

**SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOMBAY  
GOVERNMENT**

No. XL.—NEW SERIES.

---

**P A P E R S**

REGARDING THE

**REVENUE SETTLEMENT EFFECTED**

IN THE

**DISTRICTS OF OMERKOTE AND THURR;**

AND ON THE

**CONDITION AND SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT**

OF THE

**Thurp and Parkur Districts.**

---

**Bombay :**

**PRINTED FOR GOVERNMENT**

**AT THE**

**BOMBAY EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS.**

**1856.**

# CONTENTS

---

## ASSESSMENT OF THE OMERKOTE DISTRICT.

	PAGE
Letter from the Acting Commissioner in Sind to Government, dated 11th June 1856, No. 237.. .. .	1
Letter from the Deputy Collector of Meerpoor to the Collector of Hyderabad, dated 10th May 1856, No. 131 .. .. .	5
Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind to the Collector of Hyderabad, dated 19th January 1855, No. 201.. .. .	10
Statement showing the annual revenue of the Omerkote Districts from the Conquest up to the year 1855-56 .. .. .	12
Statement showing the number of Government buildings constructed in the Omerkote Talooka since the Conquest .. .. .	13
Statement showing the number of cases tried, and the number of prisoners in each case, in the Omerkote Talooka, during the past five years .. .. .	13
Statement showing the amount of land intended to be granted free of assessment to Patels, Omerkote Talooka, as rewards to them for the discharge of the duties of a Patel, as awarded by Mr. Frere. .. .. .	14
Statement showing the number of roads constructed by Lieutenant Tyrwhitt in the Omerkote Districts, their length and breadth .. .. .	15
Statement showing the result of the measurement of the fields in the Omerkote Talooka. . . . .	16
Statement showing the average size of all the fields of the Omerkote Kardarate, from one beega upwards .. .. .	17
Resolution of Government, dated 24th July 1856, No 2770, communicated to the Acting Commissioner in Sind .. .. .	18

---

## REVENUE SETTLEMENT OF THE THURR DISTRICTS.

Letter from the Acting Commissioner in Sind to Government, dated 3rd June 1856, No. 1370 .. .. .	1
Letter from the Acting Deputy Collector and Magistrate Thurr and Parkur to the Commissioner in Sind, dated 15th December 1855, No. 464 .. .. .	6

	PAGE
Statement showing the result of the new survey and measurement of the fields in the Deepla Kardarate .. .. .	16
Statement showing the land revenue collected in the three Kardarates of the Thurr Districts, for the last ten years, from 1845-46 to 1854-55 ..	18, 19
Statement showing the result of the new survey and measurement of the fields in the Mittee Kardarate .. .. .	20
Statement showing the result of the new survey and measurement of the fields in the Veerawow Zilla. . . . .	21
Statement showing the land revenue of the Thurr and Parkur Districts for the last ten years, viz. from 1845-46 to 1854-55 .. .. .	22
Form of Sunud in Guzerathee. . . . .	23
Letter from the Acting Deputy Collector and Magistrate Thurr and Parkur to the Acting Commissioner in Sind, dated 3rd March 1856, No. 89. .	24
Memorandum showing the expense incurred in each month on account of the measuring and assessing establishment of the Thurr and Parkur Deputy Collectorate .. .. .	25
Letter from the Acting Deputy Collector and Magistrate Thurr and Parkur to the Acting Commissioner in Sind, dated 8th March 1856, No. 98 ..	26
Statement showing the result of the assessment of the Thurr District, as settled by the Deputy Collector up to 29th February 1856, and submitted for the sanction of Government .. .. .	35
Resolution of Government, dated 30th August 1856, No. 3324, communicated to the Acting Commissioner in Sind .. .. .	36

सत्यमेव जयते

#### PAPERS REGARDING THE PRESENT CONDITION AND SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT OF THE DISTRICTS OF THURR AND PARKUR.

Letter from the Commissioner in Sind to Government, dated 21st January 1856, No. 48 c .. .. .	37
Letter from the Deputy Collector and Magistrate Thurr and Parkur, to the Commissioner in Sind, dated 17th March 1853, No. 67 .. .. .	50
Statement showing the present monthly establishments which have been employed in measuring, assessing, and registering each field in the Thurr and Parkur Deputy Collectorate .. .. .	74
Memorandum by the Deputy Collector and Magistrate Thurr and Parkur, dated 13th December 1854, No. 328 .. .. .	75
Statement showing the present and proposed establishment for the Thurr and Parkur Districts .. .. .	79
Memorandum showing the income and expenses for each official year, 1848-49 to 1853-54. . . . .	82
Letter from the Political Agent in Kutch to Government, dated 28th June 1856, No. 96 A .. .. .	83

## CONTENTS.

v  
PAGE

Letter from the Acting Commissioner in Sind to Government, dated 10th July 1856, No. 76 .. .. .	88
Letter from the Political Agent in Kutch to the Acting Commissioner in Sind, dated 3rd July 1856, No. 535 .. .. .	91
Letter from Government to the Acting Commissioner in Sind, dated 20th September 1856, No. 3671.. .. .	92





सत्यमेव जयते

# ASSESSMENT OF THE OMERKOTE DISTRICT.

No. 237 of 1856.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From Lieutenant Colonel JOHN JACOB, C.B.,  
Acting Commissioner in Sind,  
To the Right Honorable Lord ELPHINSTONE, G.C.H.,  
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

*Dated 11th June 1856.*

MY LORD,—With reference to paragraph 35 of Mr. Frere's letter as per margin, I have the honour to transmit a very satisfactory report drawn up by Lieutenant Tyrwhitt, Deputy Collector and Magistrate of Meerpoor, detailing the settlements he has effected in the Omerkote district.

No. 62, of 12th February 1855.—Assessment of the Omerkote Desert, and of the Narra.

2. As your Lordship in Council has been made aware by Mr. Frere's report, this district is naturally divided into the flat and flooded lands lying contiguous to the Narra, and the tract of sandhills, with their intermediate hollows or Thullees. For the assessment of the former division, Lieutenant Tyrwhitt has made all the necessary preparations; but he is unable to report what he has done until such time as the opening of the Narra supply channel shall secure the supply of fresh water to these low-lying lands. It is, then, to the fields lying among the sandhills that the Deputy Collector's present report is confined.

3. Until about two years ago, all these lands were held in lease by the heads of the Soda tribe, but under this arrangement much oppression resulted to the inferior Bheel cultivators; cultivation had

a tendency to diminish, crime to increase, while the average annual revenue collected by Government did not exceed Rs. 6,000.

4. In the year 1854-55, some difficulties having been encountered in arranging for the usual lease, the fields were transferred from the Sodas to a Syud, who then leased them for one year for about Rs. 12,500.

5. In the mean time Mr. Frere, having personally visited the district, pointed out the objections to the system of leasing, which had been carried into effect without any adequate data, and drew up a memorandum of directions for a clear and simple registry of rights, and for the introduction of a light but fixed cash assessment, adapted at once to the peculiar circumstances of the people and the district.

6. As it was on all accounts desirable that this new system should be introduced without loss of time, Lieutenant Tyrwhitt made rough settlements for one year at once, and the result is shown in the returns for the year 1855-56, for which year the revenue amounts to upwards of Rs. 24,000, or quadruple that which was realised under the lease of the Sodas.

7. The Deputy Collector's report shows that he has now completed the rough measurements of all the fields, and fixed the rates at which they shall be assessed. These rates classify the several fields under four headings, and assess them according to their several extents: thus,—Fields from 1 to 10 beegas in extent will pay Rs. 2 annually; those containing from 10 to 20 beegas will pay Rs. 3; those from 20 to 60 beegas in extent will pay Rs. 5 a year; while any field having a larger area than 60 beegas is subjected to Rs. 8 as the Government demand. These rates give an average assessment throughout all the fields of about three annas per beega.

8. This method of settlement appears to me to be, perhaps, in the first instance, with these wild people, better than any other that could have been made; for every holder, being cognisant that his field or Thullee is assessed in the lump at a very low rate upon its entire extent, will naturally strive to cultivate that extent, and thus habits of industry will be induced, while the actual demand upon the holder will not be greater than if he had been assessed at higher rates upon the few scattered beegas which he may have hitherto been in the habit of cultivating.

9. Appended to this letter is an extract from the register, embodying every description of information which has formed the basis

of this settlement. Government will observe that it is very complete, and that if similar statements be annually framed, embodying such alterations as may take place in the transfer of rights, &c., no further confusion can occur.

10. It would, in my opinion, have been preferable could these cultivators have been induced to enter into these settlements for a term of years. But the great uncertainty of rain, combined with the treatment that they have in former years received, had so impressed the people with the risks attendant upon cultivation, that Lieutenant Tyrwhitt has found it necessary to make these settlements annual, and to provide that in years in which no rain shall fall no assessment whatsoever shall be demanded from them. As the people gain confidence in such arrangements, and a feeling of greater security arises among them, the improved system of leases and rent per beega on the entire Thullee will, I doubt not, be found capable of adoption.

11. Your Lordship in Council will observe from Lieutenant Tyrwhitt's 10th paragraph that he recommends certain Patels as deserving of small rent-free grants of land. In this recommendation I fully concur. These heads of villages might, in this district, be made specially useful in the settlement of petty grazing disputes; in assisting the Police in the detection of crime; and as a general connecting link between the district revenue officers and the widely scattered inhabitants of this tract.

12. From the statement appended to the Deputy Collector's report it appears that cultivation, under this light and equitable settlement, has already greatly extended; and when the proposed boundary marks shall be affixed to every man's holding, I cannot doubt that these cultivators will yet further feel the benefits derivable from a fixed and permanent tenure.

13. Government will observe that this great benefit has been secured at a cost of little more than Rs. 200; and from a personal inspection of the Native settlement records, and of the district itself, I have no hesitation in assuring your Lordship in Council that the degree of tact and personal activity shown by Lieutenant Tyrwhitt in this very laborious work is highly creditable to that officer. The more accurate measurements contemplated in the Deputy Collector's 15th paragraph will be carried out by the Putwarees, or village accountants, lately sanctioned by Government for this province. These officials are now being taught the details of field measurement, and

will, I have no doubt, be fully equal to carrying out, not only these, but all similar measurements in Sind; and the only additional expense which can henceforth devolve upon Government will be that of a Moonshee upon Rs. 15, for three or four months, for the completion of the settlement records.

14. The reduction of rates in respect to garden land, as reported in Lieutenant Tyrwhitt's 29th and 30th paragraphs, is judicious, and is, moreover, in accordance with Mr. Frere's instructions marginally noted.

No. 201, of the 19th January 1855.  
(Vide Printed Selections, No. XXI.)

15. The sandhills intervening between these fields yield a coarse but very nutritious grass. I would not, however, recommend that any grazing fee should be levied upon this: for it appears to me that in a tract like that now under report our main object should be to induce the tribes to refrain from plunder, and settle down peaceably to agriculture; and that, in order to secure this result, we should render their circumstances easy, by leaving untaxed their pastoral wealth.

16. It does not occur to me to make any other remark, unless to express my perfect concurrence in the anticipation that, under the present low and popular assessment, the revenue of this desert district will annually increase.

See Lieutenant Tyrwhitt's 33rd paragraph.

17. I would request the favour of your Lordship in Council directing that the papers now submitted be printed as a continuation of No. XXI. of the New Series of Selections from the Government Records, and I think that the documents concluding with my letter as per margin, having reference to a country and survey in many respects very similar with that of the Omerkote district, might be advantageously embodied in the same compilation. The timely publication of such papers effects much good in this province.

Report on Thurr and Parkur, No. 1370, of the 3rd instant.

I have the honour to be,  
My Lord,  
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN JACOB, Lieutenant Colonel,  
Acting Commissioner in Sind.

*Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 11th June 1856.*

No. 131 OF 1856.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From the DEPUTY COLLECTOR OF MEERPOOR,  
To the COLLECTOR OF HYDERABAD.

*Dated 10th May 1856.*

SIR,—I have the honour to forward with this report a form of the register of the whole of the fields, or Thullees, in the Omerkote districts, now being made out according to the instructions furnished me by Commissioner Mr. Frere in his memorandum No. 201, dated 19th January 1855.

2. From the moment I received the above instructions I began the work : how far I have succeeded remains to be shown ; but the delay in completing the register has been merely caused by the immense quantity of ground that has had to be gone over, the large measurements, and the many obstacles to be overcome ; and I am happy to say my anticipations with regard to the production, however, of these districts have been fully realised.

3. I have personally tested the register, and beg leave to report it to be a true and correct register.

4. The forms attached are meagre in their information, but the Omerkote districts having been never visited by any European, except upon any emergent occasion, the revenue has never been looked after in detail.

5. I have been many times into the Thurr, but twice I have been most carefully all over it, and I have on every occasion tried to make myself acquainted with the actual state of the country.

6. The classes I have fixed, and their rates, give universal satisfaction, and it was after trying every other plan of assessment without success that I have adopted it.

7. The classes are as follows :—

For fields from	1 to 10 beegas	. . . . .	Rs.	2	0	0
Ditto	10 to 20 do.	. . . . .		3	0	0
Ditto	20 to 60 do.	. . . . .		5	0	0
Ditto	60 and upwards	. . . . .		8	0	0

Giving an average assessment per beega as follows :—

Tuppa Omerkote, per beega	Rs.	0	3	8½
Tuppa Chachra, do.		0	2	3
Tuppa Guddra, do.		0	2	9½
Tuppa Nubbeesur, do.		0	7	5
And for the whole of Omerkote per beega.		0	2	0¼

The Nubbeesur average may seem large, but is from the people not having cultivated the full size of the Thullees, which this year they will all do, and its average will become nearly the same as the other Tuppas. The people object to a lease, and also to a beega assessment, although I have pointed out the advantages.

8. Under the arrangements I have made every one has increased his Thullee up to the full number of beegas of the class it belongs to, or intends doing so ; they will then put up boundary marks, and new cultivation will form new Thullees, and any one can, by giving due notice to the Tuppadar, bring more ground under cultivation, and the new Thullee thus made will be placed in whatever class its size determines. Every owner of a Thullee or Thullees is to be furnished with a register of his Thullee or Thullees, provided he has erected boundary marks of earth, grass, and sticks, built up with mud, easily made during the rain.

9. In years of no rain, I propose levying nothing from those parts where no rain has fallen.

10. I beg to enclose a list of those Patels whom I think deserving of a small free grant of land, and the amount to be granted opposite their names.

11. The Omerkote districts have been sadly neglected, and their capabilities never tested. I find the cultivators hard working during the rainy season, and tractable. They are chiefly Rajpoots, Bheels, and Musulmans. I attach a form, showing as nearly as possible their numbers.

12. Since the execution of Rutton Sing, and the removal of a few very troublesome and intriguing Sodas from Omerkote, I find I have an open field to work in, with the will and best wishes of all classes on my side, and no under-current to work against me.

13. I attach a form showing the increased cultivation, and if my rate of assessment be approved of, I am certain the cultivation will increase to a much greater extent.

14. During the lease of the Sodas, there is no doubt that, with the

exception of their own Rajpoots, the Sodas were very hard upon the other classes of cultivators. This, together with the former Kardar, Lucha Sing, being a bosom friend of the Sodas, and who never during his four years of office as Kardar ever went into the districts, gave much dissatisfaction, and was the cause of so many Thullees not being cultivated; for the Sodas, when lease-holders, with their followers and cattle, had to be subsisted by the cultivators (including opium), whenever their villages were visited by them, during the assessment time.

15. The soil of the Thullees throughout Omerkote is of the same description, viz. Gusseer mixed with Khattee and Draga, and admits of the cultivation of the following crops :—Bajree, Moong, Gowhar, Chowrah, Til, Kirug, Kuchra, Renbur, Sawun, and Melons. After the Khureef of 1856 I intend again measuring all the Thullees by means of measures, as during these rains clear distinct marks will be put up, and for the future all new cultivation will be yearly entered in the register.

16. It is the custom with the cultivators to sow several crops in one field,—such as Bajree, Til, Moong, and Gowhar, all in one field.

17. All the cattle graziers in these districts own and cultivate Thullees, as otherwise they would have to buy grain at an exorbitant price; and also by cultivating they keep their claim to Thurrs clear.

18. Many old pukka wells of the time of the Meers are being brought under repair, and the land near them is all being cultivated upon the terms as laid down in the classes.

19. The list of roads thirty feet broad that have been made is attached, and the introduction of road-making has, I am happy to say, given universal satisfaction, as it removes the great evil of everybody at any time of day or night insisting upon the first poor person he met showing him the way to his destination gratis. Now these roads are made, not a single guide is asked for, nor, if asked for, would be got.

20. A list of the buildings built and to be built is attached, and I hope will prove satisfactory; for I beg leave to assure you that to build in the Thurr with all the obstacles is a very difficult and uneasy undertaking.

21. Bricklayers and carpenters I send out stay a week or so, and then run back to Hyderabad, saying they cannot stand the climate, the water, and the work; and to keep under the estimate I find it no easy matter.

22. In returning to the subject of assessment for the Thullees, I can see no better way of assessment that will give general satisfaction. The Sodas used to levy the following rates for every Thullee or field, large or small, when rain fell :—

Omerkote Tuppa, for a Thullee	.....	Rs.	2	0	0
Chachra	do. do.	.....	2	8	0
Guddra	do. do.	.....	2	8	0
Nubbeesur	do. do.	.....	2	8	0

In the Meers' time, and for several years after the conquest, Buttai was levied at the rate of two-fifths of the produce.

23. The free grants of Thullees to the Sodas and Patels will all have boundary marks put up ; in fact all the Sodas have, with one or two exceptions, put up marks to their Thullees as always granted to them.

24. They used formerly, when they had all their own way, to select different and new Thullees every season in their free grants ; but this led to great confusion, and caused much dissatisfaction to other cultivators, who would never be certain that their Thullees would not be selected by the Sodas, and their selection backed out by the Kardar : now every alienated Thullee will have its boundary marks.

25. Arrangements are being made with all the Patels to plant trees at their different Thurrs, and in their villages ; and to enable them to start successfully, I intend giving them a little pecuniary assistance from the Rs. 1,000 annually granted to me.

26. Crime in the Thurr is now so much decreased that it is not greater than crime in any other Talooka. This I attribute to the judicious selection of the places for outposts on the Jodhpoor frontier ; and the number of police having been increased, they are all able to patrol properly, and frequently ; and to this add that all the crimes clearly proved have been most severely punished.

27. The only extra expense Government have as yet been put to for the formation of the register and rough measurement has been about Rs. 200, consisting of pay for one extra Moonshee at Rs. 15 a month, and two Kotars at Rs. 4 a month. The Kotars have now been discharged, but the Moonshee will be employed in making out the fair register should the plan be sanctioned.

28. A copy of Mr. Frere's instructions is herewith enclosed.

29. I have reduced the rates for garden lands at Omerkote and

Nubbeesur from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 1, as the people have to draw the water from deep wells, and are put to expense.

30. The reduction has had the effect of doubling the amount of garden cultivation, which in size is daily increasing, all the old gardens and old wells being resumed. This year the garden lands about Omerkote have produced very fine crops of onions, and also of greens, besides other vegetables, for which in Omerkote and the surrounding villages they find a ready sale.

31. With regard to the cultivation of the Putt, the plain belonging to Omerkote, I have said nothing, as its assessment cannot be fixed until I can see my way more clearly with regard to the Narra, which will, I hope, when the new supply channel is opened, pass right through it.

32. My average assessment for the cultivation on the plain dependent on rain, for last year, averaged 12 annas a beega; last year having been a very good season, the rain falling at proper seasons, and in sufficient quantities.

33. In conclusion I may mention, that notwithstanding the very low Beegotee rate of my assessment first introduced on this system last year, the revenue yielded for the Omerkote Purguna has been Rs. 24,663, every pie of which has been paid up, against Rs. 4,846-1-1, the former average under the lease and Buttai system; and I anticipate that the revenue will increase yearly under the present low and popular assessment.

34. I have made arrangements with Captain Raikes, Deputy Collector of the Thurr and Parkur, to meet him next cold season at Nowakote, and, after carefully examining the boundary, to there and then settle all disputes.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. B. TYRWHITT,  
Deputy Collector.

*Hyderabad, Meerpoor Deputy Collector's Office,*

*11th May 1856.*

(True copy) L. PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

No. 201 OF 1855.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To the COLLECTOR OF HYDERABAD.

*Memorandum regarding the Assessment of the Desert Lands of Omerkote, &c.*

All the Desert Districts of the Narra and Jooda should be transferred to Omerkote, with the exception of such portions as, from the proximity to Keepra or any other cause, the Deputy Collector may think it advisable to have attached to the Narra.

2. He should ascertain,—

1st.—The ancient Purgunas into which the district is popularly divided.

3. 2nd.—The names of all the permanent Dehs or Thurrs in each.

4. 3rd.—The names of the Patels, and principal Zemindars.

5. A list should then be framed of all the Thullees or fields, and recorded in a field-book, or “Jungle Kurda,” in the following form:—

Number.	Name of the Thullee, and marks by which it is distinguishable.	Cultivator's Name.	Estimated Extent in Beegas.	Class in which the Field is to be placed.			Remarks.
				1st.	2nd.	3rd.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

6. The information in columns 1 and 4 should be obtained by the Kardar, aided by two Ameens; one of them should be nominated by the Deputy Collector, and one by the cultivators.

7. All three should sign the list of Thullees in any Deh, and each of the three may separately record any dissent from the opinion of his colleagues.

8. In cases of dispute as to estimated area, the Thullee should be measured.

9. After receiving the information contained in columns 1 and 4 for the whole district from the parties employed, the Deputy Collector will settle what Thullees should go into each of the three classes, and will fix the rate for each class, and also for the uncultivated Thullees.

10. He should assign to each Patel one or more Thullees, according to his duties, and the size of his village, to be held rent-free, during good behaviour, as recompense for his official services.

11. A separate document, under the Deputy Collector's hand and seal, should be given to the Patel, specifying the nature and extent of the grant, and of the duties expected of him.

12. When the field-book is completed, four fair copies should be made, one for the Tuppadar, one for the Kardar's Office, one for the Hoozoor Duftur, and one for the Deputy Collector.

13. The Patel, if he wishes, should also be allowed to take a copy; and every cultivator who wishes for it should receive a paper under the Deputy Collector's seal and signature, stating the above particulars relating to his own fields, and showing exactly the sum he will have to pay yearly.

14. The annual "Munter Kurda" will be a copy of the above, with any changes of ownership which may have taken place during the year. The cultivated Thullees only will be put into columns 5 and 7, and an extra column will be added for Thullees left waste. The total of the four columns will then give the year's Jummabundee.

15. The Deputy Magistrate should obtain from the Lieutenant of Police permanent Purwanas, not subject to annual renewal, permitting, during good behaviour, such of the Chiefs as come within the meaning of the orders of the late Governor to carry their swords, viz:—

"All Chiefs who have made their Salaams are entitled to carry arms personally." (Extract paragraph 2 of G. O. of 16th February 1854.)

16. Any expenses beyond what are incident to the ordinary district duties should be drawn for in a contingent bill.

(Signed) H. B. E. FRERE,  
Commissioner in Sind.

*Commissioner's Office, Camp Bukkur, 19th January 1855.*

P. S.—The garden lands should be assessed at a Beegotee cash rate,

according to their local advantages, and the ordinary rate for garden land (Rs. 1-7-4) should not be adhered to unless found to suit local peculiarities.

At the end of the season a report should be sent in, for the information of Government, showing how far these instructions have been carried out.

(Signed) H. B. E. FRERE,  
Commissioner in Sind.

(True copy)

(Signed) G. B. TYRWHITT,  
Deputy Collector.

(True copy) L. PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

*Statement showing the Annual Revenue of the Omerkote Districts  
from the Conquest up to the Year 1855-56.*

Year.				Omerkote.		
				Rs.	a.	p.
Kurreef, Fuslee	1254, or A. D.	1843-44	.....	411	11	3
"	"	1255, "	1844-45	5,353	3	7
"	"	1256, "	1845-46	3,100	14	10
"	"	1257, "	1846-47	7,184	8	3
"	"	1258, "	1847-48	5,508	7	11
"	"	1259, "	1848-49	3,187	4	6
"	"	1260, "	1849-50	12,375	10	7
"	"	1261, "	1850-51	6,497	6	4
"	"	1262, "	1851-52	6,389	10	11
"	"	1263, "	1852-53	6,389	10	11
"	"	1264, "	1853-54	6,389	10	11
"	"	1265, "	1854-55	12,791	14	3
"	"	1266, "	1855-56	20,663*	10	6

\* Of this sum Rs. 5,133-8-11 form the revenue of Nubbeesur, brought under Omerkote this year, but which previously was included in the Jooda Talooka; deducting the above sum, the remainder, Rs. 14,877-1-7, is the revenue of Omerkote.

(Signed) G. B. TYRWHITT,  
Deputy Collector.

(True copy) L. PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

*Statement showing the Number of Government Buildings constructed  
in the Omerkote Talooka since the Conquest.*

No.	Nature of Building.	Where situated.	Remarks.
1	Bungalow.....	Omerkote.....	Erected at the time Lieutenant Forbes was Deputy Collector.
2	Ditto .....	Soofee-ka-Gote ..	Erected at the time Lieutenant Jameson was Deputy Collector.
3	Police Lines.....	Chachra .....	Erected at the time Lieutenant Dickson was Deputy Collector.
4	Tuppadar's Dehra ..	Chachra .....	Erected since Lieutenant Tyrwhitt's appointment.
5	Ditto ditto ..	Nubbeesur .....	Ditto ditto.
6	Ditto ditto ..	Chore .....	Ditto ditto.
7	Dhurumsala .....	Akree .....	Ditto ditto.
8	Police Lines.....	Nubbeesur .....	Ditto ditto.
9	Rural Police Lines ..	Omerkote.....	Ditto ditto.
10	Police Lines.....	Cheylar .....	In course of erection.
11	Kardar's Dehra .....	Omerkote.....	Ditto ditto.
12	Police Lines.....	Omerkote.....	Ditto ditto.

(Signed) G. B. TYRWHITT,  
Deputy Collector.

(True copy) L. PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

*Statement showing the Number of Cases tried, and the Number of  
Prisoners in each Case, in the Omerkote Talooka, during the  
past Five Years.*

Parguna.	Years.	Number of Cases tried.	Number of Prisoners tried.	Remarks.
Omerkote.	1852	21	24	
	1853	89	128	
	1854	98	184	
	1855	124	276	
	1856 up to 1st May.	19	41	

(Signed) G. B. TYRWHITT,  
Deputy Collector.

(True copy) L. PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

*Statement showing the Amount of Land intended to be granted Free of Assessment to Patels, Omerkote Talooka, as Rewards to them for their discharge of the duties of a Patel, as awarded by Mr. FRERE.*

No.	Name of Deh.	Name of Patel.	What Amount of Land free to be granted as a reward for discharging the duties of a Patel.			
			1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	4th Class.
1	Paboohur .....	Bhojo and Sewayee.	..	..	1 Thullee	1 Thullee
2	Mitro Rawut. ....	Bhojo Charun .....	..	1 Thullee	..	..
3	Hung Thull .....	Naitha .....	..	1 do.	..	1 do.
4	Thur Tukajee ....	Tookachee .....	..	..	..	1 do.
5	Chachra .....	Bajoo Soda .....	..	1 do.	..	..
6	Jarrilloh .....	Soboh Rind .....	..	..	1 do.	..
7	Roorgaor .....	Oobra Sumajo .....	..	..	1 do.	1 do.
8	Kaisur .....	Daisur Kailan .....	..	1 do.	..	..
9	Benhan. ....	Surdaroo .....	..	..	1 do.	..
10	Soogroh .....	Bucho Soda .....	..	..	1 do.	..
11	Gingee .....	Mooso Gingee .....	..	..	1 do.	..
12	Thurr Ahmed ....	Lushkaree .....	..	..	1 do.	..
13	Thurr Khoodee. ....	Mego Shikarce. ....	..	..	1 do.	..
14	Rawutsur .....	Ahmed Khan .....	..	..	1 do.	..
15	Deh Rajorah. ....	Jessing Seallute .....	..	1 do.	..	..
16	Jinbar .....	Bhimo Bopoh .....	..	..	1 do.	..
17	Charnoar .....	Doorgah Charun .....	..	..	1 do.	1 do.
18	Bhavee .....	Secrodavut .....	..	..	1 do.	..
19	Surunghiar .....	Mahsing Wanun .....	..	..	1 do.	..
20	Winghar .....	Mahsing Dhoat .....	..	1 do.	..	1 do.
21	Dhattah .....	Oomeido Dhoat .....	..	1 do.	..	1 do.
22	Roohur .....	Bojoo Kailan .....	..	..	1 do.	..
23	Dhur Guddroh ....	Dhiroh Kailan .....	..	..	1 do.	..
24	Charun Wavree ..	Saib Phoatrio .....	..	1 do.	..	..
25	Kutyaree .....	Bahadoor Noirce .....	..	..	1 do.	1 do.
26	Phamoo .....	Moohar Soda .....	..	1 do.	..	..
27	Luploh .....	Opa Sumajo .....	..	..	1 do.	..
28	Rilliyarah .....	Kukeem Sumajo .....	..	..	1 do.	..
29	Kumburloh .....	Juffur Ramo .....	..	..	1 do.	..
30	Allumsur .....	Mark Sumajo .....	..	..	2 do.	..
31	Viarorah .....	Seekeeludah. ....	..	..	..	1 do.
32	Sailoh .....	Rahmun Seekan .....	..	..	1 do.	..
33	Thurr Daloo. ....	Wussayo Boatah .....	..	..	..	1 do.
34	Kuplear .....	Soojah Dhoat .....	..	..	1 do.	..
35	Rahniar .....	Issop Hallapatah. ....	..	..	..	1 do.
36	Dhinore .....	Himmuttoh Sun-grassee. ....	..	..	1 do.	..
37	Koorban Allee ....	Syed Koorban Allee. ....	..	1 do.	2 do.	..
38	Nubbeesur .....	Dhurs Moobaruk. ....	..	1 do.	1 do.	..
39	Thurr Hameer ....	Soomairo Soda. ....	..	1 do.	..	..
40	Deh Bhoarlio ....	Sukiludo Sumajo. ....	..	..	1 do.	..

(Signed) G. B. TYRWHITT, Deputy Collector.

(True copy)

L. PELLY, Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

*Statement showing the Number of Roads constructed by Lieutenant TYRWHITT in the Omerkote Districts, their Length and Breadth.*

No.	From and to.	Length in Miles.	Breadth of Road.	Whether completed or not.
1	From Omerkote to Soofee-ka-Gote . . . .	12	40 feet.	Completed.
2	From Nubbeesur to Omerkote . . . . .	20	20 do.	Ditto.
3	From Omerkote to Chachra . . . . .	48	Ditto.	Ditto.
4	From Omerkote to Guddra . . . . .	60	Ditto.	Ditto.
5	From Omerkote to Ghoolam Nubbee . .	20	Ditto.	Ditto.
6	From Nubbeesur to Nowakote . . . . .	20	Ditto.	Ditto.
7	From Nubbeesur to Kalachee (Jooda Boundary) . . . . .	10	Ditto.	Ditto.
8	From Nubbeesur to Choondava . . . . .	6	Ditto.	Ditto.
9	From Nubbeesur to Cheylar . . . . .	24	Ditto.	Ditto.
10	From Chachra to Cheylar . . . . .	24	Ditto.	Ditto.
11	From Chachra to Guddra . . . . .	48	Ditto.	Ditto.
12	From Chachra to Kaisur . . . . .	24	Ditto.	In course of construction.
Total . . . .		316		

(Signed) G. B. TYRWHITT,  
Deputy Collector.

(True copy)

L. PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

Statement showing the Result of the Measurement of the Fields in the Omerkote Talooka.

Pargana.	Number of Dehs.		Number of Thullees and Beegas.		Number of Free Grants and Jagheers.		Government Fields remaining.		Description of Class the Government Fields belong to.				Amount of Revenue for the Omerkote Fields or Thullees.	Average Rupees per each Beega.	
	Pukka.	Kutchia.	Total of Thullees.	Total of Beegas.	Total of Thullees.	Total of Beegas.	Total of Thullees.	Total of Beegas.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	4th Class.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Omerkote.															
	4	83	2,255	27,197	10	304	4,220	17	1,951	22,976	13	224	775	952	Rs. a. p. 5,349 0 0 0 3 8½
	4	101	3,025	91,197	6	37	1,185	19	2,988	90,011	7	289	1,340	887	12,617 0 0 0 2 3
	2	81	1,367	28,083	12	17	359	5	1,350	27,724	7	29	487	469	4,804 0 0 0 2 9½

N.B.—The average assessment for all the Thullees—2 annas and 8¼ pies.

(Signed) G. B. TYRWHITT,  
Deputy Collector.(True copy) L. PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

*Statement showing the Average Size of all the Fields of the Omerkote Kardarate, from One Beega upwards.*

	Omerkote Tuppa- daree.	Chachra Tuppa- daree.	Guddra Tuppa- daree.	Nubbeesur Tuppa- daree.	Total Beegas.
Total of Thullees in each Tuppa. .	1,544	2,976	1,338	614	6,472
From 1 to 5 beegas. ....	173	74	62	67	376
From 6 to 10 beegas. ....	521	389	297	242	1,449
From 11 to 15 beegas. ....	454	393	251	122	1,220
From 16 to 20 beegas. ....	187	493	214	95	989
From 21 to 25 beegas. ....	144	310	150	50	654
From 26 to 30 beegas. ....	43	265	145	19	472
From 31 to 35 beegas. ....	11	171	61	8	251
From 36 to 40 beegas. ....	9	189	41	7	246
From 41 to 45 beegas. ....	1	126	32	1	160
From 46 to 50 beegas. ....	1	124	27	1	153
From 51 to 55 beegas. ....	..	91	14	..	105
From 56 to 60 beegas. ....	..	62	15	1	78
From 61 to 65 beegas. ....	..	63	6	..	69
From 66 to 70 beegas. ....	..	46	80	..	56
From 71 to 75 beegas. ....	..	35	4	..	39
From 76 to 80 beegas. ....	..	32	5	..	37
From 81 to 85 beegas. ....	..	23	..	1	24
From 86 to 90 beegas. ....	..	23	..	..	23
From 91 to 95 beegas. ....	..	6	..	..	6
From 96 to 100 beegas. ....	..	8	..	..	8
From 101 to 105 beegas. ....	..	9	..	..	9
From 106 to 110 beegas. ....	..	3	2	..	5
From 111 to 115 beegas. ....	..	10	..	..	10
From 116 to 120 beegas. ....	..	5	1	..	6
From 121 to 125 beegas. ....	..	7	..	..	7
From 126 to 130 beegas. ....	..	4	1	..	5
From 131 to 135 beegas. ....	..	3	..	..	3
From 136 to 140 beegas. ....	..	4	..	..	4
From 141 to 145 beegas. ....	..	2	..	..	2
From 146 to 150 beegas. ....	..	1	..	..	1
From 151 to 155 beegas. ....	..	1	..	..	1
From 156 to 160 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 161 to 165 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 166 to 170 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 171 to 175 beegas. ....	..	2	..	..	2
From 176 to 180 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 181 to 185 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 186 to 190 beegas. ....	..	1	..	..	1
From 191 to 195 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 196 to 200 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 201 to 205 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 206 to 210 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 211 to 215 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 216 to 220 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 221 to 225 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 226 to 230 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..
From 231 to 235 beegas. ....	..	..	..	..	..

	Omerkote Tuppa- daree.	Chachra Tappa- daree.	Guddra Tappa- daree.	Nubbeesur Tappa- daree.	Total Beegas.
From 236 to 240 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 241 to 245 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 246 to 250 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 251 to 255 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 256 to 260 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 261 to 265 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 266 to 270 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 271 to 275 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 276 to 280 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 281 to 285 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 286 to 290 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..
From 291 to 295 beegas.....	..	1	..	..	1
From 296 to 300 beegas.....	..	..	..	..	..

(Signed) G. TYRWHITT, Lieutenant,  
Deputy Collector.

(True copy) L. PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

No. 2770 of 1856.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT, REVENUE.

To the ACTING COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

*Copy of the Resolution passed by Government under date 24th July 1856, on a Letter from the Acting Commissioner in Sind, No. 237, dated the 11th June 1856, forwarding a Report by Lieutenant TYRWHITT, Deputy Collector and Magistrate of Meerpoor, of the Settlement he has effected in the Omerkote District.*

His Lordship in Council concurs with the Acting Commissioner in considering the settlement made by Lieutenant Tyrwhitt very satisfactory. The principles on which it is founded seem well adapted to the local circumstances of Omerkote, and Government consider that no attempt should be made to introduce a more accurate system until the desultory agriculture of the inhabitants shall have given place to settled habits of regular industry.

2. The financial results of Lieutenant Tyrwhitt's settlement are looked upon by Government as exceedingly favourable, combined, as they are, with evidence of present contentment and the prospect of future advancement. The Acting Commissioner is requested to convey to Lieutenant Tyrwhitt the approbation with which the Governor in Council has noticed his exertions.

3. Government sanction the grants of rent-free lands made to the Patels.

4. The papers adverted to by Colonel Jacob will be printed as a part of the Revenue Selections of this Presidency.

H. YOUNG,  
Officiating Chief Secretary to Government.





सत्यमेव जयते

# REVENUE SETTLEMENT OF THE THURR DISTRICTS.

No. 1370 OF 1856.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From the ACTING COMMISSIONER IN SIND,

To the Right Honorable LORD ELPHINSTONE, G.C.H.,

Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

*Dated 3rd June 1856.*

MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit letters in original as per

No. 464, of 15th December 1855, to the Commissioner in Sind.

No. 89, of 3rd March 1856, to the Acting Commissioner in Sind.

No. 98, of 8th March 1856, to the Acting Commissioner in Sind.

of his Deputy Collectorate, known as the Thurr.

margin, from Lieutenant Shortt, Acting Deputy Collector of the Thurr and Parkur Districts, reporting the completion of the Measurements and Revenue Settlement in the Desert portion

2. It appears that in March 1853 Lieutenant Raikes, late Deputy

Lieutenant Raikes' General Report on Thurr and Parkur, No. 67, of 17th March 1853, forming accompaniment to Mr. Frere's letter to Government No. 480, of 21st January 1856.

Collector of these districts, brought under the notice of the Commissioner the very unsatisfactory state of the then revenue management in this portion of his charge, and remarked that, under the circumstances of the country and people, he advocated a system which would "place the cultivators on the footing of peasant proprietors paying an annual quit-rent," and urged that such permanent settlements should be undertaken.

3. In a memorandum subsequently supplied by Lieutenant Raikes (No. 328, of 13th December 1854), he proposed the following detailed scheme.

"23. Adverting to the fourth question on the subject of land

"No. 67 of 1853, dated 17th March, from the Deputy Collector and Magistrate of Thurr and Parkur to the Commissioner in Sind, paragraphs 39 to 56."

tenure, I beg to refer to the letter noted in the margin, and to suggest,—1st, that each field be measured, and a register thereof in the whole Deputy Collectorate be prepared.

"2nd.—That they be subsequently written over to the cultivators respectively in perpetuity, at a quit-rent, liable, however, to resumption in the event of the occupant not paying the quit-rent, being convicted of any crime involving trial before the Deputy Magistrate, or leaving the districts permanently. No rents should be attempted to be levied in famine years.

"24. This arrangement would have the effect of removing the inconveniences of the present assessment system, and giving fixedness to the tenure by which the land is held. As, however, both these points are alluded to at length in the above-quoted letter, it is unnecessary to say more regarding them now.

"25. Supposing the proposed establishments to be sanctioned, there will in future be three Kardars and three Deputies, instead of three of the former and two of the latter, as at present; in addition to which one Mootsuddee would probably be requisite for each Kardarate for one year, to enable each field to be measured and assessed, the assessment being fixed by the Kardar in communication with the petty Chiefs and other respectable landed proprietors, and under the superintendence and orders of the Deputy Collector.

"26. I would propose that each field be measured, and that its size and situation with reference to the Thurr to which it belongs, as well as to other fields or prominent natural features of the country, be carefully recorded, with its name, and owner's or cultivator's name.

"27. The Kardars would of course be able to measure and register many fields themselves; as, however, there is a good deal of current work also, the greater and most laborious portion of the undertaking would devolve on the Mootsuddees entertained for the purpose. Their pay should be, I think, Rs. 35 a month.

"28. It is difficult to say at this moment what other expenses it might be found necessary to incur, for measuring-men, ropes, paper, &c.; it appears to me, however, that Rs. 50 per Kardarate (inclusive of the Mootsuddee's pay, above alluded to) for one year,

would suffice for the additional establishment, or Rs. 1,800 for the whole Deputy Collectorate."

4. Mr. Frere, although not prepared to coincide in some of the Deputy Collector's views, more especially in those having reference to judicial proceedings (proposition No. 2), yet quite agreed with him in considering that a simple and suitable system of revenue management should at once be introduced, in supersession of that which had previously obtained. This latter system was one of annual valuation of the crops in all the holdings ; and as these were widely scattered among the sandhills of the desert, it was not found practicable for the local revenue officers to examine and value the crop of every holding before harvest time. Consequently great delay and uncertainty, combined with much exaction, were experienced in settling each year's revenue.

5. Lieutenant Raikes was instructed, therefore, to give immediate effect to his suggestions for measuring and assessing the lands under notice. To complete this settlement and survey would, it was computed, require an establishment at Rs. 150 per mensem for a period of twelve months, in all Rs. 1,800, and this expenditure was authorised under the general sanction, I apprehend, given to the Commissioner in paragraph 8 of the Government letter No. 1932, of 8th May 1855. The work has, however, been accomplished at the far lower cost of Rs. 1,308-7-6, which amount has been expended in the manner detailed in the Acting Deputy Collector's memorandum now appended, and for which outlay I have the honour of soliciting the sanction of your Lordship in Council.

6. The areas thus brought under survey and settlement are, in their natural characteristics, very similar with those described by Mr. Frere in his Report upon the Narra and Omerkote Districts (No. 62, of 12th February 1855). They consist of a light sandy soil, nowhere rich, and in many places, particularly towards the slopes of their surrounding sandhills, poor, and barely remunerative. They are commonly known as Thullees or fields, each hollow or valley forming one Thullee. The staple produce is bajree ; wheat will not thrive, unless on the fields immediately adjacent to the Runn of Kutch.

7. The population is estimated at 29,700 souls, of whom some 3,000 are merchants, 3,000 Musulman shepherds, and the remaining 23,700, comprising both Hindoos and Musulmans, cultivators or herdsmen. It is generally found that the Rajpoot is the better and

more industrious agriculturist, while the Musulman prefers a pastoral life. As a whole, however, the people may be characterised as emphatically pastoral in their habits. In former years I travelled among and knew them well. They are nomadic by choice, and wander with their flocks and horned cattle as pasturage and water may require. Their wealth consists in their droves, as their main article of export is ghee. The pasturage on their sandhills is highly nutritious, and renders the breed of cattle remarkably fine. It is not easy, therefore, to induce these tribes to fix their attention upon arable pursuits, and a peculiarly simple and lenient description of assessment was evidently required to wean them from their old predatory and roving habits.

8. Accordingly, the plan selected by Mr. Frere was to fix and register the localities of all the fields, to record the titles of the holders, and to demand from every holding a tax so moderate as should admit of its being levied in any but a famine year. These highly desirable objects seem to have been effected by Lieutenant Shortt in a very satisfactory manner, and I venture to hope that your Lordship in Council will approve the details of the settlements, as reported in the Acting Deputy Collector's letter.

9. The assessment has been calculated upon the average price of the staple produced,—bajree,—as this grain has been selling in the cheapest markets of the districts. In the Kardarates of Deepla and Mittee it has been fixed at an equivalent to about one-fourth the gross produce, and in the remaining district of Veerawow one-fifth the gross produce has, in accordance with former practice, been determined upon. The Government return from this latter district is yet further reduced by the fact of the Thakoor of Veerawow receiving the revenues derivable from his own village, besides one-fourth those realised from the district; these privileges having been originally granted to him in compensation for certain dues derivable from a salt lake in the immediate vicinity of his village.

10. The capabilities of the soil do not vary to such a degree as to cause any great difference between the rates levied in any two localities. From an examination of the proposed tax per beega of 1,600 square yards, it appears that in no instance is a higher rate than eight annas suggested, while the average demand upon the entire 89,871 beegas brought under settlement is about three annas.

11. The term of the proposed settlement is ten years,—a period which was suggested by the Commissioner after a personal examina-

tion of the districts ; but here, as in the Deccan, the cultivator will remain at full liberty to throw up old, or to enclose new land, upon giving timely notice,—it is only the Government that is bound down. This boon to the cultivator may be attended with the inconvenience of a fluctuating revenue ; but in a desert tract, where the huts and wells of one year are covered up or removed in the year following, and where the gradual attraction of the population to agriculture is on all accounts a matter of far greater importance than the collection of a few rupees more or less of revenue, this boon seemed especially required. In years of famine, no revenue whatsoever will be demanded.

12. The financial result of the settlement is more satisfactory than might have been anticipated. The statement appended to Lieutenant Shortt's report shows that the annual assessment now recommended will amount to Rs. 16,428-11-3, which sum contrasts very favourably with the realisations of the ten years preceding from the same districts ; for the largest revenue collected in any one of these years has been Rs. 10,527-4-11,—thus showing for the yield under proposed settlement an annual increase of Rs. 5,901-6-4. This increase does not, however, imply that the present assessment has been fixed at rates higher than may be consistent with the objects in view. It is attributable rather to the circumstance that while cultivation has been gradually extending, the land tax has been continually lowered, until reduced to about the value of one-sixth the gross produce ; while, concurrently with this abatement of demand, all sorts of vexatious customs and frontier dues have been abolished.

13. Lieutenant Shortt proposes that the crops of the current season should be brought under the settlement ; and in the advisability of this measure I concur. The Sunuds or title-deeds will not be issued to the Zemindars until the sanction of Government shall be obtained to the proposed settlement.

14. The arguments adduced in paragraphs 23 to 28 inclusive of the Acting Deputy Collector's report are, I think, sound. It is undoubtedly a main object to extend cultivation in these Thurr Districts, and I would respectfully suggest that the appointment of Patels from year to year, as circumstances may dictate, be left to the discretion of the local officer, who should be empowered to remunerate these village authorities by grants of uncleared land, to be held upon the conditions of clearance, and of good behaviour on the part of the occupants.

15. The question of renewing the grants of Inam lands to Zemindars, alluded to in Lieutenant Shortt's 32nd paragraph, does not require particular notice in this place; neither is it necessary that I should longer claim the attention of your Lordship in Council in reference to districts which have been so recently and ably described by Mr. Frere.

16. The contingent bills as per the Acting Deputy Collector's memorandum will be duly forwarded to the Civil Auditor.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JOHN JACOB, Lieutenant Colonel,  
Acting Commissioner in Sind.

*Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 3rd June 1856.*

---

No. 464 OF 1855.

From the ACTING DEPUTY COLLECTOR AND MAGISTRATE,  
THURR AND PARKUR,  
To H. B. E. FRERE, Esq.,  
Commissioner in Sind.

*Dated Camp Megpore, 15th December 1855.*

SIR,—I do myself the honour to report the completion of the measurement and assessment of the fields of the Thurr Districts, and there now only remains the copying of the lists, which can go on as the settlement proceeds.

Reports completion of the Measurement of the Fields in Thurr.

2. After the completion of two copies of each field-book, I propose discharging the measuring establishments, and making arrangements to have the requisite number of copies made of the field-books, for which contingent bills will be forwarded as heretofore.

Intended arrangement for copying the Field-books.

3. The total expense of the survey will be considerably within the amount originally sanctioned by you. On the completion of the requisite number of copies of the field-books, I shall report the total amount expended, for your information.

Expense of Survey.

4. As it is a matter of considerable importance, on the introduction of a new system, that it should commence favourably, I have hurried the present report more than I should otherwise have done, if possible to admit of the present year, 1855-56, which has proved a particularly favourable season for the cultivators, being brought under this new assessment, and included in the term of years of the leases proposed to be now granted; and I hope that under press of much other business this will stand my excuse if it should appear to you that I have overlooked anything in the present report, or that it is not so full as you would have desired it; and I venture to solicit as early a reply as you can afford, giving me authority to carry out the settlement as you may direct,—the more so as I propose proceeding into the districts in a few days, giving them as much time as I possibly can, for the purpose, chiefly, of carrying out this important object.

5. In a country the produce of which is entirely dependent on rain, and that very uncertain, I need not say more on the importance of commencing the new system of assessment under favourable auspices: it will be sufficient to say that the monsoon just passed has been more favourable all over the districts than for many years past.

6. To guard against delay, however, in case it should be found impossible to complete its introduction all over the province, the Kardars are now employed in assessing the crops in the usual manner; but I hope, for the success of the undertaking, that this will be needless.

7. To form an opinion as to the amount of the rate it is proposed to levy yearly on the leases, it may be Tenure of Land in former years. as well that I should state as briefly as possible a few words on the rate at which land has hitherto been held in the Thurr, and the amount Government has been able to realise from the land revenue; and thus I think a more just idea of the rate at which the present settlement should be made will be arrived at.

8. The principal castes in the district may be divided into three great classes, viz. Musulmans, Rajpoots, and Bheels, Kolees, &c. Previous to 1843, when the unsettled state of the district is a matter of notoriety, the Bheels and Kolees were almost the only cultivators

of the soil. The Musulmans and Rajpoots were the possessors of cattle, which formed the staple source of their wealth, and which they could drive about with them wherever they went. The state of the country, infested as it was by cattle-stealers, and marauders of all descriptions,—amongst whose numbers they themselves, in many instances, may be included,—did not hold out inducement to them to settle down to agricultural life, and their tastes were then altogether opposed to it. The Bheels and Kolees had no cattle to be stolen, and nothing to lose by such depredations, consequently the cultivation was almost entirely confined to them.

9. Since then, security of person and property has entirely superseded this state of things, and cultivation has been gradually on the increase. Since 1843, the amount of land under cultivation has been increased fourfold, and this increase may be said to be entirely cultivated by Musulmans and Rajpoots, while the amount cultivated prior to 1843 is still in the hands of Bheels and Kolees much as it then was.

10. That much of this wandering taste remains to this day among the Musulmans and Rajpoots there is no doubt ; but that it is decreasing daily will be deduced from the above fact. These castes depend even now chiefly on their cattle as the means of existence. Many of the smaller owners now possess a field or two in the vicinity of their Thurrs, more for the right it gives them of grazing their cattle on the village lands than as a means of livelihood. These men, therefore, are not entirely dependent on the monsoon for the means of defraying the Government demands on them in a bad season.

11. To a certain extent, however, emigration for a time will always exist amongst the poorer classes, when the total failure of the monsoon obliges them to seek food where it may be had at a cheaper rate.

12. I do not think it will be a matter of much difficulty to arrange a permanent settlement (cash rate) for any number of years you think best.

13. The land in the Thurr is all of the same description, and there are no canals, no irrigation, no variety of crops ; and, lastly, the cultivator of the soil will receive the lease of the land he himself cultivates direct from Government.

Description of Land in the Thurr.

14. Any rights the Raoma, Soda, and Noray Zemindars may have possessed in the time of the Ameer have all been commuted for certain portions of land, which they hold rent-free. In the Mittee Zilla, the amount of land so granted is 8 Santees, in Deepla 6 Santees, and in Veerawow, the town of Veerawow and one-fourth of the net land revenue of the Zilla ; so that it will scarcely be necessary to allude to them further.

15. Under the Ameer the rate of assessment was as follows :—  
 Mittee, two-fifths of the whole produce ;  
 Former Rates of Assessment. Deepla, one-third of ditto ; Veerawow, one-fifth of ditto.

16. The best land by far in the district lies in the Deepla and Ballearee Zillas, along the banks of the Runn, where the sandhills are higher, and the water lies longer, in consequence, in the hollows. Why the assessment here was lighter than in Mittee, where the land is poorer, is difficult to say ; but they were equalised by Captain Duncan about 1846, and the rate since then has been nominally one-third.

Land of the Veerawow Zilla is poor. 17. The Veerawow Zilla is much poorer, and some of it, it is said, will not admit of its being sown yearly.

18. There is only one crop yearly taken from the soil. After the first fall of rain, bajree is sown on the higher ground, and is cut in November or December, by which time much of the water has dried up in the Thullees where wheat is sown. These are almost the only grains grown, and the wheat forms a small portion only of the produce.

19. It has, therefore, only been found necessary, in determining the assessment on each field, to classify them into three different sorts of soil,—  
 New Assessment has been fixed on the merits of each field chiefly. “ Kattee,” or hard ; “ Thullee,” or low land, on which water lies ; and “ Drago,” which is nothing but sand.

20. A field may contain portions of each of those different sorts : these have each been registered, and A Field may contain several sorts of Land. the field valued at the total of all.

21. It is on this account that the settlement has been made more

on the merits of each field than an average on the particular description of land per beega; though this has been also recorded and taken into consideration, and the result for each Kardarate shown elsewhere.

22. The beega by which the present measurements have been made is the same as that of Kutch, The Beega in use in the Thurr. which has always obtained in the Thurr, viz. 1,600 square yards, and not 2,500, as elsewhere. It will be necessary to keep this in mind, otherwise the rates per beega may appear far lower than they really are.

23. The results of the labours of the measurers are shown in the statement appended.

Mode of procedure of the Measurers.

24. They have been invariably attended by one or more of the Zemin-dars of the Zilla, and also, when possible, by the Kardar as well, and any difference of opinion in fixing the amount of assessment has been recorded as shown.

25. The fields have been classified as belonging to their separate villages. In a few cases boundaries are disputed: those have been entered as such, and I hope that the Kardars, when relieved of the yearly assessment, will be able speedily to settle these according to their ancient boundaries.

26. I have also thought it as well to show the amount realised from the different Kardarates for the last ten years, which is given in a separate statement, though, from the want of information as to the amount of land under cultivation, much information, I fear, will not be deducible from it, so as to enable one to arrive at any correct conclusion as to the relative average amount of land revenue hitherto collected to the land under cultivation, which has, as already stated, been steadily on the increase.

27. The amount of land, however, under cultivation last year, is nearly the same as during the present, Comparing the weight of the new Assessment with that of former years. when the measurements were taken, and will suffice, I think, to give a very fair idea of what the real assessment has been. On comparing these two, it will be seen that last year, which was a very good year, produced in the Mittee Zilla, after deducting remissions, Rs. 4,463. Supposing the same amount of land to be now under cultivation, the

present measurements give Rs. 9,230 for the same land, calculated nominally at the same rate, viz. one-third, showing an increase of Rs. 4,767, or more than double. It is therefore clear, though nominally the assessment hitherto has been one-third, yet, in reality, it has been much less; and at the same time it is evident that Government hitherto has never been able to collect its proper share, from the great facilities for defrauding Government in the Thurr, composed, as it is, of an infinite number of small sandhills, quite undistinguishable to an unpractised eye, and quite bewildering to any but the Native.

28. In the Deepla Zilla alone, where hitherto not more than 1,400 fields or thereabouts have ever been assessed, the present measurement field-books show above 2,800 which have been brought under the present survey. This is the case, also, with all the other Zillas, but not to so great an extent. Of the reasons which have hitherto caused these facilities for fraud, I need say little, as you are well aware of the nature of the country, and the difficulties that the Government revenue officers have to contend with in consequence.

29. From the statement appended, it will be observed how small is the difference of opinion between the Zemindars and the Kardars or Government employes, as to the amount at which each field should be assessed. In the Veerawow district there is none.

30. I have been unable to give the result of the measurements of the Ballearee Zilla in the Deepla statement, to which Kardarate it belongs.

The Ballearee Field-book has not yet been received.

The fields were measured by the Kardar Hurceram, and have been completed; but they have not as yet reached me; and as I am quite uncertain as to when they may do so, I hope I shall be excused sending this report without them, as I consider it of great importance not to lose time in the introduction of the survey assessment.

31. From the other statements it will, therefore, be seen that the result of the measurements of the fields in Mittee and Deepla, which have been professedly assessed at one-third, or rather under, has been to give a much greater amount of revenue on the same amount of cultivation than what has ever been realised before. In Veerawow, which has been professedly assessed at one-fifth, the total amount assessed under the new measurement is very nearly the same as it was last year.

32. It would appear, therefore, that hitherto the assessment in Mittee and Deepla Districts has been very light,—much lighter than one-third, and probably not more than a fifth or sixth ; and in Vecrawow it is very nearly the same.

33. I think it would be impolitic to raise the assessment, therefore, in Mittee and Deepla, to the extent determined by the measurers and Zemindars, which will only tend to unsettle the cultivators, while it appears to be of much greater importance to Government to ensure the tranquillity of this portion of the frontier of Sind than the increase of the revenue of so poor a district.

34. A reduction of the rate of assessment of the Mittee and Deepla Districts to about a fifth will make the yearly revenue much about the same as it was last year. I do not think the Veerawow rate could be lower than it is. The people from this district with whom I have conversed on the subject seem well pleased with the rate of the assessments, and there is no difference of opinion between them and the Zemindars, so far as I have been able as yet to learn.

35. The total of nett revenue for collection for last year (a most favourable one, as has been observed) for the Thurr alone, without Parkur, was Rs. 10,282-3-8.

36. The total of the new assessment for the same, taking Balancee at Rs. 3,000, may be roughly stated at Rs. 21,000, or more than double ; hence making the assessment doubly heavy, and, therefore, calculated to render the new settlement highly unpopular.

37. In a country so entirely dependent on rain as the Thurr, I would suggest that the cultivators should be relieved of the chance of total failure of the crops in years when no rain falls, or so little as not to admit of the grain being sown.

38. In 1843 Kardars were first sent into the Thurr from the Hyderabad Collectorate, and since then, the following will show how far the monsoon is to be depended upon as regards the Thurr Districts.

39. The year 1843 was one of famine ; the year 1844 was one of famine, locusts having destroyed the entire crops.

40. The year 1845 was one of almost famine also, from the eggs of the locusts remaining in the ground, and coming to maturity with the crops.

41. The year 1845-46 was a year of famine in Thurr.

„ 1846-47 a fair year.

„ 1847-48 a good year.

„ 1848-49 not a good year.

„ 1849-50 a good year.

„ 1850-51 a bad year.

„ 1851-52 a good year.

„ 1852-53 a good year.

„ 1853-54 almost a famine year.

„ 1854-55 a good year.

So that out of the thirteen years, from 1843 up to the present date, seven have been years of famine, or nearly so, from want of rain or other causes.

42. Rain is also at times very partial, and falling in one district when the others have little or none.

43. Regarding the length of time leases should be granted for, I should be glad to be favoured with your opinion. The Mittee Zemindars recommended ten years, the Veerawow five, and the Deepla ten; but these may be modified to any extent you think most advisable. At first there will naturally be a shyness on the part of the cultivator to take the lease for a greater number of years. Unless you consider it better to allow each cultivator to choose the length of his own lease, I think ten years would be well calculated to secure to the cultivator all the benefits of the measure; but probably this might be modified according to circumstances and the wishes of the inhabitants of the different Zillas.

44. On leases being taken, it would probably be as well to give the lessee a Sunud or writing, stating the number of fields he holds, the amount of assessment of each, his liabilities to Government, &c. A form of this is enclosed for your approval, should you consider it necessary.

45. I would propose some such rules as the following be promulgated, as those under which the new assessment is to be introduced:—

I. That no cultivator holding a lease of land from Government can be called on for more than the amount specified in his lease for the number of years his lease may run; after which, it will be

in the power of Government to raise or decrease, as circumstances may seem best.

II. Should any leaseholder wish to give up any portion of the land he holds, before the expiration of his lease, he may do so, provided he gives notice of his intention so to do two months before the sowing season of each year, viz. by the 1st April of each year, when the Kardar can make arrangements to let that portion to any one applying for it.

III. No land tax will be levied in years when no rain may fall, or not sufficient for the sowing of the crops.

IV. Applications for new land to be brought under cultivation to be made to the Kardar by the 1st June of each year, stating distinctly the position and capability of the land applied for, the number of years' lease, and other particulars.

V. The right of cultivating such ground for one, two, or three years, according to the nature of the soil, will be granted as compensation for the trouble or expense of clearing, to be determined by the Kardars, subject to final decision of the Deputy Collector.

VI. The Government revenue will be levied in one or two instalments, as may be found on inquiry to be most beneficial to the cultivator, in the month of (or months of) —.

46. I do not think it will be necessary to give the Patel of each small Thurr land to secure his co-operation and assistance in the carrying out of the system, and it is probably not your intention that it should be so. The best and most respectable Patels of the neighbourhood might be picked out, and a charge of twenty or thirty Thurrs be given to each; in return for which they would hold a field, or certain portion of land, free from Government, so long as they should satisfactorily perform the duties required of them.

47. On these several points I beg to solicit your instructions, and authority to carry out the assessment, which I shall do my best to effect with the least possible delay.

48. In conclusion, as I am unaware, on the introduction of similar revenue surveys, what view Government have hitherto taken of late grants of shares in the revenue to Chiefs, in

Regarding the grant of Land free to Patels of Villages, for certain Services.

Requests instructions on the above points.

Veerawow Soda Chiefs' share in the Revenue.

compensation for former rights, it seems necessary that I should mention that the Veerawow Soda Chiefs have within a few years been granted a fourth share in the produce of the whole Veerawow Zilla, in compensation for their right to their share in the salt-pans formerly worked near Veerawow, and which have been ordered by Government to be discontinued. I presume similar cases can only be determined on by the merits of each particular case ; but if any change is thought advisable on the introduction of the new system, the present seems to be the proper time to investigate the propriety of doing so.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. Y. SHORTT,

Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

*Acting Deputy Collector and Magistrate's Office,  
Camp Megpore, 15th December 1855.*



No. —.

*Statement showing the Result of the new Survey and Measurement of the Fields in the Deepla Kardarate, as taken from the Lists lately compiled.*

Names of Zillas.	No. of Villages.	Total Number of Fields.	Total of Beegas.	Number of Fields alienated.	No. of Beegas of Alienated Fields.	Government Fields.	No. of Beegas of Government Fields.	Revenue fixed by Kardar.	Difference between the Revenue fixed by Kardar & Zemindar.	The remaining Amount.	Average per Beega.
Deepla.....	112	2,261	12,817	1,200	811	2,154	12,006	4,829	343	4,486	0 6 5
Ballearee.....	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,000*	0 0 .....
Total...	..	.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,486	2 0 .....

\* This is a rough estimate ; the returns, though completed, have not yet reached me.

A. Y. SHORTT,

Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

( 17 )



STATEMENT

सत्यमेव जयते

SHOWING THE

LAND REVENUE COLLECTED IN THE THURR  
DISTRICTS FOR THE TEN YEARS FROM  
1845-46 to 1854-55.

No.

*Statement showing the Land Revenue collected in the three  
1845-46 to*

Years.	DEEPLA KARDARATE.						MITTEE KARDARATE.					
	Land Revenue.			Remission.			Land Revenue.			Remission.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
In 1845-46..	1,605	14	5	....			1,605	14	5	782	6	3
1846-47..	1,246	3	2	....			1,246	3	2	1,778	9	8
1847-48..	5,417	13	9	....			5,417	13	9	2,285	1	5
1848-49..	4,879	13	8	24	0	0	4,855	13	8	979	5	5
1849-50..	2,833	15	7	142	7	8	2,691	7	11	4,895	10	9
1850-51..	2,139	11	0	95	9	3	2,044	1	9	1,231	4	7
1851-52..	3,300	10	5	126	7	11	3,174	2	6	2,155	14	2
1852-53..	2,589	6	1	74	12	10	2,514	9	3	2,434	12	7
1853-54..	549	10	5	....			549	4	5	734	6	8
1854-55..	2,591	13	8	236	7	7	2,355	6	1	4,999	12	3
Total. Rs.	27,155	0	2	699	13	3	26,455	2	11	22,277	3	9
Average. Rs.	....			....			2,645	0	0	....		

*Kardarates of the Thurr Districts, for the last Ten Years, from 1854-55.*

VEERAWOW.				Remarks.
Remaining.	Land Revenue.	Remission.	Remaining.	
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
782 6 3	837 5 3	....	837 5 3	} No account of remission is extant for these two years.
1,778 9 8	3,802 11 6	....	3,802 11 6	
2,285 1 5	2,201 8 3	550 6 1	1,651 2 2	
729 5 5	314 14 2	94 0 0	220 14 2	
4,303 13 1	5,441 3 6	1,909 3 7	3,531 15 11	
1,163 6 3	1,655 5 1	589 15 3	1,065 5 10	
2,007 0 8	6,509 13 9	2,290 14 11	4,218 14 10	
2,315 15 6	4,426 3 8	1,674 15 6	2,751 4 2	
710 12 1	1,937 13 11	766 2 0	1,171 11 11	
4,463 5 9	5,530 11 4	2,067 3 6	3,463 7 10	
20,539 12 1	32,657 10 5	9,942 12 10	22,714 13 7	
2,053 0 0	....	....	2,271 0 0	

A. Y. SHORTT,  
Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

No. —.

*Statement showing the Result of the new Survey and Measurement of the Fields in the Mittee Kardaric, as taken from the Lists lately compiled.*

Names of Zillas.	No. of Villages.	Total Number of Fields.	Total of Beegas.	Number of Fields Alienated.	No. of Beegas of Alienated Fields.	Government Fields.	No. of Beegas of Government Fields.	Revenue fixed by Kardar.	Difference between the Revenue fixed by Kardar & Zemindar.	The remaining Amount.		Average per Beega.	
										Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.
Mittee .....	42	1,023	8,673 1,200	18	187 400	1,005	8,486 800	2,443 8 0	38 12 0	2,404 12 0	0 4 7		
Islankote ...	116	2,207	21,679 1,200	172	2,217 ..	2,035	19,462 1,200	5,117 0 0	74 7 0	5,042 9 0	0 4 2½		
Singala ....	25	559	7,691 1,200	..	....	559	7,691 1,200	1,670 4 0	22 4 0	1,648 0 0	0 3 5½		
Total..	183	3,789	38,045 400	190	2,404 400	3,599	35,641 ..	9,230 12 0	135 7 0	9,095 5 0	0 4 2		

A. Y. SHORTT,  
Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

No. —.

*Statement showing the Result of the new Survey and Measurement of the Fields in the Veerawow  
Zilla, as taken from the Lists lately compiled.*

Names of Zillas.	No. of Villages.	Total Number of Fields.	Total of Beegas.	Number of Fields Alien- ated.	No. of Beegas of Alienated Fields.	Government Fields.	No. of Beegas of Government Fields.	Revenue fixed by Kardar and Zemindar.	Average per Beega.
			Beegas yds.		Beegas yds.		Beegas yds.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Veerawow .....	100	2,957	32,319 927	536	4,767 947	2,421	27,552 380	3,652 6 10	0 2 1½
Pectapore .....	3	124	1,282 1,182	.....	.....	124	1,282 1,182	183 13 9	0 2 3½
Total..	103	3,081	33,602 509	536	4,767 947	2,545	28,834 1,562	3,836 3 7	0 2 1½

A. Y. SHORTT,  
Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

No. —.

*Statement showing the Land Revenue of the Thurr and Parkur Districts for the last Ten Years, viz. from 1845-46 to 1854-55.*

Years.	Amount of Gross Revenue.	Amount of Remission.	Net Revenue.	Remarks.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
In 1845-46 ..	3,225 9 11	....	3,225 9 11	} No account of remission is extant for these two years.
1846-47 ..	6,827 8 4	....	6,827 8 4	
1847-48 ..	9,904 7 5	550 6 1	9,354 1 4	
1848-49 ..	6,174 1 3	368 0 0	5,806 1 3	
1849-50 ..	13,170 13 10	2,643 8 11	10,527 4 11	
1850-51 ..	5,026 4 8	753 6 10	4,272 13 10	
1851-52 ..	11,966 6 4	2,566 4 4	9,400 2 0	
1852-53 ..	9,450 6 4	1,868 9 5	7,581 12 11	
1853-54 ..	3,221 15 0	789 12 7	2,432 2 5	
1854-55 ..	13,122 5 3	2,840 1 7	10,282 3 8	
Total ..	82,089 14 4	12,380 1 9	69,709 12 7	
Average . Rs.	....	....	6,970 0 0	

A. Y. SHORTT,

Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

કાર્મ

કારડોર  
મીડી.  
જીહો એરલામ કોટ.  
ગાંમ ફેરડો.

જમીન તથા ખેતરની ઓલખ

સંકેત નંબર	સંકેત નંબર	જમીનું નામ.	ઓર તરફની દરયા.			પાટા પાટા	જમીનનો માપ.			કાયમ કરાવના રૂપિયા.			રીમાર્ક.
			પૂર્વ.	દક્ષિણ.	પશ્ચિમ.	ઉત્તર.	ચોરસ ફીટ.	ચોરસ મીટર.	ચોરસ ફીટ.	ચોરસ મીટર.	ચોરસ ફીટ.	ચોરસ મીટર.	
૧૭૫	વાહાર.	ભીલવી મોદેવાંભી.	ફાલો નં. ૧૭૭	ધોરીત-વાધાનો	વાધાનો	તડળખ-મણીહાર.	૧૮૫	૦	૧૮૫	૪	૦	૦	
૨૨૨													
૩૧૪													

ઉપર લખાએલી જગો તમને આ કાર્મ પ્રમાણે સરકાર ખાલ સાની જમીન ખેડવા સાથે આપી છે તે સુદત મુજબ ખેડીઆખાદ કરતાં થયેલી પેદાસ લેઈને પોતાનો ગુજરો ચલાવવો અને દરરાલના પૈસા કરાવ પ્રમાણે ક્રોસ્ત મુજબ સરકારમાં ભરતા જવો અને જે શાલમાં વરસાત સુતલગ નહીં થાશે તો તે શાલના પૈસા તમારા પાસેથી લેવામાં આવશે નહીં શિવાય બિજા લાગત કંઈ નથી. અને તે જમીન તમારે સુકી આપવી હોય ત્યારે જે મહિનાની તારીખ ૧લી ના રોજની આગળ કારદારને ખબર દેઈને સરકારના દફતરમાં તે પ્રમાણે દાખલ કરાવવો. તારીખ મહિનો સેને.

A. Y. SHORTT,

Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

No. 89 of 1856.

From the ACTING DEPUTY COLLECTOR AND MAGISTRATE,  
THURR AND PARKUR,  
To the ACTING COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

*Dated Camp Row, 3rd March 1856.*

SIR,—I have the honour to forward a memorandum showing the total expense of the introduction of the new permanent revenue settlement of the Thurr District of this Deputy Collectorate. The amount falls considerably within that sanctioned for the purpose (Mr. Frere's letter No. 3693, dated 15th December 1854, to the Deputy Collector, Thurr and Parkur), which was Rs. 1,800.

2. The above does not include the survey of Parkur, for which a separate sanction of a similar amount was granted (Mr. Frere's letter No. 396, dated 5th February 1855, to the Deputy Collector, Thurr and Parkur), and which has not as yet been commenced, in consequence of the non-receipt of all the instruments indented for, for the purpose.

3. I shall feel much obliged if you will inform me how the amount expended as shown is to be entered in my accounts. I have hitherto debited the contingent bills monthly in my cash accounts, in anticipation of their being countersigned by you for the Civil Auditor, but have been checked for those which have been examined by him. I did myself the honour of addressing you on this subject in my letter No. 473, of 26th December 1855, to which I have not as yet received a reply.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. Y. SHORTT,

Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

*Deputy Collector and Magistrate's Office,  
Camp Row, 3rd March 1856.*

*Memorandum showing the Expense incurred in each Month on account of the Measuring and Assessing Establishment of the Thurr and Parkur Deputy Collectorate.*

4p

Names of Months.	Total of Charges in each Month.			Remarks.
	Rs.	a.	p.	
March, 1855.....	12	2	3	As per Contingent Bill forwarded with Memorandum No. 194, of 14th April 1855.
April.....	149	0	0	Ditto ditto ditto
May.....	149	0	0	Ditto ditto ditto
June.....	147	8	0	Ditto ditto ditto
July.....	146	12	10	Ditto ditto ditto
August.....	138	8	0	Ditto ditto ditto
September.....	137	5	5	Ditto ditto ditto
October.....	140	0	0	Ditto ditto ditto
November.....	122	0	10	Ditto ditto ditto
December.....	74	3	2	Ditto ditto ditto
January, 1856.....	60	0	0	Ditto ditto ditto
February.....	31	15	0	Ditto ditto ditto
Total....Rs.	1,308	7	6	

A. Y. SHORT,  
Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

No. 98 of 1856.

From Lieutenant A. Y. SHORTT,  
Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur,  
To Colonel JOHN JACOB, C.B.,  
Acting Commissioner in Sind.

*Dated Camp Jesra, 8th March 1856.*

SIR,—In continuation of my report No. 464, dated 15th December last, and agreeably to the sanction contained in your letter No. 3998, of 27th idem, I do myself the honour to report that I have now carried out the permanent settlement of the whole of the Thurr District of this Deputy Collectorate, subject to your approval and sanction of Government.

Reporting the completion of the Settlement.

2. The result is shown in the statement appended ; and, when compared with the amount realised in the last ten years, shows a large increase over any.

Result shown in Statement appended.

3. The amount now fixed as permanent assessment is Rupees 16,428-11-3 : the largest amount realised in any former year is Rs. 10,527-4-11, being for the year 1849-50.

Compared with former years.

4. The actual amount of revenue, however, for 1855-56, will slightly fall short of this, as a few of the fields in each Zilla have not been sown during the past season, and in including this year in the leases of the new assessment, these cannot be assessed under it, as it was not intimated that the new settlement should include the present year until the harvest was past. Under the old system of estimating the crop these fields would be exempt.

Actual Amount of Revenue slightly less than shown.

5. There are also a few fields on the boundary of the Omerkote Zilla disputed, and the assessment on some of these, though exhibited in the totals, will be collected by the Omerkote authorities, and the rest under this Deputy Collectorate, until the boundary may be fixed. This would have been the case this year, but that my whole time and attention was necessarily given to the introduction of the settlement. Some new fields, also, have been

Boundary Disputes, and Fields now brought under Cultivation included.

now measured for cultivation next year for the first time. These are also included in the totals. When the sanction is received for the whole, the exact amount can be shown, if required, when the collection of the present year is made. The statement merely shows the financial result of the settlement.

6. The Kardars are now engaged in collecting the revenue as now fixed : this will of course be subject to the requisite sanction to the whole assessment ; but as the season is already far advanced, delay would occasion probable loss to Government, and on my receipt of this I shall proceed to furnish the landholders with Sunuds or leases of their land, as approved in the 12th paragraph of your letter, and under the conditions shown in the form for this purpose already forwarded by me for your approval.

7. On completion of this, the settlement may be said to be completed, so far as the Government portion of it is affected.

8. The total amount of revenue will always be liable to fluctuation, as it is left optional with the cultivators at any time to throw up any portion of the land they may hold, on giving timely notice, as well as to bring new land under cultivation.

9. In fixing the amount of the assessment for the Deepla and Mittee Kardarates, I have been guided by the following considerations :—

Causes of fluctuation in the Total Amount of Revenue.

1st.—What an average amount of produce for each field in an average year would be in grain.

2nd.—What an average rate of the price of grain for some years back would be ; and, converting the produce into money at this rate, have taken a fourth, as suggested by you in the 8th paragraph of your letter under reply, for the Government share, as fixed assessment.

10. Besides this, the merits of each field have been separately considered, and fixed in reference to its local advantages or otherwise.

11. Bajree, being almost the only grain grown, has been taken as the grain on which to calculate the money rate. The price in the Deepla and Mittee Kardarates ranges from 8 annas to Rs. 1-1-0 per Kansa, and 10 annas 6 pies has been taken as a standard in turning the grain into money. An additional

The Rates have been calculated on the average price of Bajree.

advantage is here secured to the cultivator, in having his produce taken at a low estimate by Government, when he will be able to sell it at the market price, which will generally be above that ; and in fields in which wheat is grown he has the further advantage of growing a more expensive grain at the same assessment as the inferior one, thereby remunerating himself for any extra trouble and expense in its cultivation.

12. The number of fields capable of growing wheat is very small, and altogether dependent on the quantity of rain. Such fields are confined chiefly, as stated in my former report, to the Thurrs along the edge of the Runn, where the fields are smaller, and the sandhills surrounding them higher than elsewhere. The water in these lies longer, and, from the steepness of the sandhills, in greater quantities, which accounts for the soil being more productive.

13. The capabilities of the land of the different Zillas of the Kardarates will be well seen from the average Rates per Beega put upon them, as shown in the statement appended, except in the Veerawow Zilla, where the differences are more striking.

14. In this Zilla the Government share taken is one-fifth. The land here is poorer than in the other Kardarates, being in many Thurrs nothing but sand.

15. The Thakoor of Veerawow has one-fourth share of the revenue of this Zilla, and as the assessment has been determined with his direct assistance (as indeed elsewhere), this would seem to be a guarantee that it is a fair one, as otherwise he would be a loser either way : if the assessment be too light, he is a direct loser in the amount of his share ; if, on the other hand, it is too heavy, he loses indirectly, by the cultivators leaving their Thurrs and going elsewhere. I have therefore altered this as little as possible, but was forced to do so to a small extent ; for the range of the average rates per beega as fixed by the Zemindars was so great as to make it impossible the higher ones could remunerate the cultivators. These ranged from 5 pies a beega to Rs. 2-8-0 ; the latter in a few cases only. In the other Kardarates the highest rate is about 8 annas, and this for land much better than any in this Zilla. I have therefore reduced the rates on those fields that have been assessed at a higher amount than 8 annas to this amount,

and in some few cases have slightly raised some on which manifestly too low rates were fixed. In this Zilla many of the fields are of great extent, up to 200 beegas, or even more ; the soil being of the lightest description—little more than sand. These are uncleared,—that is, large patches of jungle in the fields here and there,—and no water runs into these from adjacent hills, but they are wholly dependent on such rain as falls on their surface. Land of this description will not admit of crops being taken yearly, and, therefore, the assessment will not be in reality so light as it appears. At the same time, were care bestowed on such land, and were it properly cleared, there is little doubt that it would produce far beyond this ; but the cultivators are not prepared for this as yet.

16. The reason of such high rates as above 8 annas and up to Rs. 2-8-0 having been put on some of the land is that possibly last year, in which much rain fell, wheat may have been sown after the bajree, and the produce of this taken as an average ; but this may only occur once in ten years, and, therefore, it is obviously far too high an average to take for that period, and I hope you will approve of my having reduced those.

17. The amount so altered only occasions a difference of Rs. 31. In the statement forwarded with my former report, there was a mistake in the addition of the total of this Zilla, which will account for the apparent anomaly of the present total being greater than the former one, notwithstanding this deduction ; the rest of the settlement of this Zilla has been unaltered.

18. It is of more importance in this Zilla, and particularly in that part of it which forms the boundary with Marwar, that the assessment should be light. Here the facilities for cattle-stealing are very great, and thefts, in consequence, much more frequent, from the protection afforded to thieves by the Marwar Zemindars, and the impunity with which they are almost invariably committed ; from the difficulties of following thieves into foreign territory, and subsequently proving the thefts.

19. That the present assessment is light there can be no doubt, and many of the cultivators are sufficiently civilised to be aware of the benefits they derive from the abolition

Reason of high Rates proposed by the Measurers.

Importance of a light Assessment in this Zilla in particular.

Advantages of the new Settlement.

of customs and frontier duties, &c., as mentioned by you in paragraph 6 of your letter, as also with interference with the reaping and removal of their crops, and demands of persons employed in assessing it; but that there will be complaints at first is equally sure, particularly from the Ballearee and Deepla Zillas, where, hitherto, Government have never been able to collect more than probably half of what was due. The cultivators here have, however, less to complain of, and greater advantages than anywhere else in the district. The land is better, and much more productive, as has been before mentioned, and the averages taken in the same way as elsewhere. Indeed, the complaints I have received of heavy assessment have been almost entirely confined to these two Zillas; and since the permission conveyed in the 8th paragraph of your letter reached me, the whole Zillas have been reduced from the amount they were assessed at by the measurers, viz. from one-third to a fourth. I have also reduced the assessment on many fields which have been complained of, on examination, so that I would be cautious of entertaining future complaints of this nature, without the personal examination of the land by the Kardar or his Deputy to confirm them; but I do not anticipate the necessity of asking your permission to any alterations hereafter.

20. With regard to the 10th paragraph of your letter, in which you leave it to me to judge whether the Inadvisability of imposing a small Payment on each Field in Years of Famine. landholders in years of failure should pay a small sum to maintain their title to the land, as in the Omerkote Thurr, I think the fields are so small that it will scarcely be possible to enforce this without pressing hardly on the poorer cultivators. The average amount of assessment on each field, and also the average number of beegas in each field, in the several Zillas, is shown in the statement appended;—the highest average amount being Rs. 2-8-6, and is in the Ballearee Zilla; the lowest being Rs. 1-7-8, and is in the Peetapore Zilla; and none of the other Zillas exceed an average of Rs. 1-13-11. Some of the assessments on single fields do not exceed 6 annas, and many are assessed at 8 annas, and under. I therefore have thought that, for the present at all events, it will be better to levy nothing at all in years of failure, and hope that, under the circumstances, you will approve my not having promulgated this as one of the rules of the new survey.

21. I have fixed the leases of the present settlement at ten years.

Duration of the present Settlement.

This was the period chosen by the people themselves throughout the district, and it appears to me to be as good a term as could have been fixed on. There can be no doubt of the lightness of the present assessment; and were the cultivators to take advantage of it, they would benefit in proportion: but their natural supineness will, I fear, prevent their doing so for some time. Agriculture here, too, is in its most primitive stage: the generality of the cultivators sow little more than will be sufficient for their own and their families' consumption for the year, and pay the Government share; and it will hardly be believed that, after a good season, some cultivators will not put new seed into their lands, but will trust to sufficient grain for the year's consumption springing up from what may have fallen from the previous year's crop in the field, knowing that under the old system the Government share would press equally, whether the crop was large or small. In ten years they will have ample time to see the working of the new system just introduced, and the benefits they may derive, if they choose to bestow labour and industry upon the land.

22. The fields, as now measured, consist of that portion of land

Possible effects on the now existing amount of Cultivation.

hitherto cultivated: most of them, however, are capable of being extended to any extent, by clearing jungle, &c.; though, as the edges approach the bases of the sandhills with which each field is surrounded, the ground becomes more sandy, and only such grains as gooar, moong, &c. (as yet but little known here) will grow in this, and as the cultivators will be allowed, if they choose (for it would be impossible to prevent them), to enlarge their fields during the term of the present settlement, I think Government may expect at the end of this term to reap some advantage from the present light assessment, and that, therefore, another survey might then be taken; at all events, it will be in the power of Government to do so should it see fit.

23. With regard to the grant of service land free to Patels of villages (paragraph 14 of your letter under reply), I proposed in my former

Appointment of Patels or Teekais.

report to pick out the most respectable men of the district, and to place under them twenty or thirty Thurrs.

in return for which they would hold a field, or certain portion of land, rent-free as long as they should satisfactorily perform the duties required of them.

24. Since visiting the districts, I have found this a much more difficult matter than I anticipated.

25. At present a large proportion of the headmen of villages are related to the Zemindars of the district, whose claims have all been commuted for stipends, land, or other compensation, but who still try their utmost to retain many small rights they formerly exercised, and to keep up their authority as if they were the owners of the soil. The influence they possess, too, is considerable.

Present relation of the Patels to the Zemindars, and its effect on Cultivation.

All the wealthy men in the province are cattle-owners, or allow the cattle of strangers to graze on the lands of their Thurrs, in exchange for which they levy a tax from them, called Puncheree, and who only cultivate land for their private consumption, and that not with their own hands. The principal wealth of the country, therefore, is cattle. Its principal and almost only export is ghee, which is produced without tax or expense, direct or indirect, and, of course, forms a most lucrative trade. Indeed every one but the poorer cultivators possesses more or less cattle ; and this being the case, every hindrance and impediment is put in the way of any one wishing to bring new land under cultivation, or to dig wells,—also to settlers coming from other countries, who bring with them cattle, or are likely to cultivate on their own account,—from the fear that the pasturage for their cattle will be diminished ; and it requires the utmost vigilance on the part of the Deputy Collector and his subordinate officials to counteract this in any degree. The absurdity of these fears will appear from the facts shown by the late measurements, which give the amount of land under cultivation at about 46 square miles, the whole of the remaining portion of the estimated area of the Thurr (viz. 4,500 square miles) being thick jungle of excellent pasturage for camels, and cattle in general. The land it might be possible to bring under cultivation may be estimated at about a sixth of the whole. At present immense tracts of land, particularly in the Islamkote Zilla, are kept without a vestige of cultivation, and without water, merely from this cause. To counteract this, therefore, will be one of the principal objects to be had in view in the appointment of Patels or Teckais.

26. The dissatisfaction, too, evinced by the different castes at having a man of another caste made Unpopularity of the appoint- Patel of their village, and of whose ment of Teekais. powers they entertain the most exaggerated notions, has induced me to leave the appointment of these until the cultivators have seen the working of the new system. The prevalent conviction all over the district is, that the Patels or Teekais are to collect the revenue for their respective villages from the cultivators, and pay the amount to the Kardars. I have tried to dispossess them of this idea, as being calculated to defeat the object intended by the present survey ; but I fear that until they themselves understand what is required of them, by experience, it will be impossible to convince them.

27. I also find that it will be very desirable that the number of Patels should be more numerous than Reasons for appointing a greater number of Teekais than at first proposed. I formerly proposed : as, for instance, on the most frequented routes through the country, it will be necessary that all the principal villages should have some one to procure supplies for troops and travellers ; and on and near the frontiers of Marwar, Sind, and Kutch, it seems also requisite, in case of thefts, and tracks being brought to the villages, that there should be some one in each village to answer such calls.

28. But as this would occasion a great additional expense on the small revenue of the district, were remissions to be granted on fields now possessed by the men to be chosen for this duty, I beg to propose for your consideration, that I be authorised next year to fix the number of these Patels as may be best calculated to carry out the above ends, remunerating them by the grant of a small portion of land now waste, which they may themselves clear and retain rent-free, subject to their good behaviour, as formerly proposed. Proposal for their Remuneration, and the number required. In this way cultivation will be increased, without loss to the revenue. The number of Patels I have calculated as above will be between two and three hundred.

29. To these, the consideration of having more or less land rent-free will be nothing ; the position and increased dignity being the objects coveted, as well as the dislike to having a man of another caste placed over them.

30. By allowing the present year to elapse without making any change in this part of the present system, I think the cultivators will have time to see that there is no intention of interfering with their present rights or privileges, by the appointment of Teekais, and that it is only meant as a check or security for the Government not being defrauded of its share of the produce. Should you approve of this plan the Patels can be appointed, and their several portions of new land marked out and measured by the Kardars.

31. I have made inquiries as to the most convenient manner and time of collecting the revenue, and find that the best and easiest method for the cultivators will be to allow them to pay it in two instalments, one on the 1st January, and the other on the 1st April of each year ; but it will be optional to pay it at once,—and in the Vecrawow Zilla few will avail themselves of the permission to divide the assessment, but will prefer paying it in one instalment.

32. On the renewal of the Sunuds of the Zemindars which were granted for a period of seven years from the time of the conquest, the land so assigned should be properly marked out and measured. This, however, is at present a matter of minor importance, as I believe none of them cultivate land equal to the amount granted by their Sunuds, and are not likely to increase the quantity they now have under cultivation.

33. The expense of the above settlement has already been reported to you in my letter No. 89, dated 3rd March 1856.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. Y. SHORTT,

Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

*Deputy Collector and Magistrate's Office,  
Camp Jesra, 8th March 1856.*

---

*Statement showing the Result of the Assessment of the Thurr District, as settled by the Deputy Collector up to the 29th February 1856, and submitted for the sanction of Government.*

Names of Zillas.	Total of Government Fields.	Total of Beegas in Government Fields.	Total Amount of Assessment on Government Fields.			Average Rate per Beega of 1,600 Square Yards.			Average Amount of Assessment on each Field.			Average of Beegas in each Field.	Remarks.
			Rs.	a.	l.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.		
DEEPLA KARDARATE..	1,592	13,041	4,032	14	0	0	4	11	2	8	6	8	191,589
	2,154	12,032 $\frac{3}{4}$	3,264	8	0	0	4	4	1	8	3	5	586,234
	1,006	8,554 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,523	10	0	0	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	8	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	503,479
	2,051	19,716	3,636	8	0	0	2	11	1	12	4	9	6,128,715
MITTEE KARDARATE..													
	Thurr .....												
	Singala....	7,691 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,040	9	0	0	2	2	1	13	11	13	809,246
VEERAWOW.....	557	27,552 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,663	10	0	0	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	8	3	11	339,219
	124	1,282 $\frac{3}{4}$	182	14	9	0	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	7	10	10	344,959
Deduct one-fourth of Veerawow Zilla, being the share of the Thakoor of Veerawow .....													
		.....	17,344	9	9								
		.....	915	14	6								
Total .... Rs.	9,905	89,871	16,428	11	3	0	3	0	1	10	6	9	0,732,963

A. Y. SHORTT,

Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

No. 3324 OF 1856.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT, REVENUE.

To the ACTING COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

*Copy of the Resolution passed by Government under date 30th August 1856, on a Letter from the Acting Commissioner in Sind, No. 1370, dated the 3rd June 1856, submitting, with his observations, a Report from Lieutenant SHORTT, Acting Deputy Collector, Thurr and Parkur, of the completion of the Measurements and Revenue Settlement in the Desert Portion of his Deputy Collectorate, known as the Thurr.*

In sanctioning the expenditure of Rs. 1,308-7-6, which has been incurred in effecting the settlement for ten years of the land revenue and assessment in the Thurr District, as proposed by Lieutenant Shortt, Government have much gratification in recording the favourable opinion which they have formed of the manner in which that officer has conducted the duties entrusted to him.

2. The details of the settlement are generally approved by Government, and its introduction during the current year, which is to be calculated as the first of the ten years for which the leases are to be granted, is authorised.

3. The appointment of Patels appears to Government a judicious measure, and should be carried out from year to year, at the discretion of the local officer, as recommended by Colonel Jacob.

(Signed) H. YOUNG,  
Offg. Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 48c OF 1856.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

From the COMMISSIONER IN SIND,

To the Right Honorable LORD ELPHINSTONE, G.C.H.,  
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

*Dated 21st January 1856.*

MY LORD,—I have the honour to report on the present condition and system of management of the districts of Thurr and Parkur.

2. Lieutenant Raikes's report (No. 67, of 17th March 1853), of which a copy is enclosed, gives a very full and correct account of the districts referred to, and I will therefore only here state that they comprise an area of about 6,100 square miles, and a population of 44,000 souls, according to a census which I have reason to think much below the truth.

3. Geographically, these districts are nothing more than the southern extremity of the Great Desert, which, from Ferozepoor to the Runn of Kutch, separates the Valley of the Indus from the rest of India.

4. They abut to the west on the south-eastern portion of the Hyderabad Collectorate: the conterminous Hyderabad districts of Jouda, Bhaga-ke-Tanda, and Wallasseer are naturally fertile and were once well cultivated and populous; but physical changes and neglect of canals have led to their being almost deserted; and although improvements now commencing will, it is hoped, restore them to their ancient prosperity, they have hitherto for some generations past formed an almost uninhabited tract, separating the Thurr and Parkur districts from the fertile portions of Lower Sind.

5. To the north, the Thurr is bounded by the Omerkote district of Hyderabad, which is itself a portion of the Great Desert, and in no way distinguishable, save by an artificial line of boundary, from the Thurr itself.

6. To the east, the Thurr is bounded by Marwar and by an arm of the Runn, which separates it from the Pahlunpoor districts of Guzerat.

7. To the south, the Runn separates the Thurr and Parkur districts from Kutch.

8. The districts, thus almost isolated from the fertile, inhabited portions of India, are divided by a marked difference of physical conformation into,—

**PAPERS**  
**REGARDING THE**  
**PRESENT CONDITION AND SYSTEM OF**  
**MANAGEMENT**  
**OF THE**  
**DISTRICTS OF THURR AND PARKUR.**

9. 1st.—The *Thurr*, which consists of a tract of sandhills, similar to those of the rest of the Great Desert, but somewhat more uniform in shape, and enjoying more regular and copious falls of rain. The similarity of these sand ridges in shape to waves of the sea, which strikes every traveller, and the material of which they are composed, generally a fine sand, cohering so slightly as to be easily friable, is apt to produce, in those who know them only by description, impressions regarding them which are not confirmed by personal inspection.

10. The hills are very rarely composed of *moving* sand, and appear to owe their shape rather to violent undulations of the ground, caused by earthquakes or similar subterranean force, than to any action of the wind, which, in the *Thurr*, appears to modify their shape but rarely, and to a very inconsiderable extent.

11. Further north, where there is less rain, hills of blown sand are not unfrequent, though even there it is clearly not the wind which has given to the principal sandhills their general shape.

12. The sandhills of the Southern *Thurr* are well clothed with coarse but nutritious grasses of different species, capable of maintaining their vitality through several seasons of drought. All the hills, when left to themselves, carry a thick undergrowth of brushwood, and though timber trees are rare, and found only where planted near wells, the Desert brushwood of various kinds often attains a very large size.

13. 2nd.—The *Parkur* districts form a kind of peninsula, jutting out into the *Runn* from the south-eastern corner of the *Thurr*. Ranges of hills, composed principally of primitive rocks, here take the place of the sandhills, and the level country between them differs but little from the open portions of Northern Guzerat, from which it is separated by the *Runn*.

14. The western portions of the *Thurr* are principally inhabited by tribes of the same character and origin as are still to be found in *Sind*, differing from them only as cognate races, living in countries of which the physical characteristics are so unlike, would naturally differ. They appear to belong to the same great family of tribes as the *Rajpoot* races, but to have been early and completely converted to Mahomedanism. A few tribes of undoubted *Belooch* origin are found, and are easily distinguished from their neighbours.

15. From *Mittee* south-westward to *Parkur*, the *Soda Rajpoots* are the dominant tribe, a few being found in each village. They generally claim to be lords of the soil, and their conquest of the country about the twelfth century is looked on in *Kutch* as matter of history.

16. They look up to the Rana of Nuggur in Parkur as their local Chief, though all acknowledge the Rana of Omerkote as the titular head of the tribe.

17. Throughout Parkur and the south-western portions of the Thurr, numerous communities of Kooles and Bheels are found, differing little from the same tribes in Marwar and the Myhee Kanta.

18. This is not the place for any attempt at an historical sketch of the revolutions the country has undergone, materials for which are not wanting, though they are often locked up in the traditions of the various tribes which compose the motley population.

19. It is sufficient for present purposes to observe that tradition, and antiquarian remains still extant, join in pointing to a period when there was a strong and united government, under which commerce and agriculture flourished. At that time there can be no doubt that an arm of the sea extended as high as Veerawow, where the remains of a large town and numerous Jain temples of stone and white marble still show the ancient importance of Paleenuggur or Pareenuggur, known to the Hindoo traders of Mandavee as the cradle of their race, and which appears to have been destroyed by an earthquake.

20. Subsequently, the port was moved about twelve miles further south, to the neighbourhood of Nuggur Parkur; and finally, perhaps in consequence of some convulsion which closed the arm of the sea, the great body of the trading inhabitants migrated to Mandavee, on the Kutch coast.

21. This occurred several centuries ago; but agriculture appears to have flourished up to a much later period.

22. The surface of the Parkur districts, where there are no rivers, and very few perennial springs, is covered with tanks, formed, as in Guzerat, by enclosing natural hollows with earthen bunds. The date of their formation, and of all important repairs, is generally to be ascertained from the books of the bards, the hereditary genealogists of the local Chiefs. Very few of them are now perfect, or in serviceable repair, but they appear to have been in use till within the last century and a half; and this, with other concurrent testimony, goes to prove that the state of anarchy and disorder in which we found the country dates no farther back than the commencement of the last century.

23. Probably here, as elsewhere in India, the decline of the Mogul empire, and the conquests of the Murathas and other similar

powers which rose on its ruins, led to the dissolution of social order in such distant dependencies as Thurr and Parkur, and to the anarchical state of things which we found, when we first became acquainted with the district, as the nest of formidable robber hordes which laid Guzerat and Kutch under contribution within the memory of men still in the Government service.

24. About the same time, or a little earlier, the Talpoor Meers of Sind had been gradually extending their authority eastward : their troops occupied the Thurr and Parkur districts, and they built at an enormous expense several forts in the desert, viz. Islamkote, Mittee, Deepla, Nowakote, Cheylar, Chockra, &c.

25. These strongholds were substantially built of brick and lime, brought from Sind or from places as remote ; and though not constructed entirely according to our modern theories of fortification, from their position, and the remoteness of any water but what they commanded, they really possessed considerable strength, and were regarded by the Ameers, as well as by the inhabitants of the Thurr, as impregnable. Their distance, however, from supplies and reinforcements, was more felt by the Ameers than it would have been by a more regular Government ; and when the inhabitants of the district rose and slew an unpopular Kardar, who had carried his exactions beyond the bounds of their endurance, the Meers vindicated their authority by carrying off the principal Chiefs to Hyderabad, and imprisoning them there ; but from that time to the end of their dynasty they carefully abstained from any interference which was likely to cause serious annoyance to subjects so poor, so turbulent, so distant, and so unable to afford profitable tribute.

26. The Meers' rule seems to have been most unpopular with every class, and is to this day almost universally execrated : probably, at such a distance from head quarters, the petty oppressions and exactions of underlings were even more felt than in Sind itself.

27. The inhabitants of Thurr and Parkur, however, indemnified themselves by preying upon their neighbours in Guzerat, Kutch, and Kattywar. Many officers now in the service can recollect the bands of marauders which, taking their name from the Khosas, a Belooch tribe of the Thurr, who were most active in these expeditions, ravaged Guzerat to within a few miles of Ahmedabad, made successful inroads into Northern Kattywar, and habitually and periodically plundered in Kutch.

28. On several occasions, a regular field force was organised against them, and they were more than once able to boast that, when overtaken by detachments of regular troops, they had successfully beaten off their wearied assailants.

29. No effectual check appears to have been given to their proceedings till a permanent post was established on the northern side of the Runn, at Kaswa, in the Parkur district, where for many years a squadron of the Bombay regular cavalry, and some irregular horse in the service of His Highness the Rao of Kutch, were stationed within the dominions of the Ameers of Sind. Detachments from this post patrolled the shores of the Runn and the adjacent Desert districts ; and as any marauding party must, in order to be successful, cross to the south-eastern side of the Runn, and return with this detachment in their rear, the establishment of the post effectually put a stop to any large predatory expeditions to the southern and eastern shores of the Runn. The lawless inhabitants of the Thurr continued, however, till within these few years, notorious for petty cattle-lifting and highway robbery on a small scale ; and the perfect security of life and property which now exists in the Thurr is still hardly credited by the inhabitants of Kutch and Guzerat, who recollect the district as proverbial for its lawlessness.

30. The inhabitants of Thurr and Parkur attribute this great change less to the Kaswa detachment and its operations than to the personal influence of Captain (now Colonel) Roberts, who at that time commanded the irregular portion of the detachment, and exercised political authority in the districts around it.

31. A complete history of his proceedings would form an instructive chapter in that most interesting portion of future Indian history which will record the gradual civilisation of the wilder parts of India by its English conquerors ; but I fear that very little of what he did will be found on record. He appears to have guided the operations of the detachment with a sagacity and vigour which secured the invincible success of his operations, while he used the influence acquired as a daring sportsman and successful soldier to give to the wretched people about him (who were not at that time British subjects) their first experience of power used for other purposes than tyranny and oppression, and of intelligence directed to protect the right and punish the wrong-doer.

32. On the conquest of Sind, the Thurr appears to have given

very little trouble. The natural strength which it possessed might have made it a formidable refuge for any predatory troops with whom the inhabitants could have sympathised ; but the Ameers appear to have had but few friends in the Thurr, and our rule was recommended to the people as that of the only Government for which they had reason to feel respect or good-will.

33. Much alarm seems to have been at first created by a rumour that they were to be governed from Hyderabad, and by the appearance of some Sindee officials sent to take possession by the Collector. Hyderabad had an evil name, as the prison of some of their Chiefs, and the grave of others. The principal men went in a body to Colonel Roberts, who was then Resident at Bhooj, and begged that they might be allowed to be subject to him.

34. Their request was submitted to the Governor of Sind, and as the Resident at Bhooj was then subordinate to the Government of Sind, the arrangement was one of obvious convenience and good policy ; and Colonel Roberts was able, with his intimate knowledge of localities, and personal acquaintance with all classes, to make settlements which gave them entire satisfaction, and which have rendered the district from that day to this one of the most peaceable and contented under the Government of British India.

35. The principal measures were :—

1st.—To raise from amongst the Khosas and other similar tribes a body of irregular horse, who would discharge all the duties of police.

2nd.—To provide some means of subsistence for the Soda Chiefs, who had been stripped of almost all property and influence by the Ameers. They were made Killedars, with a nominal charge, as commandants of the forts, receiving small stipends for themselves and their followers.

3rd.—The transit duties, which used to be a principal source of revenue and oppression, were abolished, and liberal compensation given to those Chiefs who had shares in the proceeds.

36. It is to be regretted that Colonel Roberts was less solicitous to record than to perfect the settlements from which such excellent results have followed ; and there is very little on the English records, either at Bhooj or in Sind, to show more than the bare terms of each settlement.

37. His brother-in-law, Lieutenant Raikes, who, as Assistant

Political Agent, commanded the Kutch Horse, aided Colonel Roberts in all his duties connected with the Thurr, and ultimately took charge of all the current duties. On Colonel Roberts's departure, he continued under that officer's successor to carry on the whole of the duty, and the charge appears then and has ever since been considered quite distinct from his duties as Assistant Political Agent.

38. Since Colonel Roberts's departure, the Political Agent has always, I believe, declined any responsibility for the Thurr duties, which, under the title of Deputy Collector and Magistrate, Lieutenant Raikes continued to discharge as an office entirely distinct from any appertaining to the Kutch Agency. But although this duty occupied the chief portion of his time, he never received anything in the shape of extra remuneration for it, and, up to the period of his departure to England last year, he never drew anything beyond his pay and allowances as Assistant to the Political Agent in Kutch.

39. The above is, I believe, a correct description of the mode in which the present relation between the Assistant to the Political Agent in Kutch and the Thurr districts has grown up; but it is to be borne in mind that little on the subject is on record, and I have not found any official document authorising the system which has been followed, except a letter from the Governor of Sind, dated June 1844, allowing Colonel Roberts to undertake the charge, and appointing his Assistant a Deputy Collector.

40. For some years past, attention had been attracted to the fact that the expenses of the Thurr and Parkur districts considerably exceeded the income, and that there had been for the last six years an average annual deficit of upwards of Rs. 20,000.\*

\* Vide accompaniments to Lieutenant Raikes's memorandum No. 328, of 14th December 1854, among the enclosures, where the revenue and charges are thus shown:—

Years.	Revenue.	Charges.	Deficit.
	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.
1848-49....	23,277	43,728	20,451
1849-50....	35,782	45,995	10,213
1850-51....	19,059	43,228	24,169
1851-52....	34,149	47,010	12,861
1852-53....	24,422	45,191	20,749
1853-54....	6,515	42,794	36,279
1854-55....	7,172	35,392	28,220

The frontier customs, which formed the principal portion of the revenue in former years, were abolished in 1852-53.

41. As there was little prospect of increasing the revenue, and no very obvious mode of decreasing the expenses, it was proposed to make the districts over to His Highness the Rao of Kutch, whose family is intimately connected by marriage with the principal Soda Chiefs, and who might undertake the entire management of the district without putting Government to any expense.

42. His Highness's wishes on the subject were consulted, and he expressed his willingness to undertake the charge, provided the districts were made over absolutely to him, with no further control than the British Government would exercise over his proceedings in his hereditary dominions.

43. Before expressing an opinion on this proposition, I deemed it advisable to visit the district, and ascertain, as nearly as possible, the feelings and disposition of the inhabitants. This was effected in the cold season of 1854-55, and I confess I was not a little surprised at the result of the inquiry.

44. The proposition to make Thurr and Parkur over to the Rao of Kutch, and its cause, had become generally known throughout the districts, principally in consequence of a visit made by two persons deputed by His Highness the Rao to examine and report before he made up his own mind on the subject. Long before I broached the subject to the Chiefs and leading men, I was met with various indirect arguments against the measure ; and I found that the general feeling among all classes, high and low, was strongly against it. When they spoke out their opinions about it, they generally commenced with an admission " that the supposed wish of Government to get relieved from so unprofitable a possession was not unreasonable ; that the Rao was an excellent ruler, and that they had great confidence in his governing them with justice,—but that he was mortal, and they had no guarantee for the character of his successor ; that they had been now for some years under the British Government, in the enjoyment of a degree of peace and good government of which the memory of man in their remote corner of the world afforded no precedent,—person and property were more secure than in any of the provinces around, and this was particularly the case in comparison with the neighbouring States of Marwar or Kattywar ; crime of any kind was rare, violent crime almost unknown" ; and they always wound up with an urgent prayer that " Government would leave them as they were under Lieutenant Raikes, and *not sell*

*them* to any one, neither to the Rao of Kutch nor to their own Chiefs collectively, nor to any one of them." On this latter point there seemed no difference of opinion between the Chiefs themselves and the lower orders.

45. The earnestness and unanimity with which their prayer was urged assured me that, even had their request been less reasonable in itself, Government would not refuse to comply with it, and I therefore set myself to consider, in conjunction with Lieutenant Raikes, what could be done towards equalising the revenue and expenditure.

46. With regard to improving the revenue, it should be mentioned that under the Ameers the income of Government, as well as of the petty Chiefs, was almost entirely dependent on town and frontier duties, in consequence of the poverty of the land, the uncertainty of the seasons, and the difficulty of collecting land revenue in so wild a district.

47. The abolition of town duties, which took place in Sind soon after the conquest, was not extended to the Thurr till some years afterwards.

48. This measure very seriously affected many of the Chiefs, who had little to live on except their shares of the duties, and their case having been represented to Government, compensation was granted, half in land and half in money, for six years, subject to revision at the end of that period.

49. I may remark that the effect of the abolition of these duties has been very apparent. It has since been more than once reported by the Deputy Collector, that in seasons which under the old system would have been years of famine, and when all the people would have quitted the country, they have left their families behind, and fed them with imported grain, sent in from the neighbouring provinces, to which a few of the men drove their cattle, instead of the whole tribe being obliged to emigrate bodily, as would have been their only resource while the town duties acted as a heavy tax on importation.

50. Colonel Roberts proposed two substitutes for the revenue thus relinquished—

51. One was, to permit the export of salt from the Mookyee Salt Lake, near Veerawow, levying on the salt a reduced rate of excise.

52. It could not pay the full excise, because salt is naturally produced in numerous similar localities in the Marwar States, the boundary of which is not more than a few koss from Mookyee. But

the abundance and excellence of the natural supply at Mookyee would always give it a preference over the inferior produce of the neighbouring States, on which the petty Chiefs generally levy a small tax.

53. The Mookyee Salt Lake was in former years a source of considerable revenue both to Government and the Soda Chiefs of Veerawow.

54. In the earlier days of the salt excise system, the Chief's share was bought up, and the export of salt prohibited, from an apprehension that it would interfere with the salt of our own pans at Patree and Joonjawarra.

55. From the inquiries I made on the spot, I am convinced that Colonel Roberts and Lieutenant Raikes are right in supposing that the Mookyee salt might be allowed export at a reduced rate of excise, so graduated as not in any way to interfere with the salt of our own pans at Patree or Joonjawarra, and that a considerable revenue might thus be realised. The only parties really benefited by our entire prohibition of export from Mookyee appear to be the owners of pans in the Marwar States to the north-west of Veerawow. These foreign pans supply the Marwar markets, which used to be supplied from Mookyee, and we have given up a profitable source of revenue in the Thurr, without adding to or protecting our own salt revenue in Guzerat.

56. I would therefore recommend that the export of salt from Mookyee be again allowed, at a reduced rate of duty, which might be so arranged by the Deputy Collector, in communication with the Commissioner for Salt and Customs, as to fulfil the conditions indicated in the last paragraph.

57. I anticipate that this measure, if judiciously carried out, would go far to redress the balance of expenditure over receipts.

58. Another measure suggested by Colonel Roberts, with a view to make up for the loss of the town and frontier duties, was to impose an excise on ghee, which is one of the few staples of the Thurr.

59. This appears to me to be a perfectly feasible measure, and could be introduced without any difficulty, and with a certainty of producing a considerable revenue. But it would be a step backwards in finance, and is not a measure I would on any account recommend if it can possibly be avoided.

60. I should prefer, if it were absolutely necessary, a grazing tax, which might be made a profitable source of revenue, without

interfering much with either trade or agriculture; but even this I would rather avoid, if a sufficient revenue can be raised from salt.

61. Some improvement must be looked for from a settlement and better management of the land revenue. It has hitherto been levied by buttai, or division of the actual produce,—a mode oppressive in itself, and open to much abuse. There were no land registers, nor any certainty of tenure. The collections on account of land revenue, during the ten years 1845-46 to 1854-55 inclusive, varied from Rs. 2,432 to Rs. 10,527, and averaged about Rs. 7,000 per annum. Of the thirteen years of our rule, seven were seasons of almost total failure, either from want of rain or from visitations of locusts.

62. In conjunction with Lieutenant Raikes, I arranged for a registration of the fields in the Thurr, which there, as in the Omerkote Desert, are all in fixed localities among the sandhills, and are not liable to change. The landowner's title was to be registered, and a cash assessment fixed at a moderate rate, such as might be levied in any but a famine year, when no revenue can be expected.

63. These measures have been nearly carried out. They will be separately reported at length; and I only refer to them here as they have a material bearing on the prosperity of the district, and I am sanguine that the manner in which the work has been carried out by Lieuts. Raikes and Shortt will meet with your Lordship's approbation.

64. Much may be done indirectly to improve the revenue of the Parkur district, by repairing the numerous ancient tanks which, though rarely affording the means of irrigation, are always of the utmost importance in supplying the people and their cattle with drinking water. On this subject I would beg to refer to the corre-

From Commissioner to Government, No. 44, of 30th January 1855.

From Government, No. 918, dated 2nd March 1855.

From Commissioner to Government, No. 158, dated 30th April 1855.

From Government, No. 2038, dated 17th May 1855.

spondence noted in the margin. It is quite hopeless to expect anything to be done if we wait for regular plans and estimates. The works are of the simplest description, and of a nature which the people of the country thoroughly understand, and can construct without assistance. I would therefore recommend that a sum of

Rs. 5,000 per annum be placed at the disposal of the Deputy Collector, to be devoted to the repairs of tanks, till the whole are completed.

65. I am not sanguine that the revenue will ever increase so as to make this district a profitable possession ; but it is, I think, well worth our while to pay a sum even larger than that which it now costs, to ensure the perfect content and quiet of a population which, from the character of the people and of the country, the inhabitants might, if discontented and disorderly, prove nearly as troublesome as in former years.

66. At present the district is far from being a useless possession, and I had occasion particularly to notice its value in two different ways :—*1st*, it is a great cattle-breeding country, and the agriculturists of Guzerat, Kutch, and Hyderabad are supplied with a cheap and excellent breed of cattle from a country where, thirty years ago, a large proportion of the cattle had in all probability been stolen from the neighbouring States ; *2nd*, it affords a route for merchandise, which, at certain seasons of the year, is more directly, and is always safer than any other between Mandavee and Marwar. It is true that this trade comes from Mandavee, a port belonging to a semi-independent State ; but the goods I saw were for the most part English, and had paid duty at Bombay. Some of the Kutch merchants whom I met referred to a valuable consignment of ivory which they were sending without a guard to Joudpoor by this route, because it was the safest open to them, as the best proof they could give of the security of a district, in which none of their fathers would have trusted person or property even if protected by an armed guard.

67. The grants of land in compensation for shares in town and transit duties abolished, should, I think, be confirmed to the Chiefs who now hold them, and to their heirs in perpetuity. They are trifling in amount, and are all that remain to these Chiefs, who formerly, in a position of semi-barbarous independence, extracted in one shape or another from their neighbours, as well as their dependants, a much larger income.

68. The power of these Chiefs for mischief may be small, but they have still much local influence ; and it is, I am of opinion, sound policy to keep them contented.

69. Money allowances, which are not specially guaranteed, may be left to be disposed of from time to time, as incumbents die, and their continuance or stoppage may depend on the circumstances of the time.

70. Lieutenant Raikes anticipates that some reduction of expenditure may be hereafter effected in the pay of Khosa horse and Soda

Killedars, till they are reduced to what is necessary for local police purposes.

71. I do not think it advisable to hurry such reductions, but would draw the special attention of the Deputy Collector to the subject, and leave it to him to make from time to time such further reductions as he thinks can be prudently effected.

72. Those now suggested by him in the annexed memorandum (No. 328, of the 13th December), in which I entirely concur, amount to Rs. 679 per mensem, or Rs. 8,148 per annum; and if the land revenue be improved, as I hope it will be under the settlement now in progress, and even less than I expect be derived from the Salt Lake of Mookyec, the average receipts may be expected fully to equal the current expenditure.

73. I have above described how the charge of the district passed almost imperceptibly from Colonel Roberts into the hands of the Assistant Political Agent, who, as Deputy Collector of Thurr (a designation intended for the Deputy Collector who was to have been stationed at Wanga Bazar, in the Hyderabad district), has for the last eight years conducted the entire duty, without receiving any remuneration for it.

74. This was reasonable only so long as the arrangement was intended to be temporary; but the duty is a permanent and important one, and the man who discharges it should be properly paid for it.

75. I would recommend an allowance of Rs. 400 per mensem in addition to any other pay and emoluments which may be drawn by the officer selected for the duty as "Political Superintendent of the Thurr and Parkur." I would not attach the duty to the appointment of Assistant Political Agent, or to any other office. It requires very peculiar tastes and personal qualifications to discharge it properly, and these requisites may not always be found in the same locality. It is impossible, even if it were desirable, which I do not think it is, that the officer in charge of the Desert should live in it all the year round. It is sufficient that he should visit it every year in the cold weather; and during the hot season, when he cannot remain in it, whether he lives at Mandavee or in the Hyderabad districts is a matter of comparatively little consequence.

76. I had occasion to witness the discomfort and possible risk which might attend a residence in the Thurr and Parkur, even in the cold weather, owing to the want of any kind of shelter. A small

bungalow would obviate this, and sometimes enable the officer in charge to remain in the districts several weeks longer than would be otherwise prudent. It would also be a great comfort and convenience to occasional travellers between Sind or Kutch and Deesa, or Nussecrabad, Neemuch, &c. I would recommend a grant of Rs. 3,000 for this purpose. The locality might be left to be chosen by the Deputy Collector. As every particle of timber and all the artificers will have to be sent from Mandavee, a smaller sum will not suffice.

I have the honour to be, &c.

H. B. E. FRERE,

Commissioner in Sind.

*Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 21st January 1856.*

[Copy.]

No. 67 OF 1853.

From Lieutenant S. N. RAIKES,

Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur,

To H. B. E. FRERE, Esq.,

Commissioner in Sind.

*Dated Camp Wurnoo, 17th March 1853.*

SIR,—I have the honour to make the following report of the general state of the Thurr and Parkur Deputy Collectorate.

2. A few remarks on the present occasion, in elucidation of the general features of the country comprising the Deputy Collectorate, may not be deemed out of place, and may serve to prevent misconception, arising from the application of common terms to an uncommon country.

3. I will firstly notice the Thurr, and subsequently Parkur, the one having little or no resemblance to the other, though contiguous; and then proceed to detail the relative position of the different Chiefs, and the nature of the land tenure. This latter subject appears deserving of consideration, as the present tenure is capable of many modifications, with every promise of advantage to Government and the Ryots.

4. That portion of the Thurr Dhat, or Little Desert, under my charge, is a strip, as it were, lying on the northern side and along the Runn of Kutch. It is composed of the districts of Deepla and Ballearee, forming the Deepla Kardarate; Mittee and Islamkote that of Mittee; with Veerawow, Peetapore, and Parkur under the Kardar of the latter. Not having been surveyed throughout, it is difficult to say with precision what the exact length and breadth is: the former may probably be 120 and the latter 40 miles. It is bounded on the west and north by the Hyderabad Collectorate; on the eastern frontier is the Marwar State; while Parkur and the Great Runn of Kutch form the southern boundary. The district is one mass of sandhills, which are higher on the western side of the districts than elsewhere. I know not to what else than the waves of a troubled sea to compare them: generally speaking, they run east and west, with their bluff sides to the north. In the eastern portion of the districts, however, the hills are not so high, and, as compared with those of the west, are as the waves of a slight swell at sea are to the billows of the raging tempest, both of which they represent respectively in a remarkable degree.

5. Along the edge of the Runn, water is generally found at from one to two fathoms from the surface. In some places it is a little brackish, but for the most part drinkable. It is obtained by digging temporary wells, at the bottom of which a wooden foundation, representing a wheel, is placed, and the sides of the well built up with wicker-work, to prevent the soil falling in, which, being sandy, it would do if unsupported. The water filters through the sand, and is thus found sweet, while the Natives say that if deep wells are dug the water is brackish. Probably when found below the level of the Runn, though more abundant, it is salt, while the smaller supply obtained in shallow wells is rendered sweet in the course of filtering. In the interior, the depth of the wells varies, corresponding to their distance from the Runn: whenever of any considerable depth they are necessarily built up with burnt bricks, stones not being procurable, and wicker-work too insecure: thus at Ballearee, two miles only inland, water is found at eighteen feet from the surface, while at Mittee and Islamkote, thirty or forty-five miles distant from the Runn, it is found respectively at sixty and eighty yards from the surface.

6. The cultivation is restricted to the patches of tolerably even land to be found between the sandhills, which, as well as such portions

of the valleys as are uncultivated, are covered with grass and stunted bushes. The forage of the Desert is esteemed more nutritious than that of any of the neighbouring provinces, and accounts to a certain extent for the predilection of its inhabitants to depend rather on cattle than cultivation for their livelihood. Another cause, also, of limited cultivation, is the scattered nature of the disposable land rendering it difficult to protect the crops of many fields from injury as well from cattle grazing in the neighbourhood as from birds. The latter in particular commit great depredations, without any possibility of obtaining reimbursement for the damage committed, which can be obtained from the owners in the case of cattle injuring fields of corn.

7. The extremes of heat and cold are greater in their respective seasons in the Desert than in Kutch; while the rainy season, though often said to be more uncertain, appears to correspond pretty generally with that of the latter province. Both are occasionally visited by famines and locusts, though these visitations have been less frequent of late years than formerly. Earthquakes, also, are of not unfrequent occurrence in the Desert: rather a severe shock was experienced in the western portion of the districts in November last, while Parkur was visited by one during my late tour in that neighbourhood; it lasted a few seconds only, and was accompanied by a long rumbling noise, which lasted much longer, passing away eventually in a southeasterly direction.

8. The chief towns or villages in the Desert, together with their populations, are noted below:—

Veerawow .....	1,537
Mittee .....	2,055
Islamkote .....	622
Deepla .....	664
Ballearec .....	212
Peetapore .....	458
Guddra .....	228

The population of the Desert portion of the Deputy Collectorate is about 29,700, of which 12,000 may be estimated as the number residing in the larger villages; the remainder are scattered over the sandhills in small hamlets or *Thurrs*,\* consisting of from five to fifty families. The habitations (which are generally fixed on the tops of

\* The word *Thurr* represents a well or watering-place in the Desert, and is synonymous with the words village or hamlet elsewhere.

the hills) are for the most part made of boughs and bushes, collected in the vicinity, and thatched with grass ; in the larger towns more comfortable houses are gradually being constructed. Numbers of these Thurrs, or watering-places, are occasionally uninhabited ; that is to say, great numbers of wells have been dug all over the district, all of which have names, and when people find it convenient to live there, the village or hamlet is called by the name of the well. New wells are also constantly being dug, while others are being deserted. These details have been mentioned to account for the occasional trifling increase and decrease of villages in the Desert, as only the inhabited Thurrs are reckoned ; and though even a few only are newly inhabited or deserted in a season, it is a matter of widely different importance from the occurrence of a similar circumstance in other districts than those of the Desert.

9. The present number of inhabited villages in the Desert may be stated at 500. With the exception of the larger villages, where Government servants are stationed, the internal economy of the different little villages, or clan communities, is managed by the elders thereof ; disputes amongst them are of rare occurrence, and, when they arise, are generally adjusted by arbitration. The population has been stated at 29,700 : of whom about 3,000 are merchants ; 3,000 Musulman shepherds who move about from one place to another, according to the supply of grass and water for their herds and flocks ; the remaining 23,700 may be looked on as the fixed population, who chiefly subsist by cultivation, and comprise the following castes :—

*Hindoos.*

Soda and other Rajpoots .....	5,200	
Artisans, some Hindoo and some Musulman ....	1,000	
Kolees, Bheels, and Dhers .....	7,500	
	-----	13,700

*Musulmans.*

Noray and Raoma tribes of the Deepla district ..	2,000	
Khosas .....	1,000	
Jooraja, Sumaja, Lunja, Oodaja, Soomra, Halla, &c. tribes .....	7,000	
	-----	10,000

Total . . . 23,700

10. Of these, the most industrious and best cultivators are the

Rajpoots ; the Musulmans, as a general rule, have a greater inclination for keeping cattle as a means of livelihood than cultivating land, though of late they have shown a disposition to cultivate more.

11. I now proceed to notice Parkur,\* which is situated south of the eastern portion of the Desert, *i. e.* of the Veerawow district. Its length and breadth are from north to south twenty, and from east to west thirty miles. It differs from the Thurr in every particular : in Parkur there are no sandhills ; it is a plain intersected by stony ridges of low hills, with a large mass of high hills ten miles in circumference thrown together, in appearance, at Nuggur Parkur. The district generally resembles Wagur (or the eastern part of Kutch), from which it is only separated by the Runn.

12. There are in Parkur twenty-six villages, containing 10,700 inhabitants. The appearance of the district generally, of the villages, and the houses (though only a few degrees better than those of the Desert), all give one the idea of the existence of greater comfort, general prosperity, and civilisation, than is apparent in the Thurr. The inhabitants consist chiefly of Rajpoots and Kolees, and there are about 350 families of merchants. The more populous villages are Nuggur, with a population of 1,767 ; Barana, 761 ; Modra, 613 ; Khamdya, 693 ; Kusba, 512 ; and Adygaum, 1,120. With the exception of the merchants, the inhabitants' pursuits are agricultural. When the grain is ripe, it is for the most part collected in grain-yards near the different villages, in contradistinction to the custom obtaining in the Desert, where, owing to the difficulty of conveying it over the sandhills on camels (the only carriage known there), it is picked and prepared for consumption, or the market, on the spot. The result of these various customs is that the cultivators of the Desert live in their fields during the cultivating season till the grain is gathered, whereas in Parkur they reside in the villages, attending to their fields from thence.

13. The products and trade of the Thurr require a few words only. Generally the crops are dependent on rain, though in Parkur irrigation has, to a very limited extent, in seasons of scarcity, been had recourse to. Bajree is the principal grain produced, though fields of jowaree and wheat are occasionally met with, and in Parkur also teel (gingely), moog, and gowar are grown to a considerable extent.

\* It forms a promontory, jutting out into the Runn, by which it is surrounded, except on about three miles, where it joins the Veerawow district.

14. The staple commodity is ghee, which in favourable seasons is prepared to a great extent. The merchants of Deepla and Nuggur buy large quantities for exportation to Kutch and Guzerat, while those of Mittee export considerable quantities to Sind Proper.\* The estimated value of ghee exported in 1851-52 to Kutch was Rs. 70,000.† There are no means of ascertaining correctly the value of the exports of the same article to Sind Proper, which, however, as large quantities of ghee are produced in other parts of Sind, may be estimated at much less than the exports to Kutch and Guzerat.

15. Gum and googul are produced to a limited extent in the Thurr, as also in Parkur, and exported to Kutch and Guzerat; a good deal of grain also has been exported to Kutch during the last two seasons.

16. The increased facilities offered to merchants by the abolition of frontier duties in Sind, and the absence of the risk formerly attending all mercantile transactions, has had a great effect in stimulating trade, which is rapidly increasing and extending itself all over the Desert.

17. To place before you in a clear light the present position of the Chiefs of the different districts in the Thurr and Parkur, it is necessary shortly to state the position in which they respectively stood at the conquest with reference to the Government of the Ameers. In doing so the gradual progress towards the complete subjugation of the Desert to order, during the last fifty years, will be apparent.

18. The Ameers appear to have asserted their authority over the southern part of the Desert generally, and over the Mittee and Islamkote districts in particular, about A. D. 1795,‡ and subsequently to have made arrangements for consolidating their power in the Deepla district, on which the Soda Chiefs of that place, preferring exile to persecution, took refuge in Kutch, where they were kindly treated by His Highness the Rao, to whom they were related by marriage. Subsequently, about 1831-32, on the Ameers granting them an annual

\* Sind Proper is meant to represent the Valley of the Indus, in contradistinction to the sandhills and Parkur. The Desert is variously called Thul, Thurr, Dhat, Samrotee, and, though forming a part of Sind, is seldom called by other names than those mentioned.

† This is estimated at the market value of the article.

‡ The ports of Mittee and Islamkote were built by the Ameers about A. D. 1795, respectively.

money payment, they returned to the Desert. So slight, however, was the authority of the Court of Hyderabad over the Desert generally, that predatory incursions into Kutch were of frequent occurrence. Eventually, remonstrances proving unavailing, a British force was despatched into the Desert, in A. D. 1833, to punish the freebooters, which being accomplished, a detachment was stationed in Parkur permanently (*i. e.* it was there till the conquest). Notwithstanding the presence of the outpost in Parkur, the Ameers' revenue officer was murdered there in 1836-37; the generally received cause of this violent proceeding being, that he had intimated the intention of the Ameers to levy a more regular revenue in future, and make some further arrangements for the better administration of the affairs of the Desert.

19. The Ameers resented the insult offered to them in the murder of their officer by sending a force into Parkur and apprehending most of the Chiefs of consequence; and since the power of the Khosa banditti (who generally associated themselves with the Chiefs, particularly in times of difficulty) had been broken by the British force formerly alluded to, the opportunity now offered of making the inhabitants generally feel that they had ceased to be independent, was not lost. From that date, in fact, the Ameers may be considered to have exercised the functions of a governing power over Parkur; thenceforward they levied one-fifth of the produce as the land revenue of Parkur, while in the Mittee and Islamkote districts two-fifths were levied, and one-third in those of Deepla and Balcaree. The Chowan Chief of Bakasir presented a camel annually in lieu of all demands on account of land revenue, &c.

20. At the time of the conquest, the shares of the produce of the land were levied as mentioned above. A diversity, however, in the mode of making the assessment requires to be noticed, as showing the different light in which the Chiefs were regarded in the eastern and western portion of the districts: thus in the Balcaree, Deepla, Mittee, and Islamkote districts each field was assessed by the revenue officers, while in the Veerawow, Peetapore, and Parkur districts the share of the produce was estimated and fixed by the Chiefs and revenue officer, and afterwards collected by the former without the interference of the latter; clearly showing that they had not, up to that time, been brought into the same degree of subordination as the Chiefs of the west were: still there were signs of a gradually

increasing interference in the revenue, as in all other affairs, on behalf of the ruling power. It is needless, however, to enter into further detail to show the various modes in which this increased authority was being exerted.

21. The various progressive stages of subordination to the Court of Hyderabad in which the different Chiefs of districts were found at the conquest, at first rendered the application of the same rules to all somewhat distasteful to the more independent Chiefs of the eastern quarter of the Desert, or perhaps I ought rather to say to those whose independence had only lately been curbed, and who had only of late years been made to feel the weight of the Ameers' authority, and who, consequently, looked at our advent for a realisation of their hopes of being again restored to the position of independent landed proprietors; while the Chiefs of the west, from having been a longer period under the more immediate control of the Ameers' officers, and who had long felt the withering influence of their sway, found relief in the change of masters afforded by the conquest.

22. Having in the preceding paragraphs given a short outline of the general state of affairs in the different districts at the conquest, I will now shortly detail the settlement made for such of the Chiefs of districts and tribes as had enjoyed immunities under the Ameers, or appeared deserving of consideration under our rule. To commence with the Ballearee district, or Raoruki, *i. e.* the land occupied by the Raomas,\* or acknowledging the supremacy of the Raoma Chief, or Urbab, such being his title. This person had formerly received a trifling share of the land revenue of his district, the average annual value of which was shown to be Rs. 175, in which amount he was consequently compensated. Next comes the Deepla district, comprising the Noreki\* and Sodeki, or land occupied by the Norays and Sodas. The Chief or Urbab of the Norays satisfactorily proved that he had formerly received a share of the land revenue, as also of the customs duties of Deepla. His accounts proved an annual average of Rs. 500 from these sources, which amount was accordingly allotted to him as compensation. The Soda Chiefs of Deepla, who formerly received allowances of money and grain from the Ameers, were compensated

\* The Raomas and Norays are Mahomedan tribes, supposed to have come into the Desert from Sind some two hundred years since; the estimated strength of each tribe is 1,000 persons.

in the sum of Rs. 515 annually. Thus the alienated rights, as well as allowances enjoyed by the Chiefs of the Deepla district, were bought up, or compensated, at the conquest, by payments aggregating annually Rs. 1,190.\* The above Chiefs of the Deepla district were subsequently, in 1849, granted permission† to cultivate 10 santees of land rent-free.

23. The Soda Chiefs of Mittee and Islamkote were found to be in the enjoyment of neither pay nor territorial rights : they would appear to have realised a precarious and trifling revenue by accompanying the Kardars in the assessment season, and receiving a Koree‡ a field from such of the cultivators as felt disposed to give it. The latter Chief also received trifling amounts of money, or presents, from the shepherds grazing in the district, as a grazing tax. For some years previous to the conquest, however, the Kardars also levied a grazing tax, more as a perquisite than a source of revenue. It is probable, therefore, that the Chief's receipts on this account were but trifling, for the Kardars are reported to have collected all that came within their grasp with an unsparing hand.

24. Subsequent to the conquest,§ two of the Soda Chiefs of Mittee on Rs. 15 a month each, with twenty-four foot sepoy at Rs. 15 a month, were entertained, to guard the forts of Mittee and Nowakote : the Chief was also granted 4 santees (or ploughs) of land to cultivate, free of taxes or assessment on account of land revenue ; while to the Soda Chief of Islamkote, with twelve foot sepoy on similar pay, was entrusted the custody of the fort of Islamkote. To this latter Chief and his brethren, also, 16 santees of land were granted for free cultivation.

25. In the Islamkote district, also, there were two tribes, the Vusaipotras and Mays, occupying, the former eleven and the latter nineteen Thurrs, or watering-places, free of all taxes : they were

\* No. 27 of 1845, dated 28th October, from Under-Secretary to Government of India with the Governor General, to the Secretary to Government of Sind, sanctioning this allowance.

† Letter from Commissioner in Sind, No. 470 of 1849, dated 6th March, to Political Agent Kutch.

‡ The Koree is the current coin of Kutch, valued at 4 annas and 2½ pies.

§ Letter from Secretary to the Government of Sind to the Political Agent Kutch, No. 1310, dated 20th April 1844, sanctioning entertainment of Soda Killadars and footmen.

accordingly permitted to continue in the occupation of them on the same terms as previous to our rule.

26. The abovementioned grants of money and land were confirmed to the different recipients by deeds or sunuds, dated in 1844, under the signature of His Excellency the late Governor of Sind, for the limited period of seven years. This limit would appear, from the tenor of the correspondence on the subject, and the circumstances under which the grants were made, to have been fixed with the view of enabling Government to make such modifications, from time to time, as circumstances might render expedient. At the expiration of the above term of years, the Chiefs and others holding sunuds were informed, agreeably to your instructions,† that no immediate alteration was contemplated in their present privileges, and that the renewal of their sunuds or deeds was under consideration.

27. Of the thirty Thurrs or watering-places, alluded to in the preceding paragraph but one, as having been alienated to the Vusai-potra and May tribes respectively, it is necessary to observe, to prevent misconception from a fluctuation in the revenue and number of alienated villages entered in the annual returns, or referred to in the course of correspondence—

1st. That the deeds conveying the rights now enjoyed to those tribes simply guarantee the free cultivation of as much land as they respectively‡ cultivate; persons of other tribes cultivating within the limits of their Thurrs pay the Government share of the produce the same as elsewhere.

2nd. That only such Thurrs as are inhabited are entered in the returns as alienated; the deserted Thurrs are not noticed: thus last year's returns contained nineteen out of the thirty alienated Thurrs; the remainder are, and have been since the conquest, deserted or uninhabited.

28. I now proceed to notice the settlement made for the Chiefs of Vcerawow, Peetapore, and Parkur; it is needless to allude to Bakasir, as the district of that name has been transferred, by the demarkation of the Sind and Marwar boundary, to the Jodhpoor State. The

\* Vide letter No. 2803, dated 21st September 1844, from the Secretary to Government of Sind to the Political Agent Kutch, and former correspondence.

† Contained in letter No. 1653 of 1851, dated 22nd August, from Commissioner in Sind to the Deputy Collector and Magistrate Thurr and Parker.

There is no restriction in the quantity of land cultivated by them.

Chiefs of Veerawow, as well as of the petty district of Peetapore, comprising five hamlets only, and the Chiefs of Parkur (including the Rana, twenty-one in number) received previous to the conquest one-half of the town and transit duties : subsequently, transit duties were abolished, and the Chiefs who had shared therein allotted corresponding portions in the frontier duties as compensation ; and under these arrangements they continued to enjoy one-half of the town and frontier duties of the eastern portion of the Desert, comprising their own districts and villages respectively, till 1848, when town duties were abolished, and the frontier levy assimilated to that in force in other parts of Sind, and an annual money allowance of Rs. 5,463 was then sanctioned as compensation to the Parkur, Veerawow, Peetapore, and Bakasir Zemindars for the loss of their share of the duties. From this amount may now be deducted Rs. 345, being the amount of compensation paid to the Chief of Bakasir previous to this district being transferred to the Jodhpoor State.

29. The Chiefs of Veerawow and Peetapore formerly had no recognised territorial rights, though the collection of the land revenue for the Ameers gave them an opportunity of collecting something for themselves also, and further enabled them to remit the levy on their brethren's fields, as also on those of their dependents, and the artisans who worked for them. A considerable revenue, however, was derived by the Zemindar of Veerawow from a salt lake situated close to his village, and which it was deemed expedient to purchase with the view of preventing the export of that article. This was accomplished by granting a sunud confirming in perpetuity the entire land revenue of the village, and one-fourth of the Government share of the land revenue of the district, to the Chief of Veerawow, while the Chief of Peetapore was offered a few santees or ploughs of land for free cultivation ; he, however, refused to take them, and at present, therefore, enjoys nothing beyond the compensation for the loss of customs duties.

30. In Parkur, the Rana produced deeds under the seal of the Ameers granting him two villages, which were accordingly confirmed to him by a sunud under the signature of the late Governor in Sind. The small village of Mokleeah was similarly granted to the Rana's manager, Ukkay Malday, on his representing that he had under the Ameers' government enjoyed it free of taxes : the sunuds granting these three villages are for the limited term of seven years, as was the case with those formerly alluded to in paragraph 25.

31. In the Parkur district, also, the small village of Boodesir was granted to Soda Juggajee, uncle to the Rana; as, however, it was granted in lieu of an allowance of one rupee per diem paid to him for many years previously by the British Government, and he is now dead, the subject is about to be brought under your especial notice, and does not therefore require further remark here.

32. In the Veerawow district it would appear that some of the Khosas had been in the habit of cultivating land at five Thurrs without paying any taxes; they have consequently been allowed to continue doing so to this day, though there is no specific authority on record for the exercise of the privilege that I can discover; the right, however, is prescriptive, and the number of fields now cultivated by them free is 150; the remainder of the land cultivated by others than Khosas is assessed. It appears to me inexpedient to recommend any interference with this privilege at present; it has already, within the last season or two, been curtailed by disallowing the extension of the privilege to retainers and dependents of Khosas.

33. The abstract of the rights of the Chiefs alluded to in the three preceding paragraphs may be thus summed up. The Veerawow Chief enjoys the land revenue of Veerawow, which he collects himself, as also one-fourth of the land revenue of the district, which is collected by the Government Kardar and paid to him, and Rs. 1,805 as compensation for the loss of his share of town and frontier duties. The Chief of Peetapore enjoys Rs. 107 as compensation for the loss of his share of the customs duties. The Rana of Parkur enjoys the revenue of the two villages of Sowachund and Rampoor, which he collects himself, and Rs. 2,158 as compensation for the loss of his share of the customs duties. Ukka Malday, the Rana's manager, enjoys the revenue of the village of Mokleeah; while the other petty village Thakoors receive compensation for the loss of their share of the customs duties in the amounts noted below:—

Chief of Barana .....	Rs. 432
„ Moodra .....	190
„ Audeegaum .....	136
„ Khurudya .....	65
„ Kusba .....	56
„ Saboorun .....	36
„ Choorya .....	36
„ Sookpoor .....	27

Chief of Dhingana .....	Rs. 20
„ Dhrag .....	16
„ Khanoda .....	10
„ Dheoveera .....	5
„ Auralry .....	6
„ Sadoolwas .....	2
„ Dhunnagaum .....	2
„ Parodra .....	9

34. The rights of some of the Chiefs to levy a grazing tax has already been alluded to ; the importance of the subject, however, will, I hope, be a sufficient excuse for my offering a few remarks on it separately, both to show the nature and extent of the Chiefs' right as hitherto acknowledged, as well as the tendency the exercise of it has to retard cultivation.

35. In the reign of the Ameers the Kardars appear to have collected a grazing tax from the shepherds, more as a perquisite than a source of revenue ; the landed proprietors did so also in the shape of presents, to the extent the shepherds could afford and felt disposed to bestow. Since the conquest no grazing tax has been levied on account of Government (except a few rupees inadvertently levied in 1844 and subsequently returned), while some of the Chiefs have exercised the right in different degrees, without the extent to which they should be allowed to do so having been in any way defined. In the Deepla and Mittee districts, where there is more cultivation and proportionately less pasturage, shepherds from other provinces are seldom found, and though it is probable that the Chiefs may obtain trifling presents from them when they happen to go there, the rareness of the occurrence prevents inconvenience arising therefrom. In the Islamkote district also the Chief has given no cause of complaint, though he collects what the shepherds agree to give him ; when he has occasionally asked for assistance to collect the tax, he has been informed that no aid can be afforded, and that he must only take what is freely given ; while shepherds from foreign districts have been prohibited from frequenting Parkur, with the view of preserving sufficient forage for the cattle of the inhabitants, which was formerly sacrificed to the cupidity of the Rana and other petty Thakoors, who encouraged shepherds to frequent the place for the sake of the grazing tax. In the Veerawow district, however, considerable inconvenience is caused on the part of the Chief by the levying of this

tax. The shepherds and others look on him as the original landed proprietor, and appear ever ready to pay reasonably, and to bear a good deal of exaction from the different members of his family, before complaining.

36. It is obviously to the Chief's advantage to encourage the shepherds from neighbouring provinces to frequent his district as much as possible, as he enjoys the whole of the grazing tax, and equally so to retard cultivation as much as possible to obviate the contraction of the pasturage. Agriculture is more congenial to the ideas and pursuits of a fixed population than to the wandering tribes, who move about from one province to another to graze their flocks and herds wherever grass and water are most abundant. In proportion, therefore, to the increase of cultivation and the number of cattle belonging to the inhabitants of the districts must the revenue derived from the grazing tax be diminished, for nothing is levied from the inhabitants of the district while their cattle and the additional cultivation cause a corresponding contraction of pasturage for the shepherds.

37. It is not so much the simple fact of a portion of land having been brought under cultivation, causing in the abstract but a trifling loss of pasturage as compared with the whole district, as the inconvenience arising to the shepherds from having fields scattered amongst the tract of sandhills frequented by their cattle, where it is most difficult to prevent them injuring the standing corn, which threatens, by being a source of constant litigation and expense, to have the effect eventually of retarding shepherds from frequenting the districts; in the same way as their presence now with the Chief's influence is retarding the increase of cultivation. The difficulty of preventing the cattle from injuring the fields may be supposed, where, as is the case in the Desert, they are watered at about 3 p. m. and driven out into the jungle to graze all night in charge of about one man per 100 or 150 head of cattle; shortly after sun-rise they are driven back to the watering-place or Thurr, and kept there during the heat of the day.

38. I have no means of ascertaining what the average amount of revenue from the grazing tax is in the Veerawow district, as it appears to be levied in a most irregular manner; some shepherds give a few rupees, others some ghee, others a bullock, cow, or camel, as the case may be. Hitherto though the right has been recognised, it has been in no way defined, nor does it appear expedient to inter-

ferre in the matter, beyond affording redress when complaints are made of the exaction of the Chiefs. As yet the only Chief complained against, who in fact is the only one who levies anything of sufficient consequence to make complaining probable, is the Veerawow Zemindar, and in his district a little inconvenience must arise occasionally from the anomaly of antagonistic influences : eventually, however, the grazing tax may be expected to dwindle away to a mere name as cultivation increases ; in the mean time the greatest probability of maintaining harmony and contentment amongst all parties appears to be in interfering as little as possible in the matter. The grazing tax appears to me in the light of a perquisite : whether or not it would have been better to have discouraged it more from the first is now too late to inquire, the question at present being the course to be pursued for the future, with the view of preventing more important interests suffering. The tax is levied chiefly from the wandering tribes, who must, in the common course of nature, give way to an increasing fixed population ; the exercise of it, therefore, within reasonable bounds, that is as a perquisite subordinate to the more important interests involved in the extension of cultivation and increase of the fixed population, is not calculated to do much harm. The gradual social progress which the society of the Desert is now making, in passing from the anarchy of former times towards subordination and peaceful pursuits, has not yet sufficiently regenerated the Chiefs to enable them to appreciate any arrangement not conducive to their own immediate benefit, and it is therefore probable that the harmony and well-being of the community will be better aided by a tacit acknowledgment of the perquisite than by an interference with it, which would cause great uneasiness amongst those who have from the first been allowed to levy it, and also form grounds for seeking compensation for any loss of revenue that might arise therefrom, which, after the very liberal treatment they have met with, the case does not appear to me to require.

39. I now proceed to notice the land tenure of the Thurr and Parukur districts, which, together with the system of assessment now in force, is deserving of special attention with the view of being modified. The greater part of the original landed proprietors (or Mool Grassias) are Rajpoots, whose love of a fixed landed tenure is too well known to require remark. It may be convenient, firstly, to show the tenure on which land is now cultivated, and the mode of assess-

ment in force for collecting the land revenue, together with its inconveniences.

40. The Ameers of Sind treated the Desert districts as Khalsa or crown possessions. I presume they are considered therefore to have retained the proprietary right of the land in their own hands; that they did so, moreover, is evidenced by their granting certain lands to different tribes and individuals for free cultivation. At the conquest, therefore, the British Government succeeded to the proprietorship of the soil, without disturbing any of the rights enjoyed by the Chiefs and others at *that date*, whatever they may have possessed previously; this right was exercised in confirming the grants of land formerly made by the Ameers, and adding thereto fresh grants to others who appeared deserving of consideration. How far, however, it may be the intention of Government to recognise the hereditary right of the Ryots to the land they possess and cultivate, is not apparent: the Rajpoots especially would fain look on their land as hereditary; much of it has been in their possession for many generations. At present, however, Government is the proprietor, to whom all the cultivators (not especially exempted) pay a share of the produce. So long as a cultivator does not desert a field it would not of course be taken from him; if, however, from any unforeseen cause, a cultivator is unable in any one season to cultivate what he did the preceding one, he runs the risk of losing the deserted field, as in the absence of any acknowledged right to the land for other purposes than cultivation—in the absence, in fact, of any fixed landed tenure—it would be impossible to allow cultivators to claim anything beyond the quantity of land actually in their possession; otherwise they would continually leave some of the old fields uncultivated to bring fresh land under the plough, with the view of appropriating as much as possible, whether they could cultivate it all or not: while, therefore, there is no chance of a man's fields being taken from him so long as he continues to cultivate it, the bare possibility of losing land from any temporary inability to cultivate it, land that has probably been several generations in his family, is distressing to a Rajpoot, whose greatest delight and pride is a bit of land, large or small as the case may be, that he may look on as his own, and that he may cultivate with a feeling of satisfaction and confidence that it cannot be taken from him.

41. In many parts of the Desert there are tribes living in different hamlets in the same neighbourhood, cultivating land that they and

their forefathers have possessed from time immemorial. In the reign of the Ameers they appear to have excluded interlopers from cultivating in their lands : now, however, they can only expect to retain possession of what they actually cultivate, and that as tenants at will as it were ; for without any fixed tenure, whatever light we look on them in, and whatever intentions we may have of leaving possessors of land undisturbed, they can only consider themselves as tenants at will ; that is, they have no guarantee for undisturbed possession, the absence of which, and their inability to comprehend the principles of our revenue arrangements, generate a feeling of insecurity in the tenure by which they hold the land. A circumstance connected with one of these Rajpoot tribes, may serve to elucidate the pertinacity with which they cling to the soil cultivated by their ancestors. About A. D. 1819-20, consequent on the oppression of the Ameers' officers, the Soda Chiefs of Deepla and a number of Rajpoot families of the Dohot tribe, residing in the same district, sought refuge in Kutch. The Soda Chiefs were subsequently recalled (with one or two exceptions) by the Ameers ; the Dohots however remained in Kutch till 1847 (cultivating land that had been given to them in tenure of service\* by His Highness the Rao), when about twenty families returned to the Desert to cultivate the land formerly in their possession : the remainder are still in Kutch, and the cultivating free of all taxes would, I am informed by some of the chief men amongst them, induce them gladly to return to the Desert, to cultivate and reside in the neighbourhood, where their tribe has been established for many generations, but for the instability of the landed tenure. The payment of the Government share of the produce would be thought nothing of, if the tenure were a permanent one. A Rajpoot's estimate of the value of land in fact corresponds in a great measure to the permanency or otherwise of the tenure by which it is held ; nor is he by any means behind agriculturists of more civilized nations in valuing the inestimable advantages of a permanent tenure.

42. The system of assessment in force in the Thurr and Parkur is thus (as formerly mentioned). The Kardars, accompanied by one or more of the Zemindars of their respective districts, commence the

\* " Polik praja" or tenure of service, signifies that the occupant cultivates the land free, but is liable to be called on for service when the landed proprietor requires it ; he occupies the land during the pleasure only of the landed proprietor, and has, therefore, no saleable or permanent right in the soil.

assessment about October of each year. Every field is inspected, and the produce thereof estimated ; the Government share is then fixed, and, after the assessment of the whole Kardarate is concluded, the Government share of the produce is converted into money at the market price of grain at the time, and collected. As, however, the fields are much scattered, and the labour of traversing up and down the sand-hills very great for man and beast, the assessment duties are unavoidably prolonged during three and even four months. It is of course impossible to keep the corn standing till assessed ; the cultivators are therefore allowed to gather\* it in when ripe, and thus some of the fields are assessed with the standing corn in them at the commencement of the assessment season, while others are assessed after the corn is gathered in, and others again towards the close of the season are assessed by the standing stalks alone, the grain having been both gathered in and consumed or disposed of.

43. By this system, theoretically perhaps the most fair that could be devised if the fields could all be assessed as soon as ripe, many of the cultivators of the Desert are kept in suspense as to the amount that their fields will be assessed at, till they have either consumed or disposed of the produce ; so that let never so exorbitant an assessment be made, no means are at hand for refuting the justness of the levy, or convincing the assessors that they are exacting an undue share of the produce. It may be urged that all the cultivators should be obliged to keep the grain, till assessed, in the fields where it is usually prepared in the Desert ; and this is done as far as it can be. It is, however, hopeless to expect that poor people will keep the produce of their fields for two or three months till the Kardar can assess it : firstly, because they would have to remain idle watching it all that time ; secondly, because they would in the mean time be obliged to purchase grain for consumption while their own was lying idle. In Parkur even, where the grain is collected in grain-yards close to the villages, and ordered to be kept untouched, it is found impossible to prevent the cultivators taking portions of it away for consumption before it is assessed.

44. Another serious objection in the present system of assessment, is the impossibility of obtaining anything beyond an approximation to

\* Picking off the heads of the grain is the usual mode of gathering in the corn in the Desert, leaving the stalks standing ; while in Parkur it is usually cut and carted to the grain-yards close to the village.

an equal levy, if even that can be obtained. The case of over-assessment in the Deepla district, brought to your notice in the letter No. 93 of 1852, dated 15th May, to the Commissioner in Sind, is evidence of the objections practically to the present system, inasmuch as that any system for the assessment of the land revenue that admits of deviations from a given standard, corresponding to the caprice or variations in the capacities of the different Native Revenue Officers, cannot be expected to give satisfaction to the agriculturists or to elicit their confidence, both of which are more or less indispensable to stimulate agriculture.

45. The assessment for the present season commenced in October last, and is only lately concluded. The difficulty of making a proper assessment, and the chances of an unequal levy being made after such a lapse of time, will be obvious. Formerly, that is up to 1849, the assessment duties were generally concluded by the end of December or beginning of January; the increased time now required to accomplish those duties may be attributed to increased cultivation, as well as to the Kardars being obliged to be much more particular in visiting the different fields, and reporting the details of their proceedings now than formerly, as increased recorded information enables greater checks to be brought to bear on them and their transactions generally.

46. In alluding to this subject in 1850, I ventured to suggest a fixed assessment in lieu of each field being visited annually, with the view of relieving the cultivators from the inconveniences of delay in having their fields assessed, as also of saving the assessors the great labour now requisite to effect the assessment of the different Kardarates. On that occasion, however, the landed tenure was not mentioned, which further experience shows to be of far greater importance than the assessment itself.

47. There is only one Native Revenue Officer in the Thurr and Parkur who has had any experience in revenue matters there, viz. the Kardar of Nuggur Parkur, who has filled the situation he now holds with great credit since 1844. On speaking to him regarding a fixed assessment, he urged as objections the difficulty of adjusting the levy without each field being first measured; secondly, that numbers of fields are cultivated and then left fallow, while fresh land is brought under cultivation and used till that previously relinquished has recovered from its exhaustion.

48. There would doubtless be some difficulty, from the causes just mentioned, as also from a general deficiency of knowledge of the size, quality of land, and other particulars of each field ; on the other hand, a permanent land tenure, with a fixed assessment or quit-rent, appears well calculated to improve, and, as far as possible, redeem the Desert from what it now is. If land were granted to Rajpoots, for instance, at a quit-rent, they would assuredly take a greater interest in it ; their energies would be called forth for the improvement of what they would consider their own, in proportion to the permanency of the tenure. At present there is an entire absence of all stimulus to exertion.

49. What appears requisite for, and suitable to the class of persons of whom I am speaking, is an assessment system which shall, as far as possible, place the cultivators on the footing of peasant proprietors, paying an annual quit-rent for as much land as each family can cultivate. Modifications in the amount of the quit-rent might be made periodically, or the right of doing so, if requisite, reserved, without interfering with the permanency of the tenure by which the land is held.

50. Wherever tribes or families have cultivated land for many years, or even for shorter periods, the recognition of their right to continue to do so, at a quit-rent, revisable periodically, as circumstances may render expedient, appears to me desirable, as a stimulus to industry, and the sure means of increasing and improving cultivation. All that Government would appear to require is the payment of a given share of the produce ; it matters little, whether such be levied as a quit-rent, so far as the interests of the State are concerned, or otherwise, while it makes a most material difference to the cultivator whether he holds his land free from all the interferences and petty annoyances inseparable from the present system or not.

51. I would not be understood to advocate the recognition of the rights of the present occupants of such land as has been cultivated in the same tribe or family for many generations simply from its having been handed down to them as hereditary, as this would tend to revive obsolete and intricate claims ; but rather to recommend that present occupation should be considered a sufficient title on which to confirm to occupants the possession of the land now cultivated by them. Owing to the scantiness of the population in the Desert, land is often cultivated and again left waste. If, however, a cultivator

had fields that he could call his own, and had to pay a quit-rent on all land written over to him whether cultivated or not, he would hardly incur the extra expense for the sake of the difference between the crop of an old and new field, while many of the more respectable cultivators would exert themselves with the view of obtaining more land, bettering their prospects, and being looked on as petty proprietors.

52. At present there is nothing to bind the cultivator to the soil ; there is a total absence of all stimulus to exertion beyond the wish to grow a sufficient quantity of corn for a few months' consumption with the least practicable amount of trouble ; while the inconveniences of the assessment system make agricultural pursuits the source of numerous petty annoyances. This state of things, which has existed for many years past, may be partly accounted for by the remote situation of the Desert and Parkur districts with reference to the seat of the Ameers' Government, and the fact of the administration of the districts having been left to Kardars, who appear to have paid small regard to the rights and well-being of individuals.

53. The agricultural population would look on the amount of the quit-rent as a very secondary consideration when compared with the importance of fixedness of tenure. There may, however, be objections to granting land in perpetuity, though the object of retaining a right over it, which must be purchased by withholding the great stimulus to exertion on the part of the cultivators, is not apparent ; and provided the quit-rent were liable to periodical modifications, without interfering with the tenure, Government would always possess as great a command over it as is requisite for financial purposes. The interests of Government and the Ryot are obviously identical ; the more, therefore, the latter can be made independent, and raised in the social scale, with a due regard to the interests of the former, the better must it be for both parties.

54. The difficulties of making a permanent settlement—great as they doubtless are, in the absence of even a map of the districts—can hardly be deemed sufficient reason for not commencing it ; for if all improvement in this department be postponed till the Desert has been surveyed, &c., the delay may be indefinite ; and notwithstanding the nature and remoteness of the locality, there are many tribes and individuals who, looking on it as their home, would be found reluctant to change it for the more fertile and favoured provinces of Hindoostan.

55. It would, perhaps, be deemed premature, on the present occasion, to enter into any details of the mode in which I would propose to work out a change in the present revenue system of the Desert. I will therefore merely add, that should the principle now advocated meet with your approval, I would suggest that the land (the fields being named, and the details of position, size, &c. duly recorded) at present cultivated by some of the most industrious of the Rajpoots of the Deopla district and Parkur, should be written over to them to cultivate in perpetuity, at a quit-rent fixed for five years, corresponding in amount to the average receipts of the past five years, exclusive of famines, in which seasons I conceive nothing should be levied. The proposed means for measuring the different fields, and erecting land-marks and other details can, if requisite, be submitted for your consideration hereafter.

56. In concluding my remarks on the landed tenure of the Thurr and Parkur, it may be as well to observe, that the subject has been prominently forced on my notice of late by conversation with some of the more respectable inhabitants of the Desert, and also by a comparison of the tenure by which land is held there and here (in Wagur, on the eastern part of Kutch), where investigations into a variety of territorial claims amongst the Chiefs, and other inhabitants of all classes, has clearly demonstrated the inestimable value attached to permanent possession, and whence the cause, to a certain extent, of the difference in the present estimated value of the land comprising the two provinces, divided only by the Runn of Kutch; for while Kutch is probably, on the whole, the more fertile of the two, the land in many parts of the Thurr and Parkur districts is by no means wanting in fertility: thus in the Ballearee district, and in Parkur also, it is no uncommon thing to gather two crops from the same field in one season, and sometimes three even are gathered.

57. The revenue returns of the past year have already placed before you the financial state of the Deputy Collectorate during the year 1851-52; in future the instructions contained in paragraphs 4 and 7 of Government letter No. 11751, of 18th December 1851, copy of which was received with your endorsement of the 8th November 1852, No. 2815, shall be duly attended to in transmitting the annual returns. As, however, the late abolition of frontier duties in Sind will cause a much larger deficiency in the revenue of the Desert districts, already insufficient to meet the disbursements, I beg to be

allowed to notice shortly the result, in a pecuniary point of view, of the administration of the Desert districts during the past four years, as compared with what may be anticipated for the future.

58. The gross revenue during the last four years gives the following result :—

Sources of Revenue.	1848-49.	1849-50.	1850-51.	1851-52.
	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.
Land Revenue .....	6,247	24,843	7,394	21,736
Customs.....	16,784	10,276	11,252	11,610
Judicial Receipts and Unclaimed Property.	246	663	413	803
Total....	23,277	35,782	19,059	34,149

59. The pay of revenue establishments, compensation to Chiefs, &c. is as noted below :—

Items.	1848-49.	1849-50.	1850-51.	1851-52.
	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.	Rupees.
Pay of Revenue Establishment.....	4,656	4,556	4,713	5,213
Contingencies.....	699	810	591	820
Allowances to Chiefs of Deopla.....	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,190
Remissions.....	2,150	4,045	988	4,148
Compensation to Parkur Zemindars for } loss of Customs Duties..... }	4,097	5,463	5,463	5,118
Police.....	30,936	29,931	30,283	30,521
Total....	43,728	45,995	43,228	47,010

Leaving Government a loser in the following amounts :—

	1848-49.	1849-50.	1850-51.	1851-52.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Loss to Government.....	20,451	10,213	24,169	12,861

Thus showing an annual loss of Rs. 16,923. Now, however, that the abolition of the frontier duties will cause an estimated decrease in the revenue of Rs. 11,000 per annum, the annual deficit for future years

will be correspondingly increased, and may be estimated at about Rs. 27,923 ; that is, supposing the present rate of expenditure in the Police department to be continued. Proposed reductions, however, in the Police expenses, aggregating Rs. 10,500 annually, have been submitted for your consideration, and, if sanctioned, will reduce the estimated annual deficit of revenue to about Rs. 17,423. This estimate, it will be observed, is deduced from the figures above ; as, however, the land revenue fluctuates very much, it must only be considered as applicable to a term of years.

60. I beg to be allowed this opportunity of offering the following explanation with reference to the 12th paragraph of Government letter No. 195 of 1853, dated 12th January last, copy of which was received with your endorsement No. 210 of 1853, dated 29th January, to the Deputy Collector and Magistrate Thurr and Parkur. The compensation to the Parkur Zemindars was sanctioned in Government letter No. 1811, of the 9th March 1850, to the address of the Commissioner in Sind, and took effect from the date of the abolition of the town and remodifications of the frontier duties, viz. the 1st August 1848. Previous, however, to the receipt of this sanction, an advance of Rs. 2,000 was made to the claimants for compensation under instructions from your predecessor (letter No. 464 of 1849, dated 6th March, to the Officiating Political Agent in Kutch), and distributed in March and April 1849. Subsequently, on the receipt of the sanction above quoted, the balance of the compensation for 1848-49, amounting to Rs. 2,097, was disbursed in July 1850, which, with the Rs. 2,000 previously advanced, made up Rs. 4,097, being the amount of compensations due from 1st August 1848 to 31st April 1849. Again, in March 1851, the compensation due for 1849-50 was paid ; thus making the amount brought to account on this score, greater in 1850-51 than in the succeeding year, though the charge remained the same in both years.

61. The gratifying state of tranquillity and increased security of person and property prevailing in the Desert has already been brought to your notice in the letter No. 43 of 1853, dated 17th February, to the Commissioner in Sind. Camel-stealing is at present the chief crime, and this will eventually, I trust, be more effectually curbed, as the vigilance of the Police, and assistance of the inhabitants generally, can be brought to bear on the subject.

62. In conclusion, I beg to apologise for the delay that has

taken place in forwarding this report, which has been caused by my time having been much occupied of late with investigations, &c. in Wagur.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) S. N. RAIKES,

Deputy Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

*Deputy Collector and Magistrate's Office, Kutch Districts,  
Camp Wurnoo, 17th March 1853.*

(True copy)

M. J. M. STEWART,

Assistant Commissioner.

### A.

*Statement showing the present Monthly Establishments which have been employed in Measuring, Assessing, and Registering each Field in the Thurr and Parkur Deputy Collectorate.*

Amount of pay of one Mootsudee employed for measuring and registering fields at Nuggur Parkur . . . . .	Rs. 35	0	0
Extra allowances to 4 footmen for assisting the above Mootsudee, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ Rupee each per month . . . . .	6	0	0
		41	0 0
Pay to two Mootsudees at Mittee, one at 35 and the other at 20 Rupees per month . . . . .	55	0	0
Extra allowances to 6 footmen at $1\frac{1}{2}$ Rupee each per month . . . . .	9	0	0
		64	0 0
Pay of one Mootsudee at Deepla . . . . .	35	0	0
Extra allowances to 6 footmen at $1\frac{1}{2}$ Rupee each per month . . . . .	9	0	0
		44	0 0
Total . . . Co.'s Rupees 149 0 0			

(Signed) A. Y. SHORTT,

Actg. Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

*Deputy Collector and Magistrate's Office,  
Bhooj, 14th June 1855.*

(True copy)

M. J. M. STEWART,

Assistant Commissioner.

Copy.]

MEMO.—No. 328 OF 1854.

If it be deemed expedient to continue the present arrangements for the conduct of the duties of the Thurr and Parkur districts, I would suggest that the charge should devolve as a separate one on the Assistant Political Agent in Kutch.

2. Formerly, when the Thurr and Parkur districts were first placed under the Political Agent in Kutch, it was treated more as a political charge; that is, there was as little interference as possible with the people of the districts; all the trials were submitted to the Political Agent as a Collector and Magistrate in Sind, and by him confirmed, or submitted to higher authority, according to circumstances.

3. The Assistant Political Agent, as Deputy Collector and Magistrate, had one Guzerathee writer to conduct the correspondence with the Kardars; while the accounts of the districts, the returns of which were few, were prepared in English by one of the Political Agency writers, and forwarded by the Political Agent to the Account department.

4. In 1847 (when I had the honour of succeeding to the charge of the office) a second Guzerathee writer was sanctioned for the Deputy Collector, while an English writer was detached from the Agency especially for the Deputy Collector's Office.

5. The current work of the districts gradually devolved more and more on the Deputy Collector, though the correspondence and accounts passed through the Agency.

6. In 1849 Colonel Roberts was succeeded in Kutch by Mr. Ogilvy, who considered the Thurr and Parkur charge as a separate one, and treated it as such.

7. In 1851 Major Jacob was appointed Political Agent in Kutch. He declined having the Deputy Collectorate under him; and since then it has been entirely under my charge, without, however, any allowances for the work and responsibility,—until last year, indeed, I was unable to visit the districts on the same terms as I did those of Kutch, where travelling allowance is granted.

8. Owing to the gradual increase of work, both as regards correspondence with the Native revenue officers, police and judicial

business, as well as in the English as Guzerathee departments, two English writers and a third Guzerathee one were sanctioned for the Deputy Collector's Office, the former in 1850 and the latter in 1851, thus making up the Deputy Collector's establishment to three Guzerathee and two English writers. The whole establishment, however, is only temporarily sanctioned.

9. The above details have been mentioned to show how the duties of the Desert Collectorate have been conducted since the transfer of the districts to Kutch, viz. at first chiefly by the Political Agent in Kutch, subsequently by the Assistant Political Agent as a Deputy Collector and Magistrate, and since 1851 by the Deputy Collector and Magistrate alone, under the direct orders of the Commissioner in Sind.

10. Owing to the peculiarities of the charge, pointed out in the letter noted in the margin, the Judicial system introduced into Sind was, under the sanction of the Commissioner's letter No. 958, of 17th September 1852, only partially made applicable to the Thurr and Parkur districts.

11. In the conduct of judicial proceedings, the Deputy Magistrate exercises the powers of a Magistrate, *i. e.* he tries cases of life and death importance, and sentences to one year's imprisonment (vide letter No. 80 of 1849, dated 23rd April, from Commissioner in Sind), without submitting the proceedings for confirmation.

12. The system of conducting judicial business has been alluded to, as the designation of Deputy Magistrate, though applicable so long as the charge was under the Political Agent, appears paradoxical now.

13. Regarding the modifications that I would propose in the establishments, I beg to annex a form showing, as desired, the present and proposed establishment in all departments.

14. The Deputy Collector's establishment is slightly increased as follows :—

The present sanctioned pay of the English writers is 50 and 30 rupees respectively. It has been found very difficult, however, to obtain the services of qualified persons for the latter sum ; I therefore propose that they should get 45 and 40 rupees respectively. A memorandum of the work in the English department formed accompaniment to my letter No. 98, of 1st September 1851, from which you will observe that the returns are both numerous and voluminous.

15. In the Native department I have proposed an addition of 5 rupees to the Native Accountant's pay, to place him on an equality as regards pay with the Kardars of Nuggur and Mittee. The examination of all the Kardars' accounts—all, indeed, of the work and responsibility of the Account department—devolves on him; and though the revenue is small, the accounts are elaborate.

16. In the district establishments I have proposed an additional 5 rupees per mensem for the Kardars of Mittee. All the Kardars received 40 rupees per mensem till the beginning of 1853, when, pursuant to the recommendation to Government, contained in letter and

No. 65 of 1853, Revenue Department, dated 26th February, from Commissioner in Sind to the Governor in Council, Bombay.

enclosure noted in the margin, copies of which were received with Commissioner's letter No. 477, of 28th February 1853, the pay of the Kardars of Mittee and

Deepla was reduced from 40 to 35 rupees a month. The Mittee Kardarate is extensive, while the town is the most important in the Desert, and the merchants of it carry on an extensive trade with Sind Proper, Kutch, and Marwar; it is therefore advisable to have a well-paid and respectable Kardar there: a Deputy Kardar has also been added to the Mittee establishment to assist the Kardar. It appears objectionable having only one Government functionary capable of writing the most simple report in so large a district.

17. I now proceed to notice the modifications in the Police department.

18. At present the Police is composed of five Jemedars and one hundred and ten Police horsemen, and three Killadars and thirty-six footmen. The mounted Police I propose modifying by having horsemen and Shutur Sowars or camel-men, in the proportion of 58 of the former to 30 of the latter, with a complement of officers, dispensing with the services of the Soda Killadars and footmen.

19. Instead of the present designation of Khosa Police Horse, it would be expedient to denominate them the Police Horse, as I should be glad to see other classes as well as Khosas serving in the Police.

20. In dispensing with the services of the Soda Killadars and footmen, I would suggest the advisability of the Mittee and Islamkote Chiefs receiving political stipends of 15 rupees per mensem each, for the reasons stated in the 6th paragraph of my letter to the Commissioner in Sind, No. 47, of 21st February 1853.

21. The above Police force, which might be dressed in uniform and armed with carbines, appears to me sufficient for the Deputy Collectorate of Thurr and Parkur.

22. As regards the third question, I do not see any means of reducing the expenditure below that proposed in the accompaniment hereto. The receipts might probably be augmented by working the Mookyee salt lake, should the doing so be found feasible without interfering with or supplanting the Guzerat salt works; no other means of increasing the receipts occur to me at this moment.

23. Adverting to the fourth question, on the subject of land tenure, I beg to refer to the letter noted in the margin, and to suggest, firstly, that each field be measured, and a register thereof in the whole Deputy Collectorate be prepared. Secondly, that they be subsequently written over to the cultivators respectively in perpetuity at a quit-rent; liable, however, to resumption in the event of the occupant not paying the quit-rent, being convicted of any crime involving trial before the Deputy Magistrate, or leaving the districts permanently. No rent should be attempted to be levied in famine years.

24. This arrangement would have the effect of removing the inconveniences of the present assessment system, and *giving fixedness to the tenure* by which the land is held: as, however, both these points are alluded to at length in the above-quoted letter, it is unnecessary to say more regarding them now.

25. Supposing the proposed establishments to be sanctioned, there will in future be three Kardars and three Deputies, instead of three of the former and two of the latter, as at present; in addition to which one Mootsudee would probably be requisite for each Kardarate for one year, to enable each field to be measured and assessed; to the assessment being fixed by the Kardar in communication with the petty Chiefs and other respectable landed proprietors and under the superintendence and orders of the Deputy Collector.

26. I would propose that each field be measured, and that its size and situation with reference to the Thurr to which it belongs, as well as to other fields or prominent natural features of the country, be carefully recorded, with its name and owner's or cultivator's name.

27. The Kardars would of course be able to measure and register many fields themselves. As, however, there is a good deal of current

work also, the greater and most laborious portion of the undertaking would devolve on the Mootsudees entertained for the purpose; their pay should be, I think, 35 rupees a month.

28. It is difficult to say at this moment what other expenses it might be found necessary to incur for measuring-men, ropes, paper, &c. &c.; it appears to me, however, that 50 rupees per Kardarate (inclusive of the Mootsudee's pay above alluded to) for one year would suffice for the additional establishment; or Rs. 1,800 for the whole Deputy Collectorate.

29. The estimated area of the Thurr is 5,500 square miles, and of Parkur 600.

30. The population of the Thurr and Parkur districts is about 44,000 souls.

31. A memorandum of the revenue and charges of the districts since 1848 is forwarded herewith, and marked No. 2.

(Signed) S. N. RAIKES,

Deputy Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

Boorla, 13th December 1854.

(True copy)

J. GIBBS,

Assistant Commissioner.

*Statement showing the Present and Proposed Establishment for the Thurr and Parkur Districts.*

No.	DEPUTY COLLECTOR'S PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT.	Amount.			Total.		
OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT.		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
2	English Writers.....	80	0	0			
1	Native Accountant.....	35	0	0			
1	Assistant ditto .....	20	0	0			
3	Puttywallas .....	18	0	0			
1	Office Sweeper .....	2	0	0			
<hr/>					155	0	0
DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENT.							
<i>Nuggur.</i>							
1	Kardar .....	40	0	0			
1	Deputy Kardar .....	25	0	0			
2	Registrars .....	16	0	0			
5	Puttywallas .....	25	0	0			
<hr/>					106	0	0
<hr/>					<hr/>		
Carried over....					261	0	0

No.	Deputy Collector's Present Establishment.	Amount.			Total.		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
	Brought forward....	.....			261	0	0
	<i>Mittee.</i>						
1	Kardar .....	35	0	0			
3	Puttywallas .....	15	0	0			
					50	0	0
	<i>Deepla.</i>						
1	Kardar .....	35	0	0			
1	Deputy Kardar .....	20	0	0			
1	Registrar .....	8	0	0			
4	Puttywallas .....	20	0	0			
					83	0	0
					394	0	0
	Contingent Allowance .....				46	0	0
					440	0	0
	<b>KHOSA POLICE HORSE.</b>						
5	Jemedars. ....	150	0	0			
110	Sowars .....	2,200	0	0			
1	Mehta. ....	20	0	0			
		2,370	0	0			
	<b>SODA KILLADARS AND FOOTMEN.</b>						
3	Killadars .....	45	0	0			
36	Footmen. ....	180	0	0			
		225	0	0			
					2,595	0	0
	<b>Grand Total. . . . . Company's Rupees</b>				3,035	0	0

No.	DEPUTY COLLECTOR'S PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT.	Amount.			Total.		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
	<b>OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT.</b>						
2	English Writers. ....	85	0	0			
1	Native Accountant. ....	40	0	0			
1	Assistant ditto .....	20	0	0			
1	Duffedar of Peons .....	8	0	0			
4	Puttywallas .....	24	0	0			
1	Office Sweeper .....	2	0	0			
					179	0	0
	<b>DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENT.</b>						
	<i>Nuggur.</i>						
1	Kardar .....	40	0	0			
1	Deputy Kardar .....	25	0	0			
5	Puttywallas .....	25	0	0			
					90	0	0
	<i>Mittee.</i>						
1	Kardar .....	40	0	0			
1	Deputy Kardar .....	20	0	0			
4	Puttywallas .....	20	0	0			
					80	0	0
	Carried over. . . . .				349	0	0

No.	Deputy Collector's Proposed Establishment.	Amount.			Total.		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
	Brought forward....	....			349	0	0
	<i>Deepla.</i>						
1	Kardar .....	35	0	0			
1	Deputy Kardar .....	20	0	0			
4	Puttywallas .....	20	0	0			
					75	0	0
					424	0	0
	Contingent Allowance .....				46	0	0
					470	0	0
	<b>POLICE.</b>						
1	Soobedar .....	35	0	0			
2	Jemedars .....	60	0	0			
2	Duffedars .....	50	0	0			
58	Sowars, Rs. 20 each .....	1,160	0	0			
1	Mchta .....	30	0	0			
		1,335	0	0			
	<b>SHUTUR SOWARS.</b>						
2	Duffedars .....	40	0	0			
30	Sowars, Rs. 15 each .....	450	0	0			
		490	0	0	1,825	0	0
					2,295	0	0
	Tappal expenses between Ballearee and Bhooj .....	31	0	0			
	Monthly allowances to Chiefs of Mittee and Islamkote, as a political stipend, consequent on their services being dispensed with in the Police Department, entered here to show the financial result of the proposed modification.	30	0	0			
					61	0	0
					2,356	0	0
	Monthly saving .....				679	0	0
	Grand Total...., Company's Rupees				3,035	0	0

(Signed) S. N. RAIKES,

Deputy Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

*Deputy Collector and Magistrate's Office,  
Camp Urncalo, 14th December 1854.*

(True copy)

J. GIBBS,  
Assistant Commissioner.

*Memorandum showing the Income and Expenses for each Official  
Year, 1848-49 to 1853-54.*

RECEIPTS.	1848-49	1849-50	1850-51	1851-52	1852-53	1853-54
Land Revenue .....	6,247	24,843	7,394	21,736	19,740	6,085
Customs .....	16,784	10,276	11,252	11,610	4,091	..
Judicial Receipts and Unclaimed Pro- perty .....	246	663	413	803	591	430
	23,277	35,782	19,059	34,149	24,422	6,515
<i>Add—</i> Cash deficient and required to cover } Charges.....	20,451	10,213	24,169	12,861	20,769	36,279
Total.. Co.'s Rupees	43,728	45,995	43,228	47,010	45,191	42,794
DISBURSEMENTS.						
Pay of Revenue Establishment .....	4,656	4,556	4,713	5,213	3,486	5,414
Contingencies* .....	699	810	591	820	1,336	1,207
Allowances to Chiefs of Dcepla .....	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,190	1,190
Remissions .....	2,150	4,045	988	4,148	3,649	1,190
Compensation to Parkur Zemindars on account of their Share of Customs } duties.....	4,097	5,463	5,463	5,118	5,118	5,091
Police† .....	30,936	29,931	30,283	30,521	30,412	28,702
Total.. Co.'s Rupees	43,728	45,995	43,228	47,010	45,191	42,794

\* Including batta, &c.

† Authorised Police charge, Rs. 31,140.

(Signed) S. N. RAIKES,

Depy. Collector and Magistrate, Thurr and Parkur.

*Deputy Collector and Magistrate's Office,  
Camp Urnealo, 14th December 1854.*

(True copy)

J. GIBBS,

Assistant Commissioner.

No. 96A OF 1856.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

From Lieutenant Colonel G. L. JACOB,  
Political Agent in Kutch,  
To H. L. ANDERSON, Esq.,  
Secretary to Government, Bombay.

*Dated Bhooj, 28th June 1856.*

SIR,—Captain Raikes has shown me copy of the Sind Commissioner's report to Government No. 48c, dated 21st January last, on the past and present state and future management of the Thurr and Parkur, in which Mr. Frere has explained how the district became gradually detached from Kutch until it assumed its present anomalous condition.

2. The last step in this transition followed my taking charge here in 1851. I found the Political Agency a mere channel for the receipt of orders from and reports to the Commissioner, thus retarding business, preventing ready references in the compilations of either party, filling his own records with inapplicable papers, and placing him in an ambiguous position ; I therefore suggested that both parties should correspond with each other direct.

3. During the period that this district bore a *quasi* and unwilling allegiance to the Meers of Sind, its connection with the British Government grew up through Kutch ; at first power in the suppression of banditti, subsequently magnanimity and equity, were followed by their natural consequence—trust. The people from of old were connected with those of Kutch by marriages with all classes up to the reigning family\* ; and for many years a detachment of Kutch Horse was stationed in Parkur. They naturally therefore looked to the Kutch authorities for shelter during the storm that swept away the Talpoor dynasty.

4. The secret of the success Mr. Frere's report shows to have followed Colonel Roberts' and his successor's management of the district, was that they interfered as little as possible with the habits of the people, and that he was known and trusted from many years' intercourse with them as Assistant Political Agent in Kutch ; in short,

\* The present Rao's mother was a Soda of the Desert.

it was kept separate from Sind and its changes. The Commissioner's report on the northern half of these sandhills (No. 62, dated 12th February 1855, item Omerkote) shows the contrast effected by treating that portion of them as an integral part of Sind. In the south, peace, order, and content ; in the north, the reverse ; and yet there is only an imaginary boundary betwixt the two—the country and people are the same.

5. The Desert\* has no affinity with the alluvial plains of Sind ; it stands apart from them in every respect, differing in soil, and produce, and in the language, habits, and feelings of the people ; it constitutes, in short, a portion of Rajpootana, but with a larger sprinkling of Mahomedans consequent on its proximity to Sind.

6. I can trace no cause for its separation into two parts after the conquest—one under Hyderabad, the other under Kutch—beyond Colonel Roberts' desire to take charge only of the southern half, consequent, doubtless, on his fuller acquaintance with it, and the difficulty of undertaking more in conjunction with his own duties as Political Agent in Kutch and Commandant of the troops.

7. At first this charge was governed politically, but in assimilation to other parts of Sind it became a Deputy Collectorate, and bit by bit paper work augmented until a considerable establishment became requisite, although only now containing 44,000 souls, and yielding Rs. 21,482 a year of revenue† ; the outlay, however, is more than double, so that Government sustains a yearly loss of more than its whole revenue.

8. The question of what shall be the future management of this district is now before the Honorable Board, consequent on the Commissioner's report alluded to ; and it has appeared to me a duty to offer a few observations for the consideration of Government before final decision, that it may be regarded from all points of view.

9. Mr. Frere does not speak of it otherwise than as an appurtenance of Sind ; neither does the question of putting an end to separate administrations over one homogeneous tract appear to have occurred to him ; yet both these points are deserving of the fullest consideration. The two facts, of the connection with Sind having worked ill,

\* So called, but in some respects scarcely a correct name, as the sandhills are often covered with shrubs. Good grass abounds after rain, and the valleys often contain arable soil.

† I take the averages of the seven years given in paragraph 41 of Mr. Frere's report.

and that with Kutch well, are sufficient to create doubt whether it is politic to adhere to the first and disserve the latter.

10. The true policy would appear to be to follow nature, and place the people of one country under one rule, to free them as much as possible from the shackle of laws that they revolt at or cannot understand, and to govern them patriarchally, in a manner suited to their wild and scattered state. Colonel Roberts' and Captain Raikes' success may be attributed to such management.

11. The great difficulty arises from the climate and nature of the country preventing European residence, and from the revenue being too limited to pay the cost of management. That for the northern portion reached only Rs. 12,300, at an enhanced figure caused by competition of farmers,\* the which by the way has had a tragic end.

12. The district consolidated would constitute an area of above 10,000 square miles, with a population, according to the latest returns, of about 65,000 souls.† If a separate officer be appointed for the exclusive duty, he might easily perform it; joined to other duties, it would render neglect of one or other more or less necessary.

13. The existing state of things is most unsatisfactory; we have now an officer performing much work for which he receives nothing, and which he can only do at the expense of the duties for which he is paid, however zealous and painstaking he may be; meanwhile he is under two distinct authorities, who may be in need of his services at the same moment.

14. And yet the connection with Kutch has its advantages. His Highness the Rao makes an admirable arbitrator in the quarrels of the Soda Chiefs; in trials needing them, the Kutch Chiefs are employed as assessors. The Bhooj Fort (all expenses defrayed by the Rao) furnishes the district Jail. The proceedings, as also all correspondence and accounts, are written in Guzerathee, which the people know, whilst it is difficult to find men in Sind competent to take office on these conditions. Its functionaries are all drawn from the south; perhaps some of the disaffection of the Omerkote district may have been caused by the official language being in an unknown tongue.

\* Paragraphs 33 and 34, Omerkote Report quoted.

† Paragraph 2, Thurr and Parkur Report; paragraph 5, Omerkote Report.

15. How to solve existing difficulties is rather a perplexing question ; but I am disposed to think the best method would be to unite what has affinity for each other, rather than to yoke together what has proved unsuitable ; and with this view I would suggest, in the spirit of Mr. Frere's report—

That a Political Superintendent be appointed, not for the southern half alone, but for the whole of this western Desert. That as he could scarcely be expected to reside in it\* for several months in the year, Kutch would offer him far greater facilities for carrying on his duties than Sind, and that it would therefore be expedient to place him in subordination to the Political Agent of Kutch, as the channel between him and Government.

16. The Hyderabad Collectorate might then, perhaps, dispense with an Assistant, whose salary would partly cover the expense of the new office ; at any rate the high paid Sind officials could be replaced by men of the stamp now filling the Thurr and Parkur Kardarates, with a saving to Government, and, as far as may be judged by the respective results of their labours, with benefit to the people ; not that it is at all an easy matter to get good men for the Desert, and some increase of pay might be advantageous.

17. If Captain Raikes, who has laboured so successfully with the Thurr and Parkur, were the officer selected for the post, the expense might further be met by reducing the Kutch Assistancy from a First to a Second Class.

18. The salary ought to be something above that of a First Assistant, or it might be difficult to find qualified men to undertake it.

19. With a competent party in charge, it would matter little whether he were placed under Sind or Kutch ; but the connection with the latter country cannot now be broken without expense and difficulty, though eventually the spread of education, and the growth of commerce with Sind, may allow it to be severed without inconvenience.

20. A copy of this letter will be sent to the Acting Commissioner in Sind, as His Lordship in Council will doubtless desire his opinion on the suggestions it contains.

\* At any rate a very large outlay for this purpose, and for Jails, &c. would be necessary, and few if any worth having would accept the appointment, to live in it all through the year.

21. Captain Raikes, whose opinions I have requested on the subject, offers the following objections :—

1st.—The great distance of the northern portion of the Desert from Kutch.

2nd.—The fact of there being more intercourse between Sind and that portion of the Desert in traffic and otherwise, than with Kutch.

3rd.—That the connection with Sind has now been so long established as to render severance questionable.

4th.—That Omerkote itself and Nubbeesa, the principal places, are just outside the Desert, having lands in plains as well as sandhills.

22. These objections carry much weight with them, and though on the whole four or five months' residence in these districts during the year would be far more valuable than the scant visits heretofore paid from Sind, I would by no means wish to press my opinion as to the consolidation of the Desert management ; I have offered it simply as a suggestion for consideration.

23. Should it be now deemed too late to be carried into effect, or otherwise inexpedient, I still think that the present anomalous state of things as regards the Thurr and Parkur ought to be put an end to ; and the simplest mode of doing so would be, to place the district under Kutch as a temporary measure ; to change its designation, as suggested by Mr. Frere ; the officer in charge being styled either Political Superintendent of, or Political Assistant for, the district, and, I should trust, with an extra allowance for the duties.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. L. JACOB,

Political Agent in Kutch.

*Kutch Political Agency, Bhooj, 28th June 1856.*

No. 76 OF 1856.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

From Lieutenant Colonel JOHN JACOB, C.B.,  
Acting Commissioner in Sind,  
To the Right Honorable LORD ELPHINSTONE, G.C.H.,  
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

*Dated 10th July 1856.*

My LORD,—I have the honour to bring to the notice of your Lordship in Council that I have received the communication noted in the margin, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit herewith, from the Political Agent in Kutch, forwarding to me a copy of a despatch to your Lordship in Council, No. 96A, dated 28th June last, regarding the anomalous state of the arrangement by which the Assistant Political Agent in Kutch is also Deputy Collector and Magistrate of the Thurr and Parkur district in Sind.

2. The inconvenience of the present arrangement is very great, and it appears to me that it is increasing, and that it must continue to increase.

3. But the Political Agent in Kutch has been greatly misinformed as to the facts and circumstances of the case as detailed in paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 of his letter to Government.

4. The people of this district have the most strong and invincible objection to being transferred to the rule of Kutch; nothing could have been more earnest or more forcible than their expressions to Mr. Frere on this subject. Wherefore, the remarks contained in paragraph 10 of the letter of the Political Agent in Kutch to Government, however correct in themselves, tend most decidedly to prove that it would be highly impolitic in the present instance to follow the course therein recommended.

5. The whole district certainly formed an integral part of Sind long before and up to the date of the conquest, and at the conquest it only became in any way connected with Kutch because Kutch itself was made subordinate to, and in fact was annexed to the Government of Sind.

6. With respect to the remarks in paragraph 5 of the despatch of

the Political Agent in Kutch under notice, I beg leave to point out to your Lordship in Council that these are evidently founded on most defective information.

7. I have good personal knowledge of the district in question, having repeatedly traversed every part of it, and also resided for some time at Omerkote. The tract in question is undoubtedly a desert waste, perhaps the most dreary on the face of the earth, although it be quite true that grass grows and that some trifling cultivation takes place in certain favoured spots in it when rain falls. This Desert is not separated from Sind, but everywhere along the whole line the sandhills are intricately intermingled with the alluvial soil of the Indus. In fact, the Purgunas of Omerkote and of Nowakote are as much in the alluvial plain of Sind as in the Thurr, while the great Narra Works will ere long bring the Indus water through the midst of the sandhills.

8. This district is, in fact, not only closely connected with, but is (with the exception of the little district of Parkur, which is a peninsula nearly surrounded by the Runn, and is distinct by itself) one with Sind, while it is as much separated from Kutch by the Runn as if the sea there still covered its former bed. In fact, it is even more completely separated from Kutch than if the Runn were still covered by the ocean, for in that case the communication by boat would assuredly, taking the average of all seasons, be more easy than it now is across the salt swamp of the Runn.

9. The observations in paragraphs 14 and 16 of the letter of the Political Agent in Kutch are altogether erroneous. The Soda Chiefs are most unwilling to receive the Rao of Kutch as their liege lord ; the Sindee language is in common current use in the Omerkote district ; and I am not aware of any disaffection existing in that quarter. The Thurr portion of the Omerkote district bears so minute a proportion to the extent of the whole charge of the Deputy Collector of Meerpoor, that its being detached from that charge would hardly be felt as a reduction of business ; and no Deputy Collector of the Hyderabad Collectorate being employed in or concerned in any way with the duties of the Thurr and Parkur, no alteration in the management of that district could enable any Deputy Collector of Sind to be dispensed with ; while it is, I beg leave respectfully to submit to your Lordship in Council, scarcely within the competence of the Political Agent in Kutch to remark on the Sind officials whom

he supposes to be highly paid ; and I may observe with regard to the proposal to replace them from Kutch, that the men now filling the Thurr and Parkur Kardarates are not giving such complete satisfaction as to make a comparison between them and the ordinary Kardars of Sind, even in an economical point of view, at all favourable to the former.

10. The question of the future management of the Thurr and Parkur district of Sind appears to me to be simple and easy of adjustment. I am of opinion that, as recommended by Mr. Frere in his letter as per margin, the district should evidently remain attached to Sind, and should be entrusted to the management of an officer to be directly subordinate to the Commissioner, and having no other charge. The designation of this officer might be " Political Superintendent of the Thurr and Parkur District," and a salary might be assigned him of 800 rupees a month, with a travelling allowance of 10 rupees a day.

11. Your Lordship in Council will have perceived from Mr. Frere's report above quoted, that he proposed to assign to Captain Raikes a staff salary of 400 rupees per mensem in addition to all other emoluments which he might be enjoying in any other capacity.

12. This arrangement was proposed by Mr. Frere under the impression that the office of the Assistant Political Agent in Kutch was almost a sinecure, and that, therefore, the additional duty might be performed by that officer without inconvenience.

13. But under whatever considerations and for whatever reasons it may have been made, it is quite evident to me that the present arrangement could not, under any circumstances, be continued, without the greatest confusion and injury to the public service ; and I trust I may be excused in requesting the early attention of your Lordship in Council to a settlement of this important charge.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

JOHN JACOB, Lieut. Colonel,

Acting Commissioner in Sind.

*Commissioner's Office,  
Kurrachee, 10th July 1856.*

Copy.]

No. 535 OF 1856.

From Lieutenant Colonel G. L. JACOB,  
Political Agent in Kutch,

To Lieutenant Colonel JOHN JACOB, C.B.,  
Acting Commissioner in Sind, Kurrachee.

*Dated Bhooj, 3rd July 1856.*

SIR,—I enclose copy of a despatch to Government (No. 96A, dated 28th June 1856) on the future management of the Desert between Sind and Kutch, which at present is in an anomalous state. I am by no means inclined to press my suggestion as to consolidation; for, however expedient it might have been at first, the growth of circumstances may now render it unadvisable, of which you will be the best judge: but there can be no doubt of the intimate alliance of the southern half with Kutch and Marwar, of Sind being a foreign country to it, and of its being therefore more easily managed from this side than from yours. The growth of Sind may gradually change all this; but meanwhile I do not perceive any better mode of dealing with it than that recommended: at any rate something ought to be done to relieve this Agency from its present embarrassing position. Perhaps you will favour me by submitting to Government your views on my letter.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. L. JACOB,  
Political Agent.

*Kutch Agency Office, Bhooj, 3rd July 1856.*

(True copy)

LEWIS PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner in Sind.

No 3671 of 1856.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT, REVENUE.

To Lieutenant Colonel JOHN JACOB, C.B.,  
Acting Commissioner in Sind.

SIR,—I have placed before the Right Honorable the Governor in

Letter from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 48c, dated 21st January 1856.

Ditto from the Acting ditto, No. 76, dated 10th July 1856.

Council the communications, as per margin, on the present condition and system of management of the Thurr and Parkur districts, together with the several reports and correspondence, copies of which accompanied the communications now under acknowledgment, and have been directed to communicate to you the following observations and instructions.

2. His Lordship in Council has read with much interest the comprehensive and lucid account given by Lieutenant Raikes in his letter No. 67, of the 17th March 1853, of the districts in question; but as Mr. Frere's report is of much more recent date, and embraces all the specific points on which it is necessary that Government should record their opinion, I am to adopt it as the groundwork on which Government have founded the subjoined review of the measures which have been undertaken, or are proposed, in connection with the administration of the Thurr and Parkur districts.

3. These may be treated of under the following heads :—

- I. Contemplated transfer of the Thurr and Parkur districts to the Rao of Kutch.
- II. Settlement and improved management of the land revenue.
- III. Repairs to tanks.
- IV. Grants of land in compensation for shares in town and transit duties which have been abolished.
- V. Money allowances.
- VI. Reductions in the pay of Khosa Horse and Soda Killadars.
- VII. Remuneration to the Assistant Political Agent, Kutch, for performance of duties as Deputy Collector of Thurr and Parkur.
- VIII. Construction of a bungalow in the Thurr and Parkur.

# CONTEMPLATED TRANSFER OF THE THURR AND PARKUR DISTRICTS TO THE RAO OF KUTCH.

4. Mr. Frere has traced in his report the circumstances under which a connection has of late years arisen between Kutch and the Thurr and Parkur Districts, and which has led to its management being entrusted to the Assistant to the Political Agent in Kutch. This, added to the fact of there being little prospect of increasing the revenue, and no very obvious mode of decreasing the expenditure of the district, which considerably exceeded the income, gave rise, some time past, to a consideration of the expediency of making over these districts to the Rao of Kutch.

5. It now appears that the inhabitants of the Thurr and Parkur have expressed themselves against the proposed measure, and urgently prayed that "Government would leave them as they were under Lieutenant Raikes, and *not sell them* to any one, neither to the Rao of Kutch, nor to their own Chiefs collectively, nor to any one of them."

6. "The earnestness and unanimity with which their prayer was urged," Mr. Frere states, "assured me, that even had their request been less reasonable in itself, Government would not refuse to comply with it." Mr. Frere has on this point rightly interpreted the sentiments of Government.

7. After remarking that under the Ameers the income of Government, as well as that of the petty Chiefs, was almost entirely dependent on town and frontier duties, Mr. Frere adds :—

"47. The abolition of town duties, which took place in Sind soon after the conquest, was not extended to the Thurr till some years afterwards.

"48. This measure very seriously affected many of the Chiefs, who had little to live on except their shares of the duties, and their case having been represented to Government, compensation was granted, half in land and half in money, for six years, subject to revision at the end of that period.

"49. I may remark that the effect of the abolition of these duties has been very apparent. It has since been more than once reported by the Deputy Collector that in seasons which under the old system would have been years of famine, and when all the people would have quitted the country, they have left their families

behind and fed them with imported grain, sent in from the neighbouring provinces, to which a few of the men drove the cattle, instead of the whole tribe being obliged to emigrate bodily, as would have been their only resource while the town duties acted as a heavy tax on importation."

8. Government accept with much gratification the testimony which Mr. Frere bears, in the passage above quoted, to the complete success of the liberal course which has been followed in remitting the heavy imposts under which the inhabitants laboured, and in compensating the Chiefs for the loss which they would otherwise have suffered from the abolition of the town duties.

9. His Lordship in Council observes that two measures were proposed by Colonel Roberts (late Political Agent, Kutch) with a view to make up for the loss of the duties in question.

1st.—To permit the export of salt from the Mookjee salt lake near Veerawow, levying on the salt a reduced rate of excise.

2nd.—To impose an excise on ghee, which is one of the few staples of the Thurr.

10. The Mookjee salt, in the opinion of Mr. Frere, could not pay the full excise duty leviable elsewhere in the Bombay Presidency, because salt is naturally produced in numerous similar localities in the Marwar States, the boundary of which is not more than a few coss from Mookjee. The export of Mookjee salt, it appears, was prohibited, from an apprehension that it would interfere with the salt at the Government pans at Patree and Joonjawarra.

11. From the inquiries made on the spot, Mr. Frere is convinced that Colonel Roberts and Lieutenant Raikes are right in supposing that Mookjee salt might be allowed export at a reduced rate of excise, so graduated as not in any way to interfere with the salt of the Government pans at the two stations abovenamed, and that a considerable revenue might thus be realised. Mr. Frere, therefore, recommends that the export of salt from Mookjee be again allowed at a reduced rate of duty, which might be so arranged by the Deputy Collector, in communication with the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, as to fulfil the conditions indicated above. "I anticipate," adds Mr. Frere, "that this measure, if judiciously carried out, would go far to redress the balance of expenditure over receipts."

12. Government agree with the view taken by Mr. Frere of this subject, and concur in his suggestion that the subject be submitted for the opinion of the Officiating Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium. It seems to his Lordship in Council that, under the arrangement now in contemplation for excluding the Bhoyatra and Bakasir salt from Guzerat by a preventive line of Chokees from Mowsaree to Daunta, all danger to our salt revenue at Patree and Joonjawarra from the proposed measure would be entirely obviated.

13. As regards the second measure (to impose an excise on ghee) proposed by Colonel Roberts, Mr. Frere writes as follows :—

“ 59. This appears to me to be a perfectly feasible measure, and could be introduced without any difficulty, and with a certainty of producing a considerable revenue. But it would be a step backwards in finance, and is not a measure I would on any account recommend if it can possibly be avoided.

“ 60. I should prefer, if it were absolutely necessary, a grazing tax, which might be made a profitable source of revenue, without interfering much with either trade or agriculture ; but even this I would rather avoid if a sufficient revenue can be raised from salt.”

14. Government entirely concur with Mr. Frere in these opinions, and direct that nothing further be done towards imposing a tax on the pastoral products of the district, until the amount likely to be realised from salt has been clearly ascertained.

#### SETTLEMENT AND IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF THE LAND REVENUE.

15. The measures which have been adopted for effecting these objects, Mr. Frere states, will form the subject of a separate report, which has been received by Government, and will be separately disposed of.

#### REPAIRS TO TANKS.

16. Mr. Frere considers that much may be done indirectly to improve the revenue of the Parkur district by repairing the numerous ancient tanks, which, he observes, though rarely affording the means of irrigation, are always of the utmost importance in supplying the people and their cattle with drinking water.

17. After referring to a former correspondence, in which Government declined to sanction a proposal for the repair of thirty-four tanks in the Thurr and Parkur, in consequence of no

proper plans and estimates for the work having been furnished, or the means for properly superintending it shown, Mr. Frere remarks :—

“ It is quite hopeless to expect anything to be done, if we wait for regular plans and estimates. The works are of the simplest description, and of a nature which the people of the country thoroughly understand, and can construct without assistance.”

He therefore recommends that a sum of Rs. 5,000 per annum be placed at the disposal of the Deputy Collector, to be devoted to the repairs of tanks, till the whole are completed.

18. As the land revenue of the Thurr has just been raised to Rs. 16,428-11-3, which is Rs. 5,901 more than has ever yet been realised from this district, his Lordship in Council is pleased to sanction an expenditure of Rs. 5,000 a year, for the next three years, for the repair of these tanks.

See para. 12 of your letter No. 1370, dated the 3rd June 1856, disposed of by Government Resolution No. 3324, dated the 30th August 1856.

#### GRANTS OF LAND IN COMPENSATION FOR SHARES IN TOWN AND TRANSIT DUTIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED.

19. These grants, Mr. Frere states, are trifling in amount, and are all that remain to the Chiefs, who, formerly in a position of semi-barbarous independence, extracted in one shape or another from their neighbours, as well as their dependents, a much larger income.

20. “ The power of these Chiefs,” Mr. Frere adds, “ for mischief may be small, but they have still much local influence ; and it is, I am of opinion, sound policy to keep them contented.”

21. Before coming to a decision on this subject, His Lordship in Council has desired me to request that you will have the goodness to furnish information as to the amount of these grants.

#### MONEY ALLOWANCES.

22. His Lordship in Council agrees with Mr. Frere in opinion that money allowances, which are not specially guaranteed, may be left to be disposed of, from time to time, as incumbents die, and their continuance or stoppage may depend on the circumstances of the time.

#### REDUCTION IN THE PAY OF KHOSA HORSE AND SODA KILLADARS.

23. On this subject Mr. Frere writes as follows :—

“ 70. Lieutenant Raikes anticipates that some reduction of expen-

diture may be hereafter effected in the pay of Khosa Horse and Soda Killadars, till they are reduced to what is necessary for local police purposes.

“ 71. I do not think it advisable to hurry such reductions ; but would draw the special attention of the Deputy Collector to the subject, and leave it to him to make, from time to time, such further reductions as he thinks can be prudently effected.

“ 72. Those now suggested by him in the annexed memorandum (No. 328, of the 13th December), in which I entirely concur, amount to Rs. 679 per mensem, or 8,148 per annum.”

24. This reduction should be at once effected.

25. Government observe with satisfaction that Mr. Frere thinks that if the land revenue be improved, as he hopes it will be under the settlement now in progress, and even less than he expects be derived from the salt lake of Mookyee, the average receipts may be expected fully to equal the current expenditure.

REMUNERATION TO THE ASSISTANT POLITICAL AGENT, KUTCH, FOR  
PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES AS DEPUTY COLLECTOR OF THURR AND  
PARKUR.

26. It appears that Lieutenant Raikes, Assistant Political Agent, Kutch, who was the brother-in-law of Colonel Roberts, late Political Agent, aided that officer in all his duties connected with the Thurr ; that he ultimately took charge of all the current duties ; and that, since Colonel Roberts' departure his successor has declined any responsibility for the Thurr duties, which, under the title of Deputy Collector and Magistrate, Lieutenant Raikes has continued to discharge as an office entirely distinct from any appertaining to the Agency.

27. Mr. Frere has been unable to find any official document authorising the system which has been followed, except a letter from the Governor of Sind, dated in June 1844, allowing Colonel Roberts to undertake the charge, and appointing his Assistant a Deputy Collector.

28. “ I have above described,” observes Mr. Frere, “ how the charge of the district passed almost imperceptibly from Colonel Roberts into the hands of the Assistant Political Agent, who, as Deputy Collector of Thurr (a designation intended for the Deputy Collector who was to have been stationed at Wanga Bazar, in the

Hyderabad district), has for the last eight years conducted the entire duty, without receiving any remuneration for it. This was reasonable only so long as the arrangement was intended to be temporary ; but the duty is a permanent and important one, and the man who discharges it should be properly paid for it."

29. Mr. Frere recommends an allowance of Rs. 400 per mensem, in addition to any other pay and emoluments which may be drawn by the officer selected for the duty as " Political Superintendent of the Thurr and Parkur," and deprecates the duty being attached to the appointment of Assistant Political Agent or to any other office.

30. The present Political Agent in Kutch (Lieutenant Colonel G. L. Jacob) to whom a copy of Mr. Frere's report has been shown by Lieutenant Raikes, offers, in a letter to Government No. 96A, dated the 28th June 1856, certain observations and suggestions regarding the management of the Thurr and Parkur districts. He is of opinion that a Political Superintendent should be appointed not for the southern half alone, but for the whole of the Western Desert, and he considers it expedient that such officer should be subordinate to the Political Agent, Kutch.

31. His Lordship in Council observes that you have been furnished by the Political Agent, Kutch, with a copy of the letter above mentioned, and that you dissent from the proposal that the Thurr and Parkur districts should be placed under Kutch. You are of opinion that, as recommended by Mr. Frere, the districts should remain attached to Sind, and be entrusted to the management of an officer to be directly subordinate to the Commissioner, and having no other charge ; and you suggest that the designation of this officer be " Political Superintendent of the Thurr and Parkur Districts," and that a salary be assigned him of Rs. 800 per mensem, with a travelling allowance of Rs. 10 per diem.

32. After referring to the proposal made by Mr. Frere to assign to Captain Raikes a staff salary of Rs. 400 per mensem, in addition to all other emoluments which he might be enjoying in any other capacity, you add,—

" 12. This arrangement was proposed by Mr. Frere under the impression that the office of the Assistant Political Agent in Kutch was almost a sinecure, and that, therefore, the additional duty might be performed by that officer without inconvenience.

" 13. But, under whatever considerations and for whatever

reasons it may have been made, it is quite evident to me that the present arrangement could not, under any circumstances, be continued without the greatest confusion and injury to the public service, and I trust I may be excused in requesting the early attention of your Lordship in Council to a settlement of this important charge."

33. His Lordship in Council cannot accede to the recommendation of making a new office of Political Superintendent for the Thurr and Parkur : he is of opinion that the officer in charge of these districts should be made a First Class Deputy Collector, and that his salary should, in some degree, be in proportion with the revenue to be derived.

34. Government can see no reason why the officer who manages the Omerkote districts should not manage the southern portion also. If these districts are superintended by a European officer, a very small addition would suffice to pay him for the southern districts. Lieutenant Raikes, as Assistant Political Agent in Kutch, draws a consolidated salary of Rs. 700 per mensem, and receives Rs. 300 a month district travelling allowance. His Lordship in Council does not think, therefore, considering Lieutenant Raikes' standing in the service, that he has been much under-paid, even when taking the Thurr in addition to his Kutch duties. The district travelling allowance is to be reduced, on a vacancy, to Rs. 150, and Government resolve that the pay also be reduced to Rs. 400 a month ; for though there is, at times, much to be done by the officer holding the appointment of Assistant Political Agent in Kutch, there appears no reason why he should be paid more highly than the Third Assistant in Kattywar, whose duties are far more onerous. The eventual saving from the salary of the Assistant Political Agent in Kutch should be sufficient, with the Omerkote pay, to make up the salary of the Deputy Collector who may be placed in charge of the Thurr and Parkur districts.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF A BUNGALOW IN THE THURR AND PARKUR.

35. On this subject Mr. Frere makes the following remarks :—

" I had occasion to witness the discomfort and possible risk which might attend a residence in the Thurr and Parkur, even in the cold weather, owing to the want of any kind of shelter. A small bungalow would obviate this, and sometimes enable the officer in charge to remain in the districts several weeks longer than would

be otherwise prudent. It would also be a great comfort and convenience to occasional travellers between Sind or Kutch, and Deesa or Nusserabad, Neemuch, &c.”

36. Mr. Frere recommends the grant, for the above purpose, of Rs. 3,000, and adds—“ The locality might be left to be chosen by the Deputy Collector. As every particle of timber and all the artificers will have to be sent from Mandvee, a smaller sum will not suffice.”

37. Mr. Frere’s recommendation is sanctioned by His Lordship in Council.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. YOUNG,

Offg. Chief Secretary to Government.

*Bombay Castle, 20th September 1856.*

