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CENTRAL PROVINCES
SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS REPORT
1865-66 TO 1867-68

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FROM

THE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

Central Provinces,

To

THE SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER,

Central Provinces.

Dated Nagpore, the 22nd June 1866.

Settlement.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the Receipt of your report upon the progress of Settlement operations in the Central Provinces during the year 1865-66.

2. In communicating the review on your Report, I am to follow the same order as that observed by you, and to record the Chief Commissioner's remarks upon the progress of the Settlement in each district.

JUBBULPORE.

3. The Settlement of this district is now complete, with the exception of the unfinished stages in the newly added sub-division of Bijiragoghur. The Chief Commissioner concurs in your view that the demarcation of excess wastes, now successfully carried through, was a just and necessary measure. Your estimate of the value of Mr. C. Grant's supervision of the final operations of this Settlement, is fully endorsed by the Chief Commissioner. The services of Deputy Collector Sook Lall should be retained in the Jubbulpore District for the next year at least. Your anticipation that the Settlement of the Bijiragoghur sub-division will be brought to a close before the end of 1867 is noted. I am also to express Mr. Temple's belief that a fair increase of assessment in this tract may be expected; and this expectation will, it is hoped, be kept in mind by yourself and the Settlement Officer.

DUMOH.

4. The Chief Commissioner learns with satisfaction that this Settlement is now quite complete. He will try to arrange that Deputy Collector Oulad Hussein shall remain in the Dumoh District, for a time at any rate. The final report of this Settlement will be awaited with interest; and I am to express Mr. Temple's wish that you will, if possible, arrange that the Dumoh Settlement Report should be submitted by Mr. Russell, who was in charge of the Settlement while all the more important operations were in progress.

SAUGOR.

5. This Settlement, too, is quite complete, and the Chief Commissioner will hope soon to receive the final Report which Lieut.-Colonel Maclean is preparing. If possible, the retention of Deputy Collector Ahfad Hussein in the Saugor District will be arranged for.

NURSINGPORE.

6. This Settlement also is now complete. With reference to the Settlement Officer Mr. Russell's decisions on the conflicting claims of Talookdars (superior landholders) and Thekadars (inferior landholders or leaseholders), I am to observe that Mr Temple, before whom many of these cases have come in appeal, concurs in your opinion that the orders on this important subject have been satisfactorily carried out.

HOSHUNGABAD.

7. This Settlement was nearly finished a year ago. The recent orders regarding the record of tenant-rights have now been carried

8. The errors which had come to light in the record-of-rights in this Settlement have now been fully corrected. The offending Superintendent, to whose carelessness the occurrence of these errors was mainly due, has, I am to observe, been removed from his appointment. The Chief Commissioner is glad that the demarcation of excess wastes in this district has received full attention during the past year. The Baitool Settlement is now quite completed.

BAITOOL.

9. The amount of land revenue which came under revision during the year—Rs. 24,000 assessed on 362 villages,—was comparatively small, and the number of villages inspected,—122,—is insignificant. The Chief Commissioner hopes that these two stages of the work may be pressed on vigorously to completion. Mr. Ramsay's remarks, quoted by yourself, upon the necessity for patience and circumspection in the stage of Settlement, known as "adjustment of rents," are interesting. Mr. Temple's opinion is that this part of the work should *commence* without delay, so as to bring things to an issue; but it should be completed leisurely, so as to give people time to understand how the operation bears upon all classes connected with the land.

CHINDWARA.

10. I am to express the Chief Commissioner's disapprobation and disappointment at the general want of progress in the Seonee Settlement. But he is glad to learn from your report that in some parts of the work Captain Thomson has done well. The completeness with which arrangements for demarcating excess wastes and asserting the Government right over them have been effected, is really satisfactory. Hitherto, the privilege of squatting about all over waste lands, and of changing their fields yearly, has rendered the Gonds and Hill people migratory and inert. If they shall now learn to take land near villages and to settle down on the same, the moral effect will be excellent.

SEONEE.

11. With reference to your remarks upon the Raegurh-Bichia tract, I am to observe that a complete measure for the administration of that part of the country has been fully considered, though it has not been possible yet to announce the decision. Captain Thomson, in an extract from his report which you quote, remarks upon the desirability of allowing settlers and immigrants to take the wastes of Raegurh on clearance leases. The delay, which occurred in sanctioning such an arrangement, arose from the necessity for taking up "clearance leases" as a general question. This has now been done, and the question has been settled. Action can now be taken as Captain Thomson desires.

12. After reading what Captain Thomson and yourself have written regarding the administrative measures inaugurated in these wild tracts of Seonee, Mr. Temple would say that, after having himself examined fully these tracts,—to wit, Paruswarra, Bhimlat, and Raegurh-Bichia,—he considers Captain Thomson and Deputy Collector Abdool Ruheem to deserve honourable mention for their exertions in reclaiming these backward and neglected localities. Mr. Temple believes that these Officers have laid the foundations of permanent future good.

13. The Chief Commissioner regrets to hear that Abdool Ruheem has not yet acquired a complete mastery of the details of Settlement work; but he believes the Deputy Collector will, now that he appreciates his own shortcomings, learn Settlement business thoroughly. Having seen what the Deputy Collector did in those waste tracts amid manifold difficulties, and with scanty means, Mr. Temple has formed a high opinion of Abdool Ruheem's capacity. But it is feared that he will not be really of much use till his health is restored.

14. Your remarks upon the unsatisfactory out-turn of work in this Settlement during the year 1865-66 are most just. After having recently visited the Mundla District, Mr. Temple apprehends that the Settlement was commenced without adequate method or intelligence. For this, Major Waddington was mainly answerable. The Chief Commissioner will now expect to see improvement under Captain Thomson. That Officer's experience in Seonee, where there are tracts closely resembling, in all the more important features, the hilly country of Mundla, makes him fitted to prosecute this

MUNDLA.

Settlement successfully. His proposals (quoted at your 69th para.) regarding the arrangements for apportioning waste lands and demarcating excess wastes are quite approved by the Chief Commissioner.

NAGPORE.

15. This is the second year for which the report on the Nagpore Settlement has been unsatisfactory. In January last, Mr. Temple was reluctantly obliged to threaten to place this Settlement in other hands; but it was hoped that Mr. Ross would so improve as to spare the Chief Commissioner the necessity of doing anything of the kind. But now the non-submission of the annual report has caused a revival of the apprehension on this subject. Mr. Temple cannot but regard the non-submission of the annual report, after so many warnings, as a serious failure. He desires that you will be good enough to send extract copy of this paragraph to Mr. Ross, with a request that special explanation may be immediately furnished.

WURDAH.

16. The Chief Commissioner notes your opinion regarding the delay which has taken place in the completion of the Wurdah Settlement; and he has perused the Settlement Officer's explanation which you quote. The explanation is, I am to observe, regarded by Mr. Temple as partially satisfactory. He is, however, glad to learn that the quality of the work done during the year is good, and that the record of subordinate rights and liabilities in this Settlement is full and complete.

17. The Chief Commissioner is glad to learn that Mr. Carnac has made good progress towards mastering the details of Settlement work; but he trusts that even more improvement is yet attainable. Respecting the behaviour of Superintendent Shunkur Lall, the Chief Commissioner has called for a separate report.

CHANDA.

18. The Chief Commissioner learns with approval that the progress made with this Settlement has been satisfactory. On his recent visit to the Chanda District, Mr. Temple saw Lieut. Brooke, Assistant Settlement Officer, in the middle of his work on the spot, and considers him a very promising Officer.

BHUNDARA.

19. Your report regarding the year's out-turn of work, and the probable completion of the Settlement in Bhundara, is considered very satisfactory. With respect to your remarks regarding the litigation between inferior and superior landholders in the Bhundara Zemindarees (Chieftainships), I am to observe that Mr. Temple, having had all these people to meet him at Kampta, feels generally satisfied at the result of the investigations into this class of rights.

RAEPORE.

20. Your remarks on this Settlement are full. The Chief Commissioner will only say that he regards the fiscal result of the revised assessments in Raepore—to wit, an increase of 39 per cent. on the former demand—as fairly satisfactory. He is quite sure that the revised rates of assessment, averaging 5½ annas per acre of cultivated land, are not too high. Efforts have, Mr. Temple understands, been made to wean cultivators from the migratory habits to which you advert.

21. The Chief Commissioner is glad to hear a good account of Mr. Sinclair, Assistant Settlement Officer, as it is believed that this Officer has stood, and still stands in need of improvement.

BELASPORE.

22. The Chief Commissioner has recently been of opinion that the Settlement Officer of this district required further assistance. Your remarks at paragraph 122 confirm this view; and it is now proposed to send another Assistant or Deputy Collector to help Mr. Chisholm.

23. The work seems to have gone on well during the year, and the Chief Commissioner concurs with you in regarding the revised assessments, amounting to 31 per cent. above the former demand, to be still very moderate. The average rate of the revised assessments seems to be 4¾ annas per acre of cultivated land. Mr. Temple would suggest that the ratio of increase to the land revenue in Belaspore ought to be the same as that attained by Mr. Hewitt in Raepore.

24. Mr. Chisholm's remarks, quoted by yourself, regarding the unreadiness exhibited, or difficulty found by landholders in raising their rents to such fair

rates as the rise in the price of produce entitles them to expect, are interesting. Mr. Chisholm states that for some period before the revision of Settlement began rents were stereotyped. It is, I am to observe, undoubtedly correct that this mischievous stereotyping process did set in soon after the annexation of the Nagpore State, during the summary Settlement. But for some time past, it has been steadily modified and relaxed. On the one hand, of course, the landholders will not rack-rent their tenants, and indeed there is no fear of their being able to do so. On the other hand, a reasonable rise in rent is to be expected. Recently, when addressing a large assembly of different classes connected with the land at Kampta in the Bhundara District, Mr. Temple explained to the people the bearings of this question, of the probable rise of rent, to the following effect:—"All classes of landholders, whether Chief or Zemindar, or Sub-proprietor, must duly respect the occupancy rights which had been recorded in favor of the old cultivators. It was hardly necessary to remind them that, even with the tenants-at-will, over whom their power was absolute, leniency would be wise in a district where land was so abundant, and where any tenant who might be hardly used could so easily quit and find another master. As regards rent, they might recollect that, even with occupancy cultivators, it *can* be enhanced within fair limits. Under the summary Settlement something like a fixity of rent had temporarily been allowed; at all events, rent had seldom, or never, been raised. All this would, however, cease with the regular Settlement. As the price of produce, as the profits of the producer, as the value of land shall rise, rent, which is after all a variable thing, may be raised too. In this respect, the difference between an occupancy cultivator and a tenant-at-will, would be this—that with the former the enhancement of rent would, if disputed, have to be decided by a Court of Justice; while with the latter, it would virtually depend on the pleasure of the landlord."

25. The demarcation of waste lands has been, you report, well done in the Belaspore District. Mr. Temple, I am to observe, recently marched through the tracts in question, and saw reason to approve the operations which have been conducted.

SUMBULPORE.

26. The Settlement business of this district has been confined to the investigation into, and award of, proprietary rights, and the demarcation of boundaries. These two stages of the work are now brought, one quite, and the other almost to a close. Under the circumstances of the district it was not desired to do more than this

UPPER GODAVERY DISTRICT.

27. The Chief Commissioner would be glad to see this Settlement brought rapidly to a close; and he thinks Captain Glasford should be told that a greater result is expected from the current year's operations than his programme of work given at your 188th paragraph would seem to promise. If a Deputy Collector be required to assist the Settlement Officer in pressing forward this Settlement, the Chief Commissioner will arrange for sending one.

28. The demarcation of excess wastes seems rightly to have gained the Settlement Officer's early attention, and the completion of the business in this district is regarded as satisfactory. The Chief Commissioner agrees with you, that it is not at present necessary to mark off these wastes into blocks.

NIMAR.

29. The thread of Settlement operations in this district, which was broken in 1860, was only taken up at the end of the year. The Chief Commissioner relies on your taking care that good progress is made during the current year.

30. Having now reviewed briefly each of the Settlements in progress, the Chief Commissioner will proceed to notice some of your general remarks upon the several stages of the work.

31. *Demarcation of Boundaries.*—This business, now almost completed, has been well done. Mr. Temple having recently seen a large number of boundary marks in various parts of the country, considers that they are of a permanent character.

32. *Professional Survey Returns.*—The Chief Commissioner regrets that you

are unable to give a statement of the work done by the several Revenue Surveyors during the year. He begs that you will obtain from each of these Officers a special report as to the cause of the non-submission of their reports.

33. *Revision of Assessment.*—The incidence of the land tax in these Provinces, and its lightness relatively to other parts of India, has, as you observe, formed the subject of much correspondence. In a recent despatch to the Supreme Government, the Chief Commissioner summarized the reasons which would keep back the land revenue, as follows :—

"1*stly*.—The yield of produce per acre is much less, perhaps not much more than one-half of what it is in Northern India, as could be seen from the produce tables prepared in the different Settlements. It is patent to observation, that the crops of all kinds are not nearly so fine. Hereafter it is hoped that full statistics on this point may be collated.

"2*ndly*.—The people are not nearly so industrious, and do not use artificial means—such as manuring and irrigation—nearly so much. It could be proved that the average number of acres to each husbandman is greater; which, under the circumstances, goes to show that a man occupies more ground, but does not work it so well; consequently, the yield per acre is less. There is very little irrigation indeed, and scarcely any manuring.

"3*rdly*.—The average rent-rates are much lower, mainly by reason of the scantiness of the population, in proportion to the land to be cultivated; consequently, there is a competition among landlords for tenants, rather than among tenants for land. On the other hand, the tenants do not, in the absence of full incentive, exert themselves as much as they might; and being often in remote localities, confine themselves merely to producing their own food. If the revenue rates are low as compared with Northern India, it could be shown that the rent-rates are equally low.

"4*thly*.—Instead of the strong Bhyacharah communities of Northern India, or the Ryot in direct relation with Government as in Western or Southern India, there are almost universally petty landlords owning one or more villages, who cultivate some land themselves, and lease out the rest to tenants. In lands where out of the gross assets one share must go to the tenant and another to the landlord, it is not possible to realize so good a revenue as in lands where peasant proprietors have both the cultivator's and land landlord's share.

"5*thly*.—It has been shown by local experience that villages, or tracts assessed at rates from 20 to 30 per cent. above those now prevailing, have within recent times broken down. This consideration narrows the margin of possible enhancement."

34. Still, though Mr. Temple does not say that the assessments are at all too low, and though he is happy to admit the great and general satisfaction which the Settlement has given to the people, still he considers the assessments to be *fully moderate*, and hopes that Settlement Officers will bear the just interests of the State in constant remembrance.

35. Your observations on the general rise in prices and on their value, as an index of the general advancement and prosperity of all classes connected with the land, are just. It is certainly remarkable that, on a comparison of the prices of common agricultural products in the year 1856 with the prices now ruling, we find that in no district are the prices of 1866 less than 250 per cent. above the prices of 1856. In some districts prices have during these ten years advanced 900 per cent.

36. *Record of Subordinate Rights.*—The Chief Commissioner quite agrees with you, that the time, care, and expense devoted during the year 1865-66 to the revision and completion of the record of rights, has been well spent. The recent orders regarding the several phases of subordinate and superior rights have been carried out. And Mr. Temple believes that the successful completion of this work has done much to place tenant-right on a basis, which ensures a full consideration of the claims of all cultivators, without encroaching on the just interests of those who have now been declared proprietors.

37. Your paragraphs 162, 163, and 168 advert to the business done during

the year in investigating, deciding, and recording rights of different kinds. They show that really an enormous amount of business has been despatched in this branch of the work. Mr. Temple believes that the quality of the work done is good. A large number of Appeals have been presented to the Chief Commissioner, and he has found the proceedings of the Settlement Courts to be generally very good. The fact of so much persistent appealing shows the immense value which the people are learning to attach to the landed rights now accorded.

38. *Demarcation of excess Waste.*—The Chief Commissioner is glad to admit that during the year under review there has been a marked advance in this operation, which is sure to be of great importance to the future of these Provinces.

39. *Title Deeds of Proprietary Rights.*—The question of giving to every superior proprietor a Deed of Grant expressive of the rights which have been bestowed upon him, is under consideration, and will, Mr. Temple hopes, soon be decided.

40. *Refund of difference between old and new Jummas.*—These refunds, which were promised to the over-assessed landholders of the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories in the year 1854, have now been made. Mr. Temple has recently visited these districts, and he is fully satisfied with the way in which the orders on this subject have been carried out.

41. *Term of Settlement.*—This question has now been set at rest. The term of Settlement is 30 years for the older and more cultivated districts; it is 20 years for the less cultivated and less advanced districts of Chutteesgurh, Mundla, the Upper Godavery, and Nimar.

42. In conclusion, I am to express to you the Chief Commissioner's thanks for the punctual submission of this full and complete report now under review. I am also to request that the Chief Commissioner's cordial acknowledgments to all the Officers, European and Native, who are commended by you. Mr. Temple believes that the work has advanced with force and energy; while, on the other hand, all the important questions have been entered into, and frequent and patient revision has ensured the elimination and rectification of error.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

C. BERNARD,

Secy. to the Chief Commissioner,

Central Provinces.

No. 2107 OF 1866.

FROM

THE SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER,

Central Provinces,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

Central Provinces.

Dated Jubbulpore, the 31st May 1866.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor herewith to submit the prescribed Annual Report and Settlement Business Statements for the past year, 1865-66.

Introduction.

2. For facility of reference this Report will be drawn up on the plan adopted by me on former occasions, the various Districts and Settlements being, as far as possible, mentioned in the same order.

I.—JUBBULPORE.

Progress and completion of Settlement operations during the year.

3. At the close of last year the field work and attestation had been finished, leaving only the fairing of the papers, and preparation and delivery of the records to be done, to ensure the completion of the Settlement, which it was expected would be accomplished by the end of February last.

Ibid.

4. This expectation has been in a great measure verified—all the remaining Misls, upwards of 800, having been faired, and nearly 1,300 Misls and Bustahs delivered over to the District Office. More than 600 Maafee enquiries have also been reported, and 306 Appeals disposed of, which, together with the large amount of Miscellaneous work got through, makes a very fair out-turn of work during the year.

Cost.

5. The amou[illegible] of cost during the year is Rs. 37,581, which is not very high, considering that it includes the full pay of a Settlement Officer at Rupees 1,200 a month. The out-turn of work is, I think, very fairly commensurate with the cost; and I am glad to be able to report this important Settlement as finished, for it now only remains for the Settlement Officer, Major Nembhard, to furnish his final report, to enable me to report the Settlement for the sanction of the Chief Commissioner.

Nature of work performed during the year.

6. The business got through during the year having been of an ordinary character, and such as generally devolves on a Settlement Establishment at the close of Settlement operations, it does not appear to me necessary to particularize it, with the exception of the arrangements for the exclusion of waste lands, which in accordance with instructions issued by me were taken up *de novo* by the Settlement Officer, and placed on a much more satisfactory footing. Having, however, only quite lately, in my No. 1079, dated 10th ultimo, to your address, reported these proceedings for the information and sanction of the Chief Commissioner, I will not now dwell longer on them, than to state that the result of the revision of Major Nembhard's original arrangements has been a gain to Government of nearly 100,000 acres of waste land.

Exclusion and demarcation of excess waste lands.

Notice of Officers.

7. Mr. Grant has held charge of this Settlement for the entire year, or rather I should say up to the time of his departure on furlough. Although much of his time was taken up with district work, still he by no means neglected his Settlement duties; and I have had every reason to be well satisfied with the manner in which he has supervised the operations of his subordinates.

Ibid.

8. Deputy Collector Rae Sookh Lall has also done very well. The bulk of the work devolved on him, and he has spared no pains to have the papers carefully and correctly prepared. He is entitled to much credit, and I shall be very glad if his services can be retained in the Jubbulpore District for the next two or three years, to aid in securing the future successful working of the Settlement.

9. Before leaving the Jubbulpore District, I must not omit to notice the Bijiragoghur Settlement, which was commenced on in August last, shortly after the transfer of the Pergunnah, and in which very fair progress has been made.

Bijiragoghur Settlement, when commenced upon.

