyats of Palamau are always shifting, especially in the southern tappa, where they care little for their lands. Trifles persuade them to leave lands even where occupancy rights have already been acquired, and go to fresh fields. Sickness or failure of crops for two or three years, domestic quarrels, or frivolous disputes and misunderstanding with other raiyats, suffice to abandon holdings and move off either to tea districts in Assam and the Durs, or to Sarguja or other suitable lands in Palamau." My own experience coincides with that of Mr. Sunder rather than with Mr. Hignell's. It is obviously not worth while to upset the whole district for the purpose of recording permanent rights for a population which does not value them, and will not stick to them when it has got them.

8. In the penultimate section of his note Mr. Hignell has elaborated the point that the paternal form of administration is out of date, and that the introduction of the elaborate tenant and landlord law embodied in the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act has rendered it imperative to instil into the raiyats some knowledge of their rights. To this I would reply that the Kherwar, Chero, Bhuiya, Korwa, Rajwar, and Kisan tenants of the jungle parts of the district, with which alone I am concerned and which form full 3/4ths of its total area, are at present incapable of assimilating anything but a paternal form of administration, whether in the management of an estate or the Government of a district. They are incapable of asserting their rights under the Tenancy Act, and are equally incompetent to prove their rights before a Settlement Officer. On the other hand, they are obstinate and wrong-headed enough to ruin themselves over absolutely untenable claims once they are stirred up to quarrel with their landlords. At present they do what they are told, pay what they are told, abscond when they like, and are reasonably comfortable and happy. If the settlement comes along they will either do exactly what the landlord's *amla* tells them, or they will quarrel with their landlords. In the latter case they will, six times out of seven, be ruined altogether and have to quit; in the former they are likely to find the maximum of their present fluctuating rent recorded as a fixed annual demand, and will in addition have to pay the *abwabs* demanded by their landlords from time to time if they wish for a quiet life.

9. In view of the above considerations I am very strongly of opinion that as regards the greater part of this district a survey and record-of-rights is at the present time, not likely to be of any real practical value from the point of view of protecting the interests of the tenants. The zamindars are, of course, against it to a man. I enclose a petition which they have filed before me on the subject for submission to Government. I have nothing to go on in the way of experience in other districts, even the Ranchi final report not being published as yet. My suggestion is that the survey and settlement of this district should be postponed until full experience has been obtained of the practical effects of the proceedings in the jungly tracts of Hazaribagh, the conditions in parts of which must be similar to those of this district, though probably considerably less backward. That is to say, I would defer all proceedings as regards this district for at least ten years from the present time.

10. It remains to consider the question of cost, a matter which neither Mr. Lyall nor Mr. Hignell has dealt with. In the absence of final figures for any of the districts of this Division, it is difficult to form any estimate of what this is likely to be for the whole district. I find, however, that Mr. Sunder's survey and settlement of the Government villages of this district cost about Rs. 1,20,000, the rental of the villages being about Rs. 75,000. Only the cultivated areas were cadastrally surveyed at the time, the jungles and waste being merely traversed. Considering that the Government estates are decidedly more opened up than the Ranka, Chainpur, Untari and other more jungly estates of this district, I think it is fair to assume that the cost of survey and settlement will be heavier per rupee of income in the latter than in the former, and two years' income is probably not an excessive estimate of such cost to the zamindars. The zamindars are all agreed that, whatever apportionment of the cost of the proceedings may be made by Government, the tenants are, in fact, unable to bear any of it and it must eventually fall entirely on themselves. There is no estate in the district, except perhaps Untari, which could stand such a charge without a great strain on its resources, necessary in feltdness, and possible ruin, especially when the inevitable incidental expenses of supervision, legal proceedings, and so on, are taken into consideration, and there is this point to

be considered that the more considerate and scrupulous the landlord the more he stands to lose and the less he stands to gain by the settlement proceedings. As for the 42 encumbered estates the advantages which Mr. Hignell foresaw from a survey may be real enough, but meanwhile, they are nearly all in arrears as regards the scheme arrangements for the payment of their debts, and I have no hesitation in saying that the cost of survey and settlement proceedings, added to the necessary incidental costs of fighting for their interests throughout the proceedings, would land the majority of them in absolute insolvency. Nor is it possible to ignore the unrecorded cost to the people of survey and settlement. I find in the record a private letter from a Missionary, supporting the proposal on general grounds, but saying "The settlement survey is a bitter remedy. I submit 30 grains of quinine slowly masticated is honey to it. The amins and their inspectors are like a flight of locusts let loose into the country. Fowls disappear in their wake. Postmasters could tell you how many thousands of rupees worth of money orders go off during the settlement-survey. Well, we must try our best to mitigate the evil, and bear it as one would bear the Surgeon's knife." These are strong words, but we all know that they are justified by the facts. Already raiyats in the Chainpur estates are, so the Raja tells me, declaring their intention to abscond rather than bear the trouble and trials of the settlement proceedings.

11. I plead, therefore, most earnestly that the district may be delivered from the proceedings which, except in certain areas, will do no good to the tenants, which even if they were likely to be useful the district cannot afford, which will utterly and for ever disturb the existing satisfactory relations between landlord and tenant (and I submit they are satisfactory on the whole, though perhaps not in accordance with the official ideal of agrarian conditions), and will spell something very like ruin to the zamindars and jagirdars of the district, who, though their methods may not be those of the Tenancy Act, form, I contend, the finest, most loyal, and most amenable body of landholders to be found in the province.

MEMORANDUM BY MR. J. D. SIFTON ON THE EXTENSION OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT PROCEEDINGS TO PALAMAU DISTRICT.

(1) it is unnecessary for me to discuss again the general question of the utility of Settlement in Chota Nagpur. This question was fully thrashed out two years ago in the Commissioner's No. 582-L. R., dated the 19th June 1909, which was dealt with by Government in consultation with the Board of Revenue. Paragraph 5 of that letter contains a summary of the reasons which in the opinion of the Commissioner made a continuation of the Settlement operations imperative. I would only reiterate one point which is brought out in paragraph 14 of Mr. Reid's note of 26th May, 1909. Government has by its Tenancy legislation refused to the landlord the right of making enhancements of rent by private contract. It is impossible for the Deputy Commissioner to settle rents efficiently because he has not got the necessary data for a sound decision and could only obtain them at a prohibitive cost and Government is consequently committed to the policy of Settlement throughout Chota Nagpur.

(2) I take it that the general utility of Settlement operations is a settled fact and I am only required to discuss the particular circumstances of the Palamau district. In this matter I must write with considerable diffidence having no personal knowledge of the district. My ideas have been formed upon the information contained in the District Gazetteer, Mr. Sunder's report of the Settlement of the Government Estates, and the memoranda of three Deputy Commissioners—Messrs. Lyall, Hignell and Streatfeild—upon the necessity of otherwise of Settlement operations in the district. The two first named both of whom had a long and intimate experience of the district, have pressed strongly for the early preparation of a record-of-rights while Mr. Streatfeild after spending a few months in the district is strongly opposed to Settlement operations there. *Prima facie* considerably greater weight must be attached to the opinions of Messrs. Lyall and Hignell upon the agrarian conditions prevailing, and Mr. Streatfeild's letter suggests that his friendly feelings towards the landlords have led him to adopt an attitude of strong opposition to the Settlement which he supposes would injure to some extent their interests. I shall however, discuss later the points raised by him.

(3) Mr. Hignell in his memorandum of 21st May 1909 has given a detailed description of the agrarian evils and difficulties, the accuracy of which Mr. Streatfeild does not dispute. He points out the difficulties of administration in a district without proper maps: Tori Pargana which is of growing importance on account of the development of the coal-fields has never been surveyed at all: this pargana covers an area of 664 square miles. Two other parganas were surveyed nearly 70 years ago and the rest of the district was surveyed between 1863 and 1869. I understand Mr. Hignell to refer to a village boundary survey only: there has been no cadastral survey except in the Government Estates. It is clear that an authoritative demarcation of village boundaries in Tori Pargana is urgently necessary: in a few years every inch of land within the coalfield of which the title may be doubtful will be hotly disputed, and the consequent litigation will be most harassing and costly. The maps of the remainder of the district are by this time quite out of date. In a jungle area large numbers of new villages will have been founded in the last sixty years by reclamation from jungle and the existing maps will be not only incomplete but also misleading. I would point out that Government is very intimately concerned in the matter of the preparation of village maps and land records because in roughly one-half of the entire district Government stands in the shoes of the zamindars, I mean, in respect of the Reserved Forests, Khas malgals, and Encumbered



Estates. The immediate as well as the ultimate advantages of a Survey and Settlement in Encumbered Estates has been proved so completely in Ranchi as to need no further argument.

(4) The absence of maps is accompanied by a complicated system of raiyati land-tenure. Rents are assessed on the *pariadari* standard, the *paria* being made up of an undeterminate quantity of land of various classes and varying almost from village to village. The same system was prevalent in Ranchi where holdings were described in terms of annas, *pamas*, *kanwas*, etc. It was found impossible for the Courts in Ranchi to decide what was the meaning or extent of such a unit and whether any particular holding consisted of two or three *pawas*. The same holding would be described by a landlord as three *pawas* and by a tenant as one *pawa*, and a Rent Court could never come to any safe or satisfactory decision on such an issue. The use of an indefinite rent unit in Ranchi was a most fruitful source of hardship both for landlords and tenants. It made the decisions of the Civil and Rent Courts more or less of a *gamble*, the result depending upon the hard swearing of witnesses, the shrewdness of Pleaders and the inclination of the Court: and there can be no doubt that the Palamau Courts are in the same impossible position as the Courts at Ranchi. The introduction of an acre or bigha standard of measurement is one of the first essentials of any adequate land administration.

(5) Mr. Hignell also describes other evils as patent in the district—the insecurity of the raiyats' tenure, the oppressive character of the landlords, the levy of illegal *abwabs*, the evils of the *thikadari*, or farming system, the absence of an authoritative record of the customary rights of tenants in respect of trees, jungle produce, grazing grounds and sources of irrigation, and the indefinite nature of all land settlements. I find confirmation of most of Mr. Hignell's descriptions in Mr. Sunder's report on the Settlement of the Government estate of Palamau.

(6) Insecurity of raiyati tenures must always be a grave obstacle in the way of the agricultural development of a district, and I think it can be proved that this has been true in Palamau. Mr. Sunder in paragraph 309 of his report makes the following statement: "Raiyats of Government villages have a fixity of tenure unknown to raiyats holding under other landlords: they are the only raiyats in the district who have obtained occupancy rights". Mr. Streatfeild in paragraph 5 of his letter states: "The Zamindars would oppose any claims to occupancy rights, and the cultivators would very rarely think it worth their while to try to prove such rights, and thanks to the prevalence of such vague agrarian systems as the *pariadari* and *uttakari* they would have great difficulty in proving such rights even were they to claim them." After this I am not surprised to find that in Palamau it is the zamindars and not the cultivators who have made the villages: and in many parts it would be impossible to find a single tenant who has converted a bigha of waste land into *khari* or paddy land. Cause and effect are seen here together: No raiyat until he is secure of his tenancy will spend his time, labour and money on reclamation. Palamau contains 1,25,000 Mundas, Uraons and Bhuias and men of these castes are throughout the other districts of Chota Nagpur the pioneers of jungle reclamation. I can assert with confidence that nothing except insecurity of tenure would have hindered these men from settling down to reclaim jungle into rice-land, and that if they obtain the security of tenure which is legally theirs, the agricultural development of the district will be rapidly advanced. I am dealing elsewhere with the doubt expressed by Mr. Streatfeild whether the record-of-rights would ensure such security: but here I must lay stress upon the terrible position of the raiyats who whatever their legal rights may be, have in practice, according to Mr. Sunder and Mr. Streatfeild, no right of occupancy in their holdings. This means that they are ejectible at the will of the landlord, that they are liable to be rack-rented up to the limit of endurance; they must do what they are told and pay what they are told, and if they fall foul of their landlords their holdings will be forfeited. In practice it appears that the competition for tenants puts some limitation on the arbitrary conduct of the landlords, but the fact remains that any individual raiyat is absolutely at the mercy of his landlord in regard to the continuance in his tenancy. This is a condition of things which cannot be removed in respect of an illiterate population by the passing of a Tenancy Act nor by any means except the preparation of a record-of-rights.

(7) The levy of illegal *abwabs* is said by Mr. Hignell to constitute probably the greatest form of oppression in the district, and this is an oppression which Government has repeatedly attacked since the time of the Permanent Settlement. The system of *abwabs* and *begari* of Ranchi was a terrible curse in the villages of a bad landlord and it appears to be the same in Palamau. Mr. Streatfeild says that the actual effect of these exactions on the comfort and prosperity of the tenants is not really serious. At present the tenants do what they are told, pay what they are told, abscond when they like, and are reasonably comfortable and happy. I doubt if Mr. Streatfeild could have taken such a cynical view if he had been really intimate with his subject. The phrase "abscond when they like" is probably an euphemism in many cases for "abscond when driven to desperation". The author of the Gazetteer writes on pages 134-135: "To the south there is dissatisfaction in some cases with the predial services and *begari* (unpaid labour) which the villagers are bound to give by customary obligation. An unscrupulous zamindar instead of confining his demands to one plough for one day may press into his service as many ploughs as a raiyat owns for two or three days together or at the time of transplantation or harvesting he may force the villagers to work not for one day but until the transplantation or harvesting of his own crops is complete before allowing them to turn to their own fields. All these are critical periods in the agricultural year when



the neglect of their own fields may entail great loss to the raiyats. The discontent which may be caused by such abuse of the system is obvious." Of this system as carried on in Ranchi, Father Cardon wrote in a letter published as an appendix to Mr. Reid's memorandum on the Chota Nagpur Settlement: "*Bethbegari* has been done away with and those who have seen the amount of misery this *bethbegari* was causing to the people can realize what a boon its suppression must be."

(8) Mr. Hignell points out that in a large proportion of the villages the *thikadari* or farming system is in vogue, and that a *thikadar* will screw the uttermost farthing out of the tenantry during the period of his lease. I have found in Hazaribagh that where this system prevails, each successive *thikadar* is in the habit of enhancing the rents all round on the commencement of his lease, so that the system introduces a cumulative form of oppression. In Palamau even in the Government Estates villages where the *thikadars* were under some sort of restraint in their dealings with the tenants, they succeeded in raising the rental from Rs. 40,842 to Rs. 57,693 in the 25 years' interval between Mr. Forbes's Settlement and that of Mr. Sunder. It is obvious that the only amelioration possible for this system lies in an authoritative definition of the rights and obligations of the raiyats.

(9) Lastly, Mr. Hignell refers to the necessity of an authoritative record of the customary rights of tenants. This was a burning question in Ranchi before the settlement was made. Any one who is familiar with the agrarian agitation in Ranchi will know that the disregard of their customary rights by the Ranchi courts was probably felt by the aborigines as their deepest grievance. The fact is that no raiyat or body of raiyats is capable of producing proof of their rights to satisfy the standard of evidence required in a Civil or Criminal Court. Such evidence can only be acquired by special inquiries made by a competent officer throughout a large area such as an entire pargana. The evidence is not direct but indirect and cumulative. Such a record, as Mr. Hignell assumes to be necessary, could only be made by the Settlement Department. Mr. Streatfeild's view that each landlord has given such privileges as regards forest produce, etc.; as will induce tenants to settle and remain in the villages is certainly untenable in regard to the other districts of Chota Nagpur.

(10) Mr. Lyall and Mr. Hignell were of opinion that not only was a record-of-rights necessary for Palamau but that it was urgently necessary. Both officers found that the more unscrupulous zamindars were steadily building up by means of false rent receipts evidence to support a largely enhanced rent-roll. Mr. Hignell also mentions a zamindar who was substituting produce rents for cash rents and was ejecting raiyats from the best lands in order to convert them into his own *zirat*.

(11) Mr. Streatfeild is opposed to the Settlement of Palamau on the following grounds:— (1) that settlement will not stop the exactions of the landlords (paragraph 4); (2) that it will not give security of tenure (paragraph 5); (3) that the tenants could prove no customary rights to jungle produce, etc. (paragraph 6); (4) that the population is always shifting and there are no permanent rights to be recorded (paragraph 7); (5) that Settlement will affect the tenants in one of two ways, either they will oppose their landlords and be ruined or they will be complacent and allow the landlords to have an exaggerated rent recorded against them (paragraph 8); (6) that the cost will be ruinous and the corruption of the subordinate settlement staff will be a scourge to the district.

(12) The first ground is not borne out by experience in Ranchi. The commutation of predial conditions has resulted in the cessation of the more oppressive exactions. It is true that settlement alone will not stop the exactions of the landlords but it will enable the district authorities to put into exercise the existing law. Section 63 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act which assigns a penalty on a landlord levying anything in excess of rent lawfully payable or predial conditions in excess of those to which he is lawfully entitled is necessarily a dead letter until there is an authoritative record of rent and predial conditions.

(13) The second ground is that a settlement will not give security of tenure. Mr. Streatfeild writes: "Thanks to the prevalence of such vague agrarian systems as the *pariadari* and *uttakari*, where a tenant pays rent not for a definite plot of land which he cultivates permanently but for the area which he happens to cultivate in each particular year, the tenants would have great difficulty in proving any occupancy rights." The *pariadari* system appears from Mr. Sunder's report to be identical with the system prevalent in Ranchi, where only lowlands are measured for assessment to rent, certain quantities of upland being attached rent free to each unit of lowland. There is nothing vague about this system after a record-of-rights has been made, nor is there any reason why the tenants should not be secure of their privileges. The *uttakari* system must, I think, correspond to the *ulbandi* system of Bengal (it is evidently not what Mr. Sunder calls the *uttakar* system). The *utbandi* tenancies are tenancies held from season to season in which no occupancy rights accrue under the Bengal Tenancy Act except by virtue of 12 years' occupation. But there is nothing in the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act corresponding to section 180(1) of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and a settled raiyat of Chota Nagpur will certainly acquire occupancy rights in such lands under section 19, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. This system called *Utkar* was in force in Hazaribagh in reference to the least valuable uplands in the past, but it is in most parts extinct now. It is certain that the system never applied to lands for wet cultivation in which security of tenure is valuable and should be assured to the tenants.

(14.) The third ground has already been discussed by me in paragraph . The fourth ground is closely connected with the argument of the last paragraph. It is said that the population is always shifting, does not value permanent rights and will not stick to them when it has got them. One zamindar announces that the raiyats in his estate are declaring their intention to abscond

rather than bear the trouble of Settlement proceedings. I would suggest that the shifting habits of the population as well as their failure to develop the land is due to the acknowledged insecurity of tenure. The result of the last two settlements of the Government Estates does not support the theory that the population will abscond at the approach of the Settlement Department. Mr Forbes reported. "Many raiyats have now to pay a higher rent than formerly as a result of the measurement, but from it no dissatisfaction arose as the cultivators always had the option of relinquishing any portion of their excess upland though no instance occurred in which this was done." (Paragraph 296 of Mr. Sunder's report.) While in the year following Mr Sunder's settlement 96 per cent of the rent demand was collected (paragraphs 366, 367) and the small balance unpaid was partially due to raiyats who had gone to the tea gardens of Assam or the Duars. There are in Ranchi some wild tribes that change their homes and shift their cultivation at short intervals. These men are more or less nomadic by instinct. But I find from the census tables of Palamau the castes of Shaikhs, Telis, Rajputs, Banias, Uraons, Mundas, Kurmis, Koiris, Kahars, Gowals, Brahmans, and Babbans comprise more than half of the district population. There are besides numbers of other common Hindu castes and none of these can be said to be shifting by nature and likely to undervalue permanent rights of occupation. I am of opinion that the castes of shifting instincts comprise only a small minority of the total population of the district, and that paragraph 94 of Mr. Sunder's report which is the *locus classicus* on this point contains too broad a generalization drawn from the shy and migratory habits of a few tribes such as Korwas, Kharias and Kherwars.

(15) With regard to the 5th ground I am not concerned to defend settlement from the general charge of bringing not peace but a sword. The charge is levelled against Settlement operations everywhere and derives its strength from the half truth which it contains, and it applies in no special degree to Palamau. I would only point that Mr. Streatfeild's description of the tenants is most appropriate to the Mundas of Ranchi: "They are incapable of asserting their rights under the Tenancy Act, and are equally incompetent to prove their rights before a Settlement Officer: they are obstinate and wrongheaded enough to ruin themselves over absolutely untenable claims once they are stirred up to quarrel with their landlords." Nobody could be more obstinate or more tenacious of impossible claims than the Munda, and nobody could be less competent to prove his rights in a court. But there is no question that the Settlement of this country has established such of their rights as remained intact and has put an end to agrarian discontent except in the case of a few irreconcilables. I would refer to the note of Mr. Inglis, Subdivisional Officer of Khunti (in appendix to Mr. Reid's memorandum) for a description of the effect of Settlement operations upon this type of people.

(16) I pass to the question of cost. In Ranchi the incidence of Settlement cost has been a little more than 5 annas per acre. About half of Ranchi is jungle and waste. I understand that about three-fourths of the area of Palamau is jungle and waste land, and consequently the cost per acre throughout the area is likely to be considerably less than in Ranchi and may I think be fairly estimated at slightly more than 4 annas per acre of which the Government of India will pay one quarter. Mr. Streatfeild based his estimate of the costs upon Mr. Sunder's settlement which cost 7 annas per acre, and he argues that this cost will represent two years' rental. This estimate is about double what may be anticipated, and the total cost to be recovered from the district should not be more than one year's rental, of which half is payable by raiyats and half by landlords, that is to say each party will pay about six months' rental. This, I think, is not an overpowering burden. Mr. Streatfeild goes on to say: "The zamindars are all agreed that whatever apportionment of the cost of the proceedings may be made by Government, the tenants are in fact unable to bear any of it and it must eventually fall entirely on themselves. Mr. Streatfeild makes no comment on this statement, but I believe it to be mere nonsense. It has been found both in Ranchi and Dhalbhum that ninety-five per cent. of the raiyats pay up their share of the costs cheerfully and without compulsion. In the current year every pice of the raiyati share of the Dhalbhum costs has been recovered without issue of a single certificate, a result which testifies strongly to the appreciation of the record-of-rights by the aboriginal tenants of that district. There may be some difficulty in collecting the costs from a few of the wilder tribes as the Kharias and Korwas, but I see no reason to suppose that a very large majority of the tenants will not pay their share as cheerfully as the Ranchi and Dhalbhum raiyats. The question of the ability of the district to bear the costs of settlement was raised in Ranchi and the Government of India, regarding the work as an administrative necessity, authorized the Bengal Government to grant remission up to a limit of 10 per cent. of the total sums recoverable and agreed that any loss sustained under this head should be borne by Imperial Revenue. If the same concession were granted in the case of Palamau, I am convinced that it would cover any deficit in the collections which may be reasonably anticipated.

(17) I come last to the question of the postponement of the Palamau settlement until after Manbhum has been completed. I have already referred to the views of Mr. Hignell and Mr. Lyall that the need for a record-of-rights is urgent. I may also remark that the Settlement of the Government Estates has already expired, and if the general settlement of the district is to be postponed a separate settlement of the Government villages will apparently be necessary at once. But I would urge most strongly that if the settlement of Palamau is to be made at all, it should be made in continuation of the Hazaribagh settlement as at present arranged. We have at present a highly trained and efficient Hindistaff which has been gradually collected and improved since the inception of the work in Ranchi. This staff

has become from year to year more efficient and more economical. If the settlement of Manbhum is given priority over Palamau, there will be a gap in the continuity of the Hindi work and the whole of this staff will have to be disbanded. When after completing Manbhum we take up the settlement of Palamau, the work of collecting and training a Hindi staff will begin again *de novo* and I have no hesitation in stating that this will add twenty or twenty-five per cent to the cost of the operations and at the same time detract from their efficiency. I make this statement from experience gathered in the Dhalbhum settlement for which a new Bengali staff had to be collected and trained. There, although the relative proportions of jungle to cultivation was two to one as contrasted with the equal proportions in Ranchi, the cost rates were more than one anna per acre heavier than the Ranchi rates and the work was done by the new staff less efficiently. Such a dislocation of the work is greatly to be deprecated.

(18) In conclusion I would urge one point: when the settlement of the other districts of Chota Nagpur has been undertaken, it has usually been found too late to effect its full purpose. The stable door is being locked after most of the stalls are emptied. Only a remnant of the rights of the Mundas could be preserved in Ranchi: in Barahabhum the Zamindary Company had already absorbed the greater part of the ghatwals' ancestral lands. Mr. Hignell reports that the more unscrupulous Zamindars are already building up evidence to support false claims against their tenants: taken in time, the fabric can be easily demolished: but if the settlement of the district be postponed for ten years as Mr. Stratfield proposes, it may subsequently be found that the settlement has come too late.

Ranchi :  
The 30th March 1911.

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J. D. SIFTON,

Settlement Officer of Chota Nagpur Division.

No. 582-L.R., dated Ranchi, the 10th June 1909.

From—H. J. McINTOSH, Esq., I.C.S., Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division,

To—The Secretary to the Board of Revenue, L. P., Land Revenue Department.

I have the honour to submit, for the consideration of the Board and the orders of Government, a copy of a letter No. 404, dated the 28th May 1909, from Mr. J. Reid, the Settlement Officer of Chota Nagpur, together with its enclosures, being notes on settlement operations in this Division. When the Lieutenant-Governor visited Ranchi last April, he directed the Settlement Officer to prepare the notes in question and to submit them for the orders of Government through the Commissioner and the Board. The Lieutenant-Governor's intention was, I understand, that the local officers should once more examine the programme of settlement operations in this Division and subject it to scrutiny with a view to a determination of (1) the necessity for proceeding with the accepted programme, and (2) the rate at which such programme should be proceeded with. The district of Ranchi, however, was to be exempted from this scrutiny. Operations in this district have already reached such a stage that no question arises either of abandoning the programme or of modifying it. The present programme contemplates settlement operations in the Barahabhum and Patkum parganas of the Manbhum district, and in the whole of the Hazaribagh and Palamau districts. But in Barahabhum also there is no question either of abandoning or of modifying the programme. The necessity for the operations there is fully accepted. This report, therefore, deals only with pargana Patkum in Manbhum and the districts of Hazaribagh and Palamau.

2. *Palamau*.—The case for Palamau is set forth in Mr. Lyall's letter No. 1190-R., dated the 29th March 1906, written a few days before he left the district on transfer after holding charge for a period of five years, and in a note, dated the 21st May 1909, by Mr. Hignell the present Deputy Commissioner, copies of which I forward. Though relations between landlord and tenant are unsatisfactory in some estates in this district, notably in the Untari and Chhechhari estates, no agrarian troubles of the nature experienced in the Ranchi district have occurred to make a record-of-rights imperative. A number of arguments—some undoubtedly very cogent—in favour of extending the settlement operations to Palamau are advanced by the local officers; and after careful consideration of the matter in all its aspects, I find myself in accord with their view that a survey and settlement should be made. The chief reasons which lead me to this conclusion are:—

- (1) that the operations are a necessary and essential consequence of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, and that they are requisite as a basis for sound district administration;
- (2) that the large and important pargana of Tori, which extends over 664 square miles, possesses no maps at all;
- (3) that outside the Government estate there is (as in the Patkum estate in Manbhum) a total absence of any reliable land records;
- (4) that in the 42 Wards and Encumbered estates in the district, comprising an area of, roughly, one-fourth of the whole district, the absence of such records makes the administration of these estates extremely difficult and much less efficient than it should be;

- (5) that the current settlement of the Government estate, which extends over an area of 425 square miles, will expire in 1910-11 ; and that resettlement and probably a resurvey of this large area will be necessary, it will be convenient to take it up as a part of the Survey and settlement of the whole district ;
- (6) the general insecurity of the raiyat's tenure and the absence of any definition of his rights in regard to *palas* and *mahua* trees, jungle produce, grazing grounds, and sources of irrigation.

8. If it be decided, as I consider it should be, to continue the operations in Chota Nagpur till survey and settlement of the whole Division has been made, it only remains to consider whether the present rate of progress should be maintained. Mr. Reid has examined in detail the advantages and disadvantages to be anticipated from a contraction of the present programme, and I do not propose to go over the same ground again. I would only mention as a further argument in favour of contraction that landlords have represented to me the difficulties experienced by them in adequately representing their interests before the Settlement Officers when the operations are being conducted simultaneously over a large area. As pointed out by Mr. Reid, the effect of contraction would be an increase in the rate of cost ; and if the year's operations are to be reduced only to the extent advocated by Mr. Reid, that is, to 1,000 square miles, I am of opinion that it would hardly be worthwhile making any change provided Government can, without undue inconvenience to the general administration, provide the necessary staff. In my opinion the question is one which depends almost exclusively on the ability of Government to supply an adequate and efficient staff for the conduct of the operations. The Settlement Department forms only one of many branches of the administration, and obviously cannot claim to be kept at full strength to the detriment of other important work. The tendency in recent years has been to entrust the control of important and difficult operations to junior and inexperienced officers who have only a very limited knowledge of practical district work and of the political and social basis of our administration. I would personally prefer a contraction of the Settlement Department's programme to a continuance of this tendency.

\*No. 1190-R., dated Daltonganj, the 27th—29th March 1906.

From—F. F. LYALL, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner of Palamau,

To—The Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division.

WITH reference to your No. 648T.—L.R., dated the 20th March 1906, I have the honour to state that in my opinion there are considerable grounds for urgency in the survey and record-of-rights of Palamau. This urgency arises chiefly, it seems to me, out of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act lately passed. The form of rent receipt therein prescribed gives certain columns for the zamindar's demands, and others for the tenants' payments. I have come across several instances where in the former the demand both of cash rent and predial services and perquisites like oil, firewood, etc., etc., have been very grossly exaggerated ; whereas the majority of tenants are illiterate and do not know what their yearly rental is, and pay as often as not whatever is asked. The prescription of these rent receipts has, in my opinion, brought home to the zamindars an easy means of endeavouring to build up through a series of years a largely enhanced rental, and the sooner a record-of-rights is made, the greater is the probability of the Survey officers arriving at the true facts.

2. There is particular need of the survey in Pargana Tori, where we have no maps of any kind at all, and where I have already had various boundary disputes of more or less gravity between villages brought before me, and where there is considerable friction in isolated villages between tenants and tenure holders. In Chechari (*vide* the correspondence resting with my No. 270-W., dated the 18th August 1903) there is also very great need of a survey ; as also in Untari (*vide* my letter regarding punitive police in Untari, dated the 20th December 1904, confidential).

3. It is true that latterly the Bhaiya Sahab has not resorted to force to enforce his imaginary rights, and that he has brought an important civil suit to oust one branch of his *Khorposhdars* from possession, so that the necessity for a survey there has temporarily decreased.

4. Had the Tenancy Act not been brought into force, or had the tenant population to which it applies been in any way capable of availing themselves of its safeguards, I should not have pressed for an early survey ; but as it is, I think the sooner a record-of rights is made, the better for the district.

#### MEMORANDUM BY MR. S. R. HIGNELL ON THE NECESSITY OR OTHERWISE OF EXTENDING SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS TO THE DISTRICT OF PALAMAU.

##### PRELIMINARY.

1. Settlement operations have already been completed or proceeded with almost to completion in a very large area of Bengal, including Chota Nagpur. There are no such marked differences between the Palamau district and other districts of the Chota Nagpur Division as to justify preferential treatment in the case of any in this important matter, and the real point at issue at present would therefore seem to be : Are settlement operations generally a mistake, or not a mistake ? In view of the extent of the operations already

completed, it would appear rather late in the day to raise this question; and, if the answer be found to be in the affirmative, a very grave responsibility would appear to lie on those who initiated the present settlement policy of the Bengal Government with its enormous expenditure of time and money, as well as on those who have continued and championed it for a period now covering a considerable number of years.

2. Before giving my own views in the matter of the extension of the settlement to this district, I would refer you to Mr. Lyall's No. 1190-R., dated the 29th March 1906, to your address. Mr. Lyall's views in regard to settlement underwent, as mine have, some modification during his tenure of the office of the Deputy Commissioner of this district. But the letter to which I have referred was written only a few days before he made over charge of the district after a stay of five years in Palamau, where he had made himself intimately acquainted with every part of the district and every aspect of its administration. In this letter he plumps unreservedly for the introduction of the settlement operations and for their early introduction. I need not point out that this opinion, coming from the source it does, is entitled to the gravest consideration, and should not be over-ruled, save for the most cogent reasons. The two chief considerations on which Mr. Lyall based his recommendations were:—(i) The absence of any maps whatsoever for the large and important pargana of Tori. (ii) The passing of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act which has made a settlement an inevitable consequence. Both considerations, as I shall try to show later, would be endorsed by every one who has any acquaintance with local conditions.

3. I now proceed to examine the question on the lines indicated in your demi-official under reply. I shall discuss in order:—

- (a) The agrarian evils and difficulties in the district which should, if possible, be removed.
- (b) The extent to which settlement operations are calculated to remove these difficulties.
- (c) The reasons why the same objects cannot be attained by means of the standing permanent machinery of the Law Courts.

#### AGRARIAN EVILS AND DIFFICULTIES IN THE DISTRICT WHICH SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, BE REMOVED.

##### *The absence of Maps and Field Records.*

In the large and important pargana of Tori, as pointed out by Mr. Lyall in his No. 1190-R., dated the 29th March 1906, we have no maps at all. The difficulties and evils which ensue are too obvious to require pointing out. Boundary disputes are frequent and cannot be satisfactorily settled. With the development of the Tori coal-fields these disputes will undoubtedly largely increase. The greater part of the pargana is held by the Kuar Sahib of Ratu, the brother of the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur, but numerous *jagirs* occur within it. Both the Kuar Sahib and the *jagirdars* are endeavouring to dispossess of their mineral rights in the pargana, and when possession is sought to be taken by their assignees, boundary disputes will necessarily greatly increase. Pargana Japla was surveyed in 1840-41, Belaunja in 1843-44. The rest of Palamau came under the revenue survey in 1863-69; but as would be expected in the case of an undeveloped district gradually coming under cultivation, the boundaries of the villages have since been changed, and new villages have sprung up which find no place on the maps prepared at the time of that survey. Numerous systems of *raiyatwari* settlement obtain in the district, i.e. *annadari*, *pariadari*, *kanwadari*, *bhaoli* and *danabandi*: in some instances the two latter systems of produce rent are inextricably mixed up with cash rents. The *annadari*, *pariadari* and *kanwadari* systems differ in various parts of the district, and even in one and the same locality there is considerable difference in the interpretation given them, leading, as can easily be imagined, to considerable friction. This complication is accompanied by the absence of any reliable land records. Outside the Government Estate there is hardly a tenant in the district who could give the area of the land held by him. Similarly I know of no local landlord who has any measurement papers from which he can know the area of the lands held by his tenants. In the Encumbered Estate such papers as are filed by the proprietors when their estates are taken under management are of no more value than waste paper, and the Managers inform me that in cases of settlement of surrendered holdings they have the greatest difficulty in identifying the holdings. A striking contrast in this respect is afforded to the rest of the district by the Government Estate. In this estate the various systems found over the rest of the district—the *annadari*, *pariadari*, etc.—formerly prevailed, but since the cadastral survey and record-of-rights this confusion has been removed. Every tenant knows the area of his holding in acres or local bighas, and each holding can be at once identified beyond dispute on the ground. From the absence of land records a variety of evils spring. First and foremost—in the absence of any record showing the area of a holding, the area cannot be given in the rent receipts granted by a landlord. The Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act has recently been revised on the lines of the Bengal Act, and the rent of a raiyat may be enhanced on the ground of increase of area. It is therefore the more necessary that the area of holdings should be clearly defined. Further, in the absence of any record as to the identity of a holding, it is easy for an unscrupulous landlord to snatch it away or exchange it for inferior land, converting the better land into *zirat*. If the unfortunate raiyat comes to Court, he can produce at best nothing but a rent receipt or two for recent years, which the landlord has no difficulty in proving to refer to some other land. I shall refer at a later stage to the advantage taken by the unscrupulous landlord of the rent receipt system. There are now under the administration of the Encumbered Estates Department

no less than 42 estates, covering an area of roughly  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the whole district. The difficulties of administration are increased a hundred-fold by the absence of any land records on which reliance can be placed. It may be urged that this evil can be removed by a record-of-rights within the estates alone; but having regard to their area, the absence of any maps whatsoever in Pargana Tori, and to the fact that a re-settlement, if not re-survey as advocated by Mr. Cumming in his demi-official dated the 18th December 1908, will be necessary in the large Government Estate on the expiry of the present settlement in 1910-11, it would seem clearly advisable that such operations should be part of a general scheme which would include the whole district. Other evils which are patent are the insecurity of the raiyat's tenure and the oppressions committed on him, even though silently borne, by the unscrupulous landlord. Both these evils are tempered in this district to some extent by the paucity of the population. In many parts of the district there is a competition for tenants, while landlords of villages adjoining the Government Estate know that, if their oppression be more than the raiyats can bear, they will desert to a Government village. At the same time there exist amongst the tenants a natural disinclination to leave the villages where they have settled, which results in their enduring oppressions, which to others would seem intolerable—I can only suppose that it is ignorance that better considerations do prevail which has kept a family for generations in the district in the position of *kamias* or bond slaves. This insecurity of tenure reacts on the development of the district. Though it possesses great natural advantages for artificial irrigation, in many parts it would be impossible to find a single tenant who has converted a bigha of waste land into *kiari* or paddy land. All the *kiaries* made are made by the landlord; and though there may be some truth in the contention that the raiyat is by his traditions disinclined to make such improvements, I can only believe that this is half the truth, and that the raiyat's traditions are based on his insecurity of tenure. I would also point out that in the Government Estate the area of paddy land made by tenants increases every year. The levy of illegal *abwabs* perhaps constitutes the greatest form of oppression. Probably the zamindar of the large estate of Untari is the greatest offender in this respect. Mr. Lyall on one occasion found that his visit to the estate had been made the excuse for great exactions throughout the estate, and similar exactions were made on the birth, marriage or death of members of the family. In Checharia, the Bhaiya Sahib of Nagar at one time took no less than 2½ annas in the rupee as Road Cess, though he paid to Government only half-an-anna. The *thikadari* or farming system is very popular with private landlords. In some cases, e.g., where the farmer is a member of the community to which the bulk of the raiyats belong this system works successfully, the *thikadar* acting as buffer between the landlord and his raiyats. But where the farmer is an outsider, the raiyats' difficulties are increased tenfold, but the farmer has but one object, and that to make hay while his sun shines or his lease lasts, and screw the last farthing out of the unfortunate tenants. This evil is sometimes accentuated by sub-farming. In pargana Japla I found that a *thikadar* of the Patna Nawab's estate had sublet a village at enhanced rental to another farmer. The unfortunate raiyat had thus to provide the Nawab's estate, the farmer and sub-farmer with their profits before he could make a pice for himself. It can easily be imagined how much fell to his own share. The last evil or difficulty to which I will refer is the absence of any authoritative record as to the landlords' or tenants' respective rights in trees standing on the tenants' holding, jungle produce generally, fisheries, grazing grounds and sources of irrigation. In the absence of any such record, and with an educated landlord confronted by an extraordinarily ignorant and simple tenantry, the result is ordinarily that the landlord exercises all the rights and the tenants none. Lac cultivation has become a most important industry in the district. The tenants' right to the trees on which lac is grown are absolutely undefined, and the rates charged are only limited by the landlord's discretion and the tenants' inability to pay more than the lac on the tree will actually fetch in the market. Varying rates are charged in various estates, and in many cases the tenant only knows what he has to pay, when the crop is ready for cutting and has been valued by the landlord's men. When the valuation has been made, the tenant is often only allowed to cut the crop when he has paid the amount demanded, peons being left behind by the landlord to prevent surreptitious removal. Similarly, in the use of the sources of irrigation, the landlord takes all the water he requires and the tenant is allowed that which remains, and for which the landlord has no use. In a dry year it is not an infrequent sight to see a sixteen-anna rice crop standing side by side with a crop fit for nothing except fodder. The former is the landlord's; the latter the tenants'. To the black picture which I have had to draw of the Palaman landlord, there are a few notable exceptions,—in particular the Raja of Ranka. This landlord approximates more to the ideal of the English old world Squire than any landlord I have met in Bengal. He administers his estates personally, and not through mercenary underlings: he is accessible to all, and regularly tours throughout his villages. When out on tour with him, I have always been struck with his acquaintance with the minutest details in the life of his tenants and his solicitude for their welfare. He gives freely medical assistance to the sick, and financial help in time of scarcity. He settles their private quarrels, and during the three years I have been in the district, I can only remember two instances of complaints made to me or the Courts against his servants. The evils which I have described above have been intensified, as pointed out by Mr. Lyall by the extension of an elaborate Tenancy Act to an ignorant and simple tenantry



The Act as amended with the innumerable rules made under it, contains a host of provisions calculated to improve and strengthen the position of the raiyat, but in the absence of any record as to the tenants' and landlord's rights, as well as of any knowledge on the part of the bulk of the tenantry that they possess such rights, the last state of the raiyat is worse than the first, for the landlord, knowing what he can and cannot do within the four corners of the Act, takes advantage of the ignorance of the raiyat steadily to fabricate evidence in favour of himself, which may be used to disprove any claims by the tenant at such time as he may awake to the fact that he possesses any rights. In the Northern parganas bordering on the Gaya district, the tenants are even now not ignorant of their rights; and in Chcehari the raiyats are under the education of the local Missionaries, becoming well acquainted with the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, and their rights thereunder, but there are many areas in which the tenants are not only ignorant of their rights, but even of the existence of the Tenancy Act.

I now proceed to discuss the second point:—

THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SETTLEMENT OPERATION WILL REMOVE THE EVILS AND DIFFICULTIES POINTED OUT.

The initial difficulty, in which so many other difficulties in this district take their origin—the absence of maps and field records—will at once be removed by the operations, for the greatest opponents of the Bengal settlement policy of the past two decades will, I presume, have nothing but praise for the general accuracy of the maps and records prepared by the Department. Similarly, the evils of insecurity of the raiyat's tenure and the exaction of illegal *abwabs* cannot but surely be greatly restricted by placing in the raiyats' hands a record of his position and of his rights, and of the extent of his obligations to his landlord. He will know what area of land he holds, where it is, and what he has to pay for it. He will know what he has to pay for his *mahu* and *palas* trees, to what extent he may use the jungle in and adjoining his village, where, if anywhere, he may catch fish, to what extent and under what conditions he may use the sources of irrigation which exist above his fields, and what amount of labour he is required to give his landlord free, or at rates below the market rates. Surely if the settlement gives all this, it will have given the raiyats a heritage of more value than ten Tenancy Acts, even if the thousand and one rules framed under the Act be added to it. I now come to the last point set before me in this memorandum:

THE REASONS WHY THE SAME OBJECTS CANNOT BE ATTAINED BY MEANS OF THE STANDING PERMANENT MACHINERY OF THE LAW COURTS.

As use has been made of the analogy of machinery, I think it will not be inappropriate to extend the analogy, and point out that, if it is proposed to light a building by means of electricity, it is not sufficient to merely set up a dynamo in the middle of the house; to carry illumination to all portions of the house, wires connecting each portion have to be attached to the dynamo. At present we have the dynamo, but little or no wiring. Leaving the analogy, it is hardly necessary to point out that it is not part of the duties usually connected with the Courts to provide maps and field records. For this purpose a special and very extensive establishment is required; and even if the existing Court with its present staff were to set itself to gradually provide such records, it would take several generations to complete the work, by which time many of the earlier records would have lost their value. Till such records, however, are in their hands, it must under existing conditions, take a considerable number of years for the raiyats to become aware of their rights. On the other hand, the introduction of an elaborate tenant and landlord law has made it imperative, for the reasons already given, that this knowledge should be communicated to the raiyats with as little delay as possible. Under the conditions formerly prevailing when administration was paternal, the District Officer was able to exercise a very powerful check over the landlords as a body, who realized that the exposure of oppression on their part towards their raiyats would bring down on them the displeasure of the head of the district and the sundry disabilities to them accompanying such displeasure. With an elaborate rent law, and an elaborate system of appeal, this salutary check has become quite secondary, and the unscrupulous landlord's chief aim now is to keep within the letter of the law and to trust to the chicanery of the Law Courts to protect him from the consequences of his malpractices if exposed. It cannot be denied that something can be and is still done by the District authorities to protect the raiyat and to prevent and punish abuses, but the machinery has become quite inadequate for the purposes which it has to serve. The area of this district is 5,000 square miles: it has no subdivisions, and its head-quarters are 70 miles removed from the outlying portions of the district. Outside the Government Estate and Encumbered Estates, the only gazetted touring officer is the Deputy Commissioner; and though he be possessed of the greatest energy and the best intentions, he cannot do more than get round his district once a year. Even when he is on tour, he is so cumbered with routine work and the evergrowing demands on him for the submission of the reports and returns on every conceivable subject, that he has to spend in his tent several hours a day, which should be spent in riding about the country and mixing with the people, with whose administration he is charged. The conduct of settlement operations in a district necessarily brings with it at least temporarily a very much closer system of administration. The district is flooded with gazetted officers of Government, who are presumably on the side of righteousness, who tour for protracted periods in every corner of the district, and thus have exceptional facilities for seeing what is going on around them. The elaborate inquiries made by them cannot in turn but act as an educative process to the tenants, in whose midst they are. The same result might undoubtedly to some extent be attained by

instituting a closer system of administration by dividing the district into subdivisional charges. In a district of the size of Palamau, at least three subdivisions would be necessary, and the cost of their inception as of their maintenance would probably appear to the financial advisers of Government prohibitive for some time to come. The necessity for the education of the tenant class in Bengal generally has become the greater, in consequence of the very radical change which it has been decided to make in the system of Government. The paternal form of administration is now being discarded as old-fashioned and out of date, and a policy of ruling for the people through the people is now the accepted watchword. I would in all deference point out that, till the main body of the population of the district—the tenantry—are given at least a clear, if rudimentary, idea of their legal position and rights, the new system will in practice be administration for the landlords through the landlords and lawyers, who are almost without exception on the side of the landed classes. I now deal with the last point raised in your demi-official under reply.

#### THE URGENCY OF THE EXTENSION OF THE OPERATIONS TO THE DISTRICT.

Here again I would first refer you to Mr. Lyall's No. 1190-R., dated the 29th March 1906, and in particular to the last sentence in paragraph 1 and to paragraph 4. Though the tenants as a body may be unaware of the projected extension of the operations to this district, the landlords are fully aware of the proposal, and the more unscrupulous of them have been steadily pursuing a policy of building up evidence to support an increased rental, of privileges which they did not formerly possess. The most common device is to enter in the tenants' receipts a rental considerably in excess of that actually payable, and where the tenants are, as they usually are, illiterate this device works with the greatest success, so much so that when tenants have been sued for rent in the Courts, they have produced, in support of their statement as to their rent receipts, which go to corroborate the landlord's demand. In another village a number of small Brahmin proprietors combined to get rid of every tenant in the village. At the time of filing Road Cess returns, the landlords showed no tenants as cultivating in the village. The tenants as a body combined to object. A local inquiry was made by a Revenue Officer, who found that the return was entirely false. The prosecution of the landlords was ordered; but when the case came on for trial the landlords succeeded in winning over the majority of the tenants and persuading them to come to Court to say that no tenants actually cultivated in the village. The minority of the tenants was thus unable to prove their cultivation. To secure the exclusion of the refractory minority, the majority were given a promise by the landlord that their position in the village would not be affected, but, having disposed of the minority, the landlords proceeded to get rid of the majority. The majority then appealed to the Courts, but were confronted by their own depositions that they did not cultivate in the village. The landlord of Pathra appreciating the effects of the recent rise in the price of food-grains, has in view of the coming settlement been for some years trying to substitute produce for cash rents in his estate. He has similarly been endeavouring to eject his raiyats from the best lands, with the object of converting them into *zirat*. It is true that many such disputes lie dormant, and would be dormant for years, but this is only because of the relative position of the parties to the disputes, which resembles that of the toad and the harrow. And having regard to the wholesale manufacture of evidence going on, I can only repeat with Mr. Lyall that the sooner the settlement is made, the better. In making the recommendations above, I have not ignored the fact that settlement operations are costly, and have for the time being at least a disturbing effect. I realize that in a few estates the operations will bring temporary distrust to landlord and tenant, where now good relations exist between them. I am also aware of the corrupt practices associated with the underlings of the Settlement Department. But these evils seem to me quite disproportionate to the evils which I hope the operations will remove. I at one time thought of qualifying my recommendations for the extension of the settlement to the district, with a proviso that a few estates, and in particular Rapka, where the relations of landlord and tenant leave little or nothing to be desired, should be excluded from the operations, but on further consideration I have come to the conclusion that no exception should be made. There can be no guarantee that the present holder's successors would administer their estates on the present lines, and if such were found not to be the case, it would probably be difficult to arrange for the deputation of a Settlement party at a period subsequent to the close of the main operations. In conclusion, I would point out that as the present intention is to take up the re-settlement of the Government Estate as part of the settlement of the whole district, it is desirable that orders on the subject of the general question should be passed without delay. The present settlement of the Government Estate expires in 1910-11, and if the re-settlement is to be taken up separately, arrangements for this should be made at an early date.

S. R. HIGNELL,

*The 21st May 1909.*

*Deputy Commissioner of Palamau.*



## APPENDIX F.

*Copies of a Memorial of the landlords of Palamau and the Government Resolution and Government letter No. 44-R. T.—S.-21, dated the 21st January 1917.*

To—The Hon'ble Sir EDWARD GAIT, K.C.B.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa.  
(Through the Deputy Commissioner of Palamau).

The humble memorial of the undersigned Zamindars in the district of Palamau, on behalf of the landlords of the said district.

Most respectfully sheweth—

1. That your Honour's memorialists are landholders and own zamindari of various sizes in the district of Palamau and live in their own zamindari.

2. That during the Survey and Settlement proceedings that are in progress in this district, certain things are cropping up or happening that cause great apprehension in the minds of the local zamindars, and they fear that very great injustice is likely to be done to them.

3. That in a considerable portion of the district the said Survey and Settlement proceedings are still in their earlier stages, namely, Khanapuri and Attestation stages.

4. That even in these stages in the *khewats*, *khutian* and *parchas* that are in course of preparation, certain things are being entered that are either foreign, unknown, inequitable, unjust, or contradictory to the well-established customs of the country, while others are being ignored, omitted or vetoed.

5. That being aggrieved by the above-referred-to acts done or methods adopted by the officers engaged in the said proceedings, your humble memorialists, on their own behalf, as well as on behalf of their brother zamindars of this district, beg to lay some of their grievances before your Honour in the full hope of their getting a redress at your Honour's hands.

6. That the instances of the above-referred-to acts and methods are so very numerous that it will be impracticable, if not impossible, to enumerate all; but your Honour's memorialists are ready to show instances with evidence if, and when, called upon to produce.

I.—That in demarcating the boundaries of the various villages and *talas* the officers have proceeded in a very haphazard way and have sometimes in contravention of the provisions of section 3 [XXVIII (b)] amalgamated two, three or more villages and thus given to the tenants of one village rights of being "settled raiyats" in other villages, etc., section 17, 19 and others of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 (VI of 1908, B. C.). Further, in the demarcation of village boundaries and in the decision of disputes concerning them, even the survey lines of demarcation are not being followed.

II.—That in this district the system of *bhuinhari* or *khuntkatti* rights is coming as a bolt from the blue, inasmuch as the class of tenants known as *khuntkattidars* or *bhuinhars* (as defined in section 7 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, and having the special privileges given in the section 37 of the said Act) are never known to be in existence anywhere. In addition to that, no thorough and sifting inquiries are being made to find out either the families of the original *khuntkattidars* or *bhuinhars* which to the best belief of your Honour's memorialists have become extinct or the lands which were originally reclaimed by them have been hopelessly mixed up. The creation of such a system would not only be novelty in this district but will cause a great loss to the landlords, as they will lose their initial rights over the lands that are being declared *khuntkatti*.

III.—That the raiyats are being most indiscriminately given the rights of preparing *korkar* lands in all the cultivable waste lands of most of the villages in the district without consent of the landlords, far less permission previously obtained. This invaluable right is being given to the tenants in a very general way and in spite of the fact that in this district there are no *bhuinhars* or *khuntkattidars* in existence and in utter disregard of the provisions of section 64 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908. Your Honour's memorialists apprehend that this will be a source of great loss to them, as also a dangerous implement in the maliciously and mischievously inclined servants who might choose to terrorize the landlords by threatening them to prepare *korkar* lands at their very doors.

IV.—That in some of the villages the tenants are being given, as a matter of course, the rights of watering their fields from the landlords' *ahars*, *pokhars*, etc., without making any payment or obtaining permission for their use. This will entail great hardship on the Zamindars, as they may at any time be called upon to repair the said *ahars*, *pokhars*, etc., at their own cost or to keep them in perfect repairs, although they may not derive any direct benefit from them and they may have invested large sums in their construction. The ancient custom, prevalent throughout the whole district, is to receive contribution at the time of their construction and repair, or to charge rates for their use.

V.—That in spite of the well-known fact that rents are realized from the raiyats for collecting *Muhua* from trees standing on the raiyats' lands, as is also done in the villages in *Khas Mahal* of the Government, the raiyats are being given away these trees free of any charge, which means a clear loss of revenue to the landlords.

VI.—That the raiyats are being given not only the right of collecting *Muhua* and felling timber of trees standing on their own lands free of any charge, but they are being also given the right of collecting *Muhua* of trees standing on the *Gair Mazrui Ahas* or in the jungles of the landlords, as also of felling timbers for certain purposes.

VII.—That this right of felling timber and collecting *Muhua*, etc., in the landlords' jungle is being given in a most indiscriminate manner and is certainly against equity and

justice. The list also of the reserved trees is by no means exhaustive, e. g., *Sis*, *Biya*, *Harre Baherra*, *Guri*, etc., are not mentioned in the excepted list. Your Honour's memorialists apprehend that it will be a source of constant worry and trouble to the landlords whose rights to deal with their jungles will be seriously affected, rights which they have enjoyed from time immemorial, and it will end in the landlords having no *Rakhat* jungles (reserved forest) although the Government themselves in their *Khas Mahal* in the district Patamau have such *Rakhat* jungles.

VIII.—That in spite of the invariable custom in vogue in this district of the yearly assessment of rent on *lac* and other miscellaneous things which is done in proportion to the actual produce of the year, and in consideration of the market rate it is, for the first time in the annals of this district, being tried to fix the rents once for all. This assessment for which there is absolutely no authority in law will evidently reduce the income of the landlords considerably.

IX.—That in some parts of the district the Settlement Officers are, in spite of very good evidence adduced before them, refusing to enter in the records the rent payable to the landlords for grazing cattle on their *Gaur Mazrua* lands.

X.—That in this part of the country the customary right of the landlords to receive *Begari* and *Rakumat* without which it will be impossible for them to live in their Zamindari and to cultivate their *Zirat* lands is very well established, and has also received Judicial and Legislative recognition (24 W. R. 4 and section 63 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908) as well as the sanction of the highest authority within the Division (*Ishwar* dated the 14th April 1890, issued by Mr. W. H. Grimley, I.C.S., the then Commissioner of Chota Nagpur). But in the present Settlement proceedings both *Begari* and *Rakumat* are being commonly disallowed, and in the exceptional cases where they are being allowed, shelter is being taken under section 105 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, and the commuted rents granted for *Begaris* and *Rakumats* are being reduced to insignificant amounts. The attempted abolition of *Begari* and *Rakumat* is striking at the very root of the existing feudal polity of the district, and the Settlement Department is wrong in identifying this system which is an evolution of centuries of smooth relations between the zamindars and the tenantry with serfdom. The net result of the spirit in which the department is working in this matter would be to create a permanent disruption which is, it is needless to say, cannot be looked upon with complaisance by Government. The Settlement Department has utterly ignored the concessions which tenants enjoy at the hands of the zamindars on occasions like marriage, funeral, etc. The extinction of the existing spirit would result in a demoralizing revolution, and it would be impossible for zamindars to arrange for the employment of extensive labour for large agricultural works.

XI.—That in a few cases where the landlords had, in order to secure some of the produce at favourable rates, commuted cash rental into kind rental, the Settlement Officers are declaring, as they are entitled to do, the commutation as being contrary to the strict letters of the law defined in section 3 (IX) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908. But they do not stop at merely reverting to the old cash rent, but must also reduce them considerably though disguising the fact by the system of rental.

XII.—That the commutation of *Rakumats* and produce-rents into cash by the Settlement Officers is being done on no settled principle; it is neither in proportion to the amount of rent at present paid by the raiyats as so much on the rupee, nor on the quantity of land cultivated by him. The Settlement Officers are fixing the amounts in the light of the excised rents while the method practised by the landlords from time immemorial has been to realize contribution as so much on the rupee in view of the rent now paid by the raiyats, unless the raiyats made their own arrangements between themselves and supplied the actual thing wanted by the landlord.

XIII.—That in some cases where raiyats have cultivated different plots of landlords' privileged lands in different years, strangely, all these different plots are now being recorded in that raiyat's name, although he is not in possession of all the plots; and, strange to say in most of the cases on rent paid for only one plot in any one year, while in a few cases they are entered as *Belagan Kabil Lagar*.

XIV.—That the *Thika raiyatwari* settlements made by the landlords by (*powah*) *goti* or plain *kabuliyats* in accordance with the prevalent custom of the district, are all being converted, in spite of the overwhelming evidence adduced by landlords into *Raiyati* or *pradani* Settlement.

This is working a great hardship on the landlords as they are losing their own cultivating right over these lands.

XV.—That an entirely new system of "*Darraiyati*" unknown to this district is being introduced by their recognition in violation of section 46(3).

XVI.—That the system of classification introduced by Mr. Forbes in 1866 in the Government Estates, and later on followed by Mr. Sunder in 1893 has come to be the standard classification of the whole of the district. But the present Settlement Department has introduced altogether a foreign standard of classification which is unsuitable to the conditions of this district, with the result that in hundreds of villages no first class rice-lands have been recorded, although there is any quantity of first class rice-land according to the aforesaid standard.

XVII.—That an artificial standard of classification has been introduced by the Settlement Department which is entirely foreign and wholly inapplicable to this district. Judged by this standard all the lands in a village are being under-classed, and your Honour's

memorialists seriously apprehend that this has been introduced in order to prevent landlords from taking advantage of section 85, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908.

XVIII.—That your humble memorialists submit that in this district the area of land held by a raiyat is indefinite on account of the gradual supersession of *Pariadari* and *Kanwadari* systems which were once universally invoked and understood, but of which the corrupt remainder and misleading symbols only to-day remain. The Settlement Department is creating a strange and weird amalgam of the remains of the *Pariadari* and *Bighanti* systems, in other words, under the pretence of being able to measure and record the indefinite they have given each and every raiyat as much land as he likes for the minimum rent.

XIX.—That in Khatian Part II entries are being made under section 81 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, which deals with the right to take forest produce from jungle lands or waste lands, but the Settlement Officers are recording rights relating to trees standing on cultivated lands for which there is no statutory authority.

XX.—That under the provisions of the law as laid down in section 81 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, the Settlement Officers are to prepare a record of the existing rent for which the landlords are giving the best evidence in the shape of their *jamabandi* books written many years previous to the operation, and your Honour's memorialists fail to see under what authority they can excise the rent and then record the same. The result of this their unwarranted procedure has been that the cash rents receivable by the landlords have been reduced by hundreds and thousands. This is working as a greater hardship on the landlords, as the entries of the reduced rents are being made in respect of areas larger than those actually held by the tenants.

XXI.—That the Settlement Officers are making serious mistakes in recording the status of the raiyats and statutory provisions are being universally disregarded. A raiyat, simply because he pays cash-rent, is being recorded as an occupancy raiyat, though sometimes on the ground of custom or on account of the amalgamation of villages referred to in paragraph 1 above, irrespective of the number of years for which he may have held the land.

XXII.—That the Settlement Officers are so bent on excising rents that they are going behind even the Road Cess returns filed so far back as 1888, far more the Road Cess returns filed in 1906 although under the provisions of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, they are absolutely precluded from interfering with the enhancement made prior to 1901.

XXIII.—That although the record-of-rights that are now being prepared are not finally published, the officers in charge of these preparations are proclaiming the result of their inquiries and directing the raiyats to act in accordance therewith. This, your Honour's memorialists submit, tantamounts to prejudging the case, or, at least, adding a fresh piece of evidence, however small to the case of the raiyats as being the actual state of things in force for one year previous to the final publication.

XXIV.—That your Honour's memorialists beg to invite your Honour's special attention to the very great hardship that is being inflicted upon them in that hardly any land is being recorded as proprietor's privileged lands. It was, your Honour's memorialists hope, well known to the Government and to the framers of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act that, in every district in the Chota Nagpur Division, there was a considerable quantity of privileged lands constituting the cream of the zamindari system, and undoubtedly the framers of the Act had intended that such land should be carefully and correctly recorded in the interest as much of the zamindars as of Government revenue. Nothing has happened since the passing of the Act to warrant an inference that privileged land has become practically extinct. Your Honour's memorialists in the circumstances fervently hope that your Honour would cause an inquiry to be made as to why the section 118 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act has been reduced to a dead-letter and direct a careful record to be prepared of all privileged lands in the district.

XXV.—That although in connexion with the Settlement proceedings some people in some quarters have considered it proper to go to the press or attempted to remove the landlords from the scene of action by criminal prosecution or otherwise, your Honour's memorialists are confident of getting redress from your Honour's hands and do not like to rush to the press or vindicate their grievances in any other public manner.

7. That in view of the facts narrated above, your Honour's memorialists ventured to approach your Honour in the full hope of getting justice and equity at your Honour's hands and in the full expectation that if necessary, your Honour will, in your infinite goodness, order a thorough and sifting inquiry to be made and pass such orders as to your Honour may seem meet, in order that your Honour's memorialists may be saved from this ruin.

And your Honour's memorialists shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

The signatories to the memorial are :—

- (1) Raja Bhagavat Dayal Singh of Chaiapur.
- (2) Hon'ble Kumar Girivar Prashad Singh of Ranka.
- (3) Rai Jadunath Singh Bahadur, Khorposhdar of Ranka.
- (4) Kuar Amar Dayal Singh of Ladi.
- (5) Mowar Prayagjit Singh of Manatoo.
- (6) Babu Nisan Singh of Babhandi, under Encumbered Estate, Circle B.
- (7) Thakur Jagadiswar Dayal Singh of Pathra-Narainpur.
- (8) Shaikh Muhammad Husain of Kosiara.
- (9) Bhaiya Raj Kishor Deo of Untari.
- (10) Babu Amar Dayal Singh of Garhwa.
- (11) Bhaiya Dipnarayan Sahi of Chhochari.

- (12) Muhammad Asgari of Husainabad, under Encumbered Estates, Circle B.
- (13) Babu Gauri Charan Singh of Babhandi.
- (14) Babu Maheswar Dayal Singh of Babhandi.
- (15) Balu Kali Charan Singh of Garhwa.
- (16) Babu Nanku Sahu of Haidernagar.

GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR AND ORISSA, REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Resolution No. <sup>728</sup><sub>8-21</sub>, dated the 3rd February 1917.

Read—

- (1) A memorial, without date, from Maharaj Kumar Jagat Mohan Sahi Deo and other landholders of pargana Tori, in the district of Palamau.
- (2) A memorial, without date, from the Raja of Chainpur, and other landholders of Palamau district.
- (3) A memorial dated the 25th February 1916, from Thakur Jagdiswar Dayal Singh, of Narsingpur-Pathra in the district of Palamau.

Read also letters from the Board of Revenue—

No. 17-42-7, dated the 2nd December 1916,

No. 17-42-10, dated the 7th December 1916, and

No. 17-42-15, dated the 15th December 1916,  
reporting on the subject of the above memorials.

*Resolution.*—The memorialists raise a number of questions in regard to the conduct of the Settlement operations now in progress in the district of Palamau, and besides specifying various points in regard to which they claim to have been seriously prejudiced, make the general assertion that the officers of the Settlement Department have completely ignored the existing rights, customs and usages of the district, and have arbitrarily reduced the present rents of the tenants, and in many instances, given the tenants rights which they never previously possessed to the great detriment of the memorialists' estates.

2. On receipt of these memorials the Lieutenant-Governor in Council ordered that a comprehensive and searching enquiry should be made by the present Director of Land Records who is a Settlement Officer with many years' experience, but who has had no previous connection with the Chota Nagpur Settlement. This officer was thus in a position to examine the methods and practice of the Palamau Settlement Department, the fairness of which was impugned, with the requisite expert knowledge and at the same time with an open mind. His report has now been received, and has been carefully reviewed by the local officers and the Board of Revenue.

3. On a consideration of the case as a whole the Lieutenant-Governor in Council agrees with the Board that the general charge against the Department is not justified by the facts, and that the officers of the Department have not, as alleged, misapplied legal principles. He is satisfied that their methods have not departed materially from those followed with the approval of the Board and of Government in similar proceedings in other parts of Chota Nagpur and elsewhere. Nor has His Honour in Council any reason to believe that the decisions of the officers of the Department, on questions of either law or fact, have been generally other than correct.

4. The memorialists appear to contend that the non recognition by themselves and their predecessors in interest of the statutory rights conferred on tenants and of the limitations imposed on the landlords by Bengal Acts I of 1879, IV of 1879 and V of 1905, and finally by Bengal Act VI of 1908, the Tenancy law now in force in Chota Nagpur entitled them to claim that these rights should be treated as non-existent in Palamau and should be ignored in the record-of-rights now being prepared. This is clearly an untenable position. One of the main objects with which the present survey and settlement operations were initiated was to secure to both tenant and landlord their rights under the existing law, and to prepare detailed maps and records which would make it possible for all parties interested to know their exact position, and to enable the courts, whether Revenue, Criminal or Civil, to apply fairly the law in force.

5. The Director has enquired personally into many of the specific instances referred to in the memorials, as well as into others which were brought to his notice in the course of his enquiry, and has found generally that the charges based on them are not substantiated. Many of the cases referred to are, or have been, the subject of further proceedings under section 83 or section 87 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. Under the latter section the parties interested have already secured, or will secure, a judicial decision on the merits of the case, both as to the facts and as to the interpretation of the law, and these decisions will again be open to revision on appeal to the Judicial Commissioner.

6. On the facts before him His Honour in Council is unable to admit that where the memorialists have not already availed themselves of the remedy provided by the section of the Tenancy Act cited above, any adequate case has been made out for special executive measures to give them a further opportunity of so doing. In consideration, however, of the special circumstances of the district, and particularly in view of the main object of the settlement operations, namely, the preparation of a record-of-rights which will put the relations of landlords and tenants on a firm and satisfactory basis, he has already issued orders, on the recommendation of the Board and the local officers, which will enable landlords and tenants, in

area, in which the record has been completed, to obtain a general settlement of fair rent. In the course of their rent settlement the landlords will have an opportunity of securing the correction of any mistakes which may have been made in the classification of land; in the record of special rights of tenants (such as *khuntkatti*, *korkar* and customary rights of occupancy), and in the record of proprietors' privileged lands wherever these mistakes would prejudicially affect the fixation of rents. His Honour in Council has, at the same time, directed that in other areas, where the record has not yet reached the final stage, a general settlement of rents shall be made.

*Order.*—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Bihar and Orissa, for the information of the Board and for communications to the memorialists.

H. COUPLAND,  
Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

No. 44-R. T.—S-21, dated Bankipore, the 21st January 1917.

From—The Hon'ble Mr. H. COUPLAND, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa, Revenue Department,

To—The Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Bihar and Orissa.

I am directed to refer to Mr. Tallents' letter No. 17—42-10, dated the 6th December, 1916 in which the Board of Revenue submitted certain proposals made with a view to settling the more urgent difficulties that have arisen in connection with the Settlement operations in the district of Palamau.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council has given the matter his careful consideration and I am to convey the following orders on the proposals outlined in paragraph 2 of Mr. Tallents' letter cited above.—

- (i) Government are advised that there is nothing illegal in the principles which officers of the Settlement Department have followed in deciding the questions of the acquisition of occupancy rights by custom, and of the validity of claims preferred by landlords for the record of lands held by them as landlord's privileged lands. In the case of the former the existence or non-existence of the custom is a question of fact in each individual case; in the case of the latter the law makes it incumbent on the landlord to rebut the initial presumptions that the lands are not privileged, and to prove positively that the conditions required by section 118 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act are fulfilled.
- (ii) Government are also advised that the definition of rent in section 3 (XXIII), Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, makes it incumbent on the Settlement Officer to record under section 81 (f) the rents legally payable and not those actually being paid.
- (iii) With regard to the reopening of the record, Government agree with the Legal Remembrancer that section 90 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, is specially intended to provide for the correction of *bona fide* mistakes and clerical errors and that it would be an unjustifiable stretching of the meaning of the section to make use of it for a general revision of such entries as those relating to customary occupancy rights and landlord's privileged lands. The section moreover provides that the correction must be made within 12 months from the date of final publication and not that proceedings with a view to such corrections should be started within that period.
- (iv) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council accepts the Board's recommendation that in all non-attested areas there should be a settlement of fair rents after issue of a notification under section 85 (2) (ii) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, and that for the area already attested the landlords should be allowed three months' time in which to apply to Government for the issue of an order under section 85 (2) (ii) for a settlement of fair rents. All such applications should be made to the Deputy Commissioner who should forward them with his own and the Settlement Officer's recommendations through the ordinary channel for the orders of Government with as little delay as possible. No action in this direction is necessary in the case of Government Estates in respect of which a general settlement of fair rents has already been ordered, while in the case of Wards and Encumbered Estates it will be open to the Deputy Commissioner to apply in the same way as the proprietors of private estates. His Honour in Council further considers that for areas in respect of which no application is made by the landlords, the Deputy Commissioner, in consultation with the Settlement Officer should submit proposals to Government for the settlement of fair rents of any village or villages in which it is believed that the tenants generally or any considerable number of them have reason to be dissatisfied with the rents as recorded by the Settlement Department.

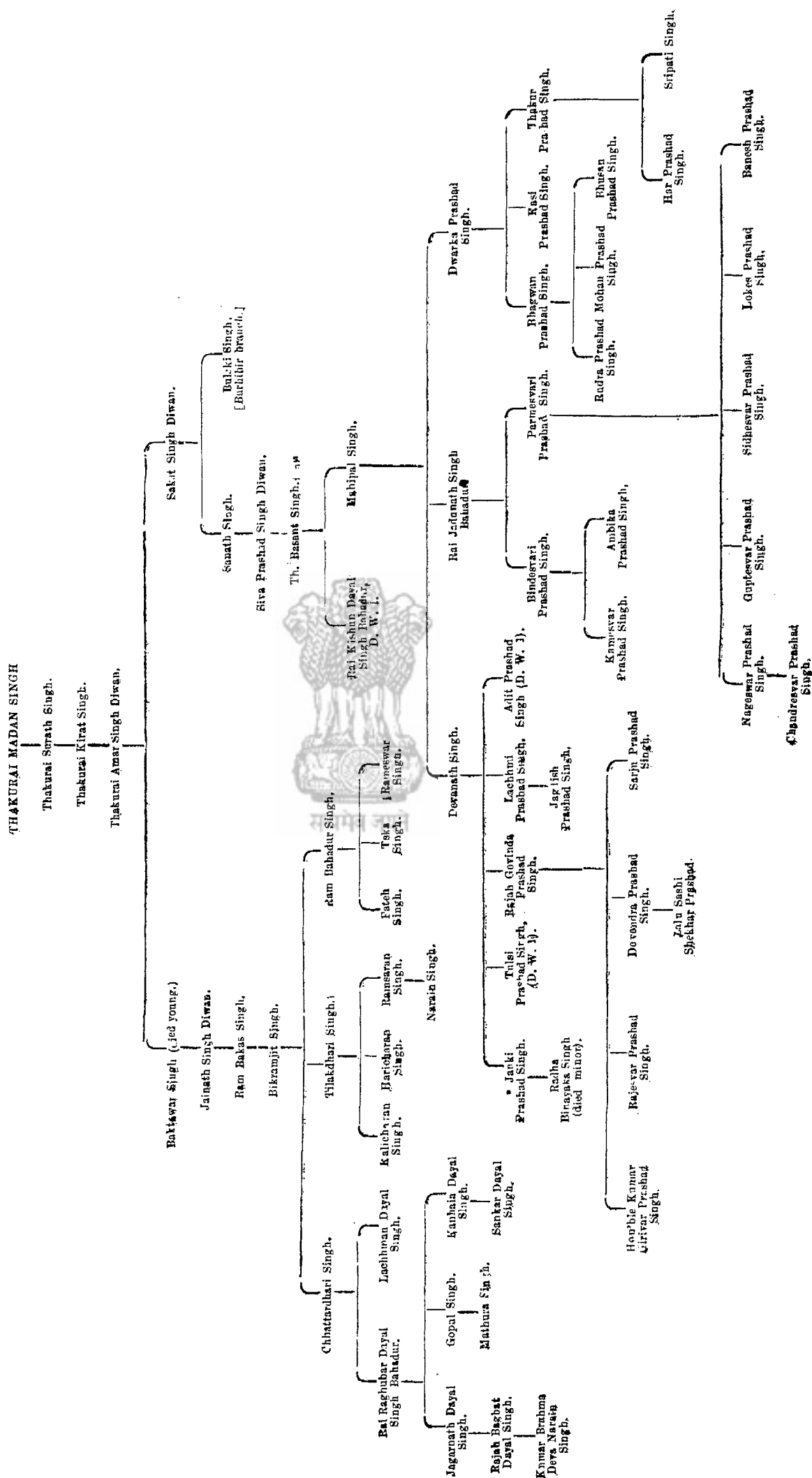
3. I am to explain that though the record cannot be reopened for general correction under section 90, the effect of these orders, besides providing for a settlement of fair rents, will be to afford an opportunity for the reconsideration under section 86 of, among others, questions of disputed status, *e.g.*, of tenants recorded as occupancy raiyats on the strength of custom or of tenants recorded as holding with occupancy or other tenant rights, land claimed as *zirat*. In so far therefore as landlords may have been prejudiced by the entries made in such cases in the present records, they will now, if they apply for and obtain an order for settlement of fair rents under section 85 (2) (ii), be in a position to have their cases reconsidered.

4. A further communication will be made in due course dealing with the other points raised in the memorials of the zamindars of Palamau.



APPENDIX Q.—*concl'd.*

## B.—Genealogical table of the Chainpur and Ranka Thakurais.



## APPENDIX R.

A list of villages in the Palamau Government Estates in which grazing ground has been demarcated and recorded.

## STATEMENT OF GRAZING GROUNDS.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana and thana No.	Plot No.	Area.
1	2	3	4	5
				Acres.
1	Blusra...	Patan, No. 170	931	98
2	Karina...	" No. 494	1	45.60
3	Utaki ...	" No. 236	574 688	159.50
4	Barkoma ...	" No. 432	489	64.55
5	Jagatpurwa ...	Daltonganj, No. 377.	15 16 17 19 33 49	37 27 13 1.11 1.07 14
				3.39
6	Shahpur ...	Daltonganj, No. 112.	78 18 1581	27.25 2.91 53.53
				83.69
7	Pokhraba Kalan ...	Daltonganj, No. 204.	588 587 portion. 1660 1615 1672 1616	79.75 16.00 23.70 124.99
				244.44
8	Pokhraba Khurd ...	Daltonganj, No. 205.	1375 1383	87.50 32.85
				120.35
9	Kasmar ...	Patan, No. 495	7 8 12 13 portion. 1	73.50 18.50 2.78 364.00
10	Rangra ...	Patan, No. 377	431 1 432 1	50 3.48 165.85
				169.93
11	Goradib Khas ...	Daltonganj, No. 368.	1 149	88.46 15.60
				104.06
12	Khairant ...	No. 370	1 4 12	70.00 11.80 3.32
				85.12
13	Kanke Kalan ...	No. 211	931 1032	15.45 16.30
				31.75



## APPENDIX R—contd.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana and thana No.	Plot No.	Area.
1	2	3	4	5
14	Goradih Toli ... ..	No. 369 ...	1	71.03
15	Bansdohar ... ..	No. 396 ...	portion. 131	5.35
16	Phulang ... ..	No. 399 ...	556	9.38
17	Kundri ... ..	No. 383 ...	3041 3056 3047	100 249.05 13
18	Pipra Khurd ... ..	No. 395 ...	1019 1456 914 447 600 683	362.05 8.86 5.38 1.40 2.93 2.39 1.20
19	Banrakhanr ... ..	No. 402 ...	117 126	22.16 5.23 3.78
20	Alaula ... ..	Daltonganj, No. 391.	225	9.01 12.70
21	Champi ... ..	Patan, No. 379	1 120	12.00 63.74
22	Dankhar ... ..	Patan, No. 380	1 2 4 (northern portion of this plot).	75.74 .52 .12 70.50
23	Ascahar ... ..	Daltonganj, No. 413.	331 2128 2274 335 332 330 275	71.14 46.32 19.30 1.18 1.48 2.44 .68 2.38
24	Hesatu ... ..	Daltonganj, No. 565.	208 49	73.73 67.00 34.16
25	Pipratnur ... ..	Patan, No. 562	105 918 935 931	9.34 63.30 191.90 66.70
26	Loharsi ... ..	Patan, No. 570	931	321.90
27	Goind ... ..	Patan, No. 527	1	624.10
28	Haldi ... ..	Patan, No. 539	3 9 18	1.24 13.25 19.55
				33.94



APPENDIX S.

सत्यमेव जयते

## Statement A—Land Rent statistics for the Government

Division and District.	Demand.			Collection.		
	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<b>Palamau.</b>						
1896-97 ...	74,570	10,298	84,878	43,010	10,280	53,290
1897-98 ...	74,436	31,444	1,05,880	38,830	26,789	65,619
1898-99 ...	74,436	40,362	1,14,798	38,235	35,592	73,827
1899-1900 ...	74,578	40,971	1,15,549	35,868	30,508	66,376
1900-01 ...	74,549	27,350	1,01,899	52,555	21,020	73,575
1901-02 ...	74,549	28,065	1,02,614	41,605	17,267	61,872
1902-03 ...	79,139	36,420	1,15,559	48,717	12,112	60,829
1903-04 ...	78,801	37,172	1,15,973	32,935	27,349	60,284
1904-05 ...	79,322	53,044	1,32,366	50,168	37,060	87,228
1905-06 ...	79,862	37,902	1,17,764	69,801	33,648	1,03,449
1906-07 ...	81,826	14,213	96,039	77,323	11,323	88,646
1907-08 ...	82,468	5,250	87,713	74,202	4,714	78,916
1909-10 ...	84,134	11,051	95,185	78,261	8,975	87,236
1910-11 ...	84,517	6,873	91,390	75,671	5,908	81,577
1911-12 ...	84,633	8,726	93,379	79,015	8,011	87,026
1912-13 ...	85,064	*179	85,243	79,019	179	79,198
1913-14 ...	85,348	*10,957	96,305	76,946	10,519	87,465
1914-15 ...	85,580	8,505	94,085	61,706	8,505	70,211
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>15,20,407</b>	<b>4,17,184</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>11,29,522</b>	<b>3,17,309</b>	<b>13,86,671</b>

\* Cannot be reconciled with column 11.

DIX S.

Estate. (Supplied by the K. M. Department.)

Balance.				Percentage.			Remarks.
Collection.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Of current collection (column 5) on current demand (column 3).	Of arrear collection (column 6) on arrear demand (column 2).	Of total collection (column 7) on total demand (column 4).	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
...	81,570	18	31,588	57.66	99.82	62.78	
...	85,806	4,655	40,261	52.16	85.19	61.97	
...	86,201	4,770	40,971	51.36	88.18	64.31	
...	38,710	7,080	45,790	48.09	74.46	57.44	
...	21,994	6,071	28,065	70.49	76.85	72.20	
...	29,944	6,476	36,420	59.83	61.53	60.29	
...	80,422	6,565	36,987	61.55	33.25	52.63	
...	45,869	7,175	53,044	41.79	73.57	51.98	
...	29,154	4,224	33,378	63.25	69.87	65.90	
...	10,061	2,618	12,679	87.40	88.77	87.84	
...	4,503	681	5,184	94.50	81.86	92.63	
...	8,261	141	8,402	89.98	89.79	89.97	
...	5,873	987	6,860	93.01	18.21	91.64	
...	8,237	474	8,711	89.53	85.93	89.26	
...	5,638	510	6,148	93.34	91.80	93.19	
...	6,045	Nil	6,045	92.89	100.00	92.90	
...	8,492	13	8,505	90.05	96.00	90.74	
...	23,608	Nil	23,608	72.1	100	74.62	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

**STATEMENT B.**  
**Lac Rent Statistics (Government Estates).**

Year.	Demand.	Collection.	Balance.	Average price at the big markets for <i>Palas</i> lac separated from twigs and bark.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Per Md. ( <i>pakki</i> ). Rs.
1897-98	10,214	4,523	5,691	16
1898-99	9,716	2,410	7,306	18
1899-1900	9,451	3,680	5,771	16
1900-01	8,144	3,168	4,976	30
1901-02	5,978	4,012	1,966	28
1902-03	5,443	2,359	3,084	55
1903-04	8,524	6,388	2,141	51
1904-05	9,749	9,296	453	64
1905-06	12,635	12,666	...	40
1906-07	24,118	23,342	776	37-8
1907-08	39,889	21,000	18,887	25
1908-09	39,878	33,863	6,016	11-4
1909-10	38,712	34,615	4,097	11-4
1910-11	15,171	14,360	811	12*
1911-12	15,058	12,944	2,114	12 to 24
1912-13	14,785	13,648	1,137	8 to 15
1913-14	16,177	10,710	5,567	6-8 to 12-8
1914-15	16,225	10,571	5,654	15 to 25

\*NOTE.—The prices for the last 5 years have been supplied by the *Kush Mahal* Deputy Collector. They do not distinguish between *Palas* lac and *Kusum* lac which is more expensive, and apparently they do not take the rates at harvest time. The rates shown in the books of dealers at Garhwa (including Messrs. Turner Morrison's agents) which have been examined in this enquiry are lower than those here given. The prices for the first period have been taken from Mr. Philip's report.

Arrears were apparently regularly remitted.

**STATEMENT C.**  
**Mahua Rent Statistics (Government Estates).**

Year.	Demand.			Collection.			Balance.				Remarks.
	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	Collection.	Current.	Arrear.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1910-11	3,907	572	4,479	3,630	396	4,026	...	277	176	453	
1911-12	3,910	300	4,210	3,652	274	3,926	...	258	26	284	
1912-13	4,088	291	4,379	3,694	209	3,903	...	394	82	476	
1913-14	4,060	41	4,501	3,747	370	4,117	...	313	71	384	
1914-15	4,063	389	4,457	3,378	304	3,682	...	690	85	775	
1915-16	1,231	775	5,006	2,873	516	3,389	...	1,358	259	1,617	
	24,264	2,768	27,032	20,974	2,069	23,043	...	...	...	...	

## APPENDIX T.

*A letter written by the present Raja of Chainpur to Mr. Sunder in 1896 on the subject of lac assessment.*

"Settlement is generally made annually and also for a period extending over 3 to 5 years. *Palas* and *kusum* trees are respectively charged at the varying rates of ½, 1, 2 and 3 annas and 2, 4, 6 and 8 annas each. The highest rate is charged for *kusum* only after inspection of the yield. For a bumper crop of lac on big *kusum* trees, found after actual inspection, a rate at Re. 1 to Rs. 2 is charged per tree.

"A raiyat is generally charged for all the trees held by him on which lac is actually found. Raiyats as a rule do not like even a single *palas* tree which does not produce lac, nor does he pay for a single tree which does not produce lac, or on which lac fails, either from frost or from any other cause. In the case of annual settlements, if the lac crop utterly fails, then the trees are not charged for. Otherwise rent is demanded from the raiyat according to the proportion of the crop the tree produces i.e., when the outturn of the crop is a 4-anna one, the proportionate charge of a quarter of the rate is generally made for the trees. But as regards the settlement for a period of 5 or 6 years the case is quite different. \* \* \* \*

"When the settlement is an annual one, such trees as may be available in a village outside those held by existing raiyats are settled with any new raiyat \* \* \* according to the nature of the trees, but in no case is the possession of the existing raiyats disturbed with respect to their trees so long as they pay rent regularly at the above mentioned rates or system.

"I charge a very small rent, say half anna to one anna, in a few of my backward villages, but only on such trees which produce lac. But to encourage cultivation and get my villages populated soon and also to show consideration to my raiyats, who are very poor, I generally do not charge for the trees held by them".

"I am in favour of the settlement for a period of more than 5 years at a time, because in such a case the rent fixed is secured for the whole period. But I do not succeed in making such a settlement, as it is always against the interests of the raiyats inasmuch as the yield of lac is always fluctuating and its market value is not certain".

It is clear from this letter that the rates annually settled were fixed on the assumption of a bumper crop and had to be reduced in practice sometimes to half or a quarter or to nothing at all.

## APPENDIX U.

*Subdivisional Officers of the Palamau Subdivision.*

A. R. Thompson, Esq., Junior Assistant 1854-1855		
Commissioner, Korunda Subdivision.		
not available.	Mr. Emerson officiated for	1855-1858.
part of this time	...	...
Lieutenant J. M. Graham	...	Oct. 1858 to 13th June 1859.
Mr. T. Campbell	...	24th July to 30th April 1860.
Captain A. P. S. Moncrief	...	1st May 1861 to 9th February 1862.
Mr. T. Campbell	...	10th February to 10th July 1862.
Captain A. P. S. Moncrief, Assistant Commissioner	...	11th July to 24th November 1862.
Lieutenant R. C. Money, Assistant Commissioner	...	25th November 1862 to 14th February 1863.
Lieutenant E. A. Phillips, Assistant Commissioner	...	15th February 1863 to 11th June 1863.
Mr. A. C. Brett, Assistant Commissioner	...	16th December 1863 to 30th April 1864.
Mr. L. R. Forbes, Assistant Commissioner	...	25th July 1864 to 30th April 1880.
Lieutenant Rivett-Carnac	...	Officiated for Mr. Forbes for 3 months in 1878.
R. H. Renny, Esq.	...	1880-1885.
E. F. Ainslie, Esq.	...	1886-1888.
W. Mantinan and J. T. Jarho	...	1889-1890.
J. T. Babonau	...	1890-1891.
W. R. Bright, Esq., c.s.	...	1891-1892.

## LIST OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS.

1892-1895	... W. R. Bright, Esq., c.s.
1895-1896	... H. C. Streatfield, Esq., c.s.
1896-1897	... J. D. Cargill, Esq., c.s.
1897-1898	... R. H. Renny, Esq.
1898-1900	... C. P. Beachcroft, Esq., c.s.
1900-1901	... Mr. G. Balthasar (1st April 1900 to 13th December 1900).
	... Mr. E. M. Konstam (14th December 1900 to 1st February 1901).
	... Mr. G. Balthasar (2nd February 1901 to 17th September 1901).

1901-1902	... Mr. A. H. Clayton (18th September 1901 to 9th December 1901). Mr. F. F. Lyall (10th December 1901 to 16th July 1902).
1902-1905	... Mr. W. B. Heycock (17th July 1902 to 20th October 1902). Mr. F. F. Lyall (21st October 1902 to 25th May 1905).
1905-1906	... Mr. S. R. Hignell (26th May 1905 to 12th November 1905). Mr. F. F. Lyall (13th November 1905 to 7th April 1906).
1906-1907	... Mr. S. R. Hignell (8th April 1906 to 7th September 1906). Babu Jotindra Nath Gupta (8th September 1906 to 11th October 1906). Mr. S. R. Hignell (12th October 1906 to 21st May 1907).
1907-1908	... Mr. T. S. Macpherson (22nd May 1907 to 25th August 1907). Mr. S. R. Hignell (26th August 1907 to 18th October 1908).
1908-1910	... Mr. J. G. Cumming (19th October 1908 to 18th December 1908). Mr. S. R. Hignell (19th December 1908 to 23rd November 1910).
1910-1911	... Mr. H. C. Streatfield (24th November 1910 to 23rd February 1911). Mr. C. L. Philip (24th February 1911 to 9th November 1911).
1911-1912	... Mr. H. Coupland (10th November 1911 to 9th October 1912).
1912-1913	... Babu Jogindra Nath Sarkar (9th to 14th October 1912). Mr. H. Coupland (15th October 1912 to 10th February 1914).
1914-1916	... Mr. T. Luby, 10th February 1914 to 10th September 1914). Mr. A. Garrett (11th September 1914 to 3rd September 1916).
1916-1917	... Babu Hira Lal Banarji (4th September 1916 to 15th October 1916). Mr. H. T. S. Forrest (16th October 1916 to 12th May 1917).
1917-1918	... Mr. R. G. Kilby (13th May 1917).

## APPENDIX V.

*A note on Civil Court partitions in Palamau.*

This note was submitted in compliance with the orders of the Board to describe a few typical instances of Civil Court partitions in detail, "showing (a) the law under which the Civil Courts acted, (b) the procedure adopted, if ascertainable, and (c) the practical results in the villages."

2. In partitions made by the Revenue authorities under Act V of 1897 the Court has to see that the rights of the *raiya*s' holding under the proprietor are not ignored (see section 81), and that when a *raiya*'s holding is subdivided the existing rental is correctly apportioned over the new holdings. Section 195 of the Bengal Tenancy Act expressly saves the provisions of the Estates Partition Act in all the areas to which it is applicable.

3. None of the proceedings which I have seen expressly set forth the law under which they were made but I believe it is contained in sections 9 and 75 of the Civil Procedure Code, and rules 13 and 14, Order XXVI of the same Code. So far as I know there is no rule or order laid down for the guidance of the Courts to prescribe exactly how they should deal with these cases or with the rights of the tenants. There are no provisions similar to those of section 81 of the Estates Partition Act.

4. The Civil Court in practice takes no account of, and makes no enquiry into, the rights of any persons other than the applicants for partition and their co-sharers and in consequence (a) *raiya*s' holdings and even fields are subdivided without any reference to the occupants, and (b) the landlords and *raiya*s of subdivided holdings are left to make their own arrangements about subdivision of the rents.

5. Even in districts where the *raiya*s are stronger than in Palamau, partitions which ignore the rights of tenants, lead to dispossession of *raiya*s from their lands; or in cases where they are not dispossessed to illegal enhancements of their rent. In this connection I invite a reference to Mr. Sifton's forcible remarks in the 220th paragraph of his Final Report on Hazaribagh. It is true that in theory the proceedings, to which the *raiya*s are not a party, do not bind them in any way, but in practice where the tenantry are very weak and ignorant, as in Palamau, delivery of possession by the Courts (it should not be forgotten that possession of *raiya*'s lands and *bakiat* lands is delivered to the parties in exactly the same manner) is generally regarded as the legal annihilation of all existing tenant's rights, for it is believed that the lands assigned to any landlord by a partition are assigned free of all such encumbrances. If the tenantry knew their rights and were able to defend themselves they would not suffer from these partitions but it is equally true that in present circumstances partition cases occasion very great injustice to the *raiya*s established on partitioned properties and contribute largely to confirm the general depression and helplessness of the Palamau tenantry.

6. In illustration of the system I invite a perusal of a few typical recent cases, which have not been specially selected but taken as they come. The partition of village Khutheria was made in two stages. The first suit dealt with 3 annas only and the second with 13 annas. The record of the second case is before me. It commenced on 5th November 1913 and was disposed of on 16th March 1918. It was at first proposed to make the partition on the basis of the map prepared in the earlier case; but on 5th November 1914 (see order sheet) the Deputy Commissioner Sub-judge decided to await the preparation of a reliable map by the Settlement Department. Early in 1917 the plaintiff asked that an Assistant Settlement Officer be made a Commissioner to complete the partition, but no officer could then be spared for the work. Accordingly the Deputy Magistrate Sub-Judge appointed a pleader and an Amin as Commissioners. Notwithstanding the fact that the case had been kept pending for 3 years under Mr. Luby's order, for the purpose of using a reliable settlement map, these two Commissioners used a certified copy of the map which Mr. Luby had rejected, i.e., the map used in the earlier partition suit. In doing this they had

not the excuse that they wished to avoid delay, for the settlement map had been prepared more than a year before. When it became apparent to the parties that the survey map was not being utilized, one of the defendants filed a petition praying that the partition might be based upon it. This petition was rejected by Babu Hira Lal Banarji on the ground that the settlement records had not been filed in the case and that the pleader Commissioners had nearly finished their work so that a revision of it would cause delay "without sufficient reasons." The parties could not agree to accept the Commissioner's partition and the case was referred to the Special Subordinate Judge and decided by him. His judgment criticizes the appointment of two Commissioners and the unsatisfactory nature of the map filed in the case, but neither does it nor the order sheet nor the Amin's report nor the *khassas*, nor the decree, nor any other paper that I have read even so much as admit the existence of any raiyats in the village: *a fortiori* these papers do not provide against the breaking up of their holdings or even of their fields. There are actually 135 settled raiyats in the village. I annex copies of the partition map and of our maps. It is obvious that they bear no sort of mutual resemblance, and it may be thought by many others as well as the writer that it is a matter for regret that Mr. Luby's intention of using the new map was not adhered to. On the other hand, it is easy to see that to make a partition on the basis of the settlement map would have been a far more difficult and laborious task for the Civil Court Commissioners than the one they actually attempted.

8. Village Sonbarsa provides a somewhat similar example. A malik entitled to 4-annas share in the village applied for a partition of his share. There had been already a *de facto* partition in effect for many years in the village by virtue of which each co-sharer had held a specific area in his own cultivation or in the occupation of his raiyats. In the partition made by the Court the plaintiff's *tukhta* comprised 77 plots. Of these particular plots his former share had contained only 11. His numerous co-sharers were turned out of 66 plots and given no indication what land they might occupy instead. The Civil Court Commissioner mentions the cultivators as witnesses of the quality of some fields, but does not record in any case their *possession* over their fields. As in the case of Khutharia, they were not made parties and were absolutely ignored by everyone. It may be added that *muhua* trees as well as lands are usually distributed among landlords without any acknowledgment of third parties' rights. This case was decided in 1916. In village Banye the maliks of 8 annas, 3 pies, 13½ *kurants*, 6 *masants*, and 13 *dams* brought a partition suit in 1909 and in due course got their shares apportioned. The other maliks were turned out of much of their former property and left to readjust their shares in the remaining area of the village. They fought hard amongst themselves and against the raiyats. They subsequently applied for a further partition, but after protracted litigation their suit was rejected on technical grounds. The attestation dispute list of this village tells a tale of the dispossession and injustice resultant on the partition. Chetna was partitioned between Khanapuri and attestation and the partition lines were drawn through the middle of cultivated fields.

10. Turkadih and Jharna were divided into 5 shares by the Civil Court without any reference to the old *kamwari* raiyats, in 1915. Murmusi was partitioned a little later. Before the partition there had been a private division into 3 shares of 12 annas, 3 annas and 1 anna respectively. The 3-anna sharers had formerly cultivated most of their own portion and the other maliks collected rents from raiyats in respect of theirs. The *bakast* of the 3-annas people was given by the Court to the other sharers. The raiyats were as usual ignored in the proceedings.

11. In Bishunbandh demarcation and delivery of possession was made by the Court after the preparation of the settlement map, but that map was not used. The raiyats had previously held under the indigenous system in which uplands and *baris* are complementary to rice lands and the rent is assessed upon rice land alone. Their rice land and upland were, under the partition, assigned to different shares; and they were called upon to continue paying the old rent for the rice land only and a new assessment for the upland. In some cases their *baris* only were put into one share and these were separately assessed.

12. Partitions have been made in the same way in villages Rabda, Kamaru, Palheya, Nawadih, Saraidih, Panchadomar, Kope, Kundi and scores of others. In every case they take no notice whatever of the raiyats. The following description of the normal procedure is taken from a circle note by Babu Basanta Kumar Ray:—

"The share of each man who has applied for partition is calculated and that quantity is measured in one *chak* with straight sides, regardless of natural boundaries and landmarks; all the maliks who had applied for partition thus get their *tukhtas* consecutive to each other, and the remainder of the *mausah* is left to the co-sharers who had not applied for partition, without any specification as to where, in that portion of the *mausah*, they are to have their lands, or in what quantity. These co-sharers are then left to quarrel among themselves as to what lands one will take hold of. Everything is confusion and might is right. The co-sharer who is strong or who can engage the services of men who are expert *head breakers* and *lathi* players grabs as much land as he likes; the weaker and poorer co-sharers are left without any lands at all. The position of raiyats in such cases is still worse as can be imagined. Everywhere they get the same reply "When a *malik* has no *thikana* of his land, who cares for a raiyat and his holdings?"

13. That this is not an overdrawn picture may be gathered from the later history of some of the cases mentioned above. In Kutharia the decision is so recent that there has not been time as yet for much development, but it may be mentioned that Babu Mathura Prashad, a rich pleader of Daltonganj, and a co-sharer by virtue of auction purchase, has



set up a demand for half produce instead of the old cash rents in every field in his 2-anna *takhta*. Although the settlement operations have so far protected the raiyats he has resorted to every description of litigation which has yet been possible against them, and declares his intention of wearing them down even if he has to go to the Privy Council. His plea is that possession of the land has been given to him by the Civil Court, and that he is entitled to deal with it as *bakasht*.

14. In Sonbarsa the 4-anna *malik* sent *pahicans* and forcibly stopped the transplantation in the case of every riyat in his *takhta*. A fight ensued and was followed by a criminal case. The *malik's* son is a dismissed Sub-Inspector of Police and knows the ropes; and the Civil Court had given him possession. All the raiyats went to jail, and the dismissed Sub-Inspector transplanted *their* seedlings and possessed *their* lands. Not even a house or *bari* was left to the raiyats in his *takhta*. The landlords of the other *takhta* continued to collect the whole of the raiyats' former rents in respect of those lands only that were now assigned to their twelve-anna share.

15. In Jharna and Turkadih the *maliks* treated the rights of the old raiyats as extinguished by the partition. Thus the Baral Babus of Daltonganj leased all the lands in their share for 3 years only on half produce rent to some of the old *kanwadari* raiyats jointly with 3 Sheikhs and a Chamar, who were newcomers. All these tenants could not work together in harmony so the Barals made all the good lands *bakasht*. Two other sharers followed the Baral's lead in making all the best lands *bakasht* and exacting *adhbatai* instead of the old cash rent for the rest, and the remaining *malik* fought so hard with his raiyats that all the lands of his *takhta* were actually fallow for three years. At the last Road Cess return there had been virtually no *bakasht* in the village; the *batwara* has changed all that and now there is little else.

16. In Murmasi the result of *batwara* is thus described by the Attestation Officer (Mr. A. N. Chakravartti):—"The 3-anna *maliks* turned out the tenants from the lands that fell in their *takhta* saying that they had formerly no tenants cultivating under them and the Sarkar had now given them no tenants, but only certain lands in their present *takhta* in place of their former lands, which they cannot allow others to cultivate. The 12-anna *malik* brought under his *khosjat* the lands which had formerly been cultivated by the 3-anna *maliks* and ultimately turned out all tenants from the central *dohars* and *bhitha* lands of the village and left them only stray plots of high rice land and *tann* on the outskirts of the village. For these too he began to demand produce-rent instead of cash."

17. In Saraidih a co-sharer named Gosain Parson Gir stated in his deposition that "before *batwara* rent was paid at a certain rate per *paria*. After *batwara* everything has been done away with". In these words he expressed the popular view of the significance of a partition. Nor is it surprising that this view should prevail. What possible significance can attach, in the public estimation, to the delivery of raiyats' lands piecemeal into the "possession" of different *maliks* not merely without any recognition of the raiyats, but even sometimes in exchange for genuine *bakasht*, unless it be a delivery free of encumbrances? The procedure is utterly irreconcilable with the belief that 'settled raiyats' are entitled to continue in undisturbed possession of their entire holding without alteration of rent.

18. There have been numerous *batwaras* in Palamu and they all (even the recent ones) are made in the same way and have the same results. The Judicial Commissioners have recognized and tried to stop the resultant evils. Annexed will be found a letter from Mr. J. Reid, Settlement Officer of Ranchi, addressed to the Judicial Commissioner and the reply. It was then pointed out that partition often separated complementary lands from parent holdings and thus caused a double assessment. Mr. Kingsford ordered this evil to be discontinued. It was later proposed that Assistant Settlement Officers should be appointed Commissioners to carry out *batwaras*. I gave this system a trial, but after about a dozen cases which imposed a month's work or more on the officer concerned in each case I was obliged to refuse any more such appointments, because they caused more additional work than I could cope with. These experiments served to show how great is the difficulty of getting the co-sharing landlords to come to any agreement over each of the five or six hundred fields of which a village is usually comprised, and over any equitable distribution of the existing *bakasht* that may be suggested. It is indeed much easier for the Court's Commissioner to deal with a few rough blocks outlined on a map like those usually adopted which the parties cannot understand and to get over difficulties concerning *bakasht* by leaving each *malik* to make his own terms with the raiyats.

19. I brought the whole question to the notice of Mr. C. H. Reid some time ago, and he has recently informed me that he passed an order that raiyats' holdings were never to be split up in partition decrees, but kept under a *shamilat*. At the instance of the High Court he subsequently modified this order but it still enjoins that holdings are not to be split up except where such a course is unavoidable. It has been seen above that these orders are systematically disregarded by the Courts which never even inform themselves whether there are any raiyats in existence or not. The cases cited above are not old ones, and there is no reason to suppose that the evil is disappearing of itself. On the contrary, it is strong enough to overbear the prohibitions and the condemnation of successive Judicial Commissioners. It is deep seated in the convenience of the Court and the profit of the parties. There is need for a thorough overhauling and the clearing away of all legal doubts. In the interest of justice to the poor and weak the matter should be taken up at once.

20. The legal question, as it appears to me, is as follows:—Is it possible to issue instructions to Civil Courts to the effect that when making a partition between the joint co-sharers of an undivided property they must ascertain and record the names and

particulars of the tenures of tenants' holdings under the co-sharers, and must, when they subdivide a tenancy, apportion the existing rents between the different *takhtas* into which the tenancy falls? The arguments for compelling courts making partitions to act in the manner specified are obvious. The landlords and tenants of sub-divided holdings are clearly entitled to know their rights and obligations to each other arising out of the partition. To leave these to be decided by agreement (if any such agreement is valid under the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act) or by subsequent suits is in present circumstances unfair to the tenants, and would if the latter were capable of looking after their rights, be unfair to both parties. On the other hand, it is difficult to see how the co-sharers of a joint property asking for a partition can legally be compelled to furnish information about tenants and their rents except in so far as such information is necessary for the purpose of valuing the land in order to effect the partition. Here, however, it might be suggested that a landlord's interest in raiyati land is much more limited than his interest in his *bakasht*, and to value both kinds of land, for the purpose of partition, solely with regard to their productive capacity, is to set the landlords an example in overlooking this important fact.

21. Again it is for consideration if the duty of ascertaining the particulars referred to were laid on Civil Courts making partitions, are they likely to discharge it properly? So long as the raiyats are not made parties to the proceedings the Courts must depend on the applicants for information about tenants and their rights. At present the raiyats are not legally bound (though this fact is little advantage to them) by any act or omission of a Civil Court engaged in making a *batwara*. If, however, the Court is enjoined to look into the rights of tenants, a presumption will arise that this duty has been carried out, a presumption which is likely, despite any attempts which may be made to prevent it, to be applied to the disadvantage of the tenants. It would appear therefore necessary to make the raiyats parties to the proceedings.

22. The case mentioned in paragraph 8 of this note indicates the desirability of considering whether more weight ought not to be given to private partitions, whole or partial, which though not formally agreed to by the parties, are of long standing. At present the Courts absolutely disregard such partitions and on the application of one co-sharer plunge the whole body of owners into confusion by assigning separate lands to the applicant, leaving the remaining co-sharers to decide for themselves how they shall hold the remainder of the lands of the estate, whether they shall hold them jointly or whether they shall make a fresh division. Dispossession of raiyats to acquire *bakasht* in exchange for *bakasht* assigned to the applicant is a natural result; but even if the rights of the raiyats were not endangered the procedure is manifestly unfair to the body of the shareholders.

#### APPENDIX W.

##### A NOTE ON ENHANCEMENT ON ACCOUNT OF LANDLORDS' IMPROVEMENTS.

Deputy Commissioner,

In reference to your note on the subject of enhancements of finally published rents please see sections 29 and 35 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. These sections prescribe generally the grounds on which enhancements or reductions of existing rents may be sought. Where there has been a settlement, all the grounds of enhancement or reduction except (1) a landlord's improvement and (2) deterioration of the soil or productive capacity of the holding through no fault of the raiyat have been abrogated for the currency of the settlement by section 94. But these two exceptions are exactly the ones you want.

2. A landlord who executes an improvement of raiyat's lands must apply to the Deputy Commissioner under section 28 for an enhancement and must specify the fields concerned and the reasons upon which he bases his claim to have made an improvement. Similarly, a raiyat whose land has deteriorated through failure of the landlord to maintain irrigation which he is under any obligation to maintain, should file an application under section 34.\*

3. With regard to the procedure to be followed by the Courts, Government have laid down a system of rates and classification which will hold good till the next settlement. The Courts should, I believe, follow this system in dealing with applications for enhancements or reductions, for it is illegal under section 44 to raise the rates on general grounds; that is to say, if they are satisfied that the normal productivity of a given field has been raised by an improvement executed by the landlord from say 12 maunds per acre to 18 maunds, they should raise the class of that field from III to II. They should then increase the rent from the minimum rate† for the old class to the minimum rate for the new, provided that they do not thereby exceed the new minimum rate for the entire holding, and subject also to the remarks which follow.

4. I shall attempt to explain my meaning by an example. Let it be supposed that the maximum rate for a holding is Rs. 50, the minimum is Rs. 30 and the existing rent is Rs. 40. Under orders of Government Rs. 40 will be settled by us. If the landlord subsequently executes a work of improvement which affects only a fraction of the holding so as to raise its new minimum after re-classification from Rs. 30 to say Rs. 36, the Courts should not allow any enhancement on account of it (for the existing rent is still in excess of the minimum).

5. A further complication is, I fear, inevitable; as you know, the Government minimum is in some villages far in excess of the existing rents. An equitable means of adjusting the minimum to the facts in each case has been the adoption of a 50 per cent. limitation of

\* It was doubtful if the raiyat could get this relief under the Act of 1908, but the Amending Act, which has just been passed in Council, makes the point clear. (T. B. 1920).

† For an explanation of the term minimum rate (or enhancing standard) see the Chapter on Fair Rent Settlement.

enhancements. The effect of this compromise is that in a village where, for example, the finally published rents are about one-third of the minimum, we have settled not the minimum itself but half of it, i.e., *the finally published rent plus an enhancement of 50 per cent.* If after a few years, a landlord were to execute a work of improvement raising some 3rd class rice land to 2nd class, it would not be fair to enhance the raiyats' rents from *half* of the 3rd class minimum to the *whole* of the 2nd class minimum but only to half the 2nd class minimum. Such villages will be in a minority but owing to their low rentals they will be specially likely to invite the landlords' activities. Thus in a village in the Chainpur Estate where owing to the principle of limitation of enhancement the rates settled on second class rice-land have been only half the minimum rate for that class, some third class lands are improved by the landlord to second class it would be a violation of section 94 to raise the rents of these third class lands above the rates recently settled on second class lands in the village, on the ground that such rates are below the minimum, for it would amount to allowing an enhancement on other considerations in addition to the landlord's improvement.

6. Again in the method of enhancement by reclassifying a very serious danger presents itself, lest the Court should substitute its own principles of classification for those followed in the settlement and thereby often impose an enhancement when there is no real improvement in productivity at all. Both professedly and in practice our classification has been a *very strict one*; and experience indicates that officers who have made no special study of the subject almost invariably include in the first and second classes a larger proportion of the land than we have included. Consequently to ensure that a reclassification may be considered a real test of an improvement having taken place, it is essential that it should be based on the principles followed by us, and if possible be made by an officer who has worked in the Palamanu Settlement.

7. It would be advisable that landlords should give previous intimation of an intention to make an improvement, so that the officer who would ultimately decide the enhancement suit should examine the ground *before* as well as *after* its completion. The question is so important and so difficult that in my opinion these cases should be dealt with as a rule by the Deputy Commissioner himself. If the landlords in any case fail to give previous intimation of their intentions, they should be put to strict proof that they have made an improvement *subsequent* to this settlement. It is hardly necessary to point out that section 94 does not admit of any enhancement in respect of a work which fails or of expenditure by a landlord which does not constitute an effective improvement. It has not infrequently happened in the past that *bandas* and *pyries* have been undoubted failures; and assessments based upon the expenditure incurred upon them have not been justly imposed. It is not possible therefore, as you suggest, to *guarantee* the landlords beforehand any return on their expenditure and *a fortiori* no definite increment of rent in proportion to outlay can be promised to them.

8. In the right to apply to the Deputy Commissioner for enhancements on the ground of improvement the landlords have all that they can reasonably or honestly ask for, and in the fact that the present assessment has been based on a strict classification the more dishonest among them have a good chance of obtaining disproportionate advantages.

9. If I may be permitted to express an opinion on the general question involved, although I am like you anxious for the development of the district, I do not believe that this is at all the time (just after Government has intervened on an unprecedented scale to regulate assessments) to encourage talk of enhancements. The claim of the Palamanu landlords that they had been devoted to the construction of works of improvement for the benefit of their tenantry was urgently and even clamorously pressed at this settlement until they were asked to show these works on the spot to officers armed with maps and *khasras* by means of which they could distinguish *malik's* fields from those of raiyats. It then collapsed utterly. The truth was found to be that many of those *ahars* which were made by raiyats have been appropriated *with their rice-fields* by the *maliks*, and that many of the *maliks' bandas* though they only irrigate *maliks' lands* have served as a pretext for a wholesale enhancement even of the rents of uplands, even though they were constructed by the *half-paid begari* labour of the raiyats.

10. That the landlords should, so soon after this exposure, express their intention of asking for fresh enhancements on the ground of improvements seems suspicious. I fully and firmly believe that *when once reasonable rents and security of tenure shall have been established* in Palamanu the tenantry will make more works of real improvement in 10 years than the landlords have done in a century.

T. W. BRIDGE,

Settlement Officer, Chota Nagpur Division.

#### APPENDIX X.

##### *Explanatory Notes on the Settlement Records of Palamanu District.*

In order to explain the inter-connection and comparative values of the different portions of the settlement records it will be convenient if a brief description of the process of settlement be given.

The settlement operation may be divided into the following stages:—

- I. Cadastral survey or demarcation of boundaries and survey of fields.
- II. Khanapuri or preliminary preparation of the records.
- III. Preparation of preliminary records for attestation in recess.
- IV. Attestation and draft publication with disposal of objections under section 83 and 111(6) Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.
- V. Preparation of records for final publication.
- VI. Final publication of the record-of-rights.
- VII. Recovery of cost and distribution of copies of the record-of-rights to all parties interested.
- VIII. Settlement of fair rent and trial of all post-publication suits, i.e., suits under sections 87, 111(8), 120, 130 and 252 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.
- IX. Deposit of settlement records with the Deputy Commissioner.

The work in a particular area is thus usually spread over from 4 to 5 years. In the first cold season (October to April) the cadastral survey and khanapuri are completed. In the following recess (May to September) the records are prepared and arranged for attestation. In the second field season (October to April) the work of attestation with draft publication of the records and disposal of objections under section 83 and 111(6) is completed. Then in the recess (from May to September) the records are checked (*junch*) and fair copied (*safai*), and compared (*moina*), and are arranged, and kept ready for final publication. In the third field season the records are finally published and extracts of *khuntkatti* and *pradhani* records are distributed (rule 29 of the rules of the Local Government under Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act). Then, in the recess, corrections of *maliki* and *raiya* copies are made according to the Collectorate copy, if there has been any correction of it during final publication. Calculation of costs to be paid by the parties is also finished (computation). In the fourth field season recovery of costs and distribution of copies of the record-of-rights among the parties are finished and if possible all post-publication suits are disposed of, or they are disposed of in the next cold season.

It may be now explained what papers are prepared at each stage of the settlement process; which paper ought to prevail in the event of discrepancies coming to light and generally how the records may be helpful in the disposal of miscellaneous, revenue and civil cases.

## PART I.

### Cadastral survey.

**Maps.**—The survey sheet on which the village map is prepared is supplied to the Settlement Department by the provincial Traverse Section of the Survey Department. It is a purely professional work, which has no legal bearing on the settlement record. A very short reference is, however, given below about it:—The cadastral survey is based on traversed plots; the traverse-surveyor fixes a series of stations (*chandras*) on the ground roughly following the village boundaries. These stations are plotted on the sheets and they are shown in position in the maps by a small ring. They are connected by straight lines in light-blue called traverse lines. They are not shown, however, in the finally printed copies of the original maps, though the *chandras* are shown in them in position by the conventional sign stated above. These *chandras* are of great help in identification of fields near them, in cases of disputes, or other kinds of enquiries. They are often found fixed on the spot and, even if missing, can be relaid easily.

Settlement maps are prepared on the scale of 16 inches to one mile; congested portions like village sites, which cannot conveniently be surveyed on the 16' scale, are plotted or surveyed on the map outside the village boundary ordinarily on the 32 inch scale. These portions in the body of the map are kept blank; references being given to the double plotting by Hindi letters अ, इ, etc.

Besides the survey of fields, all notable objects, like big trees, *pakka* roads, *pakka* houses, temples, mango topes, tanks, etc., are surveyed in position and various kinds of conventional signs are used to indicate them, which are given in pages 56 to 58 of the Survey Manual of 1908.

Besides the traverse-stations a certain number of objects of permanent nature are surveyed with absolute accuracy in the map. Objects which can be easily identified are generally adopted such as prominent trees, bridges, corners of permanent buildings, mosques, temples, tanks, mile-stones, *pakka* wells, corners of tanks (if well defined), isolated rocks, pillars and well-defined field corners. They are shown in the map by a special conventional sign, thus (\*) and are known as *adopted stations*. These will not only serve as a good basis for subsequent revisional survey, but will be of great help in identification of plots during local enquiries.

A village map is often divided into two or more sheets. The first sheet contains a small scale plan showing the relative positions of the sheets. In the case of a large plot of jungles or waste land, a part of which is surveyed on one sheet and part in another, the portions falling in each sheet are treated as separate plots. The margins are closed by a conventional

sign, namely 4 dots in every inch ( .. .. ). In some cases big jungle plots in the same sheet are also separated into blocks and are treated as separate plots, being divided by the same conventional sign as above. Cairns of loose stone, of a prescribed size, are prepared on the spot at the point where the boundary of three or more villages meet. The point is shown in the map thus or

These cairns are prepared on the true *trijunction* of the villages concerned, except in cases where the boundaries meet in the middle of a road, or of a stream, or at the junction of two streams. In these cases cairns are prepared on two sides or three sides. They are all shown in position in the village map. Thanawar trijunction maps on the 2-inch scale, showing the village boundaries and trijunction marks in position, all serially numbered, are supplied to the District Officer, with a list of trijunction stones. At the time of attestation of the village all these trijunctions are rechecked carefully on the spot and made over to the *chaukidars*, their signatures or thumb-impressions being taken in a register kept for the purpose. In cases where such cairns are destroyed or removed or changed on the spot they can be fixed accurately with the help of the village maps of the villages concerned.

All boundary disputes are decided during cadastral survey under the provisions of the Survey Act. Disputes affecting less than 20 acres of land are disposed of by an Assistant Settlement Officer at the *khanapuri* stage. Larger disputes are decided by a Covenanted Assistant Settlement Officer in charge. Appeals lie to the Settlement Officer. The evidence and the findings of officers and all decisions in appeal are embodied in *nathis* called *sorkadi tanaza nathi* and are all deposited in original in the District Record Room.

The directions of the adjacent village boundaries are shown in maps by lines starting at a distance of one chain from the true trijunction and prolonged to a distance of 5 chains or one inch. These lines are called *thoka* lines. Their direction is determined by the last portion of the boundaries of the adjacent villages without a bend before the trijunction point is reached. These lines are shown in thick black, like village boundary lines.

In the headings of the map the following things are noted :—

- (1) The revenue survey name and number of the village.
- (2) The Collectorate register number.
- (3) The correct name of the village as ascertained locally during the settlement operations.
- (4) The *thana* and the new *thana* number.
- (5) *Pargana*.
- (6) *Tappa*.
- (7) District.
- (8) Scale.
- (9) Year of preparation.

A diagram of the 16-inches scale is also printed on each sheet for ready reference.

A reference to notable objects in the sheet is also given below the heading with plot numbers.

## PART II.

### *Khanapuri or preliminary record writing.*

**Plot numbers.**—The plot number in the map is the *khassra* number. The plot or field means “a plot or contiguous plots of the same class of land held in the same right and under the same landlord by the same tenant, or by a group of tenants holding jointly, in the same tenancy” [vide rule (1) of Notification No. 2768-F.R., of 21st October 1909, page 25, Reic’s Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act]. If a group of tenants, holding one tenancy jointly cultivate separately, the lands cultivated by one member are separated from those of others by different plot numbers. The portions which are found in occupation of a mortgagee, sub-lessee, or vendee are also surveyed separately. Each plot may be subdivided into many portions by bails for purposes of irrigation or cultivation called *kharis*, but they are not surveyed separately though the number of *kharis* in each plot is shown in the records. It may be noted here that the number of *kharis* may be increased or diminished by the *raiya*s in the ordinary course of cultivation. In big plots containing many *kharis* the number might also have been miscounted in some cases by the *Amins*. Where there may be any discrepancies found on the spot about the number of *kharis* it is advisable to identify the field or plot with the boundary as shown in the map. If two or more plots which have been separately surveyed are found to constitute one field, they are bracketed in the map thus :—  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \end{array} \right]$ . In the maps many marks of this kind may be found. The plot numbers generally follow one another in the map without violent jumps and they generally extend from the north-west corner of the village to the south-east.

**Numbers that appear out of place on the map.**—Occasionally exceptions may be found in the shape of what are called *batta* numbers. If the *Amin* by mistake omits to number a plot, he waits till he has completed the map, and then gives the vacant space the number next following the last in the map. In the *khassra* and *khatian* this number is recorded as denominator

to the number of an adjoining plot in the map thus :—  $\frac{10}{11} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \end{array} \right]$  the plot No. 230 will appear in the record as  $\frac{10}{230}$ , or  $\frac{11}{230}$ . The numerator serves as a guide to the position of the plot

in the map which would otherwise be found with much difficulty. This kind of *butta* number has also been found to be necessary when raiyats who had been recorded during *khanapuri* as jointly possessing a holding were found to be separate at attestation. The list of all the *butta* numbers appearing in a sheet is printed at the bottom of the map. The finally published maps are all signed by the Settlement Officer as Superintendent of Survey and these signatures are conclusive evidence that they have been prepared under the authority of Government.

**Khanapuri.**—*Khanapuri* consists of the preparation of the *khewat*, *kharsa*, *khatian* and irrigation record. No irrigation record was made in the private villages of revenue thanas Balumath, Latehar and Mahudahr. A record of all disputes raised at *khanapuri* with the Assistant Settlement Officer's written decision of each is also kept.

**Khewats.**—The *khewat* shows the character and extent of the rights of each proprietor and other intermediate tenure-holder, with the revenue or rent payable by each and other conditions (Appendix M). The *khewats* prepared during *khanapuri* are all checked, corrected and completed during attestation and all objections decided before they are finally published. In the *khewats*, thus completed, the first entry will be that of a proprietor paying land revenue direct to Government. The second entry will be of the tenure-holder immediately under the proprietor. Then other intermediate tenure-holders in subordination according to their grade are entered. A separate *khewat* serial number is assigned to each proprietor and tenure-holder; while *butta* numbers such as  $\frac{1}{1}$ ,  $\frac{2}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{3}$ , etc., are designed to show separate possession of co-sharers in the lands of the same tenure. The numerator is the serial number of the tenure and the denominator shows the division of possession among the co-sharers within the same tenure. A *shamilat khewat* is a conventional way of showing either that certain lands are held jointly by all the proprietors or tenure-holders indicated by the *khewat* serial numbers included in the *shamilat*, or that the co-sharers in the same tenure who hold some lands separately hold other lands jointly. The tenure-holders concerned in the *shamilat khewat* are shown by the different *khewat* serial numbers.

**Chit arazi khewats.**—When a small block of land within the periphery of one village forms part of another village of which the *maik* is different, a *chit arazi khewat* is prepared as follows:—After the *khewat* entries of the village in which the block of land lies are completed, a *khewat* for the block is prepared showing the names of the proprietor and tenure-holder, etc., having interest in the block, following the *khewat* of the parent village to which the *chak* belongs. Above these entries a reference is given thus—*chit arazi khewat* of *manza* such and such, *thana* and *thana* number such and such.

**Tolawar khewat.**—When the landlord of a *tola* is distinct and the *tola* has definite boundaries, and collections in respect of it are separate, *tolawar khewats* are sometimes prepared and written separately for each *tola* with a separate 16-annas computation for each; the serial number of the *khewat*, however, remains continuous for the whole village; the name of the *tola* being entered clearly in the *khewat* at the beginning of the entries which affect it. In the case of a landlord holding more than one village under one *tauzi* number or in one tenancy, the total rent and cesses are stated in each village, a reference being given in the remarks column to the other villages with the names and *thana* numbers. In the case of a big estate or tenure consisting of many villages, the name of the estate or the name of the tenure only is mentioned. In the remarks column of the *khewat* are also entered notes about deeds of sale, mortgage, gift, etc. The *khewat* in Palaman is not divided into three parts as it is in Bihar. The proprietors and tenure holders, whether rent-paying or otherwise, all find entry in the same form.

**Tauzi milana.**—*Khewats* are prepared according to the facts of possession in each case, as ascertained on the spot. Extracts of the registers maintained by the Collector under the provisions of the Land Registration Act of 1876 are obtained and carefully compared when the *khewats* are attested, and all discrepancies found are noted with an explanation of the nature and the reasons for them. They are all embodied in a register called the *Tauzi Milan Register* which is deposited in the District Record Room. The action to be taken by the Collector on these reports is described in rules 252 and 252A of the Survey Manual of 1908.

**Kharsa.**—The *kharsa* or the field index, as prepared at *khanapuri*, does not form part of the record-of-rights which is finally published and deposited in the Collectorate record room. It is replaced by an index attached to the volumes of *khatians* showing the plot numbers serially and indicating the *khatian* number where each plot is to be looked for. The *khanapuri kharsa* is the basis of some important statistical statements such as the *jaiswar* (crop statement) and *milan kharsa* described hereafter.

**Khatian.**—*Khanapuri khatians*, known as working *khatians*, are not deposited in the District Record Room in original. Copies of these *khatians* are prepared in continuous *khatian* forms (*vide* Appendix M) which are finally published and are contained in the bound volumes deposited in District Record Room. These finally published *khatians* are arranged according to the serial numbers of the *khewat*, continuous number being given for all separate *khatians* under each *khewat*. The raiyati *khatians* under each *khewat* are arranged alphabetically according to status. The following is the order of the different kinds of status:—

- (1) *Khatian* for *ziyat* *malik* (landlord's privileged land).
- (2) *Khatian* for *bakisht* *malik* (landlord's ordinary cultivation).
- (3) *Khatian* for *bakisht* raiyat.
- (4) *Khatian* for settled raiyat (*haimi*).
- (5) *Khatian* for occupancy raiyat (*lakhikar*).
- (6) *Khatian* for non-occupancy raiyat (*gar-dak'ulkar*).
- (7) *Khatian* for *naukaraan*.

- (8) Khatian for *baigut*.
- (9) Khatian for *gairmazua-malik*.
- (10) Khatian for *gairmazua-am*.
- (11) Khatian for Kaiser-hind (Government).
- (12) Khatian for dar raiyats.

Each plot with the number of its *ris* and details of boundaries, nature of right, class of land, area, etc., is noted in the khatian. In the remark column against each plot there are notes showing possession of the trees (both fruit and timber) which stand on it, possession of dar-raiyats and possession of mortgagees, etc. The rent column shows the rent, the commuted value of special conditions, if any (i.e., *rakumats* and *begari*), and cesses. In the special incidence column, special notes are made relating to such matters as the *mahua* trees, lac-bearing trees in possession of the raiyats and any special conditions of the tenancy. In the special incidence column of the *gairmazua-malik* khatian, the rights of tenants to *reclaim waste-land or to prepare korkar* and the mode of assessing such lands to rent are noted. All orders passed under sections 90, 85, 87, 111 (8), 120, 130 and 61, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, are also noted in the khatians, the notes being signed by a revenue officer. The finally published khatians in such cases are not actually corrected, but the notes become legally a part of the records. (Section 83, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.)

Copies of the khatians as finally published are given to the landlords and the raiyats, but these copies are not always brought up to date in respect of publication orders (sometimes not being produced for the purpose by their recipients). In cases of doubt the collectorate record should be consulted. The copies of these finally published khatians supersede the draft parchas which have been previously distributed during *khanapuri* and at attestation.

Lands held by one raiyat under the same *malik* and in the same status are all entered in one khatian, whether held on cash rent or on produce rent, and whether held in one *jama-bandi* or more. The plots held on produce rent have the fact specially noted in the appropriate column.

#### IRRIGATION RECORD (*Fard-abpushi*).

A record of all sources of irrigation of a more or less permanent nature like tanks, *abars*, *pakka* wells, *pynes*, etc., has been made in a prescribed form (*vide* Appendix V); the record contains information about the construction, cost, mode of repair, distribution of water and area (with plot number) of fields irrigated. These are finally published and a copy is included in the volume of the record-of-rights deposited in the District Record Room.

Besides the records mentioned above, statistics of agricultural stock, ploughs, carts, etc., are prepared in each village under the name of the *Fard-hawala* at the time of *khanapuri*. A *thanawar* list of stock is compiled from these (*vide* Appendix E).

#### THE DISPUTE LIST (*Fard-tanaza*).

All the disputes, with their decisions, are collected in a file called the *Tanaza-nathi*. They contain the names of the contending parties, the nature of their claims, the plot numbers concerned, and the findings of both the *khanapuri* and attestation officers. The disputes which are reopened at attestation are dealt with in the same dispute list as in *khanapuri* and the findings are written side by side. Those which are opened newly at attestation are dealt with separately. All these decisions can be objected to under section 83 and are tried locally by a special officer. All objections under section 83, with necessary details and orders, are collected in a file called the section 83 *nathi*, and are deposited in original in the record room.

### PART III.

#### Preparation of records for attestation (*Cadastral recess*).

After the preliminary records are received from the cadastral camp they go through the following sections at headquarters during the hot weather and rains:—

(1) *Drawing section*.—Here the maps are finished and prepared for reproduction by the Vandyke process. Comparison of village boundaries, correction of maps according to the decision of the boundary disputes, and comparison of maps and *khassaf*, etc., are also done here.

(2) *Area section*.—Here field and village areas are computed and checked.

(3) *Khasra section*.—The records are checked and completed, field areas are entered in the *khassra* and khatian and other records, and the following statistics are prepared for the area dealt with:—

(a) *Mian khasra*.—The statement showing the classification of cultivated lands according to seasons of harvest and of uncultivated areas. It is first prepared village by village and then the total is worked out for the whole of a revenue thana (*see* Chapter I for a list of thanas).

(b) *Jinwar, or crop statement*.—The statement showing the areas under different kinds of crops, thana by thana, for the district. Appendices C and D are the *mian khasra* and *jinwar*. These statements bound in *thanawar* volumes are deposited in the District Record Room.



## PART IV.

*Attestation, draft publication with disposal of objections under section 83 and 111, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.*

During attestation besides the attesting and completion of the khewat, khatian and irrigation record and disposal of disputes as already described, the following additional records are also prepared :—

(1) khatian part II, a record of the customary rights of the raiyats in jungle prepared under section 81(n) of Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

(2) The *pradhani hakuknama* a record of rights and obligations of the village headman.

(3) The written proceedings of the enquiry in each village about rents, and rent history, village customs, customary rights (Chapter XII, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act) prädial conditions and the commutation thereof (Chapter XIII, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act), privileged lands of the malik (Chapter XIV, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act) raiyats having *khunkhatti* rights and village headmen (Chapter XV, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act). All these enquiries with a summary of the evidence taken, and the findings, are embodied in a file called the commutation *nath* and are deposited in original in the District Record Room. It may be noted here that in enquiries to ascertain and to commute prädial conditions the revenue officers are guided by the provisions of section 111 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, due regard being given to the proviso to section 105 (3), Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. It may therefore sometimes happen that the commuted values of such conditions as are allowed in the proceeding have been disallowed afterwards in respect of particular *khatians*, under this proviso. The prädial conditions allowed and their commuted value are shown in commutation form No. 1 [*vide* Appendix M(E)], which is bound with the volumes of the record-of-rights. The commutation of prädial conditions subject to special provisions for post-publication suits, revision and appeals, is final, as is also the record of *khunkhatti* and *zirat*. The law also forbids the imposition of any new prädial condition (*rakumat*, *abwab* or *begari*) in future. These subjects will therefore no longer trouble the courts.

(4) *Village notes*.—They are prepared in printed forms and contain various kinds of information about the agricultural and economical conditions of a village. They are bound in *thanwar* volumes and deposited in the District Record Room. The record-of-rights after attestation is published in draft and kept open for inspection for one month. All objections filed during that period under sections 83 and 111 (6) are accepted and disposed of, as already described.

## PARTS V AND VI.

*Preparation of records for final publication, and final publication.*

After all the objections under sections 83 and 111 (6) are disposed of, and the record corrected where necessary, they are all checked in recess at headquarters by the process called *janch*. The *teri* (an abstract of khatian) is then prepared. The *goshwara* i.e., statement showing the areas under each class of tenancies according to status, is also prepared for every village. The *villagewar* statements are attached with the bound volumes of the record-of-rights. Duplicate copies of these statements are bound in *thanwar* volumes and are deposited in the record room. The records are then copied in triplicate (*safat*), one copy being for the Collector and the other two for the malik and raiyats. The *raiya*'s copies are then all carefully compared with the original (*moins*) and the mistakes detected are corrected in all the three copies. They are then rechecked in some cases (*bala*), and thus the records are all completed for final publication. They are then published finally in camps in presence of a Revenue Officer. The entries in the record-of-rights prepared under section 127 are finally served on all the interested parties.

## PART VII.

*Recovery of cost and distribution of copies.*

The costs are recovered from the parties at certain rates per acre as sanctioned by Government. The lists of dues from each man called demand-forms, are also deposited in the District Record Room. When the costs are being recovered the copies of the record-of-rights are given to the landlords and the raiyats.

## PART VIII.

*Settlement of fair rent and disposal of post-publication suits.*

These fall under sections 85, 87, 111(8), 120, 130, 250 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. Notes of the purport of the orders passed under these sections are made in the record-of-rights and they form part of the record. All orders under section 61, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, regarding commutation of produce rent passed before final publication are incorporated in the record-of-rights, but such orders passed after final publication are noted as above. Fair rent in isolated cases are settled for special reasons before final publication under the provision of section 85(3) (a) or (b). Orders thus passed before final publication are also incorporated in the record-of-rights, but such incorporation does not alter the character of these orders as decisions duly passed under section 85 or section 61.



## PART IX.

*Deposit of settlement records with the Deputy Commissioner.*

The records thus completed and arranged are bound in volumes and delivered to the District Officer. The records made over consist of the following :—

- (1) Village maps put in the pocket of the volume.
- (2) Certificate of final publication.
- (3) *Terij* or abstract of the *khatian*.
- (4) *Goshwara*.
- (5) *Kherwat*.
- (6) Index to plots.
- (7) *Khatians*.
- (8) *Khatian* part II.
- (9) Commutation form No. i.
- (10) *Pradhani hukuknama*.
- (11) Irrigation records.

Besides the above records bound in volumes the following papers are also deposited :—

- (1) All boundary dispute *nathis*, in original with appeals.
- (2) All dispute *nathis* in original.
- (3) All *nathis* containing rent, *khuntkatti* and *zird* enquiries, and commutation proceedings of an attestation officer.
- (4) All *nathis* containing section 83 and section 111 objections and their decisions.
- (5) All post-publication suits.
- (6) Village notes bound in thanawar volumes.
- (7) Computation and recovery papers, thana maps with a list of villages, trijunction *mujmillis* with a list of all trijunction cairns, thanawar registers of *milan khasra*, *jinswar*, *fard-hawala* and *goshwara*.
- (8) Circle notes, that is to say miniature settlement reports written by each attestation officer about the area dealt with by him in a season. These notes contain much more detailed information than can be given in a Final Report of a whole district. The position of each attestation camp and the area which it disposed of, is displayed in a special map attached to this report, by means of which it will be easy to identify the subject matter of each circle note.

A sample of most of these forms has been given in English in Appendix M. These are all the papers which the courts have at their disposal for eliciting information and for reference in cases of dispute. I have already given a short note about the contents of these papers.

## PART X.

*Uses of the settlements records.*

All records have been prepared taking a village as a unit. The statistics besides being prepared villagewar, have also been grouped into thanawar totals.

A general note about the use of settlement records and statistics, and the maps prepared therewith, has been given in Part V, Chapters I to IV of the Settlement Manual of 1908. The thana maps and the printed thana lists of the villages are of great use in almost every branch of administrative work. The serial number of each village in a thana, known as the thana number, is very important. It corresponds with that given in the thana map. All the villages contained in a thana are serially numbered, the number in one police-station is finished before another is taken up. One thana may contain (as it usually does) several villages of the same name but these numbers will differentiate one from the other. The records and all information may be very promptly gathered with reference to these numbers even without the name of the village.

The *terij* will form an accurate and just basis for cess-revaluation work. It was the most important factor in cess-revaluation of Ranchi district. The recovery computation forms were utilized in Hazaribagh district for chaukidari assessment. In the same district, the *fard-hawala* or agricultural list was frequently used in disposing of objections about income-tax assessment.

The following important provisions of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act are noted :—

- (1) Every entry in the record-of-rights shall be presumed to be correct until it is proved by evidence to be incorrect. [Section 84 (3), Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.]
- (2) Final publication of the record is conclusive evidence that the record has been duly made under Chapter XII of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. [Section 84 (1) and (2) of Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.]
- (3) The rent recorded in the finally published records and in cases where fair rents have been settled under section 85 the rents thus settled cannot be altered or varied for a period of 15 years from the date of final publication save on the grounds mentioned in section 94, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. After 15 years the landlords must apply for a revision settlement under section 98, before they can sue for enhancement under section 28.

- (4) Issues under section 86 decided *pari-passu* with the fair rent settlement under section 85 are final (subject to appeal), and those issues cannot be re-opened in the Civil Court, *vide* section 258, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. The bar to further suits regarding orders passed by the revenue officers is also described in the above section 258, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.
- (5) All notes duly made in the record-of-rights subsequent to final publication of orders passed in all kinds of post-publication suits are to be considered as part of the record-of-rights. (Section 88, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.)
- (6) All rents settled under the provisions of Chapter XII, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, will take effect from the beginning of the agricultural year next after the date of the decision finally fixing the rent. (Section 97, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.)
- (7) Imposition of new prædial conditions in any except a *nankarana* or purely service holding or creation of any raiyati tenancy with such conditions after the passing of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act of 1908 is prohibited by section 101, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. All the existing conditions found to be valid and legal have been commuted under Government notification. The commuted values have been incorporated in the record-of-rights and should now be considered as part of rent [section 114 (2).]
- (8) Section 63, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, provides for penalties for illegal exactions of rent or prædial conditions.
- (9) The existence of privileged lands of the landlords has been enquired into in each village under Government notification under section 119, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. The claims when valid and legal have been allowed. No other land can now be claimed as privileged under section 125, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.
- (10) The records of the rights and the obligations of raiyats having *khunkhatti* rights and of village headmen have been prepared and incorporated in the record-of-rights under Chapter XV, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. The record is now conclusive evidence, *vide* sections 132 and 134, Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. Fair rents of all such tenancies have been settled under Government notifications.
- (11) The decisions of the *khanapuri* officers regarding boundary disputes have the force of a decree of the Civil Court declaring possession, until it is reversed or modified by a competent authority, *vide* section 41 of the Survey Act. The High Court have recently held that such decisions of boundary disputes are *res judicata* as regards possession. (14 C. W. N. 48.)
- (12) The necessity of granting rent receipts and the penalties for non-compliance have been impressed again and again on every landlord. The provisions of section 54 must now be well known to every landlord and they can no longer plead ignorance.
- (13) Forcible dispossessions of the raiyats from a part of their holdings have been noted in the record-of-right with an explanation that the entire rents of the holdings are under suspension and cannot be realized till the dispossession is removed. This has been ruled by both the Patna and Calcutta High Courts and should not be forgotten in the disposal of rent suits.

#### APPENDIX Y.

##### *Notes on the minerals of district Palamu.*

Many different minerals have been found in the district, namely:—Coal, lime, fireclay, iron, graphite and, it is said, at one place, manganese. Three of the above are mined commercially; these are, coal, lime and fireclay. They are dealt with below in the order of importance.

**Coal.**—Coal has been mined for many years in the centre of the district, at Rajhara, by the Bengal Coal Company Limited. This coalfield is known as the Daltonganj coalfield, and is still producing some six or seven thousand tons per month. There was at one time another colliery in the same field at Singhra, but this has been closed for many years.

There is another coalfield to the south-west known as the Hutar Coalfield. Prospecting operations have been going on in this area for some years and it is likely that this coalfield will attain considerable importance in the future. The area under investigation is about fifty square miles. The opening out awaits the construction of some thirty miles of railway extension of the present Daltonganj Branch of the East Indian Railway, when coal can be immediately despatched in far greater quantities than is being at present sent from the Daltonganj Field.

**Lime.**—Commercial lime is being obtained in the north of the district and to the east of Daltonganj but not in very considerable quantities. Some of the lime is of fairly good quality and finds ready sale.

**Fireclay.**—This mineral is quarried at Rajhara, at the mines, is of good quality and very quickly finds a market. There may be other deposits of this very useful mineral in the district, but the Rajhara one is the only one working at the present time.

*Iron, graphite and manganese.*—These minerals are not worked in the district at present. Iron was worked at one time in the south-west by the inhabitants and smelted by them. It was afterwards sent or carried to the nearest town and sold. (See Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India.) There are many old iron furnaces and evidence of the crude smelting is to be seen even at the present\* time in the shape of old slag heaps.

Graphite and manganese have not progressed beyond the prospecting stage and no commercial venture has been tried with success. There may be workable amounts, but it remains for the development of the first named minerals to pave the way for a closer scrutiny of the ground.

*Other minerals.*—Other minerals may exist, for though a considerable amount of prospecting has been carried out, it cannot be said to be conclusive enough to prove their existence.

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\* The writer of the report has seen something of this kind actually being done in South-West Palaman.



## APPENDIX Z.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF GOVERNMENT VILLAGES ARRANGED BY THANAS.  
THANA DALTONGANJ.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenancies.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (-).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
1	Alaula ...	391	9	165 2 0	156 9 0	-5 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
2	Ashoahar ...	413	105	1,152 12 3	994 12 6	14 „	
3	Banjari ...	28	33	414 3 0	387 7 0	-6 „	
4	Banslohar ...	316	15	285 9 0	205 8 0	-27 „	
5	Bara ...	229	9	80 14 0	36 9 0	-54 „	
6	Bari ...	242	141	1,277 4 9	1,140 6 0	-10 „	
7	Baurakhar ...	402	6	32 9 0	33 1 0	+8 „	
8	Bhairwa ...	48	27	221 14 6	230 14 0	+4 „	
9	Chaukhra ...	306	55	646 1 0	421 10 0	-34 „	
10	Daltonganj ...	189	10	276 10 0	207 1 0	-5 „	
11	Dhabadih ...	275	93	658 1 0	674 3 0	+2 „	
12	Dhangardi ...	200	38	239 0 0	361 1 6	+28 „	
13	Dodang ...	263	61	98 10 0	85 0 0	-9 „	
14	Erra ...	289	16	91 12 0	120 14 0	+32 „	
15	Gopalgnj ...	21	83	284 4 0	174 1 0	-36 „	
16	Goradih Jagatpurwa ...	377	12	0 12 0	53 15 0	-12 „	
17	Goradih Khas ...	368	63	602 9 0	560 13 0	-7 „	
18	Goradih Kothilwa ...	376	6	105 12 0	75 13 0	-28 „	
19	Goradih Piprahat ...	375	13	373 12 0	228 15 0	-12 „	
20	Goradihtoli ...	369	1	16 7 0	13 4 0	-18 „	
21	Harmur ...	256	36	313 1 3	282 0 0	-10 „	
22	Hutar ...	218	5	65 5 0	103 8 0	-4 „	
23	Jagardahpur ...	24	8	46 8 0	34 14 0	-27 „	
24	Jainagar ...	99	22	106 14 0	109 10 3	+3 „	
25	Jaitakhar ...	340	31	379 12 0	358 5 0	-5 „	
26	Jamune ...	203	53	316 11 0	346 0 0	+9 „	
27	Jhabar ...	222	52	389 1 0	358 12 9	-8 „	
28	Jhagarpar ...	333	14	160 9 0	166 1 0	+3 „	
29	Jorahunhe ...	257	25	154 5 0	139 13 3	-15 „	
30	Kamalpur ...	313	34	158 9 0	127 1 0	-20 „	
31	Kathantia ...	262	4	38 12 0	39 3 0	+1 „	
32	Kerki ...	448	11	11 8 0	11 1 0	..	
33	Khairant ...	370	9	113 14 0	145 9 0	+28 „	
34	Khamdi ...	510	7	57 9 0	14 8 0	-75 „	
35	Khutar Kalan ...	35	7	51 13 0	53 10 3	+3 „	
36	Kot Khas ...	330	84	322 3 0	567 5 0	-31 „	
37	Kulia ...	280	33	203 10 0	189 14 0	-6 „	

## THANA DALTONGANJ—concl'd.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenants.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (—)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
38	Kumar alias Barkaganon ...	201	80	56 8 0	610 13 0	+7%	
39	Kundpani ...	148	2	10 15 0	7 3 4	—36	„
40	Kundri ...	383	143	1,357 7 3	1,145 14 6	—16	„
41	Kurainpatra ...	319	61	817 4 0	536 1 0	—34	„
42	Lohra ...	364	31	226 7 0	198 2 6	—12	„
43	Lohrapokhri ...	278	23	148 13 0	120 8 0	—18	„
44	Mahulia ...	19	12	158 5 3	207 0 0	+31	„
45	Manaria ...	335	50	336 7 0	318 13 0	—5	„
46	Mukta ...	505	11	24 3 0	29 6 0	+21	„
47	Musurmu ...	149	44	78 13 9	114 12 11	+46	„
48	Nakti ...	345	12	158 7 0	116 7 0	—28	„
49	Nawadhonra ...	220	31	77 13 0	74 7 0	—5	„
50	Nawadih ...	248	34	83 9 0	78 8 0	—6	„
51	Parasuram Khap ...	394	22	202 14 0	187 8 0	—22	„
52	Pataria ...	49	31	128 11 11	148 10 0	+16	„
53	Phudia ...	343	17	106 11 0	90 6 0	—16	„
54	Phulang ...	399	21	310 6 0	254 15 6	—18	„
55	Pipra Khurd ...	395	36	629 0 0	448 5 0	—29	„
56	Pirhia ...	219	26	73 11 0	73 6 0	...	
57	Pokhras Kalan ...	204	66	230 4 0	297 6 6	+29	„
58	Pokhras Khurd ...	205	75	461 4 3	546 8 9	+18	„
59	Purnadih ...	332	121	1,415 1 6	851 7 0	—29	„
60	Rajterwa ...	251	61	66 11 0	84 14 0	+22	„
61	Rajpura ...	400	9	105 8 0	106 14 0	+1	„
62	Rajwadih ...	202	83	684 14 9	693 15 6	+1	„
63	Rebaratu ...	274	66	335 3 0	326 10 0	—3	„
64	Rupaundha ...	249	44	290 10 0	268 1 0	—7	„
65	Sagalim ...	406	56	969 11 9	708 1 6	—7	„
66	Sambhuchak ...	241	22	66 9 0	66 9 0	...	
67	Shahpur ...	112	106	838 15 0	567 9 0	—32	„
68	Sitadih ...	331	82	541 14 0	393 5 0	—37	„
69	Sonhisrai ...	344	17	158 7 0	142 7 6	—10	„
70	Sudna ...	191	57	566 6 0	534 11 0	—5	„
71	Talapara ...	56	7	60 1 6	44 7 3	—27	„
72	Taleyakhas ...	25	44	614 15 9	582 2 3	—5	„
73	Urhulia ...	336	21	131 10 0	134 2 0	+1	„
	Total	...	2,895	22,421 1 2	20,189 12 6	—9.96	

## THANA GARHWA.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenants.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (-).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
1	Bana ...	270	7	47 6 0	44 7 0	-6 %	
2	Birbandha ...	370	54	513 2 0	509 0 0	-1 "	
3	Bongasi ...	313	16	121 14 0	105 9 0	-13 "	
4	Chhapardaga ...	303	54	389 5 0	404 11 0	+4 "	
5	Chiraunja ...	236	106	810 3 9	456 13 3	-43 "	
6	Darmi ...	271	8	37 13 0	38 0 0	...	
7	Dhangardiha ...	351	21	36 15 0	37 9 0	+2 "	
8	Dubiahi ...	29	3	21 4 0	19 11 0	-9 "	
9	Gāṇḍikālān ...	297	13	101 5 0	141 7 3	+5 "	
10	Gangikhurd ...	295	21	139 2 0	140 7 0	+1 "	
11	Gar. autu ...	337	7	37 3 0	35 2 0	-5 "	
12	Garnaha ...	298	8	122 2 0	105 10 3	-14 "	
13	Gidha ...	271	6	36 9 0	36 9 0	...	
14	Gurdi ...	290	17	92 3 0	66 5 6	-28 "	
15	Jala ...	268	7	54 7 0	38 9 0	-29 "	
16	Manjhiānwān ...	85	4	69 6 0	69 6 0	...	
17	Nawadih ...	275	42	375 15 0	299 9 0	-20 "	
18	Nimiyadih ...	353	18	50 2 0	49 0 0	-2 "	
19	Pachperwa ...	355	56	193 6 0	159 14 0	17 "	
20	Partappur ...	278	39	318 7 0	298 6 3	-6 "	
21	Pataria ...	327	23	149 10 0	143 11 0	-5 "	
22	Patsa ...	273	48	271 4 0	237 12 0	-13 "	
23	Patsi ...	272	10	10 3 9	5 0 0	-50 "	
24	Sarjama ...	279	4	18 3 6	11 12 0	-38 "	
25	Sidekalan ...	276	3	26 6 0	21 11 0	-15 "	
26	Sidekhurd ...	277	7	51 14 0	56 14 0	+9 "	
27	Soh ...	352	76	539 7 6	461 8 0	-14 "	
28	Tenar ...	346	21	236 5 0	203 13 0	-14 "	
29	Tildag ...	363	66	1,074 14 0	846 15 3	-21 "	
	Total ...	...	760	5,949 5 6	5,045 4 9	-15.19	

## THANA HUSAINABAD.

1	Baldihri ...	294	38	430 8 0	314 0 0	-27%	
2	Bhurwa ...	261	44	170 4 6	151 11 0	-11 "	
3	Gogea ...	124	3	37 1 6	48 10 0	+31 "	
	Total ...	...	75	637 14 0	515 5 0	-19.44	

## THANA LATEHAR.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenancies.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (--).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
1	Agardihi ...	128	24	113 2 0	124 6 0	+10 2/3	
2	Aghra ...	14	34	70 1 0	51 12 0	-26	"
3	Akhra ...	16	47	144 7 9	100 6 9	-31	"
4	Ambatikar ...	279	62	475 14 0	445 2 0	-7	"
5	Amdiba ...	5	45	171 3 0	175 9 0	+3	"
6	Amwatikar ...	85	13	57 9 0	57 4 0	Nil.	
7	Antikheta ...	84	20	212 2 0	189 7 0	-11	"
8	Aunratnir ...	172	47	163 15 0	176 5 0	+8	"
9	Labhandih ...	33	27	195 4 0	208 6 0	+5	"
10	Bachra ...	191	5	65 8 0	56 14 0	-13	"
11	Bakoria ...	127	124	911 13 0	878 8 0	-4	"
12	Benpur ...	251	49	269 14 0	257 9 0	-4	"
13	Baraitola ...	109	20	51 5 3	45 9 0	-10	"
14	Barichatan ...	55	13	25 5 0	24 10 0	-3	"
15	Bariatunisf alias Bariatun Khal- sa.	214	41	417 2 0	337 15 0	-19	"
16	Baridohar ...	54	20	29 4 0	34 6 0	+17	"
17	Barkadihi ...	176	55	181 5 0	176 12 0	-3	"
18	Barkheta ...	50	49	153 8	176 7 6	+15	"
19	Barwadihi ...	22	49	320 15 0	330 4 0	+3	"
20	Barwadihi ...	102	37	93 5 0	95 14 0	+3	"
21	Bendi ...	178	31	173 9 0	164 2 0	-5	"
22	Bersini ...	209	35	256 9 0	179 11 0	-24	"
23	Bere ...	46	21	146 13 0	162 6 0	+10	"
24	Betla ...	15	54	367 11 0	347 11 0	-6	"
25	Bhatko ...	106	21	175 11 0	170 12 0	-3	"
26	Chandardihi ...	248	52	253 3 0	200 8 0	-21	"
27	Charwadihi ...	129	7	51 10 0	60 10 0	+18	"
28	Chatani ...	80	23	142 12 0	111 7 0	-22	"
29	Chechendha ...	97	7	48 5 0	55 5 0	+17	"
30	Chetna ...	125	24	312 9 9	283 12 0	-9	"
31	Chhencha ...	29	44	178 15 0	225 2 0	+26	"
32	Chhipadohar ...	58	59	216 13 9	249 3 0	+15	"
33	Churia ...	190	11	87 10 0	87 0 0	...	
34	Deobar ...	175	18	102 9 0	106 11 0	+4	"
35	Dorami ...	7	55	162 5 0	161 3 0	-1	"
36	Dugila ...	252	16	158 7 0	151 3 0	-4	"
37	Dumri ...	110	14	233 8 0	152 6 0	-35	"

## THANA LATEHAR—contd.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenants.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (-).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
38	Dumariatanr ...	100	14	29 7 0	22 14 0	-22 %	
39	Dumbi ...	103	35	149 15 6	133 15 9	-11 "	
40	Durangi Kalan ...	183	27	134 14 0	101 14 0	-24 "	
41	Durangi Khurd ...	182	30	173 0 0	166 12 0	-4 "	
42	Durna ...	187	41	256 11 0	238 10 0	-7 "	
43	Gasedag ...	47	23	12 3 0	11 4 0	-8 "	
44	Gire ...	291	25	172 8 0	163 0 0	-5 "	
45	Gon ...	264	49	277 8 0	310 6 6	+12 "	
46	Godna ...	192	28	357 6 0	311 0 0	-13 "	
47	Gua ...	66	17	158 1 0	121 1 0	-25 "	
48	Gurgu alias Irgu ...	212	37	178 7 3	163 1 0	-9 "	
49	Harhe ...	49	26	160 5 0	162 8 0	+1 "	
50	Harinamar ...	56	21	127 4 0	119 11 0	-6 "	
51	Harkha ...	261	16	100 10 0	93 1 0	-7 "	
52	Honlehas ...	6	20	25 4 0	27 13 0	+9 "	
53	Hesla ...	221	17	125 14 0	125 14 0	...	
54	Hotwag ...	181	19	170 14 0	142 0 0	-17 "	
55	Humanara ...	88	20	111 9 0	94 12 0	-14 "	
56	Ichabar ...	237	25	111 3 0	110 1 0	-1 "	
57	Jalta ...	188	4	94 3 0	79 12 0	-15 "	
58	Jamuna ...	90	24	149 3 0	125 8 0	-16 "	
59	Jargarh ...	52	9	3 3 0	2 8 0	-22 "	
60	Jer ...	193	21	231 0 0	226 11 0	-2 "	
61	Jungur ...	171	69	418 2 0	470 7 0	+5 "	
62	Juruhar ...	57	24	152 15 0	160 12 0	+5 "	
63	Kalayanpur ...	4	14	94 11 0	111 10 0	+17 "	
64	Karamlih ...	43	17	115 2 0	96 15 0	-16 "	
65	Karkat ...	184	48	241 10 0	193 4 0	-20 "	
66	Kavadih ...	117	56	361 5 0	359 6 0	...	
67	Kechki ...	1	52	230 6 0	259 10 0	+13 "	
68	Ker ...	63	41	494 3 6	308 5 0	-38 "	
69	Koru ...	243	52	369 4 0	371 5 0	+1 "	
70	Khaira ...	206	25	70 8 0	60 2 0	-15 "	
71	Khambikhas ...	43	22	12 1 0	14 0 0	+16 "	
72	Khapiadih ...	104	39	145 9 0	131 6 0	-9 "	
73	Khura ...	25	50	207 4 0	225 1 0	+9 "	



## THANA LATEHAR—contd.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenancies.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (-).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
74	Komo <i>alias</i> Kumu	...	263	21	66 15 0	62 9 0	-7 %
75	Corhuma	...	253	25	173 14 0	173 4 0	-3 "
76	Kuchila	...	59	49	183 5 0	204 14 6	+11 "
77	Kudag	...	284	11	79 10 0	63 13 0	-19 "
78	Kui	...	115	70	341 5 3	318 0 3	-7 "
79	Kushabathan	...	11	6	28 4 0	23 0 0	-18 "
80	Kutma	...	98	21	30 0 6	41 7 0	+37 "
81	Labhar	...	71	12	69 1 0	63 9 0	-8 "
82	Ladi	...	73	29	106 13 3	119 8 0	+11 "
83	Lali	...	173	38	162 15 0	181 15 0	+12 "
84	Lat	...	48	50	252 9 0	272 8 0	+8 "
85	Latehar	...	250	126	294 12 6	248 1 6	-15 "
86	Lawagara	...	177	6	50 3 0	47 12 0	-5 "
87	Lechpa	...	179	34	210 6 0	212 13 0	+1 "
88	Luhur	...	21	67	170 12 0	174 4 0	+2 "
89	Mahuatoli	...	277	13	10 9 0	9 15 0	-6 "
90	Mako	...	135	30	147 2 0	94 9 0	-36 "
91	Manan Chutag	...	226	41	225 10 0	247 4 0	+9 "
92	Manik Dih	...	96	11	86 7 0	83 14 0	-3 "
93	Manikpura	...	257	9	140 5 0	125 4 0	-11 "
94	Mankheri Khas	...	214	84	745 7 0	613 12 0	-18 "
95	Morwai Khurd	...	35	12	69 2 0	70 8 0	+2 "
96	Mungar	...	262	73	580 1 0	577 0 0	-1 "
97	Munru	...	72	42	169 3 0	180 7 0	+7 "
98	Murgidih	...	23	42	151 11 0	144 13 0	-5 "
99	Murgidih	...	204	24	219 4 0	198 15 0	-9 "
100	Muru	...	17	34	230 12 0	239 15 0	+4 "
101	Nadbelwa	...	174	11	47 1 0	52 9 0	+12 "
102	Namudag	...	95	46	329 8 0	306 14 0	-6 "
103	Nawadih	...	69	32	115 14 0	113 9 0	-2 "
104	Nawagarh	...	216	161	497 7 3	395 2 0	-20 "
105	Nawarnago	...	41	10	91 11 0	92 8 0	+1 "
106	Nindir	...	283	66	507 9 0	470 11 0	+6 "
107	Orea	...	199	21	53 15 0	66 8 6	+22 "
108	Pachamba	...	205	18	142 0 0	113 10 0	-20 "
109	Paina	...	20	29	95 8 0	110 1 0	+15 "
110	Pandepur	...	256	44	469 14 0	371 8 0	-19 "

THANA LATEHAR—*contd.*

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenancies.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (—).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
111	Parsahi ...	189	43	286 13 0	279 9 0	—3 %	
112	Pataria Chotag ...	225	52	160 12 0	161 15 0	—5 „	
113	Patki ...	87	17	113 2 0	79 6 0	—30 „	
114	Patradih ...	45	9	53 4 0	49 0 0	—8 „	
115	Pipra Kalan ...	126	82	688 12 0	627 4 0	—9 „	
116	Pokhri ...	99	22	80 10 0	77 14 0	—4 „	
117	Pokhra Kalan ...	10	154	1,234 6 0	881 9 0	—29 „	
118	Putuagarh ...	30	13	24 10 0	29 4 0	+19 „	
119	Rabdi ...	62	17	169 6 0	147 12 0	—13 „	
120	Rajahar ...	86	39	116 10 0	86 3 0	—26 „	
121	Rehara ...	253	46	156 3 0	148 8 0	—4 „	
122	Rehrah ...	215	23	123 10 3	75 9 0	—39 „	
123	Sadhwadih ...	130	31	126 14 0	169 15 6	+34 „	
124	Saidap ...	53	33	156 14 0	147 3 0	—6 „	
125	Sakwar ...	192	17	196 3 0	196 3 0	...	
126	Salgo Sinjo ...	91	77	525 7 0	457 5 0	—13 „	
127	Salodih ...	259	6	31 10 0	33 15 0	+6 „	
128	Selaritaur ...	79	15	37 8 0	47 9 0	+28 „	
129	Serenadag ...	44	21	75 9 0	84 4 0	+11 „	
130	Shiveharantola ...	89	17	134 4 0	100 2 0	—25 „	
131	Sinori ...	101	36	127 7 0	136 3 0	+7 „	
132	Ta wai ...	40	8	20 11 0	21 14 0	+6 „	
133	Tappakhas ...	249	56	45 7 0	331 6 0	—18 „	
134	Tarwadih ...	218	67	304 13 0	284 0 0	—7 „	
135	Themi ...	122	30	56 3 0	55 4 0	—1 „	
136	Tongari ...	51	41	198 8 0	205 4 0	+3 „	
137	Tumagora ...	124	8	196 5 0	184 7 0	—6 „	
138	Ukamar ...	18	51	281 5 0	287 12 0	+2 „	
139	Ulgara ...	270	18	73 6 0	70 14 0	—3 „	
140	Zalim kalan ...	266	40	492 8 0	453 2 0	—8 „	
	Total ...	...	5,259	27,440 6 3	27,016 12 9	—1.54	

## THANA MAHUADANR.

1	Alagdiha ...	14	29	140 6 0	168 0 0	+20 %
2	Arja ...	10	34	127 9 0	125 13 0	—1 „
3	Balerwatola ...	47	23	77 1 0	74 6 0	+3 „
4	Enigatoli ...	83	59	178 8 0	170 7 0	—4 „

## THANA MAHUADANR.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenants.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (-).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. n. p.	Rs. a. p.		
5	Bandua ...	19	40	197 2 0	248 7 0	+26 %	
6	Barosanr ...	62	77	312 14 0	324 7 0	+4 ..	
7	Bhanwar Bandh ...	58	13	46 7 0	51 1 0	+10 ..	
8	Chanchu ...	13	19	133 6 0	133 14 0	+ ..	
9	Chanpi ...	21	17	118 6 0	95 8 0	-20 ..	
10	Chipru ...	4	12	32 9 0	39 9 0	+22 ..	
11	Chiraiya ...	24	12	11 9 6	10 9 0	-9 ..	
12	Chotha ...	35	38	191 9 0	208 3 0	+8 ..	
13	Dabri ...	36	35	110 13 0	149 3 0	+35 ..	
14	Danr Kocha ...	65	18	45 6 0	51 1 0	+18 ..	
15	Dari Chapar ...	30	13	56 12 0	68 10 0	+21 ..	
16	Derhgünw ...	61	22	75 6 0	71 4 0	-5 ..	
17	Dhangartola ...	57	31	101 7 0	82 5 0	-19 ..	
18	Doram ...	39	18	18 3 0	23 2 0	+25 ..	
19	Haru ...	56	23	78 9 0	52 11 0	-33 ..	
20	Hasiyara ...	18	14	17 10 0	19 8 6	+12 ..	
21	Ghasitola ...	15	35	271 5 0	272 8 0	+ ..	
22	Grondi ...	43	24	110 15 0	117 14 0	+6 ..	
23	Gotag ...	11	3	25 3 0	35 12 0	+42 ..	
24	Hanumantola ...	9	16	69 9 0	69 4 0	..	
25	Hesag ...	52	8	79 6 0	75 14 0	-4 ..	
26	Hethola ...	45	31	191 3 0	182 14 0	-5 ..	
27	Jangai ...	121	34	102 1 3	105 6 3	+3 ..	
28	Kabri ...	27	19	48 6 9	58 8 9	+21 ..	
29	Kante ...	25	8	30 14 0	30 12 0	..	
30	Kariola ...	38	11	28 15 0	34 5 0	+18 ..	
31	Karwai ...	46	28	84 14 0	104 8 0	+23 ..	
32	Korwatola ...	40	19	31 12 0	36 7 0	+15 ..	
33	Kotam ...	32	70	337 11 0	352 3 0	+5 ..	
34	Lai ...	17	14	84 0 0	104 3 0	+24 ..	
35	Luhurtanr ...	54	24	80 9 0	88 7 0	+10 ..	
36	Mahuadabar ...	26	12	24 15 0	28 6 0	+14 ..	
37	Makundpur ...	2	16	125 13 0	129 15 0	+3 ..	
38	Mangra ...	63	8	6 5 0	7 3 0	+14 ..	
39	Mayapur ...	66	54	274 15 0	295 5 0	+7 ..	
40	Murpa ...	16	28	80 6 0	80 4 0	...	

## THANA MAHUADANR—contd.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenants.	Finally published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (—).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
41	Netarhat ...	81	62	135 6 0	176 5 0	+30 %	
42	Paharkoocha ...	67	70	112 15 0	117 10 0	+4 „	
43	Pailapathal ...	12	15	10 0 0	10 15 0	+9 „	
44	Patratu ...	6	21	92 6 0	102 2 0	+11 „	
45	Piri ...	1	23	168 1 0	167 15 0	...	
46	Purankidab i ...	37	23	55 7 0	73 13 0	+33 „	
47	Purnihesag ...	53	11	40 6 0	31 1 0	—15 „	
48	Ramsili ...	64	28	128 15 0	172 6 0	+33 „	
49	Rol ...	5	26	142 12 0	140 10 0	+4 „	
50	Rud ...	22	83	360 15 0	359 8 0	...	
51	Salwe ...	34	29	46 6 0	42 9 8	—8 „	
52	Samodhtola ...	55	19	48 9 0	39 4 0	—19 „	
53	Simakhas ...	20	29	111 8 0	126 5 0	+13 „	
54	Siram ...	31	20	46 7 0	53 12 0	+16 „	
55	Sorwar ...	7	22	115 9 0	103 10 6	—10 „	
56	Tati ...	23	8	24 8 0	20 9 0	—16 „	
57	Udaipur ...	8	13	70 10 0	65 11 0	—7 „	
	Total ...	...	1,464	5,811 6 6	6,192 0 8	+5.47	

## THANA PATAN.

1	Angra ...	296	33	412 8 0	363 13 0	—12 %	
2	Aredana ...	295	46	367 1 0	335 5 0	—8 „	
3	Eagahi ...	421	6	38 4 0	37 13 0	...	
4	Balmuwan ...	575	26	99 7 0	122 13 0	+24 „	
5	Bansdewa ...	419	16	94 2 0	91 13 0	—2 „	
6	Bansikhurd ...	403	42	203 5 9	184 13 0	—9 „	
7	Para ...	441	18	108 6 0	97 14 0	—9 „	
8	Barahkurwa ...	413	8	52 4 0	51 11 0	...	
9	Barkoma ...	432	13	215 10 0	217 1 0	...	
10	Fedanikhurd ...	431	30	299 5 0	201 2 0	—32 „	
11	Bhalugari ...	424	13	200 6 0	182 8 0	—8 „	
12	Bhanra ...	454	13	121 1 0	112 7 0	—7 „	
13	Bharathpur ...	461	33	363 8 0	374 1 0	+3 „	
14	Bhusra ...	170	20	260 12 0	282 6 0	+8 „	
15	Biraundha ...	444	2	19 0 0	19 0 0	...	
16	Birtia ...	560	5	56 0 0	40 10 0	—27 „	

## THANA PATAN—contd.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenancies.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (-).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
17	Bishunpur ...	435	29	209 12 0	154 8 9	-26 %	
18	Budhuchak ...	439	1	17 12 0	17 12 0	—	
19	Chanpi ...	379	10	114 6 0	79 13 0	-30 „	
20	Chaura ...	450	16	140 8 0	131 5 0	-7 „	
21	Chilho ...	423	45	446 10 9	283 14 0	-36 „	
22	Chopea ...	411	5	35 10 0	33 0 0	-7 „	
23	Dhuma ...	458	13	140 10 0	108 14 0	-23 „	
24	Dhumkhar ...	380	1	24 13 0	24 13 0	+	
25	Diharia ...	287	2	5 1 0	3 11 0	-27 „	
26	Garhwat ...	354	1	27 6 0	27 6 0	Nil.	
27	Ghanghari ...	344	15	75 11 0	76 3 0	Nil.	
28	Gharo ...	418	5	84 14 0	83 12 0	-1 „	
29	Gogda ...	416	28	283 10 0	207 11 0	-27 „	
30	Goindi ...	527	111	427 11 9	338 5 9	-7 „	
31	Gudipahari ...	554	17	155 5 0	140 1 0	-9 „	
32	Haldi ...	539	3	23 11 0	31 4 0	+32 „	
33	Hesatu ...	565	23	92 4 0	100 0 0	+8 „	
34	Jagodih ...	297	8	59 7 0	55 2 0	-7 „	
35	Jaspur ...	568	20	115 2 0	113 5 0	-2 „	
36	Jhari ...	167	60	275 2 3	264 11 0	-4 „	
37	Jhurha ...	420	3	16 0 0	14 7 0	-12 „	
38	Kalapahar ...	286	17	134 1 0	129 9 0	-3 „	
39	Kanka Kalan ...	211	50	335 7 3	325 10 9	-3 „	
40	Kankakhurd ...	210	28	177 9 0	187 3 0	+5 „	
41	Kararkalan ...	279	42	440 12 0	423 1 0	-3 „	
42	Karma ...	494	11	87 10 0	68 9 0	-20 „	
43	Kasmar ...	495	10	1,401 15 6	1,044 10 9	-25 „	
44	Kelwa ...	574	43	135 7 0	146 15 0	+8 „	
45	Khamhi ...	224	1	0 4 0	0 3 0	-25 „	
46	Kokarsa ...	169	23	431 3 0	462 8 0	+6 „	
47	Kusaldih ...	430	19	169 2 0	165 1 3	-4 „	
48	Loharsi ...	570	107	1,584 4 9	1,310 14 0	-17 „	
49	Lohaya ...	422	4	33 0 0	19 15 0	-39 „	
50	Mudhea ...	347	4	220 2 0	167 2 0	-24 „	
51	Mahari ...	445	68	502 9 6	487 15 6	-3 „	

## THANA PATAN—concl'd.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Thana No.	Number of tenancies.	Finally-published rent.	Settled rent.	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (-).	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
52	Mahusdanr ...	470	15	180 6 0	171 4 0	-5 %	
53	Masuria ...	381	19	76 1 0	62 4 0	-18 „	
54	Murma ...	168	83	573 9 6	500 2 0	-12 „	
55	Mutpurhai ...	446	11	127 2 0	120 3 0	-5 „	
56	Nawa ...	369	28	161 4 9	88 4 3	-13 „	
57	Parpain ...	500	17	58 14 9	41 4 3	+6 „	
58	Parsain ...	462	13	120 7 0	120 14 0	+	
59	Parsawan ...	463	19	221 12 0	226 5 0	+2 „	
60	Pashar ...	496	31	738 12 9	535 3 6	-26 „	
61	Pipratntr ...	562	13	110 14 0	119 7 0	+7 „	
62	Rajhara ...	291	9	18 10 0	14 1 0	-26 „	
63	Rangeya ...	377	34	99 14 0	97 10 0	-2 „	
64	Saraidih ...	412	14	189 2 6	127 4 6	-33 „	
65	Semri ...	360	31	178 5 0	170 8 0	-4 „	
66	Seyum-Bedani ...	443	7	21 0 0	24 5 0	+14 „	
67	Sikni ...	457	18	100 9 0	85 0 0	-16 „	
68	Sinduriya ...	440	4	39 8 0	35 13 0	-10 „	
69	Sugi ...	451	62	347 9 0	301 10 0	-13 „	
70	Tarhasi ...	438	74	706 1 0	623 13 0	-1 „	
71	Tilamba ...	569	23	78 4 0	80 0 0	+2 „	
72	Tildiha ...	573	4	3 10 0	3 10 0	+	
73	Tiroundha ...	417	27	987 6 0	322 15 0	-17 „	
74	Tirwa ...	415	4	164 12 0	136 10 0	-17 „	
75	Udaipura ...	431	39	594 1 0	503 4 0	-16 „	
76	Utaki ...	236	35	346 10 0	281 11 0	-18 „	
	Total ...	...	1,894	16,843 11 9	14,830 5 5	-11.96	

## THANA RANKA.

1	Bhandaria ...	166	28	133 0 0	166 8 0	+25 „
2	Binda ...	169	31	108 3 0	158 10 0	+47 „
	Total ...	...	59	241 3 0	325 2 0	+34.36

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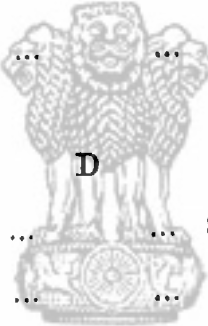
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