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NARRATIVE OF THE SCARCITY DURING 1874 IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE N.-W. PROVINCES OF INDIA, WITH DISTRICT REPORTS.

Published by Authority.



ALLAHABAD:
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES GOVERNMENT PRESS.
1875.

No. 1.

FROM
THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
N.-W. PROVINCES,

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

DATED ALLAHABAD, THE 1ST JANUARY, 1875.

SIR,

SCARCITY DEPARTMENT.

In reply to your demi-official letter dated 24th September, 1874, and subsequent telegrams, I have the honor to forward reports on the scarcity of 1873-74 in the districts noted in the margin, with a brief narrative of the scarcity so far as it affected these Provinces.

Gorakhpur. Basti. Ghazipur. Mirzapur. Azamgarh. Benares Divisional Review. Jaunpur.	Allahabad. Banda. Barwi. Hamirpur. Allahabad Divisional Review. Jhansi, and Jalaun.
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2. The report has been urgently called for, and much delay has occurred in the receipt of the required information from the District Officers. The Lieutenant-Governor has, therefore, thought it better to submit this communication at once. A further despatch will follow, containing His Honor's remarks on the conduct of the officers who have borne the brunt of the work.

3. The Basti report is necessarily imperfect. The Magistrate (Mr. F. Elliot), under whom all the famine operations were carried on, was allowed to take furlough in October under the promise that he would submit a report before he left India. This promise he was unable to fulfil; but his report is expected soon, and will be forwarded when received.

I have, &c.,
C. A. ELLIOTT,
Secretary to Government, N.-W. P.
No. 4 of 1875.

FROM
THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
N.-W. PROVINCES,

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

DATED ALLAHABAD, THE 11TH JANUARY, 1875.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter No. 1, dated 1st January, 1875, I am desired to forward the following remarks on the conduct of the Civil Officers engaged in Famine Relief Operations in the North-Western Provinces in 1874.

2. The chief brunt of the work fell on the Magistrates of Gorakhpur and Basti, Messrs. Lumsden and Elliot. Both these officers—and especially Mr. Lumsden—showed energy and zeal in devising and setting on foot measures for the relief of the distressed, ability and local knowledge in placing before Government the true condition of the country, and discretion in perceiving when the distress had passed away and the contracting the operations had come. The Lieutenant-Governor

that Mr. Lumsden deserves the high commendation of the Government for the excellent services which he has rendered. Among their Assistants, Messrs. Stoker and Thomson of the Civil Service, and Mr. Mills, Inspector of Police, deserve special notice.

3. Among the officers on the Public Works establishment who supervised and carried out the relief works in these districts, the Chief Engineer singles out Lieutenant-Colonel E. Davidson, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Captain Beauchamp, R.E., and Mr. Sub-Engineer Peart, for especial commendation.

4. Syud Ahmad Khan, Bahadur, C.S.I., readily responded to the call of Government, and gave very useful help in establishing a system of workhouses on the same principle which was adopted in Moradabad in the famine of 1861.

5. The arrangements made by Mr. C. Robertson, Magistrate of Mirzapur, for meeting the wants of the wild and difficult region in the south of his district were all that the Lieutenant-Governor could desire.

6. Mr. Oldham, the Magistrate of Ghazipur; Mr. Wall, the Magistrate of Banda, with his Assistants, Messrs. Knox and Hardy; and Mr. Kaye, Magistrate of Hamirpur, showed great devotion and zeal in superintending the works and relieving distress in those districts.

7. All these officers have received the thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor for their services.

I have, &c.,

C. A. ELLIOTT,

Secretary to Government, N.-W. P.

No. 5 of 1875.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to this Government in the Public Works Department, for information.

No. 6 of 1875.

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

N.-W. PROVINCES,

TO

DATED ALLAHABAD, THE 11TH JANUARY, 1875.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward for your information copy of letter No. 4, addressed this day to the Government of India, and to offer you the thanks of Government for the services rendered by you in connection with the scarcity of 1874.

I have, &c.,

C. A. ELLIOTT,

Secretary to Government, N.-W. P.



NARRATIVE

OF THE

SCARCITY OF 1873-74

IN THE

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

THE rains of 1873 began in the North-Western Provinces more than a fortnight later than usual, were very deficient in quantity, and ended rather earlier than usual. At their close it was reported, especially from the eastern and sub-Himalayan districts, that the ponds and tanks were nearly empty, and this fact, added to the early cessation of the rains and the want of subsequent showers, indicated the probability of an extensive failure of the rice crop, and that the consequence of this, wherever rice is the main crop, would be scarcity and distress. No time was lost in ascertaining the measure of the calamity. On the 7th November a circular order was issued to Commissioners of Divisions, instructing them to demand from Collectors a full general report on the state of the crops in their districts and on the prospects for the coming season. Replies to this circular were received in December and January. It was at once seen that for the Agra, Rohilkhand, and Meerut Divisions there was nothing to fear, and that of the other three plains' divisions that of Benares had suffered most. The Benares report indicated South Mirzapur, Ghazipur, and the northern parts of Basti and Gorakhpur as the parts where severe distress was to be looked for. The extent of distress was, however, uncertain. Everywhere great hopes were built upon the rabi; but the parts where the rice failed most completely are also those where a second crop is usually sown in the fields which are still moist after the rice has been cut, and the ground in which the rice had perished was as hard as iron, so that this second crop could not be sown. As the cold season advanced, it gradually became evident that the districts in which State relief would be necessary were divided into two classes: *first*, those in the east and north-east of the provinces (the sub-Himalayan tract of Basti and Gorakhpur and the east of Ghazipur), which in climate and agricultural conditions more or less resemble the western districts of Bengal; and *second*, the Bundelkhand districts in the south,—Banda, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Jalaun, and Lalitpur—with the southern portion of Mirzapur, all of which have suffered from a succession of bad years, and where the cultivators and landowners are in a state of chronic distress. In all these tracts the pressure of scarcity began to make itself felt at about the same time. Relief works, for which provision had already been made, were opened in most districts during January and in the beginning of February. In Jhansi and Jalaun they were about a month later. They were of the usual type, being mostly road embankments and other works of the kind on which unskilled labor could be employed.

2. Meanwhile the winter rains were anxiously expected. Every effort was made to supply their place by diligent irrigation, and advances were given by Government to all cultivators who required them to dig wells ; but as the drought continued, serious injury to the young crops became inevitable, and towards the end of January the situation became critical. The Christmas rains always make the difference between a good and a poor harvest ; and this year, the ground having been less soaked by the rains than usual, the harvest would have been exceptionally poor. To add to the misfortune of the province, a frost such as had not been known for years set in about the middle of January and continued for some days ; it did not affect the hardy wheat and barley, but the arhar, peas, and other more delicate crops were completely burnt up by it. At length in the first week of February the long delayed rain fell in moderately heavy showers, and the heavy calamity which seemed to be impending was averted. Though too late to do all the good which it might have done had it fallen at the usual time, it was of incalculable benefit, and through its influence a year of high prices was substituted for a year of famine.

3. The attendance on relief works, however, continued slowly to increase throughout the month. The numbers were greatest in the eastern districts, and as there was by this time little doubt that these were the only districts in which distress would be general and severe, it was thought desirable to obtain a comprehensive view of their condition. Messrs. Simson (Junior Member of the Board) and Carmichael (Commissioner of Benares) and Colonel Davidson, R.E., Superintending Engineer, were accordingly commissioned to make a tour through these districts and report to Government the results of their inspection. Their reports (dated 22nd and 30th March, 1874) showed that in Benares and Azamgarh there was no ground for apprehension, and that in Ghazipur distress was not nearly so widespread as had at one time been feared. Mirzapur the committee were unable to visit. By far the worst districts were Gorakhpur and Basti, and in each of these the northern portion had suffered most severely. Rice is there the main staple, and it entirely failed. The winter crops which are ordinarily sown for a second harvest, after the rice had been reaped, could not be put into the ground on account of the early cessation of the rains. In a tract so extensive, and in which the failure both of the spring and the autumn crops had been so general, it was not to be expected that the rabi harvest would bring much relief. For the last week of March the daily average attendance on relief works was about 30,000 in Gorakhpur and 22,000 in Basti, and there was evidently a steady tendency to increase, which it was probable would continue till the setting in of the rains dispersed the people to field work. Meanwhile, other measures of relief were sanctioned. In the Maharajganj Tahsil of Gorakhpur one-half of the rabi revenue kist was remitted, and in Basti the Collector was authorised to propose remission or suspension of revenue where he thought it necessary. Advances were to be made to zemindars and ryots for the purchase of rice seed to the extent, if needful, of a lakh and a half in Gorakhpur and of half a lakh in Basti. The seed was procured from Nipal, sale being permitted by the Darbar to purchasers furnished by the Collector with a certificate,

and the total amount of advances in Basti was Rs. 43,209, and in Gorakhpur Rs. 91,471. In Gorakhpur it was apprehended that the northern grain markets in the Maharajganj Tahsil might run short in the rainy season, when importation is difficult. The Collector was therefore empowered to advance money, repayable in a year, without interest, to traders who should guarantee to store grain at specified places, such grain being purchasable by Government at a price fixed so as to cover all the expenses of the trader. The grain stored under these conditions amounted to 90,865 maunds, and though eventually not required by Government, its presence in the district probably had a beneficial action upon prices. To merchants who preferred to import grain for sale at their own discretion, money was to be advanced, repayable without interest in six months, and in this way 10,700 maunds were imported.

4. This estimate of the situation formed by Government in March was confirmed by the event in all but one particular. It was thought probable that the distress would last till the autumn crops (especially the rice) were ripe, and that the relief works would have to be kept open till then. The unexpected improvement in the spring harvest, however, diminished the distress considerably. The effect of the new supply of food was marked in Ghazipur, where the harvest was decidedly above the average, by a speedy decrease of the numbers employed on relief works, which fell from 3,000 in the end of February to 800 by the middle of April, and in the last week of July the works, which had been kept open for some weeks of the rains in deference to the wishes of the District Officer, were everywhere closed. In Gorakhpur and Basti distress may be said to have reached its highest point in the beginning of April, when the daily numbers on the works averaged 52,000 in the former and 28,000 in the latter district. But even after distress had attained its maximum the numbers on relief works continued steadily to increase. One reason for this was that the rabi outturn, though fairly good on irrigated land, had not been so plentiful in these districts as in Ghazipur, and in the sub-Himalayan rice tracts the area under this crop was very small. By the end of the month there were 91,000 people on the works in Gorakhpur and 84,000 in Basti. But the large and increasing proportion of women and children could not escape notice, and there were considerable doubts as to the extent of the distress which prevailed. On the one hand, it seemed that the relief works might be popular on account of the difficulty of exacting a full day's labor from the crowds who thronged to them and the liberty they enjoyed, and on account of the wages being paid in cash at a time when agricultural labor was very slack and there was nothing else for the people to work at. On the other hand, there was the hypothesis that these works were the sole refuge of a famished and despairing population whose only means of supporting life was by the wages earned on them.

5. Sir John Strachey lost no time after assuming the reins of Government in visiting the distressed districts, in order to form his opinion with the aid of the best local advice. The conclusion he came to was that, on the whole, the former explanation was the correct one, and that there was no really any such severe distress

as to deserve the name of a famine. He decided that it was not advisable to close the works, but that efforts should be made to make the relief more distasteful by exacting a larger tale of work, and that the wages should be reduced to the minimum which would provide subsistence for the laborers. Evidence was adduced that the scale had until lately been too high, and that the relief works had attracted sellers not of necessities only but of luxuries. The rates now fixed were on the scale which had been introduced by the Magistrate of Gorakhpur about three weeks previously, the allowance for infants only being lessened by one-half. They were:—

For a man, ...	...	5 Gorakhpuri pice (or one anna).
„ a woman, ...	...	4 ditto.
„ a child able to work, ...	...	3 ditto.
„ an infant, ...	...	1 ditto.

Thus the exclusion of all who were not in need of aid was left to be gradually effected by the low rates of wages and the strict demand of a fair day's work from every laborer. The Collectors of both districts were authorised to allow zemindars to indent on the relief works for men, and laborers who refused to accept employment under these requisitions with the promise of full wages were to be turned away from the works. The rates of wages were also to be lowered as soon as should be consistent with safety, but the necessity of such a measure was practically obviated by the early setting in of the rains.

6. There was a further question to be considered—how the people were to be disposed of during the rains. No less than 219,000 men, women, and children were congregated on relief works in the districts of Gorakhpur and Basti in the beginning of May. It was obviously impossible to provide out-of-door employment for these multitudes during the rainy season. One of the chief works was the raising of an embanked road through the centre of a great depression which would be filled with water in the rains; and in other places, though the work itself might not be in a swamp, it would have been difficult to put the laborers on high and dry ground, and a serious outbreak of disease from damp and exposure might be expected. There was, however, every reason to hope that with the coming of the rains the people would for the most part disperse to their ploughing and sowing, and the continuance of the relief system would not be necessary. The Lieutenant-Governor (Resolution No. 479A, dated 16th May, 1874) therefore laid down the following general principles for the conduct of relief operations:—

1st.—Able-bodied persons of a class accustomed to labor were to be employed on *bona fide* public works at the ordinary rates of pay.

2nd.—For persons of the above class incapable of labor on public works easy employment was to be found on roads, &c., or in poorhouses. The plan of these poorhouses was identical with that adopted by the Lieutenant-Governor when he was Collector of Moradabad during the scarcity of 1861, and was based mainly on the principles that relief should ordinarily be given in the shape of cooked food and restricted to persons obviously in actual want; that every one should work who was not

physically incapable; and that all working paupers should remain the whole day in the poorhouse.

3rd.—Gratuitous relief was to be provided for persons incapable of labor; and

4th.—Persons who on account of caste or other feeling or prejudices should refuse to accept relief on the above terms were to receive exceptional treatment.

7. Steps were now taken for gradually introducing this change of system and for bringing the relief works to a close and dismissing the people engaged on them. Warning was given to the people that it was intended to close the works, and workhouses were established at the head-quarters of Gorakhpur and Basti: at Mithaura and Bansi in the north, and at Kasia in the east. The change was made with even less difficulty than was looked for. Towards the end of May, after a few partial showers, the demand for agricultural labor began to make itself felt in Gorakhpur, and from all the works there set in a steady flow of laborers to the fields. On the 30th May rain fell generally throughout the district, and the numbers in daily attendance on relief works, which had been 89,000 during the last week of the month, sank to 25,000 in the first week of June. The rains had now thoroughly set in, and a few days later the last relief work was closed, and the three workhouses were opened for the destitute who still claimed assistance. In Basti the number of laborers went on increasing to 127,000 daily in the last week of May. About this time wages were reduced by one-fourth, the rains began early in June, and by the 22nd of the month the last relief work was closed. In each district the workhouses opened with about 800 inmates.

8. These events completely justified the conclusions arrived at by Sir John Strachey on visiting the locality, and they deserve special and prominent record on account of the importance of their bearing on the treatment of future famines. It appears probable that in a slack season of the year the opening of Government relief works would always attract great crowds of laborers. In a season of considerable pressure, but not of absolute famine, the relief works in Gorakhpur and Basti were for some weeks daily thronged by more than 200,000 men, women, and children, who found an attraction in the light work, in the liberty of going at night to their houses after attending a sort of vast picnic during the day, and in the wages earned at a time when ordinarily they had no employment in the fields and had to live on their harvest savings. But when the wages were cut down to a mere subsistence allowance, when a full day's labor was insisted on, and when the liberty of living at their homes was threatened, these immense crowds melted away as rapidly as they had collected, and it was found that there was hardly any one who really stood in need of relief.

9. For the southern districts the history of the scarcity may be more briefly told. Here distress was due, not, as in the eastern districts, to the failure of a single staple, but to the fact that a series of bad seasons was followed by the indifferent autumn harvest of 1873. In South Mirzapur and in Jhansi relief works

rates could purchase fell short of the standard, orders were to be required of Government. To the scale laid down by this Resolution wages paid in all districts gradually adjusted themselves. The rates at first paid in Gorakhpur and Basti were, in Gorakhpuri pice of five to the anna:—

Man.	Woman.	Child.	Infant.
6	4	3	3

and in Ghazipur, where four pice equal one anna,

Man.	Woman.	Child.	Infant.
7	5	3	0

and in the end of February they were reduced to

Man.	Woman.	Child.	Infant.
6	4	3	0

In Banda, on the 1st April, the rates were,

Man.	Woman.	Child.	Infant.
4	3	2	1

About the middle of April the Collector of Gorakhpur found it possible to reduce the wages of a man to five pice, or one anna, and the allowance for non-labouring children to two pice. This change was ordered by Government to be introduced in Basti also, and the Ghazipur rates were to be brought down to the same scale. In the beginning of May the Ghazipur rates were reduced by the Lieutenant-Governor to four, three, and two pice, and on the 12th in Gorakhpur the allowance for infants was cut down to one pice, the rate which had already prevailed for some time in Basti. Towards the end of the month the Ghazipur rates were adopted in Basti, and the change, as has already been related, was followed by the speedy dispersion of the crowds assembled on relief works.

14. On making over the execution of relief works to the Public Works Department in February, sanction

Expenditure on relief work.		Rs.
Mirzapur, ...	...	10,000
Basti, ...	...	20,000
Gorakhpur, ...	...	20,000
Ghazipur, ...	...	10,000
Banda, ...	...	10,000
Total, ...	...	70,000

and Rs. 10,000 more were

Gorakhpur at half a lakh per annum for six months, ...		Rs.
Basti ditto, ...	...	3,00,000
Ghazipur, ...	...	4,000
Mirzapur, ...	...	3,000
Banda, ...	...	15,000
Hamirpur, ...	...	3,000
Jalaun and Jhansi, ...	...	5,000
Unallotted specially to any district, ...	...	20,000
Total, ...	...	6,50,000

was given to an expenditure of Rs. 70,000, as detailed in the margin. Towards the end of March the grants for Gorakhpur and Banda were each increased by Rs. 10,000, a grant of Rs. 10,000 was made for Jhansi, placed at the disposal of the Public Works Department for expenditure as should be judged necessary. On the 20th of April the sums shown on the margin were sanctioned in addition to former grants, and on the 17th of June a final grant of Rs. 4,93,000 was assigned to Gorakhpur and Basti. The accounts have not yet been closed, but the

District reports which are printed with this state the expenditure as follows:—

						Relief works and other expenditure chargeable to the State.	Expenditure on poorhouses, &c., met from the charitable relief fund.
						Rs.	Rs.
Gorakhpur, ...	...	...	...	...	...	3,40,195	10,894
Basti, ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,28,557	9,637
Ghazipur, ...	...	...	...	...	...	13,116	6,900
Mirzapur, ...	...	...	...	...	...	46,239	...
Banda, ...	...	...	...	...	...	13,249	6,026
Hamirpur, ...	...	...	...	...	...	9,145	6,221
Jalaun, ...	...	...	...	...	...	8,893	...
Jhansi, ...	...	...	...	...	...	925	295
Total, ...						8,58,319	37,973

15. The relief works were intended for the support of the able-bodied poor. The North-West Government adhered to the rule laid down in the famine of 1868, that the duty of Government is to provide work for those who can and will work, but that the relief of those who are unable to work is a matter which devolves properly on private charity, in which the State should assist, but should not bear the whole burden. Accordingly, as on former occasions, a Central Relief Committee was formed and the subscriptions of the public invited, an equal sum to that subscribed being contributed by Government. The amount thus collected was Rs. 63,988, but the contribution from public funds was no more than Rs. 13,037, for the favourable turn taken after the rains of February reduced the task of the Committee, and the demand for assistance made upon them, far below the original expectations; and, speaking generally, it may be said that the offer of labor on the roads and in work-houses almost met all the requirements of the case. The Committee's report is printed as an Appendix; it will be seen that the sums shown in it as expenditure from the charitable relief fund differ somewhat from those shown in the district reports, which are of later date.

16. The above remarks contain all that His Honor considers it necessary to say of the scarcity of 1873-74, regarded from a provincial point of view. The district reports, especially that of Gorakhpur, comprise all the detailed information that can be required, and the following paras. sum up briefly what was done in each district:—

Mr. Lumsden's report gives a very full and clear account of the condition of the district, the causes of the distress, and the range of prices. Common rice, which is the staple food of the northern part of the district, stood at 10 or 11 seers from January to August, but no other grain was sold at what may be called famine prices; barley never fell below 13 seers, nor gram, except for a short interval, below 14. Relief works were opened at the end of January and in February,—(1) in the northern or Maharajganj Tahsil, where the main crop is rice, and which had therefore suffered most severely; (2) in and about the city; (3) in the south-west part of the district, on the great embankment known as the Tuckerbund. On the first of these works the numbers averaged about 12,000 in March, 40,000 in April, and 41,000 in May. In the works round the city the numbers never much exceeded 7,000. At the Tuckerbund and another work near it 7,300 were employed in March, 16,500 in April, and over 19,000 in May. The

average number in May on all the works was 78,000, and the maximum reached in that month was 89,000. Early in June these great masses melted away rapidly on the first appearance of the rains, and the works were all closed by the middle of the month, having cost altogether Rs. 3,20,444. Three workhouses took their place: one was established in the city, where was the greatest collection of permanent poor; one in the north, where distress was severest; and one in the east at Kasia; both the latter were but little used. The average at Gorakhpur never exceeded 1,000, and hardly rose above 200 at the other two places. The workhouses were closed in September, the total expenditure on them having been Rs. 7,353. Besides this, Rs. 5,865 were expended from private subscriptions on poorhouses established earlier in the year and superseded by the workhouses, and Rs. 513 in relief to "pardah-nashin" women; Rs. 4,700 was the cost of keeping up hospitals for the poorhouse and workhouse sick; Rs. 91,471 were given as advances for purchasing rice for seed grain. Altogether the cost of the relief works of all sorts was to Government Rs. 3,40,195, and the sum of Rs. 10,894 was further expended from the funds of the Charitable Relief Committee.

17. In Basti the first relief work—the road from Basti to Bansi—was opened on the 22nd January. Throughout February the numbers averaged about 5,000 a day; in March they were over 8,000; by the end of April they rose to nearly 35,000, and they stood at about this figure through May. In June they rapidly fell to 6,500. The next work opened was the road from Basti to Minhdawal undertaken at the end of February. The numbers in March were about 5,000 a day, in April they rose to 35,000, in May to 50,000, and in June they fell suddenly to 7,000. The Domariaganj road was begun in March, and in May it employed 30,000 laborers. The Basti-Faizabad road was taken up in May, and during that month the numbers averaged 7,000. On the road from Basti to Nepal no less than 30,000 people were employed throughout May. The rapidity of the dispersion of the people is shown by this fact, that while the number on all the works in the last week of May were 127,000, in the third week of June they were 25,000. The total cost of these works was Rs. 4,28,557. The two workhouses were opened in June and closed in October, and their total cost was Rs. 9,637. The necessarily imperfect report sent up from this district does not show the average daily number of inmates.

18. The Collector's report gives an interesting but rather highly colored account of the difficulties he had to encounter in his district, its over-population, and the chronic struggle of its laboring poor for bread. The rice crop, the failure of which was almost universal, is estimated to cover about one-seventh of the cultivated area of the whole district, and this failure came on the top of a series of bad seasons. The price of wheat stood at about 10½ seers in October, 1873, barley and gram at 14 and 15 seers, and they remained low till the rabi harvest came in. Several relief works were opened early in February and employed about 2,000 persons a day in that month and March, but with the reaping of the harvest the numbers fell to less than 1,000, and they were finally closed in July, having cost Rs. 13,116. No regular poorhouse was established, but an existing one supported by the

Municipality at Ghazipur was enlarged, and much gratuitous relief was distributed in grain and cash throughout the district. The cost of this was about Rs. 6,900 up to the end of October, 1874.

19. In the south of Mirzapur (Robertsganj and Dudhi) wheat stood in October and November at about 12 to 14 seers, Mirzapur. barley at 14 to 16, and rice at 11 to 12. With the end of March and the harvest gathered, all grains rose to an easier level except rice, which remained almost as dear till August. A great number of small relief works were set on foot in December and January, the population being too scattered and small to congregate anywhere in large numbers. The average daily attendance was between 2,000 and 3,000 in January, but fell off rapidly after the 15th March, and the works were closed on the 21st of June. The total expenditure was Rs. 25,136. Besides this, Rs. 21,103 were expended in advances to zemindars and cultivators for seed grain and food, and to banias to help them to buy grain. Much of this has since been repaid, and almost all is recoverable.