10. The demarcation of boundaries in this Pergunnah had been completed previously, but during the year under review some 116 villages have been measured and purtalled, totals compiled, and statistics classified in an equal number, and 186 proprietary right cases decided. Some little progress has also been made with the exclusion of excess wastes, but the bulk of this work, together with all the assessments, &c., still remain to be done.

What had been previouly done, and what progress made during the year.

11. Mohomed Nuzeer is the Superintendent at present in charge of this Settlement; he is under the orders of the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore, whose supervision is, however, little more than nominal, all references of difficulty being forwarded to me for disposal. The work will, however, be pushed on on Major Nembhard's return to the district; and as all the inspections and assessments ought to be completed during next cold season, I hope to see this Settlement entirely finished by the end of next hot weather—August or September 1867.

Notice of service of Superintendent in charge.

II.—DUMOH.

12. As in Jubbulpore, so in Dumoh, the only heavy work remaining to be done at the close of last year was the preparation of the record, and completion and delivery of all the Misls and Bustahs. This has been entirely completed during the year, and much miscellaneous work got through, which will be found detailed in full in the Settlement Business Statement; and of which, one of the most important items is that of 2,075 Maafee enquiries reported. It now only remains for Mr. Russell to submit the final Report, when the sanction of the Chief Commissioner will be solicited for the Settlement.

Progress and completion of Settlement operations during the year.

13. The financial result of the revision of assessement was given in my last year's Report. To the amount of the Government demand as then stated, Rupees 2,713 have been added during the present year, on account of assessed waste land and resumed Maafee.

Financial result of revision of assessment.

14. The waste land arrangements were reported as completed last year. The Settlement Officer states that the excess wastes now amount to 4,69,549 acres, comprising 324 blocks; that the whole of this land has been demarcated by boundary pillars, which he describes as "large stones about four feet in circumference and height, surmounted with a white-washed earthern vessel filled with wet earth;" and that the waste land boundaries have been clearly marked out in red ink on the village "Shujrehs."

Exclusion and demarcation of excess waste lands.

15. The result of testing the measurements by comparison with the Professional Survey areas has proved satisfactory, the average difference not being more than 1 per cent. The Settlement Officer also reports favorably regarding the measures taken for carrying out the orders regarding Kotwars and Putwarees.

Accuracy of Khusrah Survey.

16. On the whole, the out-turn of work during the year under review is satisfactory, and very fairly commensurate with the cost, which has amounted to Rupees 28,185, or Rupees 6,815 less than that of the preceding year. It is also satisfactory to note that the operations of this Settlement have now been brought to a final close, and Government will thus be relieved of all further expenditure on this account.

Adequacy of amount of work got through compared to cost.

17. Mr. Russell held charge of this Settlement up to 7th June last, when he was relieved by the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Mr. H. Read, who, although wisely leaving the bulk of the work and all details in the hands of the Deputy Collector, has still by no means neglected to exercise a careful supervision, and has given me satisfaction by the manner in which he has carried out my instructions and orders.

Notice of Officers.

18. The Deputy Collector, Oulad Hussain, has been at his post during the whole year. He has done excellently, and is, as I reported last year, "a very deserving Officer;" he is entitled to all the credit for having got the Settlement finished during the year. The Officiating Settlement Officer reports very favorably of him as follows:—

Ibid.

"Para. 30. Syud Oulad Hussein, Deputy Collector, has earned the reiterated com-
"mendations of every Officer that he has served under. He is a Native Gentleman of the
"first class, and I cannot speak too favorably of him. He has been connected with the Settle-
"ment of this district from its commencement, and closes it, respected and looked up to by
"people of all classes."

"Para. 31. I regret to report that his health has failed under his recent hard work,
"but he declined to proceed on medical leave, notwithstanding the advice of the Medical Officer,
"until he had the satisfaction of seeing the last Settlement Misls delivered into the District
"Office. I trust on his recovery he will be permanently appointed to this district, where
"his local knowledge will render him an invaluable colleague to the District Officer in
"successfully carrying out the requirements of the new Settlement, and re-adjusting any
"difficulties that may arise in its working. I concur with Mr. Read, in trusting that Oulad
"Hussein will be permanently posted to this district, where his great local knowledge and
"Settlement experience will be invaluable to the Deputy Commissioner.

III.—SAUGOR.

Progess and completion of Settlement operations during the year.

19. At the close of last year, only the final stages of Settlement business, *viz.*, fairing of Misls, preparation of Records, completion and delivery of papers and Bustahs to District Office, &c., remained to be done. These have now all been completed, with the exception of 1,310 Misls, which still remain to be made over to the District Office; but they will not give any trouble, as the Settlement Officer, being also Deputy Commissioner, will easily be able to arrange for their delivery without any extra expense being incurred.

General out-turn of work got through during the year.

Cost.

20. Under the heads of ordinary work, the number of Maafee enquiries reported and Appeals decided is satisfactory. A good deal has also been done under the head of "Miscellaneous"; and considering the large number of villages comprised in the district, and the amount of business that remained to be done at the close of last year, I am of opinion that the out-turn of work during the year is satisfactory, and commensurate with the cost, which amounts to Rupees 31,813, or Rupees 3,574 less than that for 1864-65.

Breaking up of Settlement Establishment.

21. The Settlement may now be considered as completed; the whole of the Establishment, with the exception of the Deputy Collector and his fixed Establishment, having been discharged from the 1st instant. The Settlement Officer also reports that the final Settlement Report is under preparation, and will be submitted very shortly.

Exclusion and demarcation of excess waste lands.

22. The exclusion of excess wastes, and the erection of permanent boundary marks on the same, have been completed during the year. The total area, now excluded as excess waste, and available for disposal to grantees, now amounts to 4,80,084 acres, or 750 square miles, divided into 302 separate Chuks or blocks; whilst, as regards the erection of boundary marks, the following extract from the Settlement Officer's report will show that this important duty has not been lost sight of:—

"Para. 12. To each Tehseelee Division, according to the extent of work to be done,
"Ameens were sent to mark off, on the ground, the lines dividing villages from waste land;
"they erected 'Kutcha' pillars of stone, three feet high, and about two feet in diameter,
"which I found stand very well, and on them I ordered a common 'Ghurra' to be placed,
"which had first been filled with moist earth, and painted white; by this plan, the lines of
"pillars are distinctly marked, and from a height are clearly visible for a great distance. The
"Ghurras, when the earth hardens inside, which it does very quickly, become durable and
"hard."

Notice of Officers.

23. Lieut-Colonel Maclean has held charge of this Settlement during the entire year. Early in the year he lost the services of his Assistant, Mr. H. Read, but notwithstanding this, he has completed the Settlement during the year, for which he is entitled to much credit.

Ibid.

24. Ahfad Hussein, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, is favorably mentioned by Colonel Maclean, as having "rendered very effectual aid;" also as having "worked hard and well, and proved himself a very useful and zealous Officer." I would recommend that he (Ahfad Hussein) be retained at Saugor for a couple of years, at least, to aid the Deputy Commissioner in working the Settlement properly.

IV.—NURSINGPORE.

Progress and completion of Settlement operations during the year.

25. At the close of last year some work remained to be done under the heading of "Adjustment of rents," as well as the greater portion of the fairing of the papers, preparation of the record, and delivery of the Misls and Bustahs to the District Office. All this has now been completed, and the Settlement may now be fairly said to be finished, the final Report having been written by Mr. Grant before his departure to England. The out-turn of work during the year under review is satisfactory. Much miscellaneous business, including 182 cases under Act X, and 42 cases of "Butwara" having been got through, and a large number of Appeals decided.

Accuracy of records how brought about.

26. Mr. Russell, who has held charge of this Settlement during the entire year, has submitted a full report on the operations of the Settlement for that period, from which it appears that much of the work formerly reported as completed, has had to be done over again. I do not, however, think this is to be regretted, if a really correct record has thus been secured, which I have every reason to believe is now the case.

Cost.

27. The total cost during the year amounts to Rupees 29,031, being Rupees 1,282 less than what was expended during the previous year, and Rupees 4,307 below the Budget allotment. This is satisfactory, as also is the fact of the out-turn of work being commensurate with the cost, which it certainly is in my opinion.

Exclusion and demarcation of excess wastes.

28. The exclusion of excess wastes and the demarcation of waste lands has been entirely completed. The total amount of reserved waste in the Nursingpore District amounts to 1,26,276 acres. The Settlement Officer reports favorably regarding the permanency of the boundaries erected, and is of opinion that no difficulty will arise hereafter regarding this.

Revision of Talooquadaree cases.

29. Considering the large number of estates held by Talookdars in this district, the attention of the Officiating Settlement Officer has been very properly much directed towards the decision of "Thekadaree" cases, and he would appear to have spared no pains to decide them in accordance with the principles and instructions laid down by the Chief Commissioner in his Memo. on "Theka" tenures, dated 16th December 1864.

With what result.

The result is, that out of 213 Talookdaree villages, sub-proprietary rights have been awarded to "Thekadars" in 97, whilst in 62 others the "Thekadars" have been declared entitled to be recorded proprietors of their "Seer" holdings. Judging from the cases which come before me in Appeal,—and the majority have been appealed by either one party or the other,—I am of opinion that the Chief Commissioner's instructions have been carefully and satisfactorily carried out by the Settlement Officer.

Records of Kotwar's perquisites, and Putwarees *status*.

30. Mr. Russell has reported very fully on the manner in which he has carried out the orders regarding the rights and prequisites of Kotwars, and the future position of Putwarees.

General opinion on the character of the work.

31. The general result is satisfactory, and I have every reason to believe that the principles and instructions laid down in the Settlement Code on these two subjects have been well understood, and correctly carried out.

Notice of Officers.

32. Mr. Russell has held charge of this Settlement during the entire year. He has been almost single-handed during that period,—the original Superintendent (Ahmed Hussein), an excellent Officer, having died early in the year (28th May 1865), and the other Superintendent, subsequently posted to the Settlement, having proved far from efficient. Mr. Russell has done very well, and given me great satisfaction in the manner in which he has conducted the duties of this Settlement, as well as those of Hoshungabad and Baitool. He is entitled to much credit for his exertions, and for having brought the operations of this important Settlement to a successful completion.

V.—HOSHUNGABAD.

Progress and completion of Settlement operations during the year.

33. Last year this Settlement was reported as almost entirely finished, with the exception of the preparation of the records, and fairing of the Misls, of which about a third remained to be done. This has now been completed, and the Settlement may be regarded as quite finished,—the final report having been submitted, and the prescribed Statements received.

34. The cost during the year has amounted to Rs. 22,294, or very little more than half that of the preceding year; and even this sum would not have been expended, had it not been found necessary to revise many of the papers consequent on the issue of Circulars G. and GI., regarding tenants with rights-of-occupancy, and also to debit to the Hoshungabad Settlement the cost of revising the Baitool records.

Cost.

35. Hoshungabad, as well as Nursingpore, contains a number of villages held by Talookdars; in all of these a revision of the orders in "Thekadaree" cases, already referred to in para. 29, was found necessary. The final result, as now reported by the Officiating Settlement Officer, is, that out of 294 Talookdaree villages sub-proprietary rights have been awarded in 134, whilst in 39 more the old "Thekadars" have been declared proprietors of their "Seer" holdings.

Revision of Talooquadaree cases.

36. Mr. Russell has held charge of this Settlement, in addition to that of Nursingpore, during the year. In addition to carrying on the ordinary duties, and generally supervising the preparation of the remaining records under the Deputy Collector, he has specially taken in hand the revision of the "Thekadaree" cases, the definition of the status of village Kotwars, and the Settlement of the Timoornee Jageer. I have already reported very favorably of his exertions generally, and have had every reason to be well satisfied with the manner in which he has conducted the duties of this Settlement.

Notice of Officers.

37. The Deputy Collector, Fuzlool Khadir, on whom the bulk of the work has fallen, has also done very well. He is entitled to much credit for having brought the operations of this Settlement to a final and successful completion, and I have much pleasure in bringing his services to the notice of the Chief Commissioner, and in reiterating the good opinion I expressed of him last year.

Ibid.

38. Mr. Russell reports of him as follows:—

Ibid.

"Para. 15. The qualifications of Moonshee Fuzlool Khadir, Deputy Collector, being so "well known to you, hardly require to be referred to in this report; but I cannot conclude "it without mentioning that he has managed his work and Establishment in an able manner "during the past year, and I trust his services will be noticed in the Annual Review of "Settlement operations."

VI.—BAITOOL.

39. In my last year's Report, when stating that this Settlement was virtually completed, I also showed why a revision of the records had been found necessary, and how it was proposed to effect this. I am glad now to be able to report this revision as entirely finished, and beg herewith to annex, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, extracts from the Officiating Settlement Officer's report, giving details of what has been done during the year under review:—

Revision of Records.

"Para. 3. The immediate control of the work of revision of papers was entrusted to "Nanuk Chund, Settlement Superintendent, who was selected by "yourself from the Jubbulpore Settlement, assisted by a small staff "of Moonserims and Mohurrirs; the Superintendent took up his duties in the latter end of "July, and at once organized an Establishment, having taken with him a few Mohurrirs "from Jubbulpore and Nursingpore for the purpose."

How completed.

"Para. 4. The entire work was finished by the middle of March, and cost in all "Rs. 5,322-13-8, as per details in margin,* "which mas met from savings in the Budget "provision of the year for the Hoshungabad "Settlement. The bulk of the work was "clerical; viz., correcting erroneous entries in "different Settlement papers, which had "crept in from the ignorance or negligence "of the former subordinate Officials, and allowed to pass unchecked by the Settlement Su-"perintendent of the time, whose duty it was to have personally seen to all such matters, "instead of entrusting them entirely to irresponsible subordinates."

Pay of Superintendent	Rs.	1,125	0 0
Moonserims and Mohurrirs	„	2,870	9 9
Office servants	„	401	12 11
Contingencies	„	925	7 0
	Rs.	5,322	13 8

"Para. 6. In addition to the revision of papers, the Superintendent carried out the "alteration of cesses, calculated at the enhanced scale now "fixed, in all Settlement Misls, and recorded the status and per-"quisites, &c., of each Kotwar, and made the necessary alterations "regarding time fixed for Revenue instalments by Chief Commissioner's Book Circular XII. "of 1865."

And what were the important omissions supplied.

"Para. 9. Some inaccuracies were found to exist in the papers of villages and "lands declared waste land, the property of Government. These were all corrected as far as "possible by the Superintendent, and those which required to be corrected on the spot "were kindly taken in hand by Mr. Ramsay, who went over for the purpose to Baitool in "February last. The papers of all the waste land, villages, and plots have now been sent to "the District Office. Some of the boundary marks formerly laid down were found to have "disappeared; marks of a more permanent nature are now being laid down by an experienced "Moonserim and the Tehseelee Canongoes."

Notice of Officers.

40. The duty of supervising the revision of the Baitool records devolved on Mr. Russell, in addition to the charge of the Nursingpore and Hoshungabad Settlements. He has done his work well and judiciously; for, whilst all actual errors and discrepancies have been corrected and rectified, the bulk of the Settlement records have not been interfered with, and all good work has been allowed to stand. He is entitled to much credit for the satisfactory manner in which he has preformed this important duty.

Ibid.

41. Mr. Russell reports very favorably of Superintendent Nanuk Chund, the Officer to whom the work of revision was immediately made over, and I have much pleasure in endorsing this good opinion, and in expressing my satisfaction at the manner in which Nanuck Chund got through the work entrusted to him.

VII.—CHINDWARA.

Notice of work previously completed.

42. At the close of last year no one of the progressive stages of the business of this Settlement had been entirely completed, though considerable progress had been made with demarcation of boundaries, measurements, and assessments.

Notice of work completed during the year.

43. During the year under review the work under the two first of the above headings may be said to have been finished, and very fair progress made under the other headings; the inspections and assessments having been well pushed on, and the subsequent stages of the Settlement business not lost sight of; Khuteonees having been attested, and rents adjusted in 346 villages; and some 300 Misls prepared and faired. The Settlement Officer also reports that in order to secure accuracy and a complete record, revision of rents had to be done over again in 259 villages, and a corresponding number of Misls, formerly reported as faired, to be corrected and re-copied.

Cost.

44. The cost during the year amounts to Rs. 41,054, or Rs. 3,700 less than that of the preceding year. With this the out-turn of work may be regarded as fairly commensurate, though probably much more would have been done, had not the Settlement Officer (Mr. Ramsay) been absent during the first six months of the year.

Financial result of revision of assessment.

45. The total original Juma assessed during the year amounts to Rs. 24,663, on which a reduction of about 10 per cent. was granted, bringing the revised assessments down to Rs. 22,276. The Pergunnahs which came under assessment comprised those of Omrait and Khumarpanee, both of which are poor tracts, and in which reduction on the former demand was absolutely necessary to bring them into anything like good order. Assair is the only Pergunnah now unassessed, and the Settlement Officer hopes to be able to bring out that assessment by July next.

Attestation of holdings, and adjustment of rents.

46. Notwithstanding that the Settlement Officer had, as stated in my last year's Report, been alive to the importance of not pushing on the adjustment of rents too rapidly, still it is reported that "re-attestation of holdings shows that the previous attestation was full of errors." This, whilst to be regretted, is not to be wondered at in a district like that of Chindwara, where it is very difficult to get even the Malgoozars to understand and give an intelligent reply to the simplest question connected with their holdings and tenures.

Ibid.

47. On this point the Settlement Officer reports as follows; and I am of opinion that he is right in not urging on his subordinates to too great a show of apparent progress.

"Para. 4. The new orders issued regarding the registration of the status of tenants "have made it necessary to revise the whole of the work previously done, and as this had "already appeared in the returns of the previous year, it of course can find no place in the "present year's Returns. On my return from leave, I saw the necessity of greater exertion "being made in this branch, and I accordingly started a second Khewut Establishment in "December, so as to be able to carry on concurrently the revision of former work and pro- "gress anew. I stated in my last year's report that I thought it better for the record-of- "right to proceed slowly at first, until men's minds should get somewhat familiarized with the "process; experience has shown that I was right. Without imputing blame to the Sudder "Moonserim, of whom I have a good opinion, I must state the fact that re-attestation of "holdings shows that the previous attestation was full of error. From what I have heard from "other Settlement Officers, I believe that this is not peculiar to this district. The fact is, that "the great bulk of cultivators are so ignorant, that they do not understand the questions put "to them, and reply at a venture; while in some instances, either from suspicion of the motives "of Government, or with the view of attaining some imaginary object, wilful deception is "practised—and hence, without any fault of the attesting Officer, the record is untrue: thus it "is that accuracy is not compatible with apparent rapidity of progress; and while seeing that "no time is needlessly wasted, I am at the same time averse to urging on my subordinates "to too great a show of apparent progress, which would only lead to further loss of time in "the end."

Exclusion and demarcation of excess waste lands.

48. Fair progress has been made with the demarcation of waste lands. The Settlement Officer reports that this has now been effected in 367 villages, and that he has satisfied himself by personal inspection that permanent boundary marks have been erected. The total area now excluded and reserved under the waste land rules amounts to 18,85,963 acres. Lists of the reserved tracts, together with the necessary information, have, I understand, been furnished to the Deputy Commissioner, which will, I trust, enable him to arrange for the due administration of the waste land revenue.

Notice of Officers.

49. During the year under review the Settlement Officer, Mr. Ramsay, was absent on leave to England for the first six months. Since his return he has done well, and pushed on the work satisfactorily. He states that he hopes to have the Settlement entirely finished by the end of April next. I am not so sanguine myself, and do not expect to see this Settlement completed before October 1867: but I have every confidence in Mr. Ramsay, and am sure he will do his best.

Ibid.

50. During Mr. Ramsay's absence, Captain Thomson officiated for him, in addition to carrying on his own duties as Settlement Officer of Seonee; the charge was a heavy one, and, on the whole, Captain Thomson did very fairly.

Ibid.

51. Mr. Ramsay reports as follows of his subordinates:—

"Para. 22. The Deputy Collector, Sultan Ali, has been on leave since the 2nd January. "I have previously recorded my sense of his services, and am happy again to bear testimony "to his merits. All his work is well and thoroughly performed, and he does not spare either "himself or his subordinates; he is a most satisfactory Assistant. Soba Chund has been in "charge as Superintendent from January last; he is intelligent and knows his work well, but "requires supervision; on some occasions I have had to find fault with the perfunctory "manner in which he has carried out orders of mine; but, on the whole, he has done well. "He has been employed chiefly in the attestation of rents, and I have been quite satisfied "with the result.

VIII—SEONEE.

Progress, why unsatisfactory.

52. This Settlement was reported last year as far advanced towards completion, and, according to the Annual Settlement Business Statement now submitted by the Settlement Officer, considerable progress would appear to have been made during the year, and but little heavy work remains to be done; but I regret to be obliged to add that such is not really the case, and that I much fear the Settlement will not be finished before the end of October next, at earliest.

Actual amount of work remaining to be done.

53. The real state of the work remaining to be done in this Settlement will be seen from the subjoined Statement, lately submitted by the Settlement Officer :—

Month.	Fairing Khusreh, Kelwut, and Wajab-ool-urz.	Examined by Sudder Moonserim.	Do. by Settlement Officer.	Tukseem Purcha.	Binding Misls.	Preparing Statements for final Report.	Copies of Tehseelee Misls.	Copies of Misls for Putwarees.	Miscellaneous corrections and modifications of work.	Remarks.
May 1866.	135	125	100	100	80	208	200	200	200	
June „	125	125	200	200	300	200	200	250	250	
July „	125	125	300	200	300	250	200	250	250	
August „	146	125	300	200	300	250	200	250	250	
September „	..	125	351	250	350	250	298	298	280	
October „	..	125	350	350	350	150	300	150	150	
Total ..	537	750	1,601	1,300	1,680	1,308	1,398	1,398	1,300	

Ibid: and character of work already completed.

54. From this it is clear that there is still much heavy work to be done, for 750 Misls have yet to be examined by the Sudder Moonserim, and 1,601 by the Settlement Officer himself; and, judging from the state of the so-called faired Misls examined by myself, I fear the result of the coming examination will be, that many will have to be done over again.

Attestation of holdings, and adjustment of rents.

55. So again with the attestation. From the Business Statement it would appear that this important stage of the Settlement has been completed, but this is I fear very far from being really the case, for the Settlement Officer, in a demi-official letter of explanation to my address, expresses a fear "that many of the papers will afterwards be found very incorrect," if "the supplementary attestation be stopped;" and it appears that there are still some 900 villages in which this supplementary attestation has yet to be carried out.

General Remarks.

56. All this is far from satisfactory, and does not, by any means, reflect credit on the Settlement Officer. Captain Thomson attempts to exonerate himself and the Deputy Collector by throwing all the blame on the Superintendent, whom he describes as careless and inefficient; but while making due allowance for the incompetency of the Superintendent, whose services have now been dispensed with, I am unable to acquit the Settlement Officer of all blame in this matter.

Ibid.

57. The real cause of all this has been an absence of proper and careful supervision on the part of the Settlement Officer, who, instead of looking closely after the work himself, has left it almost entirely in the hands of his subordinates, and has accepted their statements of business finished, without satisfying himself as to the manner in which the work had been done, or the attestation carried out.

Cost.

58. The cost during the year amounts to Rs. 45,563, or Rs. 7,545 in excess of that of the previous year. This is high, more especially when the amount of *real* work got through is taken into consideration. The total cost of this Settlement up to date amounts to Rs. 2,09,601, or only Rs. 6,000 less than the total Government demand of the entire district for one year; and when to this is added the sum which will have yet to be expended before the Settlement is completed, I fear the final result will not be considered satisfactory.

Exclusion and demarcation of excess waste lands.

59. After thus animadverting on the shortcomings in this Settlement, it gives me pleasure to notice favorably the exertions of the Settlement Officer in the matter of exclusion of excess wastes. This important branch of the work has been well done by the Settlement Officer, and the interests of Government carefully looked after. The total amount of waste reserved is not less than 19,48,766 acres, and great pains have been taken to have the boundaries carefully defined, and permanent boundary marks erected.

60. The following extract from the Settlement Officer's report as to the effect produced on rents generally, by the reservation of the excess wastes, is not without interest :—

Effects of do.

" Para. 28. I also pointed out what an effect the waste reservation had produced in the " value of land generally,—by depriving the Gonds, and others of the unsettled inferior " cultivating classes, of the means, or option of wandering, and forcing them, as it were, to " keep to the cultivated villages."

" Para. 29. It has quite inverted the condition of things between the Malgoozars and the " Ryots. Before, it was the Malgoozar who was dependent. He would beg cultivators not to " leave, and offer reduction of rent to induce them to stay; but now it is exactly the reverse : " the Malgoozar has become independent, and has numerous applicants for his lands, who are " ready to out-bid each other. This, combined with the dearness of grain, has made the rates " upon cultivation run up in the most extraordinary and unprecedented way."

61. During the year under review the Settlement Officer's report on the Raegurh-Bichia tract, together with remarks from myself, was submitted for the consideration and orders of the Chief Commissioner; and I am sanguine that if some such plan as that proposed by me be adopted, an important step will be gained towards improving the resources of this very promising, but as yet undeveloped, tract of country.

Settlement of Raegurh-Bichia tract.

62. As the general administration of the Raegurh tract has hitherto been made over to the Settlement Officer,—the Tehseelee establishment being paid by the Settlement Department,—I append, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, extract paras. 31 to 33 from the Settlement Officer's report, showing what has been done during the year, &c., &c., :—

Ibid.

" Para. 31. I last year described at length the state of the Raegurh tract and its require-" ment, pointing out that nothing much could possibly be done for it without a system of " leases on condition of clearing, which could not be introduced until after the completion " of the Settlement. That the chief thing required at present, is to look to keeping the " main lines of communication open, as far as possible, and free from jungle and clear of " Tigers, so as to facilitate the ingress of settlers. This has been looked to carefully. There " was no money available for the purpose; but the jungle clearing has been carried out by " the assistance of Thekadars and Malgoozars."

" Para. 32. The comparative Statement of loss of human life during the previous and " present year, and of the destruction of the Tigers, shows favorably, and, as compared with " former years, very favorably indeed."

" Para. 33. For the reservation in the tract east of Puruswara and Oordunna, and for a " system of clearing leases, and of advances to assist the settlers taking up these leases, I " made detailed proposals in my report No. 637, dated 10th November 1865, to which no " reply has as yet been given."

63. Captain Thomson has been in charge of this Settlement during the whole year; he has also in addition held charge of the Chindwara Settlement for six months, and of that of Mundla for two. It gave me much pleasure to be able to report favorably of Captain Thomson in my last year's report, and I wish I could now endorse what I then said of him; but the backward state of the Seonee Settlement, and the absence of proper supervision on his part, which has, in a great measure, brought this about, entirely prevent me from doing so. Captain Thomson is hard-working and industrious; he does not spare himself, and succeeds well with out-door duties, or work which does not require much care or thought; but he is wanting in method and forethought. He does not appear to possess the faculty of thoroughly mastering details, or see the necessity of having work made over to him done, once for all, accurately and correctly.

Notice of Officers.

64. Of Abdool Raheem, the Deputy Collector, the Settlement Officer reports as follows :—

Ibid.

" Para. 37. Abdool Raheem, the Raeghur Deputy Collector, is a very intelligent, and pains-" taking and trustworthy Officer. During the past year, as he was allowed to reside at Seonee " during the recess, I made use of him to supervise Settlement operations, and received the " greatest assistance. He had no experience in Settlement, but was very useful in keeping the " Office people up to the work. If he had kept his health, things would not have been as " backward as they are; but ill health obliged him to take leave to his home in December 1865.

"He took only two months' leave, wishing to be back so as to assist in the completion of the "Settlement; but he had to take a 3rd month, and even then his health was not thoroughly "restored, but hoping to be able to keep up at any rate until the Misls were completed. I "am afraid that he is not strong enough for the work, and that this part of the country does "not suit him."

Ibid.

65. I concur with the Settlement Officer in considering Abdool Raheem as intelligent and trustworthy, but I cannot regard him as painstaking, for he has not as yet by any means thoroughly learnt his work, and is sadly deficient in a complete knowledge of the details of Settlement business; his failure also to keep the establishments under him in harmony and good order shows a want of tact and judgment. I also think with Captain Thomson that he is not strong enough for the work, and will have to leave this part of the country.

Ibid.

66. The Officiating Superintendent, Kubool Sing, having proved anything but efficient, has been discharged. His place has been supplied by Superintendent Nanuk Chund, whose services have lately become available from the Baitool Settlement. He will do well, I think; and with his aid, I hope Captain Thomson will succeed in finishing this Settlement by the end of October next.

IX.—MUNDLA.

Progress made during the year.

67. This Settlement was only commenced on late last year, and but little was done during the present year. The boundaries of 551 villages have been demarcated, 725 villages have been measured and tested, 689 inspected, and 1,561 proprietary right cases decided.

Cost.

68. The amount of cost during the year is Rs. 18,800, and as this does not include the salary of the Settlement Officer, the out-turn of work can hardly be considered commensurate with the expenditure; for, after making all allowance for the insalubrity of the climate, and the difficulty of getting efficient men for the subordinate posts,—still, considering the character of the country, the small amount of land actually under cultivation, and the simple nature of the tenures,—much more might have been done had proper arrangements, suitable to the nature of the country, been made at first, and the Settlement Officer forecast his plans with the object of getting as much real work as possible out of his subordinates.

General remarks.

Exclusion of excess wastes.

69. The reservation of wastes is one of the most important operations in this Settlement, and on this the Settlement Officer reports as follows:—

"Para. 18. This has not yet been finally arranged, the measurement data not having yet "been obtained. But whilst inspecting I noted the villages which were at once reservable as "being waste, or inadequately cultivated. Out of the remaining villages, others will still "have to be reserved, as when making up the account of cultivated and uncultivated area, "I shall try wherever possible to reserve whole villages, relinquishing excess waste liberally "in others to compensate for the cultivated lands lost. I think the people would prefer such "an arrangement, and the trouble it saves in demarcation is very great."

Notice of Settlement Officer.

His efforts in pushing on the work.

70. Now that Captain Thomson has got charge of this Settlement, I am sanguine that the work will progress satisfactorily. The supervision of a Settlement like that of Mundla is a duty for which he (Captain Thomson) is peculiarly fitted; he has already during the two months effected much towards re-organizing the measurement establishments and putting the work on a proper footing. He has also inspected a large number of villages, and hopes to get all the field-work completed by the end of next open season. I have also every confidence in him with respect to the waste land arrangements, and hope to be able to state in my next year's report that most of the more important operations have been finished.

Notice of Major Waddington's services.

71. Major Waddington held charge of this Settlement up to the end of last February, when he was relieved by Captain Thomson. He is a conscientious, painstaking Officer, but experience has shown that he was not fitted for the charge of a Settlement like that of Mundla; his health also failed entirely, and to this, as much as to any other cause, may the comparatively small amount of work got through by him be attributed.

72. The Superintendent, Mahomed Abdoolah, is described by the Settlement Officer as "energetic and painstaking, but wanting in experience in Settlement work."

Notice of Superintendent.

X.—NAGPORE.

73. At the close of last year all the work had been done up to the attestation of Khuteonees, and a good deal of business got through under the other headings. During the year under review, rents have been adjusted in about 700 villages, and the subsequent stages of Settlement business, including the preparation of the record, and fairing of the Misls, got through in almost an equal number; 471 Maafee enquiries, including 119 Mukta and Mokasa cases have been made; a large number of proprietary right cases have been decided; and 254 appeals disposed of.

Review of the year's operations.

74. Considering the strength of the establishment at work, the above cannot be regarded as, by any means, a good return of work, or at all commensurate with the cost, which has during the year amounted to the large sum of Rs. 41,693, being Rs. 2,394 in excess of that of the previous year, when the expenditure was considered high.

How far satisfactory as compared with cost.

75. I have on several occasions during the present year been obliged to animadvert strongly on the unsatisfactory progress made in this Settlement; and in my No. 181, dated 24th January last, to your address, I submitted, in conformity with the Chief Commissioner's wishes, a special report on the state of the work. Since then I have twice inspected the Settlement, and used my best endeavours to get the work pushed on, which I have reason to believe is now being done, —the progress made in the last quarter of the year under review being very much more satisfactory than in any of the three preceding quarters.

Shortcomings of the Settlement Officer.

76. In the absence of any annual Report,—the Settlement Officer having as yet failed to submit one,—it is not easy for me to state the causes to which the Settlement Officer may attribute the small out-turn of work; but I believe he ascribes the delay which has occurred in the completion of this Settlement to the revisions and re-investigations rendered necessary by the instructions laid down in Circular G.,—an excuse which I am by no means inclined to admit to the extent urged by the Settlement Officer; there being no doubt but that little or no real action was taken on the above-mentioned Circular for months after its promulgation.

Non-submission of the Annual Report by Settlement Officer.

Delay in the completion of Settlement Operations.

77. So again with the Mukta and Mokasa cases: the Settlement Officer has allowed these to lie over month after month without taking them up, and for the first six months of the year neglected even to have Settlement operations proceeded with in the villages to which they referred; and it is only quite lately that anything has been done with respect to their disposal, and that, only in consequence of stringent and peremptory orders issued by myself on the subject.

Dilatoriness in the disposal of Mukta and Mokasa cases.

78. All this is very unsatisfactory, and reflects anything but credit on the Settlement Officer, who does not seem to have been at all alive to the necessity and importance of pushing on the work, or using his best endeavours to secure the completion of the Settlement, which I fear will not now be effected before the end of October next, at earliest.

General remarks—completion of Settlement.

79. In my last year's Report I stated that the waste land demarcations were much behind hand. I am glad now to be able to state that these have been finally completed, and reported, and the necessary information furnished to the District Officer. The total amount of waste reserved in the Nagpore District now amounts to 427,895 acres.

Waste land arrangements.

80. Mr. Ross has held charge of the Settlement for the whole year. During the first six months he did little or no real work; from November to January he was chiefly employed on other duties; and during the last quarter he has done very fairly. I was obliged last year to remark on his great want of punctuality in answering letters and submitting reports, and regret my inability to report much more favorably of him this year in this respect, notwithstanding the special notice taken of this by the Chief Commissioner in his last year's Review.

Notice of Officers.

81. In the absence of any Annual Report from the Settlement Officer, I have no special remarks to offer regarding the services of the Superintendents in this Settlement.

Ibid.

XI.—WURDAH.

Review of the year's operations.

82. At the close of last year the work remaining to be done consisted of the copying of one-fourth of the Khuteonees and two-thirds of the Khewuts, the fairing of the administration paper, the preparation of the final Roobkarees, and completion of the Mukta and Mokasa enquiries. All this has been done during the year; but still the Settlement cannot be reported as entirely completed, owing to certain Khewut revisions found necessary on carrying out the instructions laid down in Circulars G. and GI.

Causes why the completion of Settlement operation was delayed.

83. In my last year's report I expressed a hope that this Settlement would be entirely finished by the end of the year (1865) at latest. The Settlement Officer in his annual Report for this year has entered into a full explanation of the causes which have tended to delay and postpone the completion of the Settlement; and as it seems to me only fair that this explanation should be submitted for the information of the Chief Commissioner I beg herewith to annex paras. 7 to 13 from Settlement Officer's Report:—

"Para. 7. But the above does not represent the work that has actually been done "during the year. When I wrote my last year's report, I was not aware of the revision that "the instructions contained in Circulars G. and GI., have entailed; and this is indeed the chief "work that has been done during the year, and it is the work that has delayed the Settle-"ment."

"Para. 8. These instructions, and the instructions in regard to Maliks Muqboozah issued "at the close of last year, rendered it necessary to recommence what is, I believe, generally "termed, Khewut operations in every village of the district. The Settlement papers did not "show how long a cultivator had held his field. Where it was admitted that a man had "held his field for more than 12 years, he was entered as a tenant-with-rights-of-occupancy, "and, as a general rule, no memorandum was made of the number of years he had held. "Even when the length of his tenure had been entered, the record was not very valuable, "and was not sufficiently reliable to enable the Settlement Officer to work out and decide "the status of the cultivator, according to the instructions contained in Circulars G. and GI., "and for this reason, that when, what I shall still call Khewut operations were first com-"menced, the three classes under which the then cultivators were to be recorded, and the "circumstances which entitled them to be ranked as Malik Muqboozah, Tenant-with-right-"of-occupancy, and Tenant-at-will, were pretty generally understood. It was known that "12 years' admitted possession secured a tenant a place in the second class, and hence, many, "although they had perhaps held 20 or 30 years, did not think it necessary to go into any "detail of the number of years they had held, but mentioned 12 years as the "Sesame" "by which they would be admitted to a place in Class No. 2."

"Para. 9. Circulars G. and GI. involved, moreover, investigations into many other points, "besides the bare length of occupancy of the tenant, before the tenants' status could be fixed, "and thus it was necessary to commence the enquiries *de novo* in each village, and to pre-"pare a record containing the statement of the landholders and tenants, and in contested "cases the evidence of several witnesses also. From this record, which in each case bears "the signature of the parties interested, and in contested cases the decision of the investi-"gating Officer, the list of tenants-with-absolute-right-of-occupancy is prepared. According "to this process tenant-right enquiries have been made in 820 villages. The work still "remains to be finished in 168 villages. The works is being pushed on, and, as will be found "stated further on, has every prospect of being completed in another month."

"Para. 10. Hand in hand with these investigations the enquiries, with reference to Maliks "Muqboozah, have been carried on: 320 cases have been decided judicially, and Maliks Muq-"boozah have been made. Each of these was a small proprietary right case, and had to be "enquired into and decided very carefully and patiently, and when the case had been "decided, the assessment of the plot still remained to be made. These cases have taken "up much time."

"Para. 11. In addition to these investigations, which have entailed a very great deal of "work, the instructions contained in Circulars G. and GI. have entailed the correction and "alteration of the three copies of the Settlement Misls which, before the receipt of these "orders, were nearly all completed. The slightest change in a single entry throws out the "totals of every page, and thus the work of revision and correction is one of no small "labor."

"Para. 12. The miscellaneous work of the year, comprising the many little sweepings up "and finishings up that are necessary towards the close of a Settlement, has been heavy. "The number of claims to shares investigated is 70. Many persons entitled to share did not

" first press their claims. In accordance with your Circular No. 23 of 24th March 1865, the " Superintendent had instructions, when reviewing the Khewut work, to ascertain carefully " whether any omissions had been made in the recording of sharers. These enquiries " brought to light several cases of persons, who, although entitled to a share, through ignorance " or carelessness, had not prepared their claims, and who consequently did not appear as sharers " in the Settlement record. The applications for partition have been very numerous, and " 20 cases have been decided. In regard to appeals, though the number is small, the work " has been heavier than it would appear to be at first sight. All the cases decided have been " more or less intricate and troublesome; consisting chiefly of claims to shares in villages, " or claims to shares in the Jote Malgoozaree, which are contested in a very determined " manner."

" Para. 13. I have now to mention what still remains to be done. This consists chiefly " of the Khewut revisions in 168 villages. The Superintendent and the greater part of the " Settlement Staff are still engaged on this work. As soon as the enquiries are completed, " the Misls are sent in to the Office at Nagpore, where the necessary corrections and altera- " tions in the fair copies of the Misls are made. I have every hope that the field work will " be finished before another month is out. The correction of the Misls will follow close on " this; and the Superintendent and the Staff will then be employed for a short time in " completing the statistical data for my final Report, which I have every hope of being able " to submit by the middle of August."

Explanation not altogether satisfactory.

84. From the foregoing it will be seen that the completion of the Settlement has been chiefly delayed by the re-investigations found necessary to carry out the instructions laid down in Circulars G. and GI. Whilst making every allowance for the difficulties Mr. Carnac has had to contend with, still I regret that I am unable to regard the explanation as altogether satisfactory or sufficient; the real fact being that the non-completion of the Settlement is due as much to the dilatoriness with which the necessary orders were issued and carried out after the receipt of the Circulars above referred to, as to any other cause. Had the Settlement Officer at the beginning of last cold weather been as alive as he now is to the importance of speedily completing this Settlement, I feel sure the whole work might easily have been finished, and the final Report submitted by the end of the present year (1865-66) at latest.

Quality of work, good.

85. But whilst the work has thus been done slowly, it has been done well. During last cold weather I spent some time in the Wurdah District, and availed myself of several favorable opportunities to test the quality of the work. The result was very satisfactory. The re-investigations seem to have been made thoroughly and completely; shares were carefully recorded; the rights of cultivators fully entered; and every precaution taken to render the record of rights and liabilities full and complete.

Cost.

86. The cost during the year amounts to Rs. 23,934, or slightly in excess of that of the previous year, which can hardly be considered satisfactory; nor can the out-turn of work be regarded as commensurate with the cost.

Demarcation of waste lands.

87. I stated in my last year's report that the demarcation of waste lands had been completed, and the Settlement Officer now reports that the Deputy Commissioner has been furnished with a sketch map, registers, and all necessary information. The state of the boundary pillars would also appear to be satisfactory.

Proprietors of holdings.

88. The following extract from the Settlement Officer's report regarding the creation of proprietors of holdings (Malik Muqboozah) is not without interest, and shows that this important subject is being carefully considered:—

" Para. 23. I have already referred at some length to the proceedings at what I have " called "Khewut revisions," *i. e.*, in carrying out the instructions of Circulars G. and GI. " Maliks Muqboozah enquiries have gone hand in hand with this work. The Statement of the " landholder and of the cultivator himself were taken in all cases in which there appeared " *prima facie* grounds for supposing that a cultivator, by length of possession, had a right " of occupancy. Sometimes it would appear from peculiar circumstances that the tenant's " case was sufficiently strong to enable him to be made a Malik Muqboozah. The tenants' " claims were often enough contested, and then a regular Judicial investigation and decision " had to be recorded. Up to the present moment but 595 Maliks Muqboozah have been declared. " Some of this work yet remains to be done, but a very large number of Maliks Muqboozah " is not to be expected in the Wurdah District; for here the claims of the landholders are " strong, *i. e.*, they have generally held for very many years,—and hence the tenants' claims " are proportionately weak."

89. Mr. Carnac has held charge of this Settlement during the entire year. He has done well, though he might certainly have done more; but then the fact of his having also held charge of the Chanda Settlement must not be lost sight of. He is an able Officer, and has made good progress towards mastering the details of Settlement work.

Notice of Officers.

90. Of the Officers who have served under him, Mr. Carnac reports as follows :—

Ibid.

" Para. 25. Of the Officers who have served with me in the Department during the year, " Lieutenant Saurin Brooke, Assistant Settlement Officer, has been chiefly employed in the " Chanda District. In my Chanda Report I have mentioned of what real assistance he has " been to me. In Wurdah he revised a great many troublesome Maafee cases, and prepared " the Registers of Mukta Mokasa villages. In many little matters he has rendered me most " perfect and cheerful assistance. Superintendent Shunker Lall was certainly not wanting " in ability. He left me at a most critical point of the Settlement, and has not yet returned ; " nor is he likely to do so. I need hardly say that his absence has been of the very greatest " inconvenience; and although he was rather sick, I do not think the circumstances under " which he left were altogether creditable to him. Kewul Kishen, the Sudder Moonserim " who has acted for him, has done fairly well. I cannot say much more for him."

Ibid.

Lieutenant Brooke's services will be more particularly referred to in my remarks on the Chanda Settlement.

XII.—CHANDA.

91. At the close of last year considerable progress had been made with the demarcation of boundaries and field measurements; 477 villages had been assessed ; a large number of Maafee enquiries made ; and 2,122 proprietary right cases decided. During the year under review the interior measurements of the whole of the district have been completed. Jungle cases have been decided, and new boundaries marked off in five Pergunnahs ; four Pergunnahs have been inspected and assessed ; and the preparation of the record of rights has been commenced in the three Pergunnahs assessed last year; a large number of Maafee cases have also been decided.

Work done during year.

92. On the whole, the above may be regarded as a good out-turn of work. The programme laid down by the Settlement Officer in his last year's report has been almost completely carried out ; and although the cost during the year, amounting to Rs. 42,391, has been high, still the amount of business got through is, I consider, very fairly commensurate with it.

Results satisfactory. Cost.

93. The financial result of the revision of assessment in this district is a decrease of about 6 per cent ; but then, as stated in my last year's report, much of this decrease is owing to the fact that lands, which are wholly waste, but which formerly paid revenue, are now excluded from assessment, and treated as State wastes ; and I am sanguine that, on the completion of the waste land arrangements, and proper administration of the revenue of the excluded tracts, the loss to Government will be more than made up by the increase in the forest revenue.

Financial result of assessment.

94. The marking off of excess wastes and demarcation of boundaries in jungle villages is a heavy work in the Chanda District. It is, however, well forward, and the Settlement Officer hopes that it "will be quite completed ere the rains in the eight Pergunnahs on this side of the Wyne Gunga." The other two Pergunnahs must remain over till after the rains ; but I see no reason why this portion of the work should not be entirely finished by the end of next December or January.

Excess Wastes.

95. The work that remains to be done consists chiefly of the marking off of the excess wastes above referred to ; the assessment of three Pergunnahs, now being inspected by the Assistant Settlement Officer ; the adjustment of rents and preparation of the record in the newly assessed Pergunnahs ; the reporting of rent-free cases, and the fair copying of the Misls. The Settlement of the Zemindarees will also have to be seen to.

Work remaining to be done.

96. The Settlement Officer has laid down his programme for next season's work very clearly in his report ; and, judging from the manner in which the work has been done this year, and the care and forethought with which Mr. Carnac would seem to have forecast his plans, I am sanguine that by this time next year all the more important operations of this Settlement will have been completed, and only such stages of Settlement business left as ought to be easily finished by the 31st of December 1867, or end of 1867-68, at latest.

When likely to be completed.

97. As considerable correspondence has passed this year regarding the state of village boundaries in the Chanda District, I annex an extract from the Settlement Officer's Report on this subject, and beg to state that greatly as the delay complained of by the Revenue Surveyor is to be regreted, still I do not think the Settlement Officer has really been very much to blame in the matter :—

Village Boundaries.

" Para. 10. Besides the work shown under the headings of the Business Statement, " much has been done in the way of recorrecting and re-arranging boundaries for the " Surveyor. The Pergunnahs in which the Surveyor is now engaged were first demarcated " on the Bombay system by Mr. Price. Many of the marks thus set up were washed away " by the first rains, and my establishment has had much troublesome work to do in demar- " cating anew a great portion of these Pergunnahs. This work cannot be shown in the " Business Statement, but it has kept many of my Staff employed during the year."

98. Mr. Carnac has held charge of this Settlement during the entire year, and has, on the whole, given me great satisfaction. His plans have been forecast with great judgment, and his arrangements for carrying on the work have been very good. I was much pleased with the result of my inspection of this Settlement last month, for I found the work done well, and systematically, and every stage of Settlement business once commenced on carried on thoroughly and completely. Mr. Carnac is entitled to much credit for his exertions, and the successful manner in which he is carrying on towards completion the work of this important, and by no means easy, Settlement.

Notice of Officers.

99. I have formed a very good opinion of Lieutenant Brooke, Assistant Settlement Officer. He is able and willing, takes a real interest in his work, and is most anxious to learn; he will, I think, prove a valuable Officer. Mr. Carnac notices his services very favorably as follows :—

Ibid.

" Para. 27. In conclusion, I have to record my obligations to Lieutenant Saurin Brooke, " Assistant Settlement Officer, for the valuable and ready assistance he has afforded me in " all matters connected with the Settlement since he joined the Department. He has not " only performed carefully and promptly all the work that has been made over to him, but, " taking a real interest in his duties, he has busied himself to advance the Settlement by " every means in his power. He has been in charge of the work in Chanda since February " last, and to him belongs the greater share of the credit for the progress that has been " made."

100. Of Deputy Collector Ram Dial, who has been deservedly promoted from Superintendent to Deputy Collector during the year, the Settlement Officer reports that he is "working steadily and energetically; that he has now mastered Khewut work, and will make good progress next year."

Ibid.

XIII.—BHUNDARA.

101. At the close of last year the demarcation of boundaries and measurements had been completed, half the assessments done, and one-fourth of the attestation got through, together with a large number of Maafee enquiries made, and proprietary right cases decided. During the year under review 817 villages have been inspected, and 1,153 assessments made and announced,—thus completing these two stages of the work; in 1,505 villages have Khuteonees been attested and rents adjusted, and of more than half that number have the Misls been faired and completed and made over to the District Office; 993 proprietary right cases have also been decided, and 129 appeals disposed of.

Progress during the year.

102. The above is, in my opinion, a very good return of work, and quite commensurate with the cost, which has amounted to Rs. 42,744, or Rs. 3,037 less than that of the preceding year. The Settlement Officer is, I consider, entitled to much credit for his exertions, and for having succeeded in getting so much business entirely completed; his arrangements for carrying on the work have been judicious and systematic; and the manner in which the business has been regularly completed, according to the detail of progressive stages, is very satisfactory.

Result satisfactory and commensurate with cost.

103. The assessments made during the year are almost entirely those of Zemindaree villages, those of the Khalsa having been nearly finished last year. The amounts which have been fixed are the "Kamil" Jumas, to which Government would have been entitled had these estates been held on an ordinary tenure, and on which the cesses, percentages of Malikana due from sub-proprietors, &c., will have to be calculated. The "Tukolee," or tribute demandable from the "Zemindars," is now being re-adjusted, and will be finally determined on and fixed by myself in accordance with the principles laid down by the Chief Commissioner in his Zemindaree Report.

Nature of assessments made.

Proprietary right investigation in Zemindarees.

104. The proprietary right cases decided during the year belong almost entirely to Zemindaree estates. Many of the original decisions in these cases have had to be revised, and the Settlement Officer now reports favorably of the manner in which these suits have been disposed of. The general result is, that inferior rights have been awarded in about one-third of the villages held on Zemindaree tenure; the people also are described as generally content; for while all old and well established rights have been recognized, farmers of a few years' standing have been taught that they can only hold at the will of the Zemindar from whom they originally got the village.

Attestation of holdings, &c.

105. The Settlement Officer reports favorably regarding both the attestation of holdings and adjustment of rents. Very good progress has been made under both these headings; and now that the people are beginning more to understand the object and value of the Settlement, the preparation of the record of rights is not such a thankless task as it was at first.

Exclusion of excess wastes.

106. A great deal has been done towards completing the exclusion of the excess wastes, and demarcation of the jungle boundaries. The area excluded exceeds 862 square miles (the exact number of acres being 5,51,923); and the Settlement Officer reports that the maps are nearly all finished, and the necessary information has been furnished to the Deputy Commissioner, the Revenue Surveyor, and the Forest Department. The erection of permanent boundary marks has also been looked to personally by the Settlement Officer and the Superintendents, and the result generally is satisfactory.

Completion of Settlement.

107. I stated in my last year's Report that I had every reason to hope that this Settlement would be entirely finished, including the Zemindaree portion, by the end of 1866-67; and I am glad now to be able to add that I see no reason why this expectation should not be verified, if the Settlement Officer can only succeed in showing as good an out-turn of work next year as he has done this.

Notice of Officers.

108. Mr. Lawrence has held charge of the Settlement during the whole year, except for three months, when he was absent on privilege leave, and the Deputy Commissioner, Captain Newmarch, was in charge. I have already stated that I consider Mr. Lawrence entitled to much credit for his exertions, and the highly satisfactory out-turn of work during the year. He has spared neither himself or his subordinates, and it gives me much pleasure to notice his services thus favorably.

Ibid.

109. Mr. Lawrence has reported very favorably regarding his Superintendents, Surpuraz Allee and Narain Rao, both of whom he considers "entitled to the highest credit."

XIV.—RAEPORE.

Progress made during the year.

110. At the close of last year the demarcation of village boundaries had been almost completed; 995 villages had been measured and 222 assessed, and a large number of proprietary right cases had been decided. During the year under review the following work has been got through: 180 boundaries demarcated; 823 villages measured and 893 inspected; 486 assessments made and 568 announced; 564 Khuteonees attested and rents adjusted; 443 Khuteonees and Khewuts faired; 521 proprietary right cases decided, and 56 appeals disposed of.

Result satisfactory.

111. The above is, I consider, a very satisfactory return of work, and fully commensurate with the cost, Rs. 45,265, which, though high, and somewhat in excess of that of the previous year, still is by no means excessive, when the result attained is taken into consideration, and which is very creditable to the Settlement Officer and his subordinates.

Area measured.

112. The area measured during the year is 11,11,807 acres, or about 1,737 square miles, thus showing a considerable increase upon the out-turn of work for last year, which was about 756 square miles. The cost of measurement for the year is about 5¾ pie per acre, and Rs. 19-2-8 per square mile; whilst the total area measured up to the end of the year under report is about 3,214 square miles, or rather more than half the area of the district.

Quality of measurements.

113. The measurements are stated by the Settlement Officer to be generally fair. The very small size of the fields is said to make it almost impossible to prepare neat maps in the ordinary scale of half an inch to the acre, and the Settlement Officer has therefore wisely determined to make the map of double the present scale when preparing the corrected Shujrehs.

114. A very large number of villages, amounting to 893, have been inspected during the year by the Settlement Officer, who has certainly not spared himself to furnish a good out-turn of work. The number of assessments made, 486, is also satisfactory; in addition to which, the Jumas of 139 more villages have also been fixed, but the assessments not having yet been regularly sanctioned, they have not been included in the annual Statements.

Inspections.

Assessments.

115. The revised assessments have been carefully made by the Settlement Officer. They show an increase of Rs. 26,826, or nearly 39 per cent. on the former demand. This may at first sight appear large, but still, as the highest revenue rate in any of the three assessed Pergunnahs is only Rs. 0-5-5 per acre of cultivation, it ought not to press hard on the landholders, who, as stated by the Settlement Officer, "have raised their rents to such an extent as to allow themselves, in many instances, more than 100 per cent. profit on the Juma assessed." The total increase of revenue arising from the assessments made and sanctioned up to the end of the year is Rs. 38,745.

Result of revision of Assessments.

116. The Settlement Officer reports that considerable difficulty was at first experienced in the adjustment of rents, the cultivators having the idea that the Malgoozars had no right to demand more than the Government revenue from them; and the Malgoozars fearing that if they recorded the rents actually realized, or attempted to raise the rent, the Government demand would be proportionately enhanced. Matters have, however, now been righted, and the adjustment is said to be proceeding satisfactorily.

Adjustment of Rents.

117. Some progress has been made with the demarcation of waste lands, but no report has as yet been submitted of the actual amount of land excluded and reserved. The Settlement Officer, however, states that he has himself inspected almost all the plots of waste lands, and has "found them all, with three exceptions, to be utterly worthless either as forest lands or for cultivation;" they being generally rocky hills, the sides of which are almost entirely destitute of soil, and on which hardly any thing will grow.

Exclusion and demarcation of waste lands.

118. The follow remarks by the Settlement Officer regarding rights of occupancy are not without interest:—

Rights of Occupancy.

"Para. 29. The provisions of Appendices VII. and IX. of the Settlement Code, with "regard to occupancy ryots, have been found applicable to but few of the people of the "district, owing to the custom of perpetually redistributing the village lands, and the "migratory character of the ryots, who were accustomed, till the late rise in prices rendered "agriculture a more lucrative pursuit than it had hitherto been, to be perpetually wandering "from village to village. Out of the 564 villages in which the rough Khuteonee has been "prepared, only 130 ryots have been found entitled to rights of occupancy under the pro-"visions of these Circulars."

119. Mr. Hewitt has held charge of this Settlement during the entire year, and has done exceedingly well. The high opinion I formed last year of his character and abilities has been fully borne out, and I have great pleasure in noticing his services thus favorably.

Notice of Officers.

120. Mr. Hewitt gives a good report of both Mr. Sinclair and Superintendent Allee Hossein. He states as follows:—"Mr. D. Sinclair has been in charge "of the measurements throughout the year, and has worked exceed-"ingly well, as his out-turn of work shows. His judicial work is better than it was last "year. Allee Hossein, Superintendent, has given me the utmost satisfaction since he joined "this Settlement. He is well acquainted with his work, and has worked most zealously and "energetically. He has displayed great tact in carrying out the difficult work of adjusting "rents."

Ibid.

XV.—BELASPORE.

121. At the close of last year the demarcation of village boundaries had been nearly finished, one-third of the villages measured, 609 villages inspected, and a large number of boundary disputes and proprietary right cases decided. During the year under review the following work has been got through: demarcation of boundaries, 222; field measurements, 944; villages inspected, 980; assessments made, 675; Khuteonees compiled, 638; boundary disputes decided, 202; proprietary right cases disposed of, 696.

Progress made in Settlement operations during the year.

General remarks in ditto, compared with cost.

122. The above is, in my opinion, a good out-turn of work, and fully commensurate with the cost, which amounts to Rs. 24,272, or some Rs. 4,000 in excess of that of the previous year. Considering that the Settlement Officer has also had to carry on the duties of Deputy Commissioner, and has only had one Deputy Collector under him, the above result is highly creditable to him.

Progress made in measurement.

123. The area measured amounts to 530,393 acres, at a cost of 8¾ pie per acre, which must be regarded as very moderate, considering that all charges incurred during the year are included in the cost. The bulk of the measurements may now be said to be completed, and very little, if any, will remain to be done at the end of this field season.

Inspection of villages.

Assessments.

124. The number of villages inspected is very large, and proves great activity on the part of the assessing Officer, who has also done very well in bringing out so many as 675 assessments. All of these have been submitted for my approval and sanction; and I have had every reason to be perfectly satisfied with the manner in which the statistical data have been collated and the Jumas fixed by the Settlement Officer.

Financial result of revision of assessment.

125. The financial result of the revision of assessment has been an enhancement of Rs. 15,730, the total original Juma of the villages assessed during the year having been raised from Rs. 49,931 to Rs. 65,671. This increase, which is at the rate of about 31 per cent., may be considered very moderate, and not more than the hitherto lightly assessed villages of this district can easily bear.

Average rate of revised assessment.

126. The revised assessment falls at the rate of Rs. 0-4-9 per acre on the cultivation, which does at first sight appear such a low rate, that I consider it right to annex an extract from the Settlement Officer's report showing that it is not too low; and to add that I fully concur in the conclusion arrived at by Mr. Chisholm regarding the unadvisability of a too great and sudden enhancement on the Government demand when rents can only rise slowly and gradually :—

Its apparent highness explained.

"Para. 12. The rate on cultivation no doubt appears low, but low as it is, proprietors "experience difficulty in raising tenants' rents to full rates. The "scarcity of population and the proximity of extensive Zemindaree "wastes must operate for years to keep rents low. It is thus that "the increase in the Government demand bears no proportion to the great rise in the price "of all agricultural produce. When the assessments are completed, the Government Juma "will probably have risen from 25 to 30 per cent. Whereas in the last few years the harvest "rate of agricultural produce has risen 200 per cent. In the circumstances of this district, "however, it is impossible to raise suddenly to a high rate rents which have become "stereotyped, nor could proprietors pay a demand based too exclusively on the enhanced "prices which they now enjoy."

Investigation into proprietary right cases.

127. A large number of proprietary right cases have been decided, and this part of the work may now be said to be completed, the few cases that remain belonging to villages which are wholly or partially waste.

Decision of cases under Act X. of 1859.

128. There have also been 113 cases decided under Act X. of 1859. The claims filed are chiefly on the part of tenants for possession of fields, or of farmers for continuance of leases from non-resident proprietors: and the Settlement Officer reports that "although the bulk of tenants are migratory and unsettled, still a tendency to greater fixity of occupancy can be observed gradually growing up." This is satisfactory.

Exclusion of waste lands.

129. Regarding waste lands the Settlement Officer reports as follows :—

"Para. 23. During the year an extensive tract in the Lormee Talooqua was reserved "as a Government waste. This tract is hilly and covered with forest. It has not been "measured, but is supposed to comprise an area of about 500,000 acres. This tract has been "demarcated by blocks of stone, for the present, at certain intervals. It will probably be "necessary eventually to clear a space round the boundary, and erect substantial and perma-"nent masonry pillars. No other tracts have been reserved during the year, operations "having been confined to village lands."

130. I have already stated that the measurements will be almost entirely completed by the end of this field season. With respect to the other stages, the Settlement Officer hopes to have all the statistics of the measured villages prepared during the monsoon, and the assessments reported before the end of the year. Settlement operations have now been going on for two years in this district, and the Settlement Officer expects that the whole work of Settlement in the Khalsa jurisdiction will be entirely completed in two years more.

Programme of future operations.

131. Mr. Chisholm has held charge of the Settlement during the entire year, and has done exceedingly well. I reported very favorably of him last year, and am very glad to be able to do so again this year. He is a very promising Officer.

Notice of Officers.

132. The Deputy Collector, Mr. Sreenath Bose, has also done very well, and is entitled to much credit. Mr. Chisholm notices his services on the following highly favorable terms :—

Ibid.

" Para. 16. I would beg to bring to your notice the excellent services performed during " the year by Mr. Deputy Collector Sreenath Bose. He has been indefatigable in his " supervision of the measurement parties, and it is largely due to his exertions that so " considerable an amount of field work has been completed. He has carefully tested the " work in its progress, and has spared no pains to secure correct results. He has proved " himself in every way a ready and zealous Assistant."

XVI.—SUMBULPORE.

133. As stated in my last year's report, Settlement operations in this district are confined, for the present, to adjudication of boundary disputes and decision of proprietary right cases. During the year under review 114 of the former and 155 of the latter have been disposed of, which is no great result; but then the expenditure has been very small, the total cost during the year only amounting to Rs. 2,346-8-0.

Out-turn of work.

Cost.

134. The Settlement Officer reports the proprietary right enquires as nearly completed, only 65 cases still remaining to be decided. He also states that "the people appreciate immensely the bestowal of these rights;" and adds that " no measure could have conduced more to make them satisfied with our rule."

Enquiry into proprietary right cases.

135. The time having now nearly arrived for deciding the question of the nature of the Settlement to be made in this district, I beg herewith to annex extracts paras. 3 to 9 from the Settlement Officer's report on this subject, and shall be glad to be favored with the Chief Commissioner's views in the matter. I am inclined to agree with Captain Cumberlege in thinking that the district is hardly yet ready for the introduction of the regular Settlement, and that some modification of the system in vogue in other districts will be found necessary here; but having little or no personal knowledge of the tenures and revenue system hitherto prevailing in Sumbulpore, I am reluctant to express a decided opinion on all the points mooted in the Settlement Officer's report, which the Chief Commissioner's superior local knowledge and experience of the district will doubtless enable him to dispose of at once, and without difficulty.

General remarks on the Settlement of the district.

" Para. 3. To effect a good regular Settlement in this district will, I think, however, " be a very difficult undertaking; and I am by no means certain that, under existing circum- " stances, the elaborate and expensive system in force would answer. At present the Goun- " tiah is remunerated by an assignment of 'Bhogra,' or service land, on the condition of his " collecting, and being answerable for, the Government demand. The extent and value of this " land is supposed to be in proportion to the extent and value of the Ryotee land, but it is " not so really, as the proportion varies in nearly every village; in some villages I believe " the 'Bhogra' even exceeds the 'Ryotee' land, while in others it is only one-third or " one-fourth, and even less."

136. These matters are, however, more fit for a separate report, which I will submit in due course.

XVII.—UPPER GODAVERY DISTRICT.

137. Settlement operations have now been going on in this district for nearly two years, and during this period nearly two-thirds of the boundaries have been demarcated, and field measurements completed; some progress has also been made with the Purtal, as also the compilation and attestation of Khuteonees, and 69 assessments have been made.

Progress made in Settlement operations.

138. The cost hitherto has amounted to Rs. 23,595, with which the out-turn of work can hardly be said to be altogether commensurate; but when allowance is made for the nature of the country, the difficulty of getting good men to go to a district so out of the way, and the insalubrity of the climate, by which many days are lost each year from sickness, I do no think the expenditure can be regarded as very excessive.

Cost.

139. The Settlement Officer reports favorably regarding the accuracy of the measurements, the whole of which he hopes to have completed by the end of this official year (1866-67). He also expects to have the assessments of all the hitherto measured villages finished by the end of December next.

Accuracy of measurements.

Programme of future operations.

140. The Settlement Officer states that the excess wastes have all been demarcated and separated from village lands by boundary pillars, but that they have not yet been marked off into separate blocks of 5,000 acres, or thereabout, in consequence of the very great expense which would attend such a measure as that of marking off small blocks in the dense forests of these vast wastes. As the marking off of these blocks is a duty which devolves more on the Deputy Commissioner than the Settlement Officer, I have not issued any orders on the subject; but it appears to me hardly necessary to take any further steps in the matter at present, for the marking off of the blocks can easily be done when purchasers of the waste lands come forward.

Exclusion of excess wastes.

141. Captain Glasfurd has been in charge of this Settlement from its commencement. The annual Report now submitted by him is the first I have received. Not having yet been able to visit this district I cannot speak from personal experience of the quality of the work, but I have every reason to believe it to be good. Captain Glasfurd I have always found willing and zealous, and I have every hope that he will complete the Settlement in a satisfactory manner.

Notices of Settlement Officer's services.

Result gained.

XVIII.—NIMAR.

142. This Settlement has only just been commenced on, the establishment not having been at work more than a month. The annexed extract from a letter from the Settlement Officer to my address will, however, show that Lieutenant Forsyth has entered zealously into the work, and is likely to do well. I ought also to mention that I visited Nimar myself this year, and did my best to set matters right, so as to ensure a good start for Settlement operations.

Commencement of Settlement operations.

"In forwarding the Business Statement for April, I have the honor to remark, in "explanation of the apparently small out-turn of work, that, this "being the first month of this Settlement, the establishments I was "able to entertain (and some of whom I had to appoint and pay "before they joined) have been occupied chiefly in preliminary work, "which does not show in the Business Statement. This consists of the work of examining "the old Settlement papers of the settled Pergunnahs, with a view to ascertaining the "description of materials they can supply for the completion of records in the settled Pergun-"nahs. The result of this I have partly reported to you, but the operation is a tedious one; "for many of the records having, I find, been destroyed and injured by fire in the mutiny "times; also in the preparation of village registers of all the Pergunnahs—a business of "time, as the information has to be sought for from many quarters; and in the compilation "and classification of lists of Maafee tenures throughout the district. Instruction of Put-"warees has also been going on, some progress having already been made;* and I have every "reason to believe that I shall be able to do nearly all the field work through them when a "sufficient number have been instructed. 25 villages have been demarcated, and the Thakbust "of them is now going on. There were no boundaries to speak of before. I have also had a "Thakbust and interior measurement made of the Civil Station of Khundwah. I took the "opportunity of going round and settling, in conjunction with an official of the Forest Depart-"ment, the boundary line of the great Nerbudda Reserve Forest. This has been done, and "marks put up; and I shall have the honor of reporting on this separately, in order to have "this large area of waste (mostly unculturable) left out of the area for measurement altogether. "I have classified the statistics of the Khusrehs of the 13 villages of Sutrabustee Asseer, "in order to ascertain if assessment can proceed without remeasurement.

Measures adopted for securing a satisfactory result.

143. Having thus reviewed Settlement operations in detail in the various districts, I will now proceed to notice the aggregate results, and to add a few remarks on other matters of general interest and importance.

* Eight instructed completely.

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144. DEMARCATION OF BOUNDARIES.—This has been done in 2,003 villages, leaving 2,890 villages still to be demarcated. The majority of the demarcation still remaining to be done are in villages either wholly or partially waste, with the exception of those in Mundla, in which there still remains a good deal of ordinary demarcation to be got through. The attention of the Settlement Officer has, however, been lately directed to this, and he has been ordered to push on and finally complete this stage of the work has quickly as possible.

Demarcation of village boundaries.

145. The attention of Settlement Officers has been specially directed to the necessity of satisfying themselves, by personal inspection, that permanent boundary marks have been erected. The reports submitted on this point, as also on the manner in which the Chief Commissioner's order enforcing the planting of three trees at every masonry pillar where the boundaries of three villages meet, are generally satisfactory, though there would seem to be considerable difficulty in making the trees grow in certain places where the soil is inferior and water very scarce.

Measures taken for securing permanent boundary marks.

146. SHUJREHS AND KHUSREHS OF FIELDS.—The total number of villages measured during the year is 3,366, or 475 more than in the previous year. The districts in which by far the most work has been done under this heading are Raepore and Belaspore. There still remain 5,481 villages to be measured, but many of these are more or less waste; and the only districts in which any heavy measurement work remains to be done are Raepore, Belaspore, and Mundla, the survey having, I am glad to say, been quite finished in Chindwara and Chanda.

Measurement and preparation of Field Maps.

147. The total area surveyed during the year amounts to 3,278,480 acres, or 5,123 square miles, being 871 square miles more than that of the previous year: the details being village lands 23,91,771, and jungle wastes 8,86,709 acres. The above result is, I consider, satisfactory and very creditable to the Officers in whose Settlements measurements have been going on. Messrs. Hewitt and Chisholm have done exceedingly well in this respect.

Extent of area measured.

148. I regret my inability to furnish the area professionally surveyed during the year, in consequence of the non-submission of the necessary returns from the Revenue Surveyors of the 2nd and 4th Divisions, Lieutenant Taylor and Captain Macdonald. This is the more inexcusable, as these Officers were reminded by me in February last of the necessity of submitting these returns.

Absence of certain Professional Survey returns.

149. The following are the details of the work done according to the returns received up to date: In the 1st Division 1,160 square miles, of which 632 were in the Seonee District and 528 in Hoshungabad. In the 3rd Division 1,100 square miles, comprising the whole of the Huttah Tehseel of the Dumoh District.

Area professionally surveyed.

150. Comparison of areas between the Professional and Putwaree returns has been progressing favorably, and the general result is satisfactory. The professional survey has not yet reached the measured portions of the Chutteesgurh Division, but I have reason to know that much care and attention is devoted to the testing of the field measurements in the Raepore and Belaspore Districts.

Comparison of areas.

Accuracy of field survey in Chutteesgurh Division.

151. A very fair amount of work has been got through under the head of "Classification of Assessment Statistics"— 3,230 general statements having been prepared. As anticipated last year, business under this head may now be fairly said to have been completed in all districts, save Mundla and the Chutteesgurh Division.

Classification of assessment statistics.

152. The number of villages inspected during the year by the assessing Officer is 3,569, which is very good, considering that the bulk of this work has fallen on the Settlement Officers of six districts, viz. Chindwara, Mundla, Chanda, Bhundara, Raepore, and Belaspore; in all of which good work has been done.

Inspection of villages preliminary to assessment.

153. There have been 3,387 assessments made during the year and 3,920 announced. The following is a detail of the principal assessments made, arranged according to the districts in which this important business has been going on:—

Assessments made and announced.

Chindwara	..	362 villages, Rs.	22,576
Chanda	..	684 „ „	92,184
Bhundara	..	817 „ „	1,64,775
Raepore	..	486 „ „	95,432
Belaspore	..	675 „ „	65,671

154. The financial result of the revision of assessment has been a net increase of Rs. 29,067, or 11¾ per cent. on the original Juma of the villages assessed; thus making, with resumptions, &c., a total increase of Rs. 2,89,726, or 5½ per cent. on the total land revenue of these Provinces which has as yet come under revision of Settlement. Of the five districts in which assessments have been made, there has been a slight decrease in Chindwara and Chanda, and a considerable rise in Raepore and Belaspore; whilst in Bhundara no regular comparison can be made, in consequence of nearly all the assessed villages belonging to the Zemindarees, on which a tribute (Tukolee) or quit rent has hitherto been paid.

Financial result of the same.

155. The progress made in assessing the land tax will, I trust, be considered satisfactory. I stated in my last year's Report that the assessments had then been completed in nine districts. I am glad now to be able to add to that list two others, viz. Bhundara and Chindwara, those remaining to be done in the latter district relating almost entirely to Zemindaree villages; whilst, as regards Chanda, I look for the completion of all the Khalsa assessments during the coming rains, which will only leave Mundla, the Chutteesgurh Division, and the unsettled portions of Jubbulpore (Bijeeragogurh) and Nimar to be disposed of in the next and following years.

Progress made in assessment.

And completion of what remains to be done.

156. In my last year's Report, as also in the Chief Commissioner's review of Settlement operations during 1864-65, and the Secretary to Government's letter on the same, the subject of the incidence of the land tax in these Provinces was dwelt on at considerable length; it has also formed the subject of lengthy correspondence since, so that it seems to me hardly necessary to enter again into the merits of this question in this my annual Report, but rather to leave it to be considered for each district separately on submission of the final completion report. It will suffice to mention here that, with the exception of the unassessed Pergunnahs of Chanda, in which slight reduction may perhaps have to be granted, I anticipate a considerable increase in the revenue of all the other districts not yet assessed.

Rise of revenue.

157. His Excellency in Council, when noticing last year the subject of assessment in these Provinces, requested that a return of average prices of agricultural produce might be prepared for each district for the last 20 years. This has now been done; and the returns furnished by the various Settlement Officers are herewith submitted, together with two statements for the whole Provinces,—one showing the maximum, minimum, and average price of the staple products during each year from 1845 to 1864, and the other giving the average prices of agricultural produce in general for the last 20 years.

Rise in prices.

158. A reference to these statements will show that the rise in prices has been very sudden, and taken place chiefly within the last three or four years; and this will, in my opinion, in a great measure, account for the absence of a corresponding rise in rents, which to be permanent must, I think, be slow and gradual.

Ibid.

159. With respect to the remarks made in para. 10 of the Secretary to Government's letter above alluded to, regarding the rate of the Government revenue on the area capable of cultivation, I beg leave to point out that the information therein called for will be found furnished in the comparative statistical statement of area, Juma, rental, &c., appended to last year's Report, and again submitted with the present Report. The statistics there given will speak for themselves, and do not seem to call for further remark from me.

Rate of revised assessment on Malgoozaree area.

160. Good progress has been made under the head of "Attestation of Holdings and adjustment of Rents"—the rents of 4,691 villages having been adjusted, of which upwards of 1,500 belong to the Bhundara District. I have already in former Reports pointed out the obstacles which stand in the way of a correct attestation of holdings in these Provinces; and although I am glad to be able to state that these are being gradually removed, still a really correct and accurate record of existing holdings cannot yet be said to be attained, and cannot, in my opinion, be reasonably looked for at present, though, at the same time, I believe the work to be as well and carefully performed as circumstances will admit of. A reference to Abstract Settlement Business Statement B. will show that considerably more than half the work under this head has been completed.

Attestation of holdings and adjustment of rents.

162. Under the head of "Attestation of Holdings," it may not be out of place to notice the subordinate rights of cultivators and other occupiers of land. These have been carefully recorded, and great progress has been made during the year in carrying out the orders formerly issued to distinguish between those tenants whose rights of occupancy will be absolute, and those who will hold conditionally and subject to any future alteration in the Law.

Record of subordinate rights of cultivators.

162. There can be no doubt but that the carrying out of the above instructions has entailed much extra labor on the Settlement Department generally, and in several instances has considerably delayed the actual completion of the Settlement operations; but such a result was to be expected, and need hardly be regretted, as the re-attestation rendered necessary thereby has conduced greatly to the greater accuracy of the records, and brought to light many errors and omissions which would otherwise have been overlooked.

Ibid.

163. A reference to Statement C. will show the actual number of persons possessed of subordinate rights who have been recorded up to the end of the year. From this it will be seen that there had been tested the holdings of 15,644 proprietors of holdings, of 149,209 tenants with rights of occupancy, and of 245,162 tenants-at-will. The Statement is, I regret to say, incomplete as regards the detail of tenants with absolute and conditional rights of occupancy, several of the Settlement Officers having omitted to furnish the necessary information. This will, if possible, be submitted in a supplementary Statement; and in the meanwhile, I have only to add that I have every reason to believe that all Settlement Officers have so carried out the instructions issued to them on this subject, as to secure the objects pointed out and referred to in paras. 22 and 23 of the Chief Commissioner's review of last year's operations.

Detailed result gained up to this time.

164. The work done under the head of the "Preparation of the final record of Rights and Administration Paper" is the largest and most important feature in the year's operations, as many as 6,561 "Khewuts" and 6,693 "Wajibool-urz" having been faired. I have satisfied myself, by personal inspection, that this work has been well done. The "get up" of the majority of the Misls is very fair; in some Settlements, as Nursingpore and Hoshungabad, first-rate; and I am sanguine that future experience will prove that their contents are in no material respect inferior to their outside appearance. That clerical errors may and will be brought to light is only to be expected, but I do not think the records will be found wanting in accuracy of essentials; and I have every hope that in the course of a few years, when these Misls have been supplemented by the annual Putwarees' papers, they will be found to contain a really accurate record of tenures and holdings as well as of existing rights and liabilities.

Progress made in the completion of record of rights.

Neatness of papers and completeness of their contents.

165. The number of boundary disputes judicially decided is 600. Little or no real work remains to be done under this heading, the undecided cases being of no importance, and having reference chiefly to jungle lands on or near the borders of the reserved wastes.

Decision of boundary disputes.

166. The majority of the Maafee enquiries were made last year, but a good number, 4,241, have been reported this year by the Settlement Officers, and as many as 2,346 disposed of by myself. Some registers still remain for submission from two or three of the settlements in which Settlement operations are otherwise entirely completed, but measures are being taken for the early disposal of all such. A considerable number of cases submitted for the orders of Government have also been received back, and the orders passed thereon duly communicated to the parties concerned.

Maafee investigation.

167. The question having been raised as to the best mode of communicating to Maafeedars the orders passed on their cases, forms of certificate of release, and of notice of resumption, were prepared by me and submitted for the approval of the Chief Commissioner, which was duly accorded. These are now in universal use, and the result generally is satisfactory,—Maafeedars being no longer kept in ignorance of their future position.

Certificate of release, and notice of resumption of rent-free holdings.

168. Another question which has come under discussion during the year is the advisability of commuting personal grants into freeholds, subject to a quit-rent; and on this I have already recorded my opinion in my No. 424, dated 12th February last, to the effect that the benefit of sacrificing future revenue for a present advantage was a very doubtful one, and that although revenue freeholders for life or two generations might perhaps avail themselves of the proposal, still, as regards assured permanent holders, I could not conceive that any but men deeply in debt would care to do so. The orders of Government on this subject have, however, been carried out, though as yet only two grantees have been reported as agreeing to the commutation.

Commutation of personal grants into permanent freeholds.

169. The number of proprietary right cases disposed of is large, as many as 7,782 having been decided during the year; and as the majority of these are newly instituted claims to shares, I am hopeful that there is not now so much ground for the opinion expressed in my last year's Report, that the rights of co-sharers may sometimes have been overlooked, or not accurately defined.

Decision of proprietary right cases.

Raising of old cultivators and others into a proprietary body,

170. In my report for last year, I dwelt at considerable length on the manner in which the instructions laid down in the Settlement Code, for declaring in certain cases old cultivators entitled to be made proprietors of their holdings, had been carried out, and stated that the result had not been altogether satisfactory.

to what extent effected during the year.

171. During the present year this important subject has not been lost sight of; and it will be seen from the Statement appended to the Report that the number of proprietors of holdings now declared, in which must be included all holders of revenue-free plots, has increased from 10,927 to 15,644, the increase being chiefly in the Nagpore, Wurdah, and Bhundara Districts, in all of which the return for last year showed considerable deficiency. This is satisfactory, and will, I trust, prove that both this and the important subject of accurately defining subordinate and co-parcenary rights have been carefully kept in view. Nor must I omit to add that all cases relating to villages held by Talookdars have been reviewed and redecided, in accordance with the instructions laid down by the Chief Commissioner in his Memo. on "Theka" tenures, and with the view of securing uniformity of principle in the adjudication of the relative rights of superior and inferior landholders.

Accurate record of their rights.

Revision of Talooquadaree cases.

Appeals.

172. The total number of appeals decided by the Lower Appellate Courts is 1,607, being 535 less than in the previous year; but there has been little or no falling off in the number preferred to my Court, as many as 962 having been disposed of. The Settlement Officers who have decided the greatest number of appeals during the year, are those of Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Nagpore. The percentage of orders upheld and reversed by my Court is even more favorable than last year, the Saugor Court being the only one to which any very large number of cases were returned for re-investigation.

Ibid.

Enforcement of Civil suit limitation rule in regard to Settlement appeals.

173. The regular hearing and disposing of so many appeals has hitherto entailed much labor and trouble on myself, and has obliged me to devote a portion of each day to this duty, to prevent the accumulation of arrears. I am, therefore, very glad that the Chief Commissioner has been pleased to accede to my proposal to limit the period for Settlement appeals to that allowed for Civil suits; for there can be no doubt but that the privilege of appealing has been greatly abused in the Settlement Department.

Exclusion and demarcation of excess wastes.

174. Good progress has been made during the year in the exclusion and demarcation of excess wastes. The important operation has now been completed in all the districts of the old Saugor and Nurbudda territories, with the exception of Mundla and the Bijeeragogurh tract of Jubbulpore. It has also been entirely finished in Nagpore, Wurdah, and Bhundara, and but little remains to be done in either Chindwara or Chanda. Some slight progress has also been made in Raepore, Belaspore, and Upper Godavery Districts.

Estimated area excluded.

175. In consequence of some of the waste lands not having yet been measured, I am unable to give the exact area of waste already excluded, but I should certainly not put it down at less than 15,000 square miles, and this will be very greatly increased when the vast wastes of the Mundla and other sparsely populated districts of the Provinces are brought under the operation of the rules.

Nature of boundary marks.

176. My attention was drawn by the Chief Commissioner in his last year's review to the manner in which the demarcation had been effected, and considerable correspondence has since passed on the subject. I am satisfied that there is now no longer any ground for the fear expressed by the Chief Commissioner, that the demarcation was chiefly on paper, and that actual boundary marks had not been laid down. All the Settlement Officers have submitted special reports on this subject; they have satisfied themselves, by personal inspection, of the existence of substantial and permanent boundary marks, and have had such erected where found wanting. They, one and all, declare that no trouble is likely to arise hereafter on this point; and I think, therefore, that the subject may now be considered as finally disposed of, if only due precautions be taken that the marks, as at present existing, be carefully kept up and preserved.

Tehseelee and Putwarees' copies of Settlement Misl.

177. The business of making copies of important papers for deposit in the Tehseel and Putwarees' Offices has progressed very satisfactorily during the year, having been carried on almost simultaneously with the other final stages of Settlement business. It may, therefore, be considered as finished in all the Settlements now reported as brought to a close,—a result which cannot be regarded as otherwise than satisfactory, when the aid which will be thus afforded to the punctual rendition of the annual Putwarees' papers in these Settlements is taken into consideration.

178. In accordance with the Chief Commissioner's instructions, the duty of supervising the preparation and filing of the Putwarees' annual papers for this year will devolve on myself. The necessary instructions have accordingly been issued by me on the subject, and arrangements have also been made for retaining in each of the more important Settlements, for one year at least, the services of the Deputy Collector or other Officer who has been hitherto employed in completing the records of that Settlement. I must also not omit to mention that in those districts where landholders will be left to make their own arrangements for the filing of the annual papers, a clause has been added to the Tehseelee Wajibool-urz, whereby landholders engage to do this regularly, or agree, in the event of failing to do so, to defray the cost of preparing and rendering such papers in any way the District Officer may direct.

Rendition of Putwarees' annual papers.

179. The progress made in the completion of papers and filing of records in the District Office will, I trust, be considered satisfactory; as many as 4,751 Misls and Bustahs having been actually delivered over, and 2,100 more being ready for delivery. I have already recorded my opinion regarding the general accuracy of the completed papers, and have now only to add that I took every opportunity of personally inspecting the records during my tour on circuit; that sample papers have been sent for and scrutinized from every Settlement; and now that the records have been filed in the District Office, every opportunity will be taken of similarly examining these documents on all possible occasions.

Completion of Settlement records and the delivery of the same into the District Office.

Personal inspection of the same.

180. The hopes expressed by me last year regarding the completion of Settlement operations and filing of Settlement records in the districts noted in the margin* have been verified for all except the last two, Wurda and Seonee. I have already animadverted on the shortcomings of the Settlement Officers of these two districts, and will not now dwell any longer on this subject, except to state that I have every hope of seeing Wurda completed by the end of July next; but I fear Seonee will not be finished before the 31st October next, at earliest. As regards the remaining Settlements, Nagpore ought to be done by the end of November next, and Bhundara by April 1867;—thus making 10 Settlements entirely completed by the end of the current year 1866-67.

The result how far in accordance with previous anticipation.

* Jubbulpore, Dumoh, Saugor, Nursingpore, Hoshungabad, Baitool, Wurda, and Seonee.

181. Final Settlement Reports have now been received by me for Baitool, Hoshungabad, and Nursingpore, as also the final statements for the two first Settlements. I hope to be able to submit before long the three Reports above mentioned, should nothing unforeseen occur to prevent my doing so; as also to receive and forward those for Jubbulpore, Dumoh, Saugor, and Wurdah by the end of the current calendar year.

Receipt and submission of final Settlement Reports for the districts in which operations have come to a close.

182. The cost of the Settlement Department during the year under report amounts to Rs. 5,45,439, or Rs. 13,019 in excess of that of the previous year: but this includes the expenditure incurred on the Upper Godavery, Nimar, and Bejeeragogurh Settlements, which was not included in last year's return. If this be excluded, the actual expenditure will be somewhat less than that of the previous year.

Cost.

183. The above cost is certainly high, but still I trust that the work accomplished will be considered as fully justifying and commensurate with the expenditure, more especially as the amount expended is Rs. 19,469 less than the sanctioned Budget grant of Rs. 5,64,908, in which, moreover, no provision was made for my own Sudder Establishment. The Settlement grant for the current year is Rs. 4,82,800, or Rs. 82,108 less than that for the year under Report; and it would have been still less, had it not been deemed expedient to commence operations in the new districts of Nimar and Bijeeragogurh. The districts in which the expenditure during the year under report seems to have been out of proportion to the results attained, are Seonee, Nagpore, and Wurda.

Remarks on the same.

184. Of the Settlements which have as yet been completely finished, that of Jubbulpore has cost the most, the total amount expended on the Jubbulpore Settlement (excluding Bijeeragogurh) being nearly three lakhs, whilst Saugor has cost Rs. 2,82,271, and Hoshungabad Rs. 2,65,418. If the relative cost of each of the completed Settlements be considered with reference to the proportion it bears to one year's revenue, then the following results are obtained:—

Relative percentage of cost in the several completed Settlements.

Baitool	75	per cent.
Saugor	62½	do.
Hoshungabad	59	do.

Dumoh	58	per cant.
Jubbulpore	55	do.
Nursingpore	40	do.

Total cost of Settlement of the whole Provinces.

185. The total amount already expended on the Settlement of the Central Provinces is 29¼ lakhs, and I anticipate that before the Settlement is everywhere completed, it will have cost upwards of 10 lakhs more; thus making an aggregate expenditure of some 40 lakhs, which will I fear be considered very high, though it must at the same time be admitted that the result has been in a great measure unavoidable.

Grant of Title Deeds.

186. Among other subjects which have come under discussion during the past year, that of granting title deeds to all persons on whom proprietary right has been conferred at the Settlement, is well worthy of notice. This suggestion, which emanated from Mr. Carnac, and was strongly supported by myself, has received the sanction of the Chief Commissioner. It is, in my opinion, an excellent one; and has there can, I think, be no doubt but that much more value and importance will be attached to the deed if a *fac-simile* of the Chief Commissioner's signature be engrossed on it, I trust a favorable reply will be given to the reference made by me on this subject in my No. 1179 of 16th ultimo.

Enhancement of cesses.

187. During the year under review the following enhancement has, in accordance with the orders of Government, been made in the cesses:—

Road Fund increased from 1 to 2 per cent. on Government Juma.
School Fund do. do. do.
Dâk Fund fixed at 8 annas per cent. on Government Juma.

The entries in the Settlement papers have all been made accordingly, care being taken not only to correct and revise all papers previously completed in accordance with the above, but also to provide for the payment of the cesses by all holders of revenue-free and quit-rent plots assessed at Rs. 10 and upwards.

Revenue instalments.

188. Shortly after the submission of last year's Report, the Chief Commissioner's instructions, regarding the number of instalments in which the land revenue of the Central Provinces shall for the future be payable, were received. The number of instalments have now been fixed at two, payable on 1st February and 1st June; and I have during the present year sanctioned for every district in which assessments have been made, the proportion of the annual demand payable at each instalment. The proportions have been carefully fixed by the Settlement Officers in accordance with the instructions laid down in the Chief Commissioners Circular, and the necessary entries made in the Settlement record. Deputy Commissioners have also been supplied with a Mouzahwar Kistbundee.

Initiation of Kanoongoes in the details of Settlement Business.

189. Measures have also been taken during the present year for the due instruction of Kanoongoes, with the view of their gaining a knowledge of the meaning and object of the several papers which form a Settlement Misl. The Chief Commissioner's instructions on this point have been carried out by all Settlement Officers, and reports submitted, which show that the Kanoongoes, as a body, have now learnt thoroughly how to prepare every paper in a Misl.

Refund of difference between the old and new Jumas.

190. The necessary arrangements for the refund of the difference between old and new Jumas in the Saugor and Nerbudda territories have been made and carried out during the year under report. Little or nothing now remains to be done under this head, with the exception of a few clerical errors, which may perhaps have to be rectified. The necessary instructions have also been issued for carrying out the Chief Commissioner's instructions regarding the remission of balances of past years.

Settlement of Zemindaree estates.

191. The assessment of estates held in Zemindaree tenure has not been lost sight of, though the progress has not been quite so satisfactory as I could have wished. The Settlement Officers of Bhundara, Chanda, Raepore, and Belaspore, have, however, been furnished by me with detailed instructions on all important points connected with the revision of Zemindaree assessments and determination of the amount of tribute demandable from the various Zemindars; and I hope before long to be in a position to submit a detailed report on this [illegible] to the Chief Commissioner.

Term of new Settlement.

192. The orders of Government, that at all future announcements of revised assessments the Government reserves the right to decide whether the term of Settlement shall be for 20 or 30 years, have been carefully explained to the people, and Settlement Officers have been instructed accordingly. The

announcement of Jumas, now going on in Chindwara, Chanda, and the districts of the Chutteesgurh Division, has been made subject to the above provision.

193. I have already in my remarks on the various Settlements noticed in detail the services of the Officers of this Department during the year, and have now only to add that I consider that Messrs. Lawrence, Hewitt, Chisholm, and Russell have done best during the year, also that Mr. Grant, and Mr. Carnac (in Chanda) have done very well.

Notice of Officers who have done best during the year.

194. I beg also to bring to the Chief Commissioner's notice the excellent service performed during the year by Baboo Nobin Chunder, the Superintendent of my Office, who has fully sustained the good character I gave of him last year. The 3rd Clerk of my Office, Mr. Collasco, has also done very well, and promises to be very useful.

Notice of Office subordinates.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. H. MORRIS,

Settlement Commissioner,

Central Provinces.

SETTLEMENT BUSINESS STATEMENT for Central Provinces for the Official year 1865-66.

No.	DETAIL OF PROGRESSIVE STAGES OF BUSINESS.	TOTAL AMOUNT OF BUSINESS. Number of Villages.	Completed previously.	Remaining at close of last year.	Total.	Total Business performed up to date.	Remaining to be done.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Demarcation of village boundaries	31,474	26,581	4,893	2,003	28,584	2,890	The difference between the number shown under Column 3 of this and the last year's Business Statement, may be explained by remarking that the present return includes the number of villages of the Beejaragogurh Tehseel and Nimar District, not shown formerly; whilst the disparity in the total number of the various stages is attributable to the entries from No. 7 (compilation of totals, &c). downwards being only for those villages which have been or are to be brought under Settlement operations, and not those which are altogether waste,—a number of which, moreover, were included in the "total amount of business" under Column 3 of the last year's Statement.
2	Thakbust maps and Khusrahs	31,474	22,307	9,167	2,884	25,191	6,283	
3	Thakbust purtal, and Misls delivered	31,474	23,267	8,107	2,624	25,891	5,583	
4	Shujrahs and Khusrahs of fields	31,194	22,347	8,847	3,366	25,713	5,481	
5	Ditto of village sites	30,398	20,850	9,548	3,419	24,269	6,129	
6	Purtal of Nos. 4 and 5, and measurement Misls delivered	31,194	21,562	9,632	4,119	25,681	5,513	
7	Compilation of totals, and classifying statistics of Khusrahs	30,603	19,922	10,681	2,492	22,414	8,189	
8	Ditto of English General Statements for assessments	30,718	18,498	12,220	3,230	21,728	8,990	
9	Villages inspected by Assessing Officer	30,916	19,291	11,625	3,569	22,860	8,056	
10	Assessments made	30,603	17,944	13,109	3,387	20,881	9,722	
11	Assessments announced	30,603	15,344	15,259	3,920	19,264	11,339	
12	Compilation of rough Kheteonee	30,603	17,058	13,645	3,893	20,951	9,752	
13	Attestation of ditto	30,603	14,803	15,800	3,717	18,520	12,083	
14	Correction of Khusrah and Shujrah	30,603	12,406	18,197	6,699	19,105	11,498	
15	Adjustment of rents	30,603	13,598	17,005	4,691	18,289	12,314	
16	Rough Drafts of Administration Paper	30,603	13,187	17,416	4,463	17,650	12,953	
17	Fair copy of Khusrah	30,603	9,251	21,352	6,078	15,329	15,274	
18	Do. Shujrah	30,718	8,724	21,994	6,532	15,256	15,462	
19	Do. Kheteonee and Jumabundee	30,603	8,671	21,932	6,490	15,161	15,442	
20	Preparation of No. II Statement (Vernacular)	..	..	..	..	..	..	
21	Do. Teerij	30,603	9,423	21,180	6,515	15,938	14,665	
22	Do. Khewut	30,603	7,982	22,681	6,561	14,543	16,060	
23	Do. List of free tenures	30,603	12,204	18,399	3,359	15,863	14,740	
24	Fair copy of Administration Paper	30,603	6,360	24,243	6,693	13,053	17,550	
25	Final Roobicaree	30,718	5,761	24,957	7,717	13,478	17,240	
26	Misls and Bustas delivered to District Office	31,474	3,444	28,030	4,751	8,195	23,279	
27	Boundary disputes judicially decided	..	6,197	838	600	6,797	238	
28	Maafee enquiries made	..	39,545	2,203	1,733	41,278	470	
29	Do. reported	..	7,151	7,408	4,241	11,392	3,167	
30	Proprietary-right cases decided	..	26,026	11,026	7,782	33,808	3,244	
31	Appeals	..	3,693	187	1,609	5,302	108	

MEMO. OF FINANCIAL PROGRESS.

Total Government demand previous to re-assessment.	Total Government demand according to revisions up to close of past year.	Total original Juma of Villages assessed during the year.	Total of revised assessments on Ditto.	Detail of enhanced Assessments. No. of Villages.	Former Juma.	Revised Juma.	Highest percentage of increase on any one Village.	Detail of reduced Assessments. No. of Villages.	Former Juma.	Revised Juma.	Highest percentage of reduction given in any one Village.	Total Government demand according to revisions up to date.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
53,45,526-13-0	55,56,493-0-4	4,37,421-0-0	4,92,473-0-6	1,269	1,21,380	1,69,566	964	679	94,041	75,208	111	56,05,545-0-10
				Maafee lands.								
60,946-0-0	1,13,039-0-0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,13,039-0-0
54,06,472-13-0	56,63,532-0-4	4,37,421-0-0	4,92,473-0-6	1,269	1,21,380	1,69,566	964	679	94,041	75,208	111	57,18,584-0-10

MEMO. OF COST OF THE SETTLEMENT.

Department.	Total cost up to close of last year.	Amount of cost during the year.	Total cost up to date.	Average rate of salary of establishment officials below the rank of Superintendent, and excluding Chupprassies, Mirdahs, Tent-pitchers, &c., &c.
1	2	3	4	5
Sett. Commr's Office. Establishment	83,528-14-5	50,289-1-6	1,33,817-15-11	The expenditure shown under Col. 3 is for the Official year 1865-66, and not the Budget year.
Settlement Officers, including Superintendent and Deputy Collector ..	5,72,704-4-6	1,47,149-4-0	7,19,853-8-6	
Executive Officials of all kinds ..	14,32,788-15-4	2,87,310-7-1	17,20,099-6-5	
Contingencies	2,98,763-4-3	60,690-7-5	3,59,453-11-8	
Total .	23,87,785-6-6	5,45,439-4-0	29,33,224-10-6	

N.B.—The above includes the result of revision of assessment in the Zemindarees of the Bhundara District, which has risen from Rs. 1,42,390 to 1,64,775.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL STATEMENT of Area, Juma, Rental Rates, &c. in each District of the Central Provinces for the year 1865-66.

Number of Mouzahs.	Number of Mehals.	Total area.	Total Malgoozaree area.	Cultivation.		Rental.		Rates.		Former Juma.	Former revenue rate per cultivated area.	Total revenue of new assessment, including Maafee.	Revenue payable in Sumbut 1,922 under new assessment.	New revenue rate on cultivated area.	Revenue rate on Malgoozaree area.	Ploughs.	Population.	Rate on square miles.	Remarks.
				Before assessment.	After assessment.	Before assessment.	After assessment.	Before assessment.	After assessment.										
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.				
2,435	2,206	2,325,087	1,448,214	738,347	7,85,271	1,058,492	10,55,779	1 6 11	1 5 4	4,64,818	0 10 1	5,44,590	5,12,267	0 11 10	0 6 1	610,37	435,500	119	
1,220	1,159	1,106,230	769,485	387,296	3,96,175	430,605	4,82,779	1 1 9	1 3 6	2,66,460	0 11 0	2,69,487	2,54,974	0 10 9	0 5 6	32,795	232,500	77	
1,990	1,977	1,849,637	14,22,274	628,134	6,36,602	780,989	8,13,982	1 3 10	1 4 5	5,26,866	0 13 5	4,49,450	4,29,594	0 11 5	0 5 4	52,246	522,700	133	
1,108	1,108	1,186,218	732,071	555,452	5,58,068	775,357	8,31,736	1 6 4	1 7 11	3,30,960	0 9 6	4,21,699	4,21,699	0 12 3	0 9 4	34,603	328,000	171	
1,301	557	1,539,419	1,297,613	754,613	7,57,397	731,052	9,65,768	0 15 6	1 4 5	3,09,904	0 6 6	4,50,133	4,24,865	0 9 6	0 5 6	29,461	379,000	124	
...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1,073	1,073	1,892,842	1,132,237	635,912	6,42,639	272,046	2,87,129	0 6 10	0 7 2	1,38,853	0 3 5	1,84,514	1,84,514	0 4 7	0 2 7	32,655	219,700	66	
1,287	1,287	1,706,554	773,631	473,817	4,73,817	291,992	2,98,308	0 9 10	0 10 1	2,46,678	0 8 3	2,12,622	2,12,622	0 7 2	0 4 4	20,830	242,800	49	
1,677	1,677	1,569,480	1,081,604	599,475	6,10,846	326,356	4,25,908	0 8 8	0 11 2	1,48,548	0 3 11	2,30,217	2,15,577	0 6 2	0 3 5	34,107	354,100	78	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	134,100	27	
2,616	2,616	2,820,632	1,813,522	1,262,864	12,62,864	1,088,923	12,52,246	0 13 9	0 15 10	9,75,591	0 12 4	9,81,617	9,00,230	0 12 5	0 8 8	66,530	945,600	252	
988	988	1,021,109	871,229	668,460	6,68,460	494,536	6,12,040	0 11 10	0 14 6	4,23,020	0 10 4	4,30,957	4,30,957	0 10 3	0 7 10	33,461	304,600	129	
1,210	1,210	1,059,447	920,521	439,509	4,39,509	243,846	2,43,846	0 8 10	0 8 10	1,90,704	0 6 11	1,78,148	1,78,148	0 6 6	0 3 1	23,903	553,600	76	
2,407	1,544	3,422,032	1,996,201	1,001,720	..	612,806	..	0 9 9	..	4,33,542	0 6 11	4,61,849	4,20,946	0 7 4	0 3 8	67,725	711,100	120	
709	709	767,949	724,857	433,276	4,33,276	108,391	2,09,244	0 4 0	0 7 8	99,462	0 3 8	1,38,135	1,38,135	0 5 1	0 3 6	18,478	460,000	78	Excluding Zemindas
648	648	552,978	497,520	232,262	2,32,262	62,547	1,16,132	0 5 6	0 8 0	49,931	0 3 5	69,110	65,671	0 4 9	0 2 3	14,158	507,000	91	Do. do.
	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	296,000	26	Excluding Zemindas and Gurjat States
39	4	45,251	31,387	10,013	10,013	7,777	7,777	0 11 5	0 11 5	3,656	0 5 10	6,999	6,999	0 11 2	0 3 6	1,271	9,583	1	
	763	22,864,865	15,512,366	8,221,150	..	7,295,715	..	..	..	46,08,993	..	50,29,527	4,797,198	..	..	523,260	6,635,683		

J. H. MORRIS,
Settlement Officer,
Central Provinces.

REPORT

with the Officiating Chief Commissioner's Memorandum,

ON

Settlement Operations

IN THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES,

FOR

THE YEAR 1866-67.



(67)

NAGPORE:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY M. LAWLOR AT THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE PRESS.

1867.

MEMORANDUM

BY THE

OFFICIATING CHIEF COMMISSIONER

ON THE

Report on Settlement Operations

IN THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES

During the year 1866-67.

This Report was written by me as Settlement Commissioner, and it has now come before me as Officiating Chief Commissioner. It may be submitted to the Supreme Government and circulated in the usual way, together with the following memorandum, which touches—

Firstly, on the aggregate of Settlement business completed during the year.

Secondly, on such stages of the Settlement as may require special remark.

And *thirdly*, on general points connected with the progress of Settlement operations.

2. *Firstly*, as to the aggregate of work done during the year:—

I.—The demarcation of village boundaries was done in 1,733 villages. The only boundaries which remain to be marked off, are those of Government wastes in the eastern districts.

II.—The field measurement was made in 2,911 villages, or over an area of 8,031 square miles; about 3,000 villages remain to be measured, but many of these consist of a few fields only.

III.—Revised assessments of the land revenue were announced for 3,943 villages; nearly 7,000 villages remain to be assessed.

IV.—The adjustment of rents was completed in 4,288 villages; and in 8,240 it still remains to be done.

V.—The final record of rights and the administration papers were drawn up for 5,350 villages; in about 12,000 these papers still remain to be done.

VI.—747 boundary disputes were decided; and only 179 are left for disposal.

VII.—4,226 revenue-free tenures were investigated; only 1,139 remain to be enquired into.

VIII.—Enquiries into the proprietary right to 5,604 villages were made; and 1,166 of these cases still await decision.

IX.—711 appeals were disposed of by the Settlement Commissioner, and 853 by Settlement Officers.

X.—About 1½ million of acres were adjudged to be excess waste, and were marked off in lots as State property.

XI.—Settlement operations were completed, and the Settlement records were made over to the district office, in about 8,000 villages.

XII.—Final Settlement Reports for four districts were prepared and submitted.

XIII.—By the end of the year Settlement work had ended, and the special establishments had been broken up in seven districts.

XIV.—The revised assessments of land revenue have been confirmed for thirty years in ten districts, and such confirmation has been formally announced to the people.

During the eleven months which make up the financial year 1866-67 Rs. 4,57,553 were expended in Settlement operations,—or about one lakh of rupees below the cost of the Department during the preceding year.

3. *Secondly*,—I will notice a few special points regarding some of the stages of Settlement work.

4. FIELD MEASUREMENTS. Considering that the work done under this head was confined to five districts, the out-turn of an average of ten lakhs of acres for each district is considerable. The measurers are now expert, and do accurate work; the supervision exercised is close and efficient. The professional Survey has not entered on any part of the year's work; and one of the most useful tests of the accuracy of the year's measurements is therefore wanting. In the final Reports which have come under review during the year a detailed comparison of the field measurements, and of the professional survey areas, has been drawn, and the *khusreh* areas have agreed remarkably closely with the professional Survey areas.

5. ASSESSMENT. The business of inspecting villages and assessing the land revenue has been energetically pushed on. In seven different districts, villages paying Rs. 5,24,699 of land revenue have come under revision, and the Government demand on these lands has been raised to Rs. 7,11,136, thus giving an enhancement of 40 per cent. Notwithstanding these increases the land revenue of the seven districts above referred to is still very moderate, as will be seen from the subjoined figures:—

The revised land revenue falls on an average in the—				
Chindwara district at	6 annas	9 pie		
Chanda	6 „	4 „		
Raepore	5 „	0 „	on each acre of cultivated land.	
Belaspore	5 „	1 „		
Nimar	11 „	9 „		
Bijiragoghur	7 „	1 „		
Upper Godavery	11 „	0 „		

6. Up to the end of the year under report the land revenue of the Central Provinces has been increased by the Settlement Department to the extent of 4½ lakhs, or about 8 per cent. It is anticipated that, reckoning the increases on "takolees" (tribute or quit-rents) payable by Feudatories and the large pro-

prietors of the eastern districts, the land revenue of these Provinces will be raised nearly 10 per cent. Besides the increase in the land revenue, there is the yield from the excess wastes marked off by the Settlement Department; the revenue from this source is already almost two lakhs of rupees, and it will eventually exceed three lakhs of rupees per annum.

7. Adjustment of rents.—The work of attesting holdings and recording the rents which may have been agreed upon between landlords and tenants, or which may have been in cases of dispute settled by a competent Court, has made much progress. It has now been quite completed in eleven districts. In the eight districts where business under this head was accomplished during the year 1866-67, the result may be shown thus:—

In	Chindwara	rents	rose	5 per cent.
,,	Saugor	,,	,,	3½ ,,
,,	Seonee	,,	,,	37 ,,
,,	Chanda	,,	,,	4 ,,
,,	Bhundara	,,	,,	23 ,,
,,	Raepore	,,	,,	140 ,,
,,	Belaspore	,,	,,	50 ,,

So far as operations have yet proceeded the comparison for the whole of the Central Provinces, between the land revenue payable, and the rents receivable by landholders, stands thus:—

	Rental. Rs.	*Jumma.* Rs.
Previous to Settlement ..	*76,44,165	49,06,858
After Settlement	*90,11,694	54,42,106

The annual village papers which are now filed in the districts where Settlement operations are concluded, show that rents are still continuing to rise. In the Wurdah district they have risen 5 per cent. since rents were recorded by the Settlement Officer three years ago. On the whole, the returns of rents show that the landholders of the Central Provinces possess good and improving properties.

Record of Rights. This important branch of Settlement work has made much progress, and has now been completed in eleven districts. A copy of the Settlement papers which contain the record of rights, and of the field map of his estate, have been placed in the hands of every landholder. Measures of various kinds have been taken to instruct the several right-holders what their rights in the land are. And the proprietors, occupants, village servants, in fact the whole agricultural community, are gradually acquiring, and in many districts have acquired a full knowledge of their rights. The number of the several classes of right-holders whose interest in the land has been investigated and recorded up to the end of the year 1866-67, may be shown thus:—

	Number of persons.
Absolute proprietors of villages, or shares of villages ..	52,472
Superior proprietors (Talookdars) of villages or shares of villages	1,323
Sub-proprietors of ditto ditto	2,237
Proprietors of their holdings	25,981
Hereditary cultivators. { Absolute .. .. about	135,000
Hereditary cultivators. { Conditional, that is 12 years' tenants, under Act X. of 1859 .. about	73,000
Tenants at will	537,698

According to the returns of the census taken in November 1866, there are about 4½ millions of souls in the Central Provinces who live by agriculture. Of

* These figures are arrived at, after assigning a full value to the home farms cultivated by landowners themselves.

these, half a million reside in the Feudatoryships, with which the Settlement department has no direct concern. For the four millions of agriculturists who dwell in British territory, the record of rights in the land will by the end of the current year be completed, except only in the district of Sumbulpore.

9. Investigations into Revenue-free Tenures. Almost the whole of the business to be done under this head has been completed. A very large number of cases have been received in this office, on all of which the Chief Commissioner's orders have been passed. Many have received the orders of the Supreme Government, and the remainder will be submitted as soon as the registers of revenue-free enquiries can be passed through the press.

10. Demarcation of excess Waste.—It is not necessary to discuss here the principle whereby excess wastes in these Provinces are regarded as, and declared to be State property. Mr. Temple's Review on the Forest Report for the year 1865-66 contained a clear exposition of the whole matter. About 17,000 square miles of country have been, up to the close of the year under report, marked off under the excess waste rules. According to the census papers the whole of the Government wastes in the Central Provinces will, when the Settlement operations shall have been finished, amount to 24,000 square miles. Not only does this vast area form an inexhaustible reserve, from which timber, firewood, grass, bamboos, and natural products, can be supplied to the more populous tracts; not only do these wastes yield a considerable revenue to the State; but the exclusion of these wastes from village areas has compelled landowners to cultivate better, and make more of the lands now granted to them in full proprietary right. There is a remarkable concurrence of testimony among all District Officers to the effect that the exclusion of the excess wastes has made landholders get more out of their own lands, both cultivated and uncultivated. It may be well to add here that wastes, ample for all purposes of grazing, and of extending cultivation, have been conferred upon landholders. The landowners of the Central Provinces, excluding the Feudatory chiefs, possess 35,226 square miles of waste, besides 21,798 square miles of cultivated land.

11. Completion of papers and filing of Settlement records in the District Office. This has now been done in ten districts out of the eighteen which compose the Central Provinces. The accuracy of the records is, on the whole, good; and the Settlement papers are preserved in a neat and durable form. Mr. Temple, who during the last year visited several of the district record-rooms wherein the Settlement papers had been filed, expressed himself highly satisfied with the general appearance of the Settlement records.

12. Final Settlement Report. The final Reports for seven districts were reviewed by Mr. Temple before he left the Central Provinces. One of the Reports has been printed and submitted to the Supreme Government; another is nearly ready; and two more are passing through the press. These reports will form a valuable record, and will be most useful to local Officers.

13. *Lastly*, as to general points connected with the progress of Settlement operations.

14. Completion of the Settlement. The Settlement of ten districts has been now finished. It is anticipated two more Settlements, namely those of Chindwara and the Upper Godavery, will be completed and reported upon by the end of the current year 1867-68. There will then remain for completion the Settlements of Chutteesgurh *Division only, and a small portion of the work in Mundla, Chanda, and Nimar.

* Comprising the districts of Sumbulpore, Raepore, and Belaspore.

The total expenditure of the Settlement department, from the year 1854, when the operations were first begun, to the end of the year 1866-67, has been close upon 38 lakhs. If the work should be completed within a cost of 45 lakhs, as will probably be the case, then the total cost of the Settlement will have been about eight years' purchase of the enhancements which the revised assessments of the land revenue will yield.

15. PROFESSIONAL SURVEY. The four parties of the Revenue survey which are employed in these Provinces made good progress during the year. But their work cannot keep pace with the out-turn of the large Settlement establishments which have recently been carrying on field measurements in different parts of these Provinces. The area professionally surveyed during the year has been about 4,000 square miles.

The Surveyor General's office has furnished during the year a lithographed map of the Saugor district, besides lithographed maps of sundry pergunnahs and sub-divisions of the Dumoh, Nursingpore, Bhundara and Jubbulpore districts. An excellent map of the Nagpore and Wurdah districts, on a scale of two miles to the inch, with village boundaries clearly delineated, has been also furnished. This map has already been found of much practical use.

16. NOTICE OF OFFICERS. It remains for me to notice those Officers of the Settlement department who have done particularly well during the year. Mr. Lawrence, after having carried on the Bhundara Settlement for three years, with much practical ability, has now wound up operations with a completeness and despatch which have not been surpassed in any Settlement of these Provinces: Messrs. Hewitt and Chisholm have performed themselves, and have obtained from their establishments, a very large amount of good work; the Raepore and Belaspore Settlements, supervised by these two Officers, are making excellent progress. Mr. Russell has during the year under report wound up, and has given finishing touches to no less than four Settlements. He has submitted a final report on the Dumoh Settlement, which had been under his charge for two years. His assiduity and attention to details have been most commendable. Colonel Maclean's work in the Saugor Settlement was nearly completed last year. But the final report had to be written; and Colonel Maclean, much to his credit, declined the offer of an Officiating Commissionership, in order that he might be able satisfactorily to complete his final Settlement Report. Lieutenant Forsyth, who recently joined the Settlement department, has begun his work in Nimar with much adaptive ability. Among the Deputy Collectors and Superintendents, Oulad Hussein (of Dumoh) Fazl-ool Kadir (of Nimar) Sooklall Sing (of Jubbulpore), Ramdial (of Chanda), Sree Nath Bose (of Belaspore) and Nago Rao (of the Upper Godavery district) deserve special commendation.

17. CONCLUSION. I cannot close this memorandum without observing that it must have been a source of satisfaction to Mr. Temple, who has done so much to place the Settlement of the land revenue and the landed tenures of these Provinces on a firm footing, to see that certainty of tenure and fixity of demand had been secured to nearly five-sixths of the agricultural community, before his connection with this Administration was severed. Nor must I omit here to place on record that the main portion of such success as may of late years have attended the exertions of the Settlement department in these Provinces, is entirely due to Mr. Temple's fostering care, his vigilant supervision, and to the able and judicious manner in which the services of each Officer have been utilized and made the most of by him.

J. H. MORRIS,

Officiating Chief Commissioner,
Central Provinces.

NAGPORE:
The 23rd May 1867.

No. 1385 of 1867.

FROM

THE SETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER,

Central Provinces,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

Central Provinces.

Dated Jubbulpore, the 26th April 1867.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith the prescribed Annual Report and Settlement business statements for the past year 1866-67. In reviewing the operations completed during the year, I will dwell on each of the Settlements in the same order as I did on previous occasions.

Introduction.

I.—JUBBULPORE.

2. The Settlement of this district was almost completed at the end of last year, Mr. Grant having delivered all the Settlement misls into the Revenue record-room before his departure on furlough, on the 31st of March 1866. The work that devolved on his successor in connection with this Settlement, was the decision of a few appeals; the reporting of the remaining rent-free and quit-rent holdings, some of which were important; and a further revision of the waste land arrangements, as directed in your No. 1280-99, dated 8th May 1866. Mr. Russell, who was appointed to take charge of this Settlement, in addition to his own duties, assumed charge of it on the 2nd July 1866, and has disposed of the appeals and reported all the rent-free cases, except one. The revision of waste land arrangements has also been completed in six out of the ten Pergunnahs comprised in the district, and has resulted in the exclusion of 106,782 acres, which had previously escaped under a misapprehension of the waste land rules; the demarcation of the excluded tracts has also been carried out in two Pergunnahs. It is also satisfactory to note that Mr. Russell reports that he will make over all the excluded lands to the Deputy Commissioner for administration before the 1st July next.

Completion of the Settlement.

Revision of waste land arrangements.

3. The revised assessment of the district has received the confirmation of Mr. Temple, and the submission of the final Report is all that now remains to be done. Major Nembhard, who was expected to furnish the Report, having taken leave on medical certificate to England, this work has also devolved on Mr. Russell. I hope before long to be in receipt of the Report for submission to the Chief Commissioner.

Confirmation of the revised assessment.

4. Settlement operations are also in full progress in the sub-division of Bijiragogurh, which now forms a part of the Jubbulpore district. At the close of the last year, village boundaries had been demarcated, thakbust maps and khusrahs made out, and the interior measurement of the Pergunnah nearly finished,—leaving only 32 field maps and 144 maps of village sites to be completed during the year under review; this has been done, as also the purtal of the remaining 49 villages and the compilation of totals of 116. The inspection of villages preparatory to assessment was made by the Settlement Officer during his annual tour in November and December last, and he has reported the assessment of the entire

Progress of Settlement operations in the sub-division of Bijiragogurh.

Tehseel, which has been generally sanctioned, and will be announced as soon as the Mouzahwar jummas have been approved of by me. It may therefore be asserted that all the more important operations of the Settlement of this sub-division have been completed within the year.

Revision of assessment in sub-division of Bijiragogurh.

5. The revision of assessment has resulted in an increase of about Rs. 10,000,—the present demand having been raised from Rs. 50,324 to Rs. 60,210, or about 20 per cent. The highest rate of the proposed jumma is not above 10 annas per acre on the cultivation,—a rate which, as observed by the Settlement Officer, "is nearly equal to the average rate in Dumoh and Nursingpore, both districts superior in many respects to Bijiragogurh." The proposed jumma includes Rs. 4,315 on account of "Syer,"—income from grass and forest lands included in the Malgoozaree area, but is exclusive of excess wastes excluded under the operation of the waste land rules, and which is estimated by the Settlement Officer as yielding a "Syer" revenue of Rs. 7,579.

Fiscal result of the same.

Progress in other stages of the business.

6. Good progress has also been made in the remaining stages of the work, viz: attestation of holdings, enquiries into rights and tenures, and compilation of the record; the entire business of attestation and adjustment of rents having been finished, and rough drafts of the administration papers made out; so that the fairing of the misls is now all that remains to be done; and it is hoped that the Settlement will be entirely finished by the end of the present calendar year, if not earlier.

Adjustment of rents.

7. As regards the adjustment of rents before the announcement of the proposed assessment, the Settlement Officer states as follows:—"In this Pergunnah the universal practice is, to take rents in kind, or 'bhag;' consequently the amount of jumma makes no difference in the 'rents' demandable from cultivators. Besides this, the powers of Settlement Officers in respect to adjustment of rents by judicial award have now been very much restricted, as it has been declared that Settlement Officers have no power to do so under the law, and that the disputant parties should be instructed to bring a suit under Act X. of 1859, so that proprietors have the option of having their rents enhanced at any time, should they feel disposed to do so, and can make out a good case."

Judicial work.

Exclusion of waste lands.

Kotwars and Putwarees' rights, &c.

Cost.

8. In addition to the work enumerated above, 86 proprietary right cases have been decided by the Superintendent and Deputy Collector of Settlement, thus bringing this stage of Settlement business to completion; enquiries into all the rent-free cases have also been completed; waste lands to the extent of 56,774 acres have been excluded and set apart as State property; the position, rights, and perquisites of village Kotwars have been enquired into and recorded; and the adjustment of Putwarees' circles, and their remuneration made; 107 appeals have also been decided—the whole at a cost of Rs. 25,088.

Notice of Officers.

9. The above results must, I think, be considered as satisfactory, and very creditable to the Settlement Officer (Mr. Russell) and his Assistant, Deputy Collector Sooklall Sing. Both these Officers have fully sustained the good character I gave them in former Reports, and are entitled to much credit. Superintendent Mahomed Nuzeer was attached to this Settlement for a short time only, and his services will be noticed in Mundla, to which Settlement he is now posted. As regards his judicial work, the Settlement Officer considers it "to have been done in excellent style."

II.—DUMOH.

Completion of the Settlement.

10. This Settlement, like that of Jubbulpore, was entirely finished before the end of last year, and only the final Report was then due from the Settlement Officer. This Mr. Russell has submitted during the year, and the Settlement has received the confirmation of the Chief Commissioner.

Preparation of Putwarees' annual papers.

11. The Deputy Collector has been employed during the year in watching the working of the Settlement and supervising the preparation of the Putwarees' annual papers for the present agricultural year. The retention of his services in this district, to which he has been attached for so many years, has proved very beneficial in many respects; and he has been of great service to Mr. H. Read, the Officiating Deputy Commissioner.

III.—SAUGOR.

Completion of the Settlement.

12. At the close of the last year the delivery of the misls to the Revenue record-room, and completion of the Putwarees' and Malgoozars' copies of the same, was all that remained to be done. These have all been completed during the year, and a very lucid final Report submitted by the Settlement Officer. I have now nothing more to state in regard to this Settlement, which has received the confirmation of the Chief Commissioner, except that the Deputy Collector and his establishment—still retained for the purpose of supervising the preparation of the Putwarees' annual papers—are doing well, and also aiding the Deputy Commissioner in working the Settlement. The Deputy Collector has also district duties entrusted to him.

Confirmation of ditto.

Preparation of Putwarees' annual papers

Settlement of Pithera and Pitoria estates.

13. The Settlement Officer is engaged in the Settlement of the Pithera and Pitoria Jageer estates, consisting of 130 villages. The estate of Pithera has been assessed mouzahwar, and the assessment sanctioned by me. The Report on the assessment of Pitoria is shortly expected, and the completion of the misls, which will present no difficulty, may be looked for within the first quarter of the present year.

IV.—NURSINGPORE.

Completion and confirmation of the Settlement.

14. This Settlement has also been finally completed during the past year, and it has received the sanction of the Chief Commissioner. At the close of last year, 770 misls remained to be delivered to the District office; this has been done, and all the last stages of the work have been successfully wound up.

Partition of villages.

15. While the misls were being delivered numerous applications for partition were presented, and the "butwarahs" applied for have been effected to the satisfaction, generally, of all the parties concerned. The exact number of these applications have, however, not been reported to me.

Adjustment of Putwarees' circles.

16. The next important operation of the year, was the adjustment of Putwarees' circles in Pergunnah Chowerpatha, which had remained at the end of 1865-66. This has been done satisfactorily, in the same manner as in the rest of the districts. Complete registers of these circles, showing the number of villages included in each, as well as the Putwarees' remuneration and dues, have been prepared and handed over to the Revenue authorities, who will find them very useful. An attested extract from this Register has been given to each Putwaree as a sort of sunnud.

Commutation of rent-free grants into permanent free-holds.

17. Complete enquries were also instituted amongst the rent-free and quit-rent holders, regarding their willingness to commute their holdings into permanent free-holds on payment of a fixed quit-rent, and the result has been reported to, and sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner. The sunnuds are now in course of preparation for the seal and signature of the Chief Commissioner.

Preparation of Putwarees' annual papers.

18. In addition to the above operations, a general supervision has been exercised by the Officiating Settlement Officer over the preparation of the annual Jumabundee papers. The papers are being prepared under the direct superintendence of an experienced Moonserim; they are in a far advanced state, and will probably be lodged in the Revenue office immediately after the close of the present agricultural year.

Cost.

19. As there was no budget provision this year for this Settlement, the small establishment entertained on its account has been paid, under my sanction, from the general savings, which had accrued during the course of Settlement operations. The work done has been in every way commensurate with the cost, and the Officiating Settlement Officer, Mr. Russell, is entitled to much credit for his exertions, and for the very satisfactory manner in which he has conducted and supervised the operations of this Settlement, in addition to the many other duties which have devolved on him during the year under report.

Notice of Officers.

V.—HOSHUNGABAD.

Completion and confirmation of the Settlement.

20. The Chief Commissioner's confirmation has likewise been received in regard to this Settlement during the last year. The most important work that has been got through during the year, was the consideration of some claims to Oobaree privileges in certain Talookadarees; but as this subject has been lately reported in my No. 990, dated 25th ultimo, to your address, for the orders of the Chief Commissioner, I need not dwell further on it here.

Oobaree privileges claimed by certain Talookadars.

Commutation of rent-free tenures into permanent free-holds.

Putwarees' annual papers.

21. Owing to certain misapprehensions on the part of the Tehseeldars, the Settlement Officer has been prevented from finally reporting on the subject of the commutation of rent-free tenures into permanent free-holds on payment of a fixed quit-rent; and this has also in some measure delayed the preparation of the annual Jummabundee papers, which is now being proceeded with under a separate establishment.

Notice of orders in rent-free cases.

22. The final orders of Government on rent-free and quit-rent cases have been duly carried out during the year, and the requisite intimation of the same has been given to the Revenue authorities.

VI.—BAITOOL.

Completion and confirmation of the Settlement.

Putwarees' annual papers.

23. This, like the preceding Settlements, has also received the final sanction of the Chief Commissioner, and the Putwarees' annual returns for the current agricultural year are now in course of preparation.

Notice of Officers.

24. Mr. A. M. Russell has continued during the year to hold charge of this, and the Hoshungabad Settlements, in addition to his other duties, and I have had every reason to be very well satisfied with the manner in which he has done his work.

VII.—CHINDWARA.

Progress made previously, &c.

25. In this district, demarcation of boundaries and field measurements had been nearly completed at the close of last year, for there only remained Pergunnah Assair, and the outlying Talook of Hurrakote to be measured, and these were finished before the setting in of the last rains. The close of the previous year had also seen the completion of the whole of the assessments of the district, except the Pergunnahs named above, and in these the requisite revision has also been effected during the year under report.

Progress made during the year.

Record of rights included.

Revision of ditto.

Progress of ditto in Talooka Hurrokote.

26. The preparation of the record of rights has progressed favourably, both as regards the performance of new work, and the revision of the papers previously completed; this revision having been rendered necessary, as explained in my last Report, by the subsequent issue of Circulars G. and G.1. of the Settlement Code. This branch of the work was brought to a close in December last, with the exception of Talooka Hurrakote, where it is now being carried on by the Tehseeldar of Sohagpoor, to whom the work has, with my sanction, been entrusted, and will very shortly be finished. A few villages are also reported where, owing to changes in the tenure or internal disputes, the final adjustment of rents and status of tenants has been temporarily postponed. With these few exceptions, the rough drafts of the Settlement misls have been made out for all the other villages, 999 in number, including 229 mouzahs in which re-attestation of rents was found necessary. The labour that has been spent on the revision of the papers has not been lost, as greater accuracy in the record has been secured; and in connection with this portion of the subject, I beg to annex the following extract from Mr. Ramsay's Report for the information of the Chief Commissioner. Para 12.—"PREPARATION OF THE MISLS.—This "heading comprises the great bulk of the work that has been effected during the past year. "Not only have the measurement statistics had to be compiled, khuteonees attested and "faired, and the administration papers drawn up, but an immense amount of work has had to "be done over again, in consequence of the revision of former work rendered necessary by the "orders contained in Circular G, and also by the detection of errors which led to many of the

Where postponed.

How much finished.

" papers having to be drawn out *de novo*, such errors and the corrections consequent upon " them, are more or less, I believe, unavoidable with an establishment possessing such poor " educational qualifications as that at my command ; and further these mutations have, in " very many instances, been due to no fault on the part of the Settlement officials. Claims, " requiring investigation have frequently been preferred after the completion of the record, " leading in some cases to modifications in previous decisions; again, deaths and other changes " occurring have rendered necessary alterations in the entries. Innumerable cases of this sort " have occurred, whereby work previously completed has been rendered valueless. In my " last year's Report, I mentioned that many of the earlier measurements were at the last " moment being found to be incorrect ; and the work of correction, and in some cases of re-mea- " surement, has been continuing during the whole of the present year, not excepting the " monsoon, as I determined that no effort should be spared to supply all deficiencies that " come to light. These corrections have of course led to an immense amount of fairing and " re-preparation of the papers previously compiled. In no instance, however, have I seen any " cause in any way to recommend a modification of the assessments previously sanctioned. The " amount of work actually performed will be seen from the return of miscellaneous work " performed, which is all over and above that entered in the regular columns of the business " Statement."

Exclusion and demarcation fo excess wastes.

27. The exclusion and demarcation of excess wastes have been almost completed, there being very little remaining to be done under this head. Much miscellaneous work has also been got through during the year; and the erection of trijunction pillars seems to be the only operation at all behindhand, and regarding this, the Settlement Officer has furnished the following explanation : viz : that the work "above the ghats is in a fair train of completion, but the work " below the ghats still remains to be done. The contractor to whom the work was entrusted " failed to carry out his contract, and though he was sued in the Civil Court but little satis- " faction has been gained. There are two contractors at work above the ghats, and as the " money is all forthcoming it is hoped that these same men may carry out the work below " the ghats : this may not be accomplished until after the completion of the Settlement, but " so long as it is not done before the entry of the Revenue Survey parties, no inconvenience " will be felt."

Completion of the operations.

Notice of Officers.

28. Mr. Ramsay has not reported the probable date of the entire completion of the Settlement; but it will not, under any circumstances, extend beyond the close of the present year. The Settlement has throughout the year been under the charge of Mr. Ramsay, who has been efficiently aided by the Deputy Collector, Sooltan Ally, of whom he reports very favourably, as follows :—

"I have had before to speak in praise of the Deputy Collector, Sooltan Ally. I am " greatly indebted to him for his exertions during the past year ; he has spared neither him- " self nor his subordinates ; and I feel convinced that he has secured as large an outturn of " really satisfactory work as was compatible. I have to record my entire satisfaction with his " labours."

Ibid.

29. It gives me much pleasure to be able to endorse the favourable report given of Deputy Collector Sooltan Ally; and also to bring to the notice of the Chief Commissioner the services of Mr. Ramsay hinself during the year. The progress made in this Settlement has been very fairly commensurate with the cost; and when I state that in addition to his own duties Mr. Ramsay had for three months to superintendent the operations of the Seonee Settlement, I trust he will be considered entitled to credit for his exertions.

VIII.—SEONEE.

Delay in the completion of the Settlement.

How explained.

30. This Settlement, the most important operations of which had been completed before the commencement of the year under report, has nevertheless not yet been entirely finished. The delay which has thus taken place is thus explained by the Settlement officer. "Of the delay " which has occurred in the completion of the Seonee Settlement, " I have nothing to say beyond what I urged last year. It was all caused previously to the " year under report, during which an immense amount of work previously badly done had " to be done over again. The work being now all but completed, I would solicit indulgence " for the past, urging again that I have had very great difficulties to contend with in the " constant changes of my subordinates, and in having had to work at one time with inferior " and inexperienced subordinates, at a time too when, owing to press of work in other districts, " I was unable to supervise them as carefully as I might otherwise have done."

31. But after allowing for all the difficulties the Settlement Officer has had to contend with, his explanation, I regret to observe, is not altogether satisfactory; for the real cause of the great delay which has occurred in the completion of this Settlement, is the absence of proper and careful supervision on the part of the Settlement Officer himself. As stated in my last year's Report, too much has been left to subordinates; and the Settlement Officer, instead of carefully forecasting his plans and ascertaining by personal inspection the actual state of the work, has remained satisfied with the business returns furnished by the Deputy Collector and Superintendents. The result is, that this Settlement, not even yet quite finished, has been declared by the Settlement Officer as sure to be completed by the following dates successively: first by the end of 1865, then by the end of April 1866, then by the end of July 1866, then by the 31st October 1866, and lastly by the end of February 1867. It is satisfactory, however, to be able to add that I am sanguine that all the papers will have been finished and more over to the Deputy Commissioner by the end of this month, and that I hope to receive the final report and statements by the middle of June next, at latest.

And why unsatisfactory.

Probable date of final completion.

32. Much miscellaneous work has however been got through during the year, and the following extract from the Settlement Officer's Report on the subject of the revision of assessment, recently sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, will prove interesting. "I have before several times dwelt "on my conviction as to the lightness of the assessment. I have "now only again to urge what I before stated, and to say that from what I saw and ascer- "tained during a late short tour in Kuttunghee and Kurowla when distributing the "Puttas, that I am more than ever convinced of the utter groundlessness of the complaint "of heavy assessment there; and that the people must have either systematically concealed "their assets or have purposely not raised them to what they might easily raise them, think- "ing that by so doing they will obtain a reduction of the demand."

Confirmation of the revised assessment.

Lightness of ditto.

33. In connection with the subject of proprietors of holdings, of whom 360 have been recorded at the Settlement, the Settlement Officer observes that "the mass are relations of Malgoozars, who hold lands in lieu of "a share in the village, or were the former Malgoozars, or their "descendants, who had sold their villages receiving in return a patch of land rent-free for "their support. In both cases the lands were rent-free and the occupants have now been "made proprietors of their holdings, which have been extended in proportion to the pro- "prietary jumma now assessed on them." This is in accordance with the principles laid down in the Settlement Code, and calls for no especial remarks.

Rights of subordinate holders.

34. As regards the award of proprietary rights, the following abstract may prove interesting:—

Award of superior and inferior proprietary rights.

Number of landholders declared absolute proprietors:					3,137
Do.	do.	superior	do.	...	299
Do.	do.	inferior	do.	...	274

The principles on which these awards have been made have already been adverted to in former Reports; whilst with respect to the recognition of the joint title of superior and inferior holders, I may state that this has been done strictly in accordance with the rulings contained in the Settlement Code and the Chief Commissioner's memo, on "theka" tenures, dated 16th December 1864.

35. The number of tenants declared to possess rights of occupancy is also large, there being as many as 6,886 so declared, of whom 3,198 have an absolute, and 3,688 a conditional right under the provisions contained in Circulars G. and G.I. of the Settlement Code. The number of tenants-at-will amounts to 20,014.

Rights of tenants.

36. The exclusion and reservation of waste lands having been completed during 1865-66, no fresh reservation has been made during the year under report, the operation of the year having been confined to the modification of orders in such cases as required interference on the ground of the extension of cultivation after the measurements. These modifications have all been made under my sanction, and I have satisfied myself, that the Government interests have not been unduly sacrificed.

Exclusion and reservation of waste lands.

37. The preparation of the Putwarees' annual papers will be commenced on immediately, now that the services of the Putwarees, who have been hitherto employed in the Settlement, are available for this purpose adequate provision has also been made for this in the budget for the current year.

Putwarees' annual papers.

38. As regards the administration of the Raegurh tract, the Settlement Officer observes, and there is much truth in what he states, that "nothing could be done towards the permanent clearance until a system of clearance leases was introduced and the clearing carried on systematically from the west and south generally and from the conferred blocks from the centres." Pending the completion of the Settlement, no action has been taken in this matter by this Department, but I have communicated the Settlement Officer's suggestions to the District Officers concerned.

Administration of Raegurh tract.

39. The cost of this Settlement during the year has been nearly Rs. 5,000 less than that of the preceding; but the total cost from the commencement, which has amounted to more than two lakhs, is a very heavy one, compared with the revenue of the district. On this point, however, I will reserve my comments, pending the submission of the final Report.

Cost.

40. Captain Thomson thus notices the services of his subordinates. Abdool Raheem, the Survey Deputy Collector, in charge of the Raegurh tract, has been away since December, when he was taken very seriously ill and had to go to his home on medical certificate. He is most painstaking and energetic, and thoroughly honest and trustworthy, and his administration of the Raegurh tract has been excellent. In Settlement work, however, he wants experience, and I fear his health is not good and that he cannot stand the climate of these Provinces." "Of Nanuk Chund I have formed a very favourable opinion. He has shown himself thoroughly acquainted with Settlement work, in every branch, and I have found him very painstaking and energetic. He has also shown himself thoroughly equal to the control of a large office which he has managed with great tact; and lastly I have found, which is uncommon for natives, that his estimates of work are thoroughly to be trusted; that he generally turned out more than he promised. I beg to recommend him to your most favourable notice." I concur in the praise bestowed on Deputy Collector Abdool Raheem for his administration of the Raegurh Bichia tract; but I am unable to award him any credit for his services in the regular Settlement Department, for I consider that, so far from having aided in the progress of the Settlement, he has rather hindered and retarded the work. Superintendent Nanuk Chund has done excellent service since he joined the Seonee Settlement, and fully deserves all that is said in his favour by Captain Thomson.

Notice of Officers

IX.—MUNDLA.

41. At the close of the last year the boundaries of 551 villages had been demarcated; 725 villages had been measured and tested; 689 inspected; and 1,561 proprietary right cases decided. During the year under report the operations have been confined to the demarcation, measurement, and purtal of 284, compilation of totals of 708, inspection preparatory to assesment of 100, and compilation of rough Khuteonees of 578 villages. In addition to this, 51 boundary casses have been judicially investigated, 96 maafee or rent-free enquiries made, 52 of the same reported, 6 proprietary right cases, 10 appeals and 14 Act X cases decided, and 342 Thakbust mials and 260 maps of village sites completed.

Progress and completion of Settlement operations during the year.

42. This is a fair out turn of work and commensurate with the cost of Rupees 23,260 incurred during the year. Better progress might perhaps have been made under the head of measurement; but the Settlement Officer reports that this was not practicable, in consequence of the prostration of nearly half the establishment by fever in the beginning of the season; and secondly, the employment of the establishment in compiling totals, &. Captain Ward is however hopeful that better progress will be made this year.

Cost.

Better progress how retarded

43. Measurement operations have hitherto been solely confined to the Mundla Tehseelee, which is also ready for assessment, all the preliminary stages, including the exclusion and reservation of the excess wastes, having been completed. The measurement of the Ramgurh Pergunnah

Completion of measurement in Tehseelee Mundla

will be now taken in hand, and pushed on vigorously. I may also mention that the work remaining to be done under heads from 1 to 7 of the business Statement will be somewhat reduced after the villages entirely waste have been excluded. and some idea may be formed of the extent of these exclusions from the subjoined extract from the Settlement Officer's report:—

Exclusion and reservation of excess wastes.

"In Burella 169 villages were reserved in toto, containing an estimated average of "2,20,837 acres; in addition to this, excess wastes were reserved in 90 villages and their "demarcation has been completed. In the Mundla Division of the Tehseel 127 villages "were reserved in toto, and made over to the District Officer; in 246 more villages excess "wastes will have to be reserved and demarcated." The excluded and reserved tracts of Burrella have after demarcation been made over to the District Officer and the Forest Department for administration. Full two-thirds of the whole area of Tehseel Ramgurh is expected to be eventually reserved.

44. Proprietary right enquiries have been completed throughout the entire district, and the Settlement Officer reports that, pending the revision of assessment and preparation of the record, he has communicated to the Malgoozars in the Talooka of Ramgurh the spirit of the Chief Commissioner's decision, as conveyed in your No. 2843-259 dated 28th August 1866, regarding the grant of 20 per cent. Malikana to the ex-Talookadar.

Completion of proprietary right enquiries.

45. This Settlement was under charge of Captain Thomson for about 4 months at the early part of the year; but the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Captain Ward, assumed charge in August last and has held it ever since; he has got through a very fair amount of work, the most important being the waste land arrangements adverted to above, and is entitled to credit for his exertions and the general progress made, which, as stated above, is fairly commensurate with the cost.

Notice of Officers.

46. The services of the present Superintendent of Settlement are thus favourably noticed by the Settlement Officer:— Ibid.

"With him I have every reason to be satisfied; with great energy and carefulness he "combines tact and a happy way of managing his subordinates, which enables him to obtain "the full amount of work from them."

The Superintendent possesses, considerable experience of the Settlement duties, and I am glad to find that he is evincing it to great advantage in Mundla, as he did while in charge of the Settlement of the Bijiragogurh Pergunnah in Jubbulpore.

X.—NAGPORE.

47. All the preliminary stages ofwork of this Settlement had been finished before the year under report, and considerable progress made in the fairing of the papers. What remained of the latter has been completed during the last year, together with 128 cases of adjustment of rents. The Settlement is now on the eve of completion, the work still remaining to be done being the delivery of 259 of the completed misls, of which 113 are reported to have been since made over, and 370 reports on maafee cases, together with the submission of the final Settlement Report.

Progress and completion of Settlement operations during the year.

48. The progress made during the year may, I think, be regarded as fairly satisfactory; though at the same time it cannot be denied that the Settlement might have been completed very much sooner, had the Settlement Officer been alive to the importance of pushing on the work vigorously, and completing at the outset many important cases which he has allowed to lie over to the last.

Progress satisfactory.

Completion of the Settlement why delayed.

49. The large number of maafee cases remaining to be reported at the close of the preceding year have now, after the completion of the requisite enquiries, been mostly disposed of; and all the remaining proprietary right cases have also been decided; much has also been done towards deciding appeals and disposing of Act X. Partition and Lumburdaree cases, which have been largely instituted during the year.

Inquiry into and report of rent-free cases.

50. The cost incurred during the year, amounts to Rupees 40,006; it is slightly below that of the preceding year, and may be regarded as very fairly commensurate with the general out-turn of work, and on the whole satisfactory.

Cost.