20. The rains ended in Banda on the 9th September, but no severe distress was felt till the beginning of February. Banda. Prices were not high then, for barley never fell below 16 seers, or gram below 20 seers per rupee, but the cessation of hired employment in the fields threw many of the poorer classes out of work. Three relief works were opened in February; the maximum attendance was in March, when the numbers rose to above 7,000 a day; they diminished greatly when the rabi harvest set in, and the works were closed by the end of June. Besides these works, 21 poorhouses were opened, the earliest of which were started in February. At these about 1,000 persons received daily relief in April (the maximum, 1,700, being reached in the first week of that month): the numbers diminished rapidly after the rains set in, and the poorhouses were closed in October. The total expenditure on public works was Rs. 13,249; on poorhouses Rs. 6,026.

21. At Hamirpur signs of distress were observed earlier. The price of wheat never fell below 13½ seers, or gram below 18 Hamirpur. seers per rupee. In December and January two works were set in hand in order to provide relief; later on the number was raised to ten. They were all closed by the 20th July; the average number of persons employed was 1,100, and the highest number was about 2,500, in the last week of May. Six poorhouses were also opened, the average attendance at which was 434, and the last was closed on the 31st October. The total cost of the relief works was Rs. 9,145, and of the poorhouses Rs. 6,221.

22. In Jalaun there was really no distress to speak of: one relief work was opened, more as a precaution than as a necessity, and only about 180 persons resorted to it: no Jalaun and Jhansi. poorhouse was started. Jhansi, however, has long been in a semi-pauperised condition, and though prices were fairly* low and the prospects of the rabi good, there was a considerable amount of general, but not acute, distress in the eastern part of the district. Relief works were opened in March and closed on 14th July; the average attendance was about 1,000 persons, and the total expenditure was Rs. 6,983. Poorhouses also were opened in several places, but were very little resorted to—not more than 50 persons a day being relieved at any time: the cost of this was only Rs. 295.

* The maximum price of wheat was 14½ seers; of grain 15½ seers per rupee.

APPENDICES.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

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little short of the prices-current during the worst months of the year under report. Notwithstanding this, in the famine records of this year it is officially declared that "Gorakhpur and Basti escaped almost entirely;" and the fact that no relief works were started, no suspensions or remissions of revenue asked for, and the balance outstanding at the close of the year was not excessive, may be accepted as sufficient proof that, notwithstanding as great a failure in the rains and the prevalence of almost equally high prices during 1868-69, the distress felt that year was altogether insignificant compared with that prevalent during the past year.

11. *Season of 1868-69 compared with 1873-74.*—How, then, was it that with prices only a trifle higher than in 1868-69, and with an average—taking the district as a whole—6·9 inches more rain, the past year has been one of such general and intense distress,—distress which, but for the measures of relief adopted by Government, must have resulted in much loss of life, and in an immense extent of land being for a time at least thrown out of cultivation?

12. It will not, I think, be out of place, before entering upon the narrative which is the main subject of this report, to attempt to answer the above question, for it must be admitted that the question is one which might not unreasonably be asked by any one unacquainted with, and sceptical as to the reality of, the intense distress and suffering lately prevalent in this district.

13. *First*, then, it must be borne in mind that in 1868-69, the *September* rains, which were abundant, came in time to save at least half the spring rice in the district, whereas during the past year the September rains failed almost entirely,—the consequence being that whereas in 1868-69 there was only "a large failure of winter rice and a partial failure of spring rice," during the past year there was a total failure of winter rice and nothing like half an average outturn in the case of spring rice.

Secondly,—In 1868-69 the rainfall was most abundant in the northern and eastern portions of the district, where rice is the staple crop; whereas during the past year it was these very portions of the district where the failure of the crops was most complete.

Thirdly,—The failure of the September rains during the past year affected most seriously the extent of rabi cultivation, nearly a third of the area usually devoted to rabi cultivation lying fallow. In 1868-69, the rainfall of September, while it saved half the spring rice and a considerable portion of the jarhan, at the same time enabled the cultivators to sow a large extent of rabi land which this year lay fallow. The records of 1868-69 show distinctly that nothing like the extent of rabi land lay fallow during that year, as was left uncultivated during 1873-74 for want of the necessary moisture. Mr. Clifford, the then Collector of this district, I find, estimated the extent of such fallow land at 7 per cent. only.

Fourthly,—The year 1873-74 was preceded by several bad seasons, in each of which either the rabi or kharif harvest was much below the average, and there was consequently comparatively little grain in store in the district.

Fifthly,—The failure in the rice crop of this district during the past year was accompanied by a similar failure in the surrounding districts of Bengal and Nipal, which was not the case in 1868-69.

14. To sum up, then, in a few words, the outturn both of the kharif and rabi harvest of 1868-69, although bad, was immeasurably superior to that of 1873-74. The high prices current in the former year were chiefly due to the extensive exportation of grain to other famine-stricken tracts, not so much to the failure of the crops in this district. The cultivators and zemindars had grain to sell, and the higher prices they obtained for it made up to a great extent for the smaller outturn, and enabled both these classes to continue to afford employment to the day laboring class; and although the prices of such grain, as wheat and barley, were for some time as high in 1868-69 as they ever were in 1873-74, yet the price of common rice—which, it is well known, is the staple food

of the people of this district—never exceeded 12 seers 4 chittacks per rupee in the former year; whereas from January to August 1874 it was selling at rates varying from 10 seers 8 chittacks to 11 seers 6 chittacks per rupee.

15. *Description of the season.*—Before tracing the history of the scarcity from its beginning to its close in this district, it will be well to give a brief description of the season and of the general results of the kharif and rabi harvests. For this purpose I may here quote certain paragraphs from my Revenue Administration Report for the year :—

Para. 3.—"The rains of 1873 commenced rather later than usual in the second week of June, and no rain fell after the 20th September, 1874.

Para. 4.—"The average fall throughout the district was only 32·1 against 55·4 during the preceding year: the average of the past five years being, as shown in the margin, 51·5.

Year.	Rainfall.
1868-69 ...	25·9
1869-70 ...	52·4
1870-71 ...	57·4
1871-72 ...	67·3
1872-73 ...	55·4
Total ...	267·7
Average ...	51·5

Para. 5.—"Not only was the fall of rain scanty, but it was at the same time unseasonable. The kharif sowings were long delayed for want of rain: when the rain did set in, the spring rice in those fields which had been sown early gave promise of an excellent outturn, the young plants grew rapidly, and had shot into ear before any apprehension was felt. At this critical time, however, the rains failed, the '*Magha Nakshatra*,' on which the success of the spring rice crop so much depends, had yielded no rain when these crops began to be harvested; and the result was that the fields sown before the commencement of the rains (called '*Pahila Bawaj*') yielded from three to five maunds per bigha, where at one time fifteen maunds had been expected; and the fields sown after the first fall of rain (called '*Pachila Bawaj*') dried up and withered without even coming into ear. The early cessation of the rains was fatal to the jarhan or winter rice, which except here and there by the edge of tals and jhils, was a complete failure throughout the district.

Para 6.—"These two crops—spring rice and winter rice—are the kharif staples of this district,—four-fifths* of the total kharif area being devoted to their cultivation. At best the spring rice outturn was not more than six or seven annas; and without, therefore, considering the comparative failure of many of the less important crops in portions of the district, the miserable outturn in the case of these two crops alone at once reduced the produce of the kharif harvest to about a seven-anna share of the outturn of a good year.

Para 7.—"The only kharif crops which yielded an average outturn were *kodo*, *marua*, *jowar*, *sanwan*, *tangan*, and *bajra* crops, which are cultivated to a very limited extent in this district, the total failure of which would scarcely have been felt; and in the case of which, an average outturn could have no perceptible effect in neutralizing the consequences of a failure of the main staples.

Para 8.—"The failure of the kharif was, of course, felt the most in those portions of the district where spring and winter rice are most extensively cultivated. On this account the northern portion of the district, included in the Maharajganj Tahsil, suffered most severely. Here there is little or no rabi cultivation, except the inferior pulses and oilseeds, which are sown as a second crop after the early rice has been reaped. The entire area almost is devoted to rice cultivation; and the failure of the latter, combined with the loss of the rabi crop, which could not be sown on account of the dryness and hardness of the soil (six annas in the rupee only were sown with rabi in this tahsil), but for the thinness of the population, and the fact that there was a considerable stock of grain in store—the unexported surplus of the preceding season—would have rendered imperative more extensive measures of relief than under the circumstances it was found necessary to adopt.

Para. 10.—“The area sown with rabi throughout the district was much under the average, owing to the entire failure of the late rains and the deficiency of water in the ponds, jhils, and nalas, which are the staple sources of irrigation in this district. About a third of the area sown was artificially irrigated before the seed could be sown.

Para. 11.—“Taking the district as a whole, and regarding the area usually sown with rabi crops as one rupee, the area actually sown this year represented eleven annas. Extraordinary exertions were made by the cultivators to irrigate the rabi sown, by digging kucha wells and excavating channels to convey the water from the large jhils where there was an abundant supply.

Para. 12.—“The cold-weather rains came very late (beginning of February), when the people were becoming almost hopeless. They did immense good, and in the case of those wheat and barley lands which had previously been partially irrigated secured a bumper outturn.

Para. 13.—“Arhar and peas suffered severely, especially the latter, from frost in January. In the month of March slight damage was done to barley and arhar in one or two localities by hail. A limited tract in the Maharajganj Tahsil suffered the most in this way; but as a general remission of a portion of the land-revenue had been deemed necessary in this tahsil on account of the general failure of the kharif and rabi harvests, it was not deemed expedient to propose any special measure of relief, even in the case of those villages which suffered most severely from hail.

Para. 14.—“The gram, linseed, and masur crops, which were not artificially irrigated, and depended entirely on the cold-weather rains, were very short on the area sown, and the latter was under half the usual area. Taking the rabi harvest as a whole, however, the outturn on the area sown was good, very much better than could have been hoped for in December and January: the wheat crop in particular was specially fine, and turned out remarkably well in the threshing-floor, the grain being very large and heavy.

Para. 15.—“The short area sown, however, must be borne in mind in writing of the outturn of the harvest; and keeping this in view, and the wretched outturn in unirrigated land, the general result of the harvest may be put down as half an average crop. This is, of course, speaking of the district as a whole, but in the Maharajganj Tahsil, where ‘chaumas’ rabi is rarely met, my calculation is that while the kharif harvest did not yield more than one-fourth of the outturn of a good year, the rabi harvest fell very much short of even that figure, and could not fairly be put down at more than a two-anna crop.”

16. *Narrative of scarcity.*—I now proceed to trace the history of the scarcity in this district from its commencement in November 1873.

17. Early in the season it became manifest that if this district escaped actual famine, the season would be at best one of very high prices and much distress among the poorer classes.

18. Large exports of grain to Bengal began about October: prices rose however so rapidly in this district that the export trade gradually diminished, and about the end of January grain began to be imported from Oudh and the western districts.

19. Without any very marked symptom of actual distress being visible in October and November, beyond the increased activity of the emigration recruiters and the greater success attending their operation, with a slight increase in the number of beggars met with in the city and larger bazars, prices continued to rise steadily; and the winter rains keeping off, the cultivators began to lose heart.

20. Arrangements had been made to give employment to all seeking it in carrying out the ordinary annual repairs of kucha roads; and it was because there was no unusual rush of people for employment of this description, that, on receiving sanction on the 20th December, 1873, to start relief works tentatively, I reported that for the

present I did not see any necessity for starting special works of this description, although it was not improbable they would be required later in the season.

21. Early in January a slight demand for employment by the day laboring and artisan classes in the city began to be apparent; and the number of feeble-bodied beggars in the vicinity of the city, including many lame, blind, aged, and sick—both men and women—had increased to such an extent, that on the 12th January I wrote to the Secretary to Government, suggesting whether it would not be advisable to start something in the shape of a poor-house in the station to supplement private charity, as it was not likely this class would get their usual dole from the natives by begging from house to house in such hard times. In the same letter I intimated my intention of starting certain relief works tentatively, after consultation with Colonel Davidson, Superintending Engineer, who was expected at Gorakhpur on the 14th January.

22. Later in January the arhar and pea crops were seriously and irretrievably damaged by frost, especially in the Padrauna, Deoria, and Bansgaon Tahsils, in which nearly half the former crop and one-fourth of the latter were reported to have been destroyed. This was reported to Government in my demi-official letter of the 18th January, in which I mentioned certain other symptoms of distress, and intimated that,

in consultation with Colonel Davidson, it had been arranged
 * Men, ... 6 pice.
 Women, ... 4 pice.
 Children, ... 3 pice.
 to start works at relief rates* on the Gorakhpur and Fyzabad road, in the vicinity of the city where the symptoms of distress had been most marked.

23. On the 19th January I received a demi-official letter from the Secretary to Government, informing me that in His Honor's opinion the facts described by me in my letter of the 12th idem were not symptomatic of any great distress; but that I must be on the alert, and prepared to take measures for relief if any class was on the verge of starving. In the same letter I was informed that if private subscriptions were raised for the infirm, Government would double the amount, and that this would be a fair test of the severity of the pressure.

24. On the 25th January I reported still further damage done by frost to the arhar and pea crops in the Padrauna and Bansgaon Tahsils, the continued absence of rain, a considerable rise in prices in the city, an unexpected rush of people to the relief work opened in the vicinity of the city, the starting of special works for the unemployed poor by several of the well-to-do zemindars of the district, and I at the same time reported further symptoms of distress which had been observed especially in the north of the district.

25. In ordinary seasons even the latter half of January and first half of February is a slack time both with agriculturists and with those classes who live by daily labor. Besides sweeping the rice-fields with besoms, and sifting the sweepings to collect stray grains of paddy—a practice which had already become common—infirm men, women, and children now took to gathering the seeds of grass and trefoil on the waste lands, and hunting in the fields and jungles for wild pot herbs.

26. Colonel Davidson, who had visited both Nichlaul and Lotan, corroborated the prevalence of symptoms of distress and destitution among the poorer classes, which had been observed by myself and my subordinates, and indeed had begun to be reported from all quarters.

27. The starting of relief works on the Lotan and Nichlaul roads in the northern portion of the district was accordingly determined on, and the proposed arrangements reported to Government in my demi-official of the 25th January.

28. The propriety of starting a special relief work for the city poor, for whom sufficient employment could not be found on the work already started on the Fyzabad road, was also advocated.

29. In the same letter I reported having convened a public meeting on the 23rd January, 1874, with reference to His Honor's offer to double any sum raised by private subscriptions for the relief of the helpless and destitute poor who were unable to labor on relief works; that monthly subscriptions aggregating over Rs. 300 had been subscribed at the meeting; that a committee had been appointed to make the necessary preliminary arrangements, and that a monthly sum of at least Rs. 500 would be raised by private subscriptions for the relief of this class.

30. During the week ending 31st January increasing symptoms of distress were reported all over the district, both by my subordinates, by native gentlemen, and by European planters and grantees. In a letter received from Mr. Warren of Gopalpur, on the 27th January, offering to assist me in the supervision of relief works, he wrote,—"I can assure you that distress is very great, and that people will soon be starving. I have commenced the digging and deepening of three large tanks, but even that work will only allow a few out of a multitude to gain a scanty subsistence." At this time a sudden rise in prices, especially in the price of common rice, took place: the price of the latter rising from 13 seers to 10 seers 15 chittacks and 11 seers per rupee,—prices quite as high as those prevailing at the time in the adjoining districts of Saran and Champaran.

31. This sudden rise in prices tended very much to increase distress among the poorer classes. Both Messrs. Spedding and Stoker gave very gloomy accounts of the state of these classes in the Bangsaon Tahsil. Wherever we went the able-bodied were now found clamorous for employment, and the bazars and roads, especially in the vicinity of the station, were now lined with aged, infirm, and diseased beggars calling loudly for charity, the emaciated condition of many of them affording ample proof of the physical suffering and privation they were enduring.

32. These facts were reported in my demi-official of the 1st February, in which I also intimated that arrangements were being made for starting a relief work on the "Tuckerbund" embankment on the Benares road in the Bangsaon Tahsil,—a work which Colonel Davidson had approved of, as being one of the most useful that could be put in hand: further, that the charitable distribution of cooked food to the aged and infirm poor unable to labor on relief works, was to commence at the sudder station on the morning of the day I wrote. In the same letter I suggested the necessity of attaching a hospital apprentice to each relief work, as under existing circumstances the numbers were likely to increase, and on the approach of the hot season an outbreak of sickness in an epidemic form was not improbable.

33. On the 2nd February, I was informed demi-officially of His Honor's approval of my proceedings in starting relief works, and that subsequent orders would be communicated with respect to the purchase of grain—a measure which I had suggested might be necessary if the export trade continued.

34. On the 8th February I was able to report an ample fall of rain throughout the district on the nights of the 1st and 5th idem, which, although it had come rather late, was still likely to do much good to the rabi crops, and had opened a door for employment to the agricultural classes in preparing the land for sugar-cane. Our future prospects were much improved by this rainfall, but little actual benefit from it could be looked for until the rabi crop was harvested.

35. It was about this time that the rise in prices, already referred to, had the effect of almost putting an entire stop to the export of grain, and simultaneously the cheaper sorts of food grain began to be largely imported from Khairagarh and other districts in Oudh.

36. Complaints of distress and suffering being very prevalent in the Bangsaon Tahsil, where the Tuckerbund relief works had not yet been started, continued to increase. Mr. Spedding, who was at this time engaged in summary settlement work on the banks of the Gogra, reported that numbers of people had taken to the Diwara

lands, and were there eking out a subsistence by winnowing the grass seeds. He also stated his opinion that the time had now come when a relief work was absolutely required to afford the means of subsistence to the poor in this portion of the district, and also urged the opening of a poor-house for the charitable distribution of food to the feeble and aged poor at either Barhalganj or Gola.

37. Arrangements were accordingly hurried on for starting the Tuckerbund or Kauriram relief work, and Government was informed that it would be started within the week.

38. At the close of the second week in February, I was able to report very material benefit having been done to the rabi crops from the fall of rain at the beginning of the month; and that the arhar fields, which had been only partially injured by frost, were throwing out fresh leaves and blossoms. A tour I then made in the Kasia subdivision satisfied me that with favorable weather until the rabi was harvested, no relief works would be required in that portion of the district: indeed, as a tentative measure, I directed the payment of the laborers employed on the repairs of kucha roads in the Kasia subdivision, at the rates paid in the special relief works which had been started in the vicinity of the city and in the north of the district. The result, however, was that no one would accept work at these rates; and to have the repairs carried out, the ordinary rates had to be reverted to. Nothing could have better gauged the measure of distress prevalent in different parts of this district: in the Bangsaon Tahsil, in the vicinity of the city, and in the north of the district, the people—men, women, and children—were flocking to the relief works, where they were paid 6, 4, and 3 pice respectively per diem; while in the east of the district an attempt to introduce these rates led to a general strike among the same class of laborers. The reasons for the greater prevalence and severity of distress in these portions of the district do not pertain to the narrative of the scarcity, and will be noticed further on.

39. Towards the close of February the great benefit the rabi crops had derived from the rain became more manifest in the altered appearance of the fields, the improvement being greater even than could have been hoped for, which was in a great measure owing to the very seasonable weather which followed the rainfall.

40. During a march from Kasia to Gagha in the Bangsaon Tahsil, I was so convinced of the improvement in the prospects of the rabi harvest, that in writing on the 23rd February, I reported that the outturn would in all probability be half as much again as could have been hoped for before the rain fell.

41. The village mahajans, who had hitherto been holding back, now began to give advances on the security of the crops, and the people became more hopeful. A steady import of Indian-corn and the coarser food grains from Oudh continued; and this, with the improved prospects of the coming harvest, prevented a further rise in prices, which indeed, except in the case of common rice, the price of which continued to rise until the middle of June, had a slightly downward tendency.

42. At this time a supposed death from starvation was reported, but whether the child whose body was recovered from a well had really died from starvation could not be satisfactorily ascertained.

43. The general improvement in the rabi crops, and the steady import which had set in from Oudh, led me to report to Government that "there should now be no risk of the supply of grain being insufficient for the local consumption, although the Maharajganj Tahsil would have to be supplied by other portions of the district."

44. On the 1st March I reported the opening of the city relief work in the vicinity of the jail, which attracted over 2,000 laborers; that the relief works previously started continued to be largely attended, but chiefly by women and children; and that no other relief works would be required, at least not until some time after the rabi harvest. At this time the pea crop had almost been gathered in, and in the south of

the district the earlier fields of the rabi cereals had begun to be harvested. Provided no damage was done by hail or untimely rain, taking the district as a whole, I now anticipated a 12-anna outturn on the area sown.

45. On the 2nd March the members of the Famine Commission entered this district, and were met by me at Barhalganj. As they submitted a special report to Government on the then condition of this district, and the extent and severity of the distress they met with during their tour through the worst portions of it in the month of March, it would seem unnecessary for me here to enter minutely into details already given in their report.

46. During the first week of March the harvest became general in the south of the district: this however had little (if any) perceptible effect on the numbers attending the relief works: a slight fall in prices however took place, except in the north of the district. This I attributed to the small stock of grain in store in that portion of the district, and the very limited extent of land under rabi cultivation.

47. Grain had already begun to be imported into the Maharajganj Tahsil from other parts of the district by private dealers; and in writing on the 9th March, while noticing this, and expressing my opinion that, taking the district as a whole, the outturn of the rabi harvest would be sufficient to meet the local consumption, I expressed some doubt whether it would be advisable to trust entirely to private enterprise for the import of a sufficient supply of grain into the northern portion of the district, and that it might be advisable to adopt the course suggested by the members of the Famine Commission, and supplement and stimulate private enterprise by making advances to suitable parties, on condition of their importing a certain quantity of grain into the larger bazars in the north of the district.

48. The threatened scarcity of jarhan rice seed was also brought to the notice of the Famine Commission and Government in my letter of the 9th March; and I recommended that either Government should make arrangements with the Nipal Darbar for the exchange of 100,000 maunds of wheat and barley for a similar quantity of jarhan seed, or else that advances should be given on liberal terms to zemindars to enable them to make their own arrangements for procuring the necessary seed-grain, which the latter assured me they could do.

49. At this time the number attending the relief works in the north of the district continued to increase (here there was next to no rabi on the ground to be harvested), and whatever may have been the case later, it was manifest to any one visiting the works and talking to the people, that at this period one and all laboring on these works were people who had actually been driven through sheer want to seek employment on them. For the correctness of this assertion, I may appeal with every confidence not only to the members of the Famine Commission but to every European and native gentleman, official and non-official, who visited these relief works during the month of March and the first half of April. I have deemed it right to notice this point here, because later in the season numbers resorted to the relief works who in my opinion need not have done so, and this was also reported to Government at the time. From this fact some have been inclined to question whether these relief works were ever really required, and whether the rates paid would not in ordinary seasons have attracted as large a crowd of applicants.

50. It is a matter of special satisfaction for me that the Famine Commission visited this district at the time they did, and were able, by personal inspection and intercourse with the people, to satisfy themselves of the severity of the distress, and the absolutely miserable and destitute condition of the people who flocked to the works. Had they come to the district seven weeks later, at which time no doubt large numbers (who need never have come on the works), having nothing else to do, and attracted by the rates, had begun to swell the numbers unnecessarily, they might have been misled as to the measure of distress which was prevalent in this district earlier in the season, and the necessity which existed for starting relief works.

51. It is altogether fallacious to suppose that the rates paid—six Gorakhpur pice to men, four to women, and three to children—would in ordinary years, in the months of February, March, and the first half of April, when the rabi harvesting operations are in full swing, attract any number of work-people, not to say the crowds that flocked to the relief works at that period. Later in the season, during the interval between the rabi harvest and the kharif seed time, which is the slack season both with the agricultural and day laboring classes, I admit that these rates would in ordinary years command the services of a large number of work-people in this district; but that these rates would not attract laborers earlier in the season was proved by my experiment in the Kasia subdivision, and may be proved again any year by attempting to get ordinary earthwork done at these rates during the months of February and March. That the lowest rates of wage, sufficient to buy the bare means of subsistence, should at the slack season attract a great many people to such works who are not in absolute want, is an evil inherent in this system of relief, which cannot be got over, unless the power of rejecting applicants is given to the local officers, because it is a matter of fact that at such seasons of the year numbers will accept even the lowest rates of remuneration for such light work as can be got out of them, where large crowds are massed together, rather than sit idle, doing nothing and earning nothing, at their homes.

52. To return to the narrative. The increasing numbers attending the relief works early in March necessitated an addition to the ordinary district staff of Supervisors, which up to this period had only been strengthened by the appointment of one additional Supervisor, Mr. Gash; and at the same time it was found necessary to open a special hospital in connection with the station poorhouse.

53. Besides cases of actual disease, many came for relief in such a debilitated, emaciated state, that unless they were provided with extra nourishment beyond the poorhouse diet, their lives could not possibly have been saved. The sudder poorhouse hospital was opened on the 1st March, and a Native Doctor specially deputed to the district was sent to Kauriram, where an hospital was opened for the sick on the Tuckerbund and Taraina bridge relief works.

54. During the first week of March also another alleged death from starvation was reported: an old woman of the mallah caste, who had long been in a debilitated, sickly state, and whose death was no doubt hastened by the privation she had endured. To provide for such cases it was resolved, with the approval of the Famine Commission, to open branch poorhouses at the head-quarters of each of the tahsils for the charitable distribution of food to the aged, infirm, and decrepid poor, who were unable to labor on the relief works, and had not the strength to undertake the long journey to the sudder station. These tahsil poorhouses, and that started by Mr. Spedding at Gola, remained open until the relief works were closed, and the workhouse system took their place early in June.

55. On the 15th March I had to report the occurrence of a hailstorm in several parts of the district. Considerable, but on the whole not important, damage was done to the rabi crops over a limited area: fortunately, where the hail-storm was the most severe, to the north of Maharajganj, there was little or no rabi on the ground; and on account of the general measure of relief in the shape of remission of land-revenue, which was subsequently resolved on, it was not found necessary to propose any special measure of relief in the case of those villages in the Maharajganj Tahsil which suffered most severely from the effects of the hail-storm.

56. The number attending the relief works continued increasing, especially in the north of the district, and had about this time reached 18,000, two-thirds of this number being employed on the relief works in the north of the district. At this time food was being distributed to about 1,000 aged and infirm poor at the station poorhouse. From further information gathered during my tour in the north of the district, in my demi-official of the 15th March, with reference to the doubt I had expressed the previous week, as to whether it would be safe to trust to private enterprise for

the import of a sufficient supply of grain into the north of the district, I distinctly stated that I now felt confident that private enterprise would supply a sufficiency of grain for the local consumption of the northern portion of the district until the next kharif was reaped. I stated also the grounds on which I had arrived at this conclusion, which I held to be good and sufficient, and remarked that while, as a precautionary measure, the laying in a store of 100,000 to 150,000 maunds of grain by Government might be very advisable, yet I did not consider it absolutely necessary, unless the coming kharif should prove a failure, and that in that case 100,000 or 150,000 maunds would be but as a drop in the ocean.

57. With Mr. Simson's sanction a notification, offering takavi advances on good security (free of interest if repaid within one year), for the purchase of jarhan seed, was now published; and I also applied for two more medical subordinates to be stationed at the relief works on the Nichlaur and Lotan roads, where it was deemed necessary to establish hospitals, and recommended that a Sub-Assistant Surgeon should be specially deputed to the district to undertake the inspection and supervision of the various relief hospitals.

58. Towards the latter end of March prices had a slightly downward tendency, except in the case of rice, the price of which continued firm with an upward tendency in the north of the district.

59. About this time some 200 aged and infirm poor were being fed at the mufasil poorhouses established at the tahsili head-quarters; and at the suggestion of the Famine Commission an additional poorhouse was opened at Mithaura, in the vicinity of the relief work on the Nichlaur road, where the members of the Commission had observed a large number of emaciated and infirm people employed, who were really unfit for work on the roads.

60. It was at the same time determined that a European officer should permanently be stationed at Mithaura, where there was a small bungalow belonging to the zemindar, in order both to exercise a general supervision of the relief works, to undertake the management of the poorhouse, and to be able to take immediate action in any emergency, as the state of the people in this portion of the district at this time appeared very critical. Until Mr. Stoker should return from examination leave, Mr. McMullin, Assistant District Superintendent of Police, was accordingly deputed on this duty.

61. Up to this time the health of the people employed on the relief works had been remarkably good, there was little or no epidemic sickness, but a good many cases of fever and ague in the north of the district, which however is always endemic in these parts.

62. While in camp with the Famine Commission at Gopalpur in the north-west corner of the district, the demi-official sanction of Government was received to the granting of advances for the purchase of 150,000 maunds of grain for consumption, if required, in the northern portion of the district. To give effect to the orders of Government, and make the necessary arrangements with the city mahajans and others, I returned to Gorakhpur on the 20th March, the day on which the Famine Commission marched into the Busti District. What was done in the way of making advances and laying in a store of grain will be noticed further on.

63. On the 30th March I was in a position to report that the outturn of the rabi harvest promised to be fully equal to my estimate, and that over a 12-anna outturn on the area sown, taking the district as a whole, might be calculated on—the barley and wheat crop having turned out especially well in the threshing-floor, the grain being unusually fine, well developed, and heavy.

64. Prices at this time fell slightly, owing to the new grain having come into the market; but as the parties who had taken advances from Government began to make purchases, prices again rose.

65. Having arranged for the purchase of some 90,000 maunds food-grain in the city, I again returned to the north of the district, which was at this time the chief source of anxiety.

66. There I found the number on the relief works steadily increasing. At this time, out of about 24,000 on relief works 16,000 were on the works in the north of the district: prices were firm, with in the case of rice an upward tendency. Most of the people on the relief works were fairly well nourished, but there was a great contrast between the physical condition of the laborers who had been some time on the work and the fresh arrivals: most of the latter were in a wretched state, weak, and extremely emaciated.

67. From the difference in their physical condition, a casual observer about this time could have picked out the new comers. It was found necessary to remove many of them to the hospital, where they received a more nourishing diet; a few had come too late, their constitution having been so reduced from the privations they had suffered, it was impossible to bring them round.

68. There was certainly at this period no abatement of distress, which, on the contrary, was decidedly on the increase. This induced me to distribute small sums from the relief fund to some of the police-stations, with directions to the officers in charge to forward all emaciated beggars found wandering about the towns and villages to the nearest poorhouse, supplying them with food on the journey.

69. At this time I also caused the people employed on the Nichlaur road at Mithaura to be broken up into two separate independent gangs, as there was too much crowding and confusion, which led to a small outturn of work.

70. Early in April there was a slight fall in prices, except in the case of rice, the price of which again rose. The fall was very trifling, considering the quantity of new grain which had come into the market.

71. At this time a great increase in the number attending the relief works took place; in the first week of April on the Nichlaur road relief works I found about 23,000 employed, and the number on the relief works in the southern portions of the district had increased to about 16,000. This sudden great increase in the numbers flocking to the relief works was caused by the cessation of harvesting operations, and the absence of any sort of agricultural work to employ the people at their villages. At the same time I should select this period as that at which distress was its height in this district.

72. The day laboring class had been thrown out of work by the cessation of harvesting operations, and this class alone would almost account for the increase in the numbers on the relief works which took place about this period.

73. At this time I went carefully over the relief works in the north of the district, and satisfied myself that almost all those employed were people who had been actually driven to the works in order to earn the means of subsistence.

74. Thus early, however, I discovered a few cases in which the people themselves admitted that they had not come to the works because they were in actual want of food, but because they had nothing to do at their homes, and that considering the nature of the times, they thought it advisable not to encroach on their small store of grain, but save it up for a future emergency, earning a present livelihood by working on the roads. Instances of this sort were very exceptional at this period, but the fact was duly reported to Government on the 5th April.

75. About this time the cessation of harvesting operations threw a lot of people out of employment in the Deoria subdivision. Mr. Spedding reported symptoms of distress in this quarter; and as I found that a considerable number of people had emigrated from the Deoria Tahsil to find employment on the Kauriram relief work, I made arrangements with the District Engineer for starting a new relief work at

the Kurma embankment near Deoria, a plan and estimate of which had already been submitted in the Public Works Department.

76. The applicants for relief at the poorhouse did not increase proportionally with the numbers on the relief works. The only poorhouse at which there was a marked and steady increase in the numbers relieved was that at Mithaura, in which vicinity no doubt the distress was severest.

77. The great increase in the numbers on the relief works about this time gave rise to considerable difficulty in securing an adequate supply of Gorakhpur pice, in which the laborers were paid. I had to apply to the Accountant-General for a remittance of Rs. 15,000 in Government pice, and at the same time made arrangements with contractors and direct with the Nipal Mint at Butwal for an increased supply of the local copper currency.

78. During the second week in April the numbers on the relief work increased still

Names of grain.	Quantity per rupee for weeks in April, 1874.			
	1st week.		2nd week.	
	₹.	c.	₹.	c.
Rice ...	10	8	10	8
Wheat ...	14	0	13	2
Barley ...	19	4	19	4
Gram ...	15	12	15	12
Peas ...	14	0	14	0

further, there being then about 34,205 men on the works in the north of the district and 31,072 in the south. There was no rise in prices at this time : except in the case of rice prices may be said to have remained stationary, or even to have been somewhat easier : the prices of the past and preceding weeks are given in the margin.

79. In writing on the 12th April, I distinctly stated that I did not attribute the increase in the numbers attending the relief works to increasing distress, but to numbers of people who were not in actual want flocking to the work on account of the slack season of the year. I at the same time remarked that the fresh applicants for work were physically and, as far as one could judge from their dress, &c., much better off than those who came to the work when they were first started ; that I considered the rates paid with reference to the season of the year were so high as to attract laborers who were not in absolute want of employment ; and for reasons given at length in a memo. submitted to Government, I issued orders for a reduction of the rates hitherto paid.

<i>Former rates.</i>			
Men ...	6	Gorakhpur pice a day.	
Women ...	4	ditto ditto.	
Children ...	3	ditto ditto.	
<i>Reduced rates.</i>			
Men ...	5	Gorakhpur pice a day.	
Women ...	4	ditto ditto.	
Children able to work	3	ditto ditto.	
Children not able to work,	2	ditto ditto.	

The rates formerly paid and those now adopted are given in the margin. I would have been induced to make a still greater reduction but for the stringent orders of Government that the rates paid should not be lower than would suffice for the purchase of the minimum means of subsistence by those who were entirely dependent on what they earned on the works. Lower rates than those proposed would not at the prices then current have sufficed for the purchase of what was held by Government to be the minimum amount of food actually necessary for the subsistence of this class of laborers, and a further reduction of the rates was therefore impossible.

80. At this period intimation was received from the Nipal Darbar that, on the application of Government, permission had been given for the export of jarhan rice Nipal by purchasers from this district who really required it for seed purposes, who were armed with a pass or certificate to that effect, signed by the District

concession was a great boon to the parties who had taken advances from purchase of seed-grain, because although a limited supply had all across the border, in spite of the vigilance exercised by frontier chaukis, there was a considerable amount of risk attached in this way : several consignments which were seized when crossing had been confiscated. This concession removed all anxiety that existed regarding possible dearth of jarhan seed, and there can be no doubt that the seed required could not have been procured within the district.

81. About the same period a brisk export trade in the rabi cereals from Barhaj to Bengal re-commenced.

82. During the third and fourth weeks of April, notwithstanding the reduction in the rates, the numbers attending the relief works went on increasing. The reduction in the wage paid to men had a slight effect in some of the relief works, but it was temporary only : the number of women and children not only kept steadily increasing, but in a ratio out of all proportion to the increase in the number of men. About this time the numbers employed in the north of the district had reached 57,170, and in the south 44,995.

83. A slight rise in prices did take place about this period in the north and east of the district. I did not however attribute the increase in the numbers attending the relief works to this rise in prices, but to the causes already referred to.

84. There was certainly no increase in distress, but on the contrary the people both on the relief works and in the poorhouse had greatly improved in physical appearance, and none of the new applicants presented the unmistakable indications of poverty and destitution which were formerly observable.

85. At this time I was able to weed out about 300 from the city poor-house, who had been received in a wretched state of emaciation, but who were now well able to labor on the relief works to which they were referred.

86. On the 27th April, I again represented the attraction which the relief works had for the idle at that slack season of the year, estimating roughly that 60 per cent. of those then employed were not driven to the works through sheer want or necessity. I mentioned also that I had been considering the propriety of still further reducing the rates by paying women 3, instead of 4 pice per diem ; but that as I had been informed of His Honor's intended visit to Gorakhpur, I thought it better to let this matter lie over, and that I would in the meantime have data collected showing the purchasing power of the wages then paid with reference to the prices current in different portions of the district.

87. At the close of April a dust-storm, accompanied with rain and hail, occurred in the northern and eastern portions of the district, the rain which fell doing much good to the sugar-cane crop.

88. Early in May, I had again to report that the reduction in the rates had no perceptible effect in the numbers frequenting the relief works, and after certifying the improved condition of the people employed, and that everything possible under the circumstances had been done in the way of exacting a hard day's work from the strong and able-bodied, I stated my opinion that I saw no other way of keeping people who were not absolutely in want off the relief works except by a further reduction in the rates, or by giving the European officers stationed in the vicinity of the works the power of rejecting applicants for employment.

89. At this time I was also in a position to report that there was no risk of a food famine, provided the coming rains did not fail, as the grain in the district was being augmented by imports from Basti and Ghazipur.

90. The weeding out of the able-bodied from the Gorakhpur poorhouse had now reduced the number of recipients of charitable relief at the sudder station to 523, while at this time about 460 were relieved at the poorhouses in the interior. The general health of the district continued good, although small-pox seemed to be increasing in the north.

91. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor visited the district on the 6th May, and among other matters the question of what should be done to prevent the admissions on the relief works of persons not absolutely in want was discussed at the conference thus

held. The result of the conference and the orders of Government on the questions raised are embodied in Resolution No. 479A., dated 16th May, 1874, and need not therefore be further referred to here.

92. The only alteration in the rates sanctioned was the payment of one pice, instead of two, to children in arms; and the District Officer was only authorized to order applicants off the works when he was personally aware, or could adopt measures which gave him complete assurance, that any men, or the residents of any village, coming to the works did not need the help afforded by Government: this power being qualified by the distinct proviso that such an order was to be based "on individual knowledge of the persons or the village, not on general considerations."

93. I had frequently recorded my opinion that the setting in of the rains would disperse the vast majority of those employed on the relief works, and I am satisfied this would have been the case had no special intimation of the intention of Government to close relief works on the first fall of rain been given: the great difficulty I felt was how to reduce the number by excluding the undeserving recipients of Government aid until such time as the rains set in.

94. In accordance with the orders of Government, however, notifications were published warning the people that on the setting in of the rains the relief works would be closed, and that after that date relief would be given to applicants in cooked food at workhouses to be established at the centres approved of by Government.

95. No material alteration in prices took place, and the numbers employed on the relief works continued to increase, but, as hitherto, the great proportion of those attending the works were women and children, there being about 20,000 men to 70,000 women and children about the second week of May.

96. Later in May, with prices almost unchanged, a slight reduction in the numbers was brought about by closing week on the Kauriram and Gola road, and transferring the people employed on this work to Kauriram, as also by the summary dismissal of all the mates on the Lotan road relief works, who were detected in encouraging people to come to the work and then allowing them to idle, not of course without some consideration for doing so. Many of those employed on the Gola road refused to move to Kauriram, and the new set of mates on the Lotan relief work, under Mr. Mills' active supervision, were so strict in exacting a full day's task that considerable numbers left this work.

97. About this time also the kharif seed time drawing nigh, not a few left the works in order to prepare the paddy-fields.

98. Having made arrangements for the construction and establishment of workhouses at Gorakhpur, Mithaura, and Kasia (the latter place was selected in preference to Deoria, to secure the advantage of European supervision), I started for the north of the district with Captain Beauchamp on the 30th May, with the view of satisfying myself as to the condition of the people, reducing, if possible, the number employed on the relief works, and ascertaining as far as I could the number that were likely to remain on the hands of Government after the rains set in.

99. Before I left Syed Ahmad Khan Bahadur reached Gorakhpur, and having settled the preliminary arrangements with him before starting, I left him in the station to reorganize the existing sudder poorhouse on the model of the Moradabad workhouse, that it might become the nucleus of a larger establishment of the same description on the setting in of the rains.

100. While in the north of the district a general fall of rain took place on the 30th May, which had been preceded by partial showers on the 25th. This had a marked effect on the numbers on the relief works, crowds of those employed—especially men—leaving the work and taking to their paddy-fields. On this occasion, with prices as high as before, I found the people on the works both in good heart and in

good condition; and after two days spent with Captain Beauchamp and Mr. Stoker on the Nichlaul road works, I came to the conclusion that of the immense crowds employed (at the time 79,299 men), not more than 3,000 were likely to stand in need of Government assistance after the rains set in, and that of this number probably not 1,000 would seek it under the workhouse rules. Mr. Stoker, who was stationed at Mithaura, at the time thought I had under-estimated the number, but results subsequently distinctly showed that I had greatly over-estimated the number Government would have to provide for.

101. Having made the necessary arrangements with Mr. Stoker for the construction of the workhouse at Mithaura, Captain Beauchamp and I proceeded across the north of the district to the Lotan road, reaching Gopalpur on the 2nd June. During that day there was another heavy fall of rain, which had so affected the numbers on this relief work that, where a day or two before over 22,000 were at work, we only found about 3,000 employed on the 2nd June.

102. On going carefully over the works with Captain Beauchamp and Mr. Warren, we found that of the above numbers some 250 only were living on the works, and that the remainder—principally women and children—were residents of the adjacent villages, who would doubtless attend the works as long as they were kept open. The only people on these relief works who seemed to be in real distress were the few who were living on the works; and many of the latter, when questioned, declared their intention of going to their villages rather than accept remuneration in cooked food.

103. In the case of this relief work I felt no difficulty as to closing it: the numbers in real distress were manifestly so few, and Mr. Warren, an assistant of Mr. Bridgman, residing on the spot, who had for some six weeks charge of the work, could so easily see to the relief of the really destitute until they reached one of the workhouses. I accordingly returned to Gorakhpur, leaving instructions that unless orders were received to the contrary, the work should be closed from Saturday the 6th June.

104. On reaching Gorakhpur I ascertained from Messrs. Spedding and List that a similar falling off had taken place in the numbers on the Kauriram relief works, the numbers in attendance having fallen from 22,800 to about 4,000. This was attributed partly to the fall of rain having sent many of the laborers to work on their fields, and partly to the stricter supervision exercised by Messrs. Spedding, Berrill, and List, whom I had requested to undertake the management of the gangs for a few days, in order to test certain irregularities of which I had occasion to suspect the Naib Tahsildar and Supervisor in charge.

105. Messrs. Berrill and List also assured me that they had satisfied themselves by careful personal enquiries from those still on the works that very few of their number were really dependent on what they earned, or were willing to accept payment in cooked food.

106. Simultaneously, the numbers employed on the city relief work had fallen from 9,500 to 3,000, and many of the latter on being told off by me to cut "jhowa," "narkat," &c., for use in the workhouse, refused to accept such employment. I was prepared to accommodate, if necessary, some 3,000 in the city workhouse, the arrangements for which had been completed by Syed Ahmad Khan while I was in the interior of the district. Excluding the relief works on the Nichlaul road, I did not anticipate a greater number than this applying for relief under the workhouse rules; and as the weather indicated the immediate setting in of the rains, I resolved to close all the relief works except those on the Nichlaul road from the 6th June.

107. The people were quite prepared for this, because, as already mentioned, notifications had been published at all the works, that immediately the rain set in, the works would be closed, and in future relief would only be given in cooked food at the centres selected for workhouses.

108. Money was also distributed to the Tahsildars to assist the really destitute in reaching the workhouses. The number who came was nothing like so large as had been anticipated; not a single report of suffering or destitution induced by the closing of the relief work was received, and thus with prices as high as they had been for some time, and common rice selling at the highest rate it reached during the scarcity, all the relief works with one exception were simultaneously closed at the end of the first week of June.

109. The reasons which induced me to delay closing the relief works on the Nichlaul road were at the time communicated to Government; they were briefly these:—(1) a certain knowledge that there was more actual destitution in this part of the district than elsewhere; (2) the consequent probability that the number to be provided for in the workhouse would be considerable, at least larger than anywhere else; and (3) the fact that a Bengal relief work was still open in the vicinity, on the right bank of the Gandak, in the Champaran District, at which higher rates of wage than those paid in Gorakhpur were prevalent, and the fear lest the closing of the Nichlaul road relief works, and substituting in their place a workhouse at which cooked food only was distributed, might induce a considerable number of the people to migrate to the Champaran relief work.

110. Early in the second week of June, however, such a deluge of rain fell in the north-eastern portion of the district, flooding the country for a time and filling the ditches from which earth was being excavated, that Mr. Stoker—finding a vast majority of these employed on the Nichlaul road had gone to their villages, some 400 or 500 habituels only being left; and finding at the same time that it was impossible to carry on earthwork out of doors owing to the flooded state of the country—on the 10th June determined to close the relief works, and refer all applicants for relief to the workhouse, the construction and preliminary arrangements in connection with which were by that time so far advanced as to enable him to undertake the distribution of cooked food to as many applicants as were likely to put in an appearance. The first day only 44 laborers from the relief works elected to enter the Mithaura workhouse. A few days before, on the 8th June, the Kasia workhouse had opened with 51 inmates.

111. The last relief work was thus closed on the 10th June without the slightest perceptible increase in distress; indeed, the rain now appeared to have regularly set in, and the weather continuing most propitious, from about this period prices began to fall, and there was a perceptible diminution in distress.

112. There can be no question that the substitution of these workhouses for outdoor relief works answered admirably, and enabled us to get rid of all applicants for relief who were not in actual want. The setting in of the rains would alone have dispersed the vast majority of those employed on relief works (as was found in the case of the Nichlaul road works, where the number employed fell from 32,500 to 12,000 before the works were closed). At the same time there can be little doubt that many who found ways and means for their own support, rather than accept relief at the workhouses, would under a system of cash payment for light work have continued to look to Government for the means of subsistence. This remark would apply, in my opinion, to a small minority only; the vast majority of those employed were only too glad to betake themselves to their legitimate occupations when the season of the year admitted of their doing so.

113. *Relief Works.*—Having brought the narrative of the scarcity and distress in this district up to that period when the relief works were closed and work-houses substituted in their stead, before tracing the further history of the scarcity, it will be as well to give some detailed account and statistics of the relief works and poor-houses which were established during that period, to which the preceding narrative refers.

RELIEF WORKS.

114. In Appendix B. I will be found a detailed statement showing week by week for each work, from the date it was opened to its close, the number of men,

women, and children employed, with the expenditure on account of wages of laborers, cost of establishment, and contingencies, also the amount of work done.

115. In this appendix the relief works have been arranged in the order in which they were opened. Some of the works were taken up when others in the vicinity were finished or almost so, and this accounts for the decrease in the numbers on certain works at a period when distress was on the increase; such decrease is not real but nominal, being accounted for by the transfer of the laborers to the newly opened works.

116. Thus, when the work on the Fyzabad road, which was the first relief work started, was approaching completion, and there was no longer sufficient employment for the number flocking to it, work was started in the repairs of roads in the suburbs of the city on the 10th February. The latter was a petty work, though a useful one, because several roads which were neither on the list of district roads, nor included among those lying inside municipal limits, had lapsed into a very bad state of repair, no funds having for years past been provided for their maintenance. When the work on the Fyzabad road was nearly finished, it became necessary to start some relief work in the vicinity of the city, where distress first appeared, in order to give employment to the city people until such time as the project for the improvement of the Jail tank, which had been selected as at once the most suitable and useful work for the city poor, had been so far matured as to admit of ground being broken.

117. As soon as the necessary arrangements for starting work on the Jail tank were completed, the relief works on the roads in the suburbs were closed and the laborers transferred to the Jail tank.

118. Similarly, when the work on the Taraina bridge embankment was approaching completion, in order to give employment to the people hitherto engaged on it, the Gola road relief work was opened on the 6th April.

119. I have entered into these particulars, because in the case of the works referred to, it was no fresh pressure or increased local distress that led to their being opened: they were only opened to take the place of other works which had either been nearly completed, or were of a less urgent and useful nature; whereas in the case of all the other works in Appendix B., the date of opening indicates the time at which distress and scarcity began to be severely felt in the vicinity of these works.

120. The *locale* of the relief works indicates the portions of the district in which severe distress was felt, and with the above explanation, the dates on which the several works opened are a correct index to the time at which severe distress and scarcity began to be experienced.

121. Up to the end of April, when a relief work was opened near Deoria, Government assistance to the distressed in the shape of employment on relief works was confined to three tahsils, viz., Bansgaon (south-western portion of the district), Sudder Tahsil (vicinity of city), and Maharajganj (northern portion of district bordering on Nipal Tarai).

122. It is hardly necessary to explain why distress should have been greater, and relief works more urgently required in the Maharajganj and Sudder Tahsils. In the case of the former the fact that three-fourths of the entire cultivation is kharif (chiefly spring and winter rice), and that of the limited extent of rabi, all except a few fields around the village homesteads is *defasla* rabi, the successful culture of which depends on the rainfall at the rabi seed-time: this fact alone, when the poverty of the cultivators in this portion of the district and the proximity of the Nipal Tarai are borne in mind, fully accounts for the aggravated pressure of distress in the Maharajganj Tahsil. In the case of the Sudder Tahsil also, the cause of the early appearance of distress, and of its continued severity, was manifestly the large preponderance of the artizan and day-laboring class among the urban and suburban population.

123. In the case of the Bansgaon Tahsil, however, the reason why relief works were early required and so largely attended is not so apparent, and calls for some

explanation. In this portion of the district the proprietary body are very numerous, and the shares minutely subdivided : most of the proprietors are themselves working cultivators, tilling their own lands ; and a large number of the inhabitants who, in other places, would be ryots cultivating land for themselves, are here but ploughmen and day-laborers. So much of the land is occupied as *seer*, and the homo-farms of the proprietary class are so extensive, that the ordinary class of cultivators cannot get the extent of land they require.

124. The consequence of this was, that when employment failed them, this class had nothing to fall back on, and having no holding or fixity, could not get advances; while most of the zemindars, being themselves mere working men and equally impoverished by the failure of the harvest, could not support them until the tide turned. Moreover, the zemindars in this portion of the district are generally a bad lot, lazy and selfish, principally Brahmans and Chhatris, who have little charity for others, and who were themselves to be seen in considerable numbers on the relief works towards the latter end of April.

125. One point prominently brought to notice in Appendix BI. is worthy of remark,—that is, the great increase in the numbers on all the relief work, which took place about the latter end of March.

126. The numbers on all the relief works, as a rule, went on increasing gradually from the time they opened, but at no period was the increase simultaneously so sudden and so general over all the works as at the period just mentioned.

127. This is the time, as I have already stated, which I would select as that at which the greatest pressure of distress was felt, and this was mainly attributable to the large number thrown out of employment on the cessation of harvesting operations.

128. One point requires notice and explanation in connection with the Lotan road relief work, *viz.*, the great decrease in the numbers employed during the week ending 21st March. This was caused by a mistake on the part of the Overseer in charge, who, having completed the work on one section of the road, did not open ground on the next, pending the receipt of special orders.

129. I subjoin an abstract statement prepared from Appendix BI., which shows the monthly attendance, daily average attendance during each month, outturn of work, and cost incurred for each of the relief works :—

Month.	ATTENDANCE.		OUTTURN.				EXPENDITURE.				Expenditure, excluding contingencies.	AVERAGE ON TOTAL EXPENDITURE.				AVERAGE ON EXPENDITURE, EXCLUDING CONTINGENCIES.			
	Gross.	Daily.	Earthwork.	Turning.	Breaking and cleaning kan- kar.	Dismantling ma- sonry.	Wages.	Supervision.	Contingencies, in- cluding head- quarters.	Total.		Earthwork.	Turning.	Breaking and cleaning kan- kar.	Dismantling ma- sonry.	Earthwork.	Turning.	Breaking and cleaning kan- kar.	Dismantling ma- sonry.
January	7,538	579	76,550	...	12,036	...	402 15 8	...	108 0 0	510 15 8	402 15 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
February	4,796	368	76,550	...	4,517	...	263 10 5	...	108 3 2	371 13 7	263 10 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	12,334	947	76,550	...	16,553	...	666 10 1	...	215 3 2	882 13 3	666 10 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
February	97,073	3,347	944,778	...	...	...	4,586 0 2	63 11 3	577 4 2	5,176 15 7	4,599 11 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	940,076	10,970	2,932,329	...	...	...	18,431 13 8	337 15 4	763 15 6	19,533 12 6	18,769 13 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	782,541	24,418	2,329,327	...	...	...	39,213 0 0	1,128 6 3	1,730 11 2	42,071 1 6	40,340 6 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May	727,948	24,264	3,598,089	...	...	...	36,746 7 10	2,056 15 10	1,121 13 0	39,925 4 8	38,803 7 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June	106,874	7,633	412,500	...	...	...	4,839 3 0	899 12 4	623 1 9	5,362 1 1	5,738 15 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	3,004,512	15,188	10,217,023	...	...	...	1,03,765 8 8	4,486 13 0	4,816 13 8	1,13,069 3 4	1,08,352 5 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
February	15,889	567	214,815	...	...	...	879 5 9	52 5 6	121 13 0	1,053 8 3	931 11 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	30,574	986	338,839	...	...	...	1,797 10 2	138 4 5	141 12 1	2,077 10 8	1,935 14 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	4,75,654	15,855	1,673,073	...	...	...	26,369 9 1	785 15 5	663 3 6	27,718 12 0	27,055 8 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May	520,210	16,780	1,907,962	...	...	...	27,885 2 11	841 6 9	667 0 2	29,393 9 10	28,736 9 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June	24,912	3,558	117,319	...	...	...	1,175 10 3	101 0 11	464 13 3	1,741 8 5	1,276 11 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	1,067,339	8,537	4,252,008	...	...	...	58,007 6 2	1,919 1 0	2,053 10 0	61,985 1 2	59,926 7 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Month.	ATTENDANCE		OUTTURN.				EXPENDITURE				AVERAGE ON TOTAL EXPENDITURE.						AVERAGE ON EXPENDITURE, EXCLUDING CONTINGENCIES.					
	Gross.	Daily.	Earthwork.	Turfing.	Breaking and cleaning kan-kar.	Dismantling masonry.	Wages.	Supervision.	Contingencies, including head-quarters.	Total.	Expenditure, including contingencies.	Earthwork.	Turfing.	Breaking and cleaning kan-kar.	Dismantling masonry.	Earthwork.	Turfing.	Breaking and cleaning kan-kar.	Dismantling masonry.			
February	6,887	765	142,490	...	...	...	Ra. a. p. 365 1 9	Rs. a. p. 5 9 0	Ra. a. p. 5 9 0	Rs. a. p. 370 10 9	Ra. a. p. 365 1 9	p. thd. 2 9	p. hd. 2 9	p. hd. 2 9	p. hd. 2 9	Rs. a. 2 9	p. thd. 2 9	p. hd. 2 9	p. hd. 2 9	p. hd. 2 9		
February	20,168	1,344	261,116	...	...	...	1,132 9 2	...	357 0 0	1,469 9 2	1,132 9 2	2 6 13	...	...	...	4 8	...	...	...	...		
March	143,253	4,621	360,447	...	...	...	7,917 9 9	...	371 8 0	8,647 6 2	8,289 1 9	24 0	...	...	...	23 0	...	...	...	...		
April	377,894	12,596	532,729	81,458	...	...	30,736 14 8	...	1,254 15 6	424 13 2	22,416 10 4	7 0	...	...	...	30 8	...	...	...	...		
May	596,770	19,250	496,195	6,720	...	...	29,533 3 4	...	2,121 13 10	672 5 10	32,227 7 0	6 16	...	...	...	62 14	...	...	...	...		
June	12,687	1,812	14,650	...	...	...	599 4 8	...	72 8 4	342 12 9	1,014 9 9	...	...	...	...	...	4 9	...	...	...		
Total	1,150,472	10,366	1,611,487	102,828	...	...	59,919 9 7	3,820 13 8	2,035 3 3	65,775 10 6	63,740 7 3	35 11	7 0	...	...	34 7	6 4	...	...	...		
February	9,237	839	112,529	...	...	...	506 13 4	29 11 0	...	536 8 4	536 8 4	4 12	...	...	...	4 12	...	...	...	...		
March	82,765	2,669	357,666	...	...	...	4,148 13 2	326 13 0	327 15 9	4,713 8 11	4,375 9 2	21 0	...	...	...	7 0	11 5	...	...	...		
April	38,740	3,874	100,245	...	...	...	1,943 2 8	73 6 0	184 1 0	2,300 9 8	2,016 8 8	12 0	...	...	...	7 0	19 1	...	...	...		
Total	130,742	2,514	570,440	...	...	...	6,598 13 2	329 13 0	522 0 9	7,450 10 11	6,928 10 2	12 13	...	...	...	7 0	11 12	...	...	...		
February	6,663	1,110	17,440	...	...	...	333 8 4	12 10 6	33 0 0	379 2 10	346 2 10	22 4	...	...	...	20 5	...	...	...	...		
March	79,830	2,575	398,167	...	...	...	4,201 4 8	461 1 7	383 15 4	5,046 5 7	4,662 6 3	12 11	...	...	...	11 11	...	...	...	...		
April	203,192	6,773	490,592	...	...	...	10,316 8 1	414 14 6	466 6 4	11,197 12 11	10,731 6 7	23 13	...	...	...	21 14	...	...	...	...		
May	205,131	6,617	499,835	...	...	...	9,131 1 2	475 7 0	379 4 6	9,985 12 10	9,606 8 2	20 0	...	...	...	19 4	...	...	...	...		
June	26,817	3,831	61,317	...	...	...	1,021 4 9	96 13 5	43 15 11	1,163 2 1	1,118 2 2	19 0	...	...	...	18 5	...	...	...	...		
Total	621,633	5,137	1,467,521	...	...	...	25,003 11 0	1,460 15 0	1,306 10 3	27,771 4 2	26,464 10 0	16 14	...	...	...	18 0	...	...	...	...		

		Gola Road.																																				
April	...	368,954	14,758	1,428,350	...	...	...	...	...	17,667	5	4	913	3	7	2,847	11	5	21,428	4	4	18,580	8	11	15	0	...	...	...	...	...	13	0	...	...	...	...	
May	...	376,929	8,900	1,190,869	...	...	...	...	...	13,402	5	1	1,112	14	3	298	9	0	14,813	12	4	14,515	3	4	12	7	...	...	...	...	...	12	3	...	...	...	...	
June	...	4,208	601	...	...	...	...	...	...	208	6	1	79	3	6	206	3	1	493	12	8	287	9	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Total	...	649,091	9,284	2,619,209	...	...	...	...	...	31,278	0	6	2,105	5	4	3,352	7	6	36,735	13	4	33,383	5	10	18	15	...	...	...	...	...	12	8	...	...	...	...	
		New road at Deoria.																																				
April	...	982	327	6,000	...	...	...	...	...	43	8	6	30	0	0	95	0	0	168	8	6	73	8	6	36	0	...	...	...	...	...	14	9	...	...	...	...	
May	...	93,636	3,020	264,341	...	...	...	...	...	4,291	9	5	295	10	7	163	10	1	4,760	14	1	4,587	4	0	17	15	...	...	...	...	...	17	6	...	...	...	...	
June	...	29,318	4,188	106,501	...	...	...	...	...	1,268	14	1	85	7	6	129	9	0	1,483	14	7	1,364	5	7	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	12	14	...	...	...	...	
Total	...	123,935	3,098	374,842	...	...	...	...	...	6,604	0	0	411	2	1	388	3	1	6,403	5	2	6,015	2	1	17	1	...	...	...	...	...	16	1	...	...	...	...	
GRAND TOTAL	...	5,667,145	56,856	2,1361,571	1,02,828	16,555	3,300	2,91,208	12	11	14,533	15	1	14,701	12	8	3,20,444	8	8	3,05,742	12	0	14	9	7	0	4	0	7	0	13	14	6	10	3	2	6	7

Gold Road.

New road at Deoria.

130. In the following statement all the relief works have been clubbed together, and the figures show the total number employed on relief works in this district for each month, with the daily average, the outturn of work, expenditure incurred, and average rate which the work cost :—

Month.	Attendance.		Outturn.					Total expenditure.	Expenditure, excluding contingencies.	Cost per 1,000 c. ft. earthwork on total expenditure.	Cost per 1,000 c. ft. earthwork on expenditure, excluding contingencies.
	Gross.	Daily.	Earthwork.	Turfing.	Breaking and cleaning kan-puka masopry.	Dismantling kan-puka masopry.					
January, 1874 ...	7,538	579	...	...	12,036	...	Ra. a. p. 510 15 8	Ra. a. p. 402 15 8	Rs. 4-1 per hundred.	Rs. 3-5 per hundred.	
February " ...	160,713	8,340	1,759,718	...	4,817	...	9,258 4 6	8,175 7 2	" 5-2 per thousand.	" 4-8 per thousand.	
March " ...	676,493	21,821	4,387,448	...	...	2,500	40,018 11 11	38,032 12 9	" 9-1 ditto	" 8-10 ditto.	
April " ...	2,197,957	73,262	6,560,316	61,458	...	800	1,27,201 11 3	1,20,789 13 7	" 18-8 ditto	" 17-8 ditto.	
May " ...	2,419,823	78,054	7,957,252	6,740	...	...	1,31,096 12 9	1,27,894 2 0	" 16-6 ditto	" 16-0 ditto.	
June " ...	204,816	21,623	696,837	14,650	...	...	12,258 0 7	10,447 8 10	" 16-2 ditto	" 13-8 ditto.	
Total ...	5,667,145	209,795	21,361,571	102,828	16,553	3,300	3,20,444 8 8	3,05,742 12 0	Rs. 14-9 per thousand.	Rs. 13-14 per thousand.	

131. A detailed examination of Appendix BI. will show that the average cost per 1,000 cubic feet of earthwork varied much on different works. The general average is of course very much higher than the rates for which such work could have been done by contract. It could not be otherwise, for where immense crowds of laborers are employed in masses, even with the best possible arrangement for supervision, and exacting a full day's task, it is impossible to secure anything like the same outturn of work which might be expected under ordinary circumstances. Moreover, it must be remembered that a large proportion of the laborers, especially from the middle of February to the middle of April, were emaciated, feeble-bodied people, from whom it was physically impossible to exact a full day's task; and a very large number of the children, who were paid and charged to the work absolutely, did nothing : indeed the presence of so many young children, unfit to take care of themselves, positively retarded the work, as their relatives had to be constantly looking after them.

132. In considering the average cost of the work, moreover, it must be remembered that even excluding contingencies, extraordinary items of expenditure have been included under the general head of cost, which are never incurred on works carried out at the ordinary Public Works Department rates. Among these items may be mentioned the cost of the gangs of water-carriers attached to each work, the cost of digging kucha wells in the vicinity of the works (this was done by the people on the work, but the work done is not included in the outturn), and the unusually heavy cost of the supervising establishment, which was of course proportionally much stronger than it need have been, had the people employed all been of the class usually accustomed to labor on public works.

133. If the average cost is struck on the expenditure, including contingencies, it must be remembered that all the heavy contingent items are of an extraordinary character, which are seldom or ever incurred in ordinary public works : among such contingent charges may be mentioned—the cost of making the relief work hospitals at Kauriram, Jail tank, Gopalpur, and Mithaura (a memo. of which is given in the margin), cost of huts run up for the accommodation of laborers living on the works, and shopkeepers selling grain, loss in exchange of Gorakhpur pice (a heavy item), and extra sudder office establishment.

134. The variations in the average cost on the different works are generally susceptible of satisfactory explanation, although in some instances they are no doubt attributable to the greater strictness or laxity of the supervising staff. The length of the "lead" from which earth was brought, the height of the embankment, the distance from which the people attending the work had to come, and the proportion of children employed on the different works,—all these points would more or less influence the average cost. Again, on the relief works first started, Fyzabad road, and "roads in suburbs," no special extra establishment was entertained or charged against the work. This of course materially affected the average cost.

135. It would seem unnecessary to occupy space in explaining the rules in force on the relief works as regards payments, food, hutting, &c. The rules prescribed by Government were strictly adhered to, except, I think, on one point,—I refer to the rule that persons who had been regular in their attendance during the week should be paid the usual rates on Sundays, although exempted from work on that day.

136. As no nominal register was kept up, it was quite impossible, when the number increased, to ascertain or recognize those who had been regular in their attendance. If the plan of paying the work-people their Sunday's pice on Saturday was adopted, there was always a larger crowd on that day than on any of the preceding days ; when the plan of mustering the gangs on Sunday morning, simply for the

Names of hospitals.	Cost.
	Rs. a. p.
Kauriram ...	851 7 5
Jail tank ...	465 2 11
Gopalpur ...	223 15 6
Mithaura ...	624 2 9

distribution of their pice was tried, the same results followed,—the Sunday's muster not unfrequently numbered half as many people again as the daily average attendance of the previous six days. Ultimately a compromise between the Sunday no work and full pay and full work and full pay system was adopted as the only practical plan, the people were numbered as usual on Sunday, paid a full day's wage, but only kept at work until midday. This system worked well.

137. I should also mention that the rate of three Gorakhpur pice for women, mentioned in the first circular on the subject, No. 1134A., of 2nd February, was never given effect to. The rate was too low, and could not have enabled the recipients to purchase the minimum of food according to the scale sanctioned by Government.

138. The following were the rates paid on the relief works in this district :—

	Men.	Women.	Working children.	Children unable to work.
From the date the work opened to the 11th April.	6 G. pice	4 G. pice	3 G. pice	...
From the 12th April to the 11th May.	5 " "	4 " "	3 " "	2 G. pice.
From the 12th May to close of work.	5 " "	4 " "	3 " "	1 "

139. I ought also to mention that, from the date the work opened up to the period the Famine Commission visited the district, *children in arms* were not paid at all ; the members of the Famine Commission however, after inspecting the Taraina relief work, directed that all children of whatever age should be paid at the same rate. I think this was an unnecessary indulgence, and the rule was certainly much abused : young children in the vicinity of the relief works at one time becoming almost a marketable commodity. This I represented in the memo. submitted to Government on the 11th April, 1874, when I authorized the reduction of the rate for children unable to work from three to two pice.

140. Before passing from the subject of relief works, it will be advisable to notice shortly the nature of the different works undertaken, and the permanent effect the relief works have left.

141. All the relief works undertaken were reported on and sanctioned by Government. The only relief work started in anticipation of sanction was that of repairing the roads in the suburbs, which, as has already been explained, was started to provide work for the city poor, when the work on the Fyzabad road was approaching completion, until such time as the Jail tank improvement project could be matured.

(1.) *Fyzabad road diversion.*—This was not a special relief work, but a regular Public Works Department project, for which a plan and estimate had been submitted. The Rapti had washed away a portion of the Fyzabad road in the vicinity of Gorakhpur, and it became necessary to re-align two miles of this road adjoining the city. Most of the earthwork had already been completed before relief works were started ; the remaining work, however, was conveniently situated for the employment of the city poor, and it was accordingly carried out as a relief work.

About 15,000 cubic feet of kankar were dug up from the abandoned line, broken, cleaned, and carried to the new diversion road. A number of useful "bunds" were also made across the ditch along the side of the new road, and the embankment of the latter was repaired.

There can be no doubt of the utility of this work : its necessity had been recognized. It cost, of course, more as a relief work than it would have done at Public Works Department rates.

(2.) *Repairing roads in the suburbs.*—The nature of this work has already been explained in the body of the report. It was the cheapest relief work undertaken, was carried out without any assistance in the way of supervision from the Public Works Department, and was a very useful work.

(3.) *Raising and re-aligning the Nichlaur road from near the Nipal frontier towards Gorakhpur.*—On this line 24 miles were re-aligned and raised. This portion of the road was formerly very tortuous : it was in many places below the level of the adjoining fields, and impassable for wheeled traffic during the rains, at which season it presented more the appearance of a canal than a road.

At certain points this road was raised more perhaps than was absolutely necessary ; the earthwork however on the finished portion has stood remarkably well during the rains (a small establishment having been kept on it to effect necessary repairs throughout the rainy season), and Mr. Peart, who has inspected it since the close of the rains, reports that the embankment is in excellent order.

There is a good deal of traffic on this road, which is one of the two main lines of traffic with Nipal and the Tarai in the north of this district. When the gaps are bridged over (sanction has been given to the construction of pile bridges), this work will be one of permanent and lasting utility, *provided* it is now kept in thorough repair. It is manifest, however, that the usual mileage allowance for the repair of second class unraised roads will not suffice for the maintenance of a raised and embanked kucha road, such as 24 miles of the Nichlaur road has now become.

Embanked kucha roads are specially liable to damage in the north of this district, where the rains are usually very heavy, and unless the embankment of this road is maintained in thorough repair, it will certainly not be a work of public utility.

(4.) *Raising, partial re-aligning, and improvement of the Lotan road.*—This road is the other main line of traffic between Nipal and Gorakhpur. A considerable local traffic from the north of the district also passes over this road. The country through which it runs is not so low lying as that traversed by the Nichlaur road, and the road itself had been kept in better repair than the latter : several bridges however had recently been built the approaches to which had not been finished ; and near Gopalpur, where the road intersected a jhil, which diverted all traffic during the rains, an embankment was very much required. The approaches to these bridges and raising the road at the point indicated were the relief works undertaken.

Approaches to the Gorwari, Dandah, and Bijerali bridges were completed and 9½ miles of the road from Lotan were raised before the relief work closed. One or two pile bridges are required on this road : when these are completed the benefit to traffic will be immense. The remarks I have made regarding the Nichlaur road, however, apply equally to this : the newly raised road will cost more to keep it in repair than has hitherto been allowed for the maintenance of this road. The new embankment is at present in first-rate order, and I trust funds will be forthcoming to maintain it in its present condition.

(5.) *Improvement of the Tuckerbund embankment near Kauriram, on the Benares road.*—Here the work consisted in making a "cess" 20 feet wide at the east toe of the embankment, in partly filling up the trench at the west toe of the embankment, in widening the embankment, improving its slope, and turfing a portion of the west bank which used to cut away during the rains.

In addition to the above, a new channel was dug with the view of diverting the Ami river and cutting off an elbow of the stream where it approached dangerously near the embankment. This latter work was not, however, completed when the relief works closed.

There can be no doubt of the utility of these relief works. The Tuckerbund embankment is situated on the first class metalled road leading to Benares. Of late years much had been done to improve it, but it has always been admitted that much more was required if only funds were available. This is one of the relief works which Sir John Strachey inspected when he visited Gorakhpur in May last, and it would seem unnecessary to enlarge on its importance.

(6.) *The making approaches to the new iron bridge over the Taraina, on the Benares road.*—The masonry bridge across the Taraina was carried away in the floods of 1871. A plan and estimate for a new iron bridge, involving a slight diversion of the old line of road, had been submitted and approved of by Government. The iron girders are being made at Roorkee, and materials for the construction of the wells and piers had been collected on the spot. In ordinary course the diversion of the road and the new approaches would have been taken up after the iron bridge had been finished: they were however of course included in the project and estimate submitted to Government, and being most useful and important works, which under any circumstances would soon have been put in hand, it was resolved to take them up as famine relief works. Of the utility of this work there can be no question.

(7.) *Improvement of the Bakladah tank adjoining the Gorakhpur Jail.*—His Honor visited this work also. This tank was a large, irregularly sloped, unsightly and very unsavoury hollow, situated just in front of the Gorakhpur Jail. Had it been possible to construct a new Jail as a relief work on a better site, I should certainly have recommended that in preference to improving the tank. Seeing, however, that this was not possible, and also that it had just been determined (not in my time) to erect the new Police lines on the opposite side of this tank, facing the Jail, in the interests of the Jail and Police Departments, as well as with a view to the general improvement of this portion of the city, there appeared to be no work on which the city poor could be employed at once so suitable, and at the same time likely to be attended with such good results, as the filling up and improvement of this filthy excavation.

It was proposed to make it into an elliptical tank; the work was a heavy and expensive one, because, except what could be got from the bed of that portion of the tank which was deepened, the earth had to be brought from the edge of the Rapti, a distance of not less than one-fourth of a mile: about half the work required was finished when the relief works closed, and the Municipal Committee of Gorakhpur propose to complete the remaining work gradually as the funds at their disposal permit. I should also have mentioned that this project included the raising of the road leading from the Jail to Domingarh, a most useful work, two furlongs of which were completed.

If the improvements proposed on the Bakladah tank are completed, the general benefit to the locality cannot be exaggerated. At present the result is unsatisfactory, as the work is in an unfinished state.

(8.) *The making approaches to the new bridge over the Karna near Deoria, and re-aligning a portion of the road.*—This work exactly resembles No. 6, and was undertaken under the same circumstances, the old masonry bridge across the Karna having been washed away in the floods of 1871: about $3\frac{1}{4}$ furlongs of the new road and approaches were finished when the works closed. This work will of course be completed by the Public Works Department. It has been included in the Budget for 1875-76.

(9.) *Raising and re-aligning a portion of the road from Kauriram to Gola.*—This is in my opinion the least useful relief work which was taken in hand, or, I should rather say, the only relief work undertaken which was not of great public utility. The embankment thrown across the valley of the Taraina, which forms the approaches to the Chilwa bridge, is undoubtedly of great utility and will be of great benefit when the old bridge is re-built; the raising of the rest of the road (nearly three miles), however, was certainly not worth the money it cost. Colonel Fraser will, I dare say, remember

that I represented this on the occasion of His Honor's visit to Gorakhpur, and had the work stopped.

142. Before passing from the subject of relief works, without entering into particulars which I have not time to do, as urgent reminders calling for the immediate submission of this report have been received, I would simply record my opinion that the experience gained during the late scarcity in this district has established the following points:—viz., (1) That under certain circumstances assistance given to the unemployed and destitute poor at relief works, on which the different classes are paid in cash at rates just sufficient to purchase the minimum means of subsistence, answers admirably; and on the whole, when useful projects are in readiness, Government obtains as good a return for the money expended as it is likely to obtain under any other system of relief. (2) Under certain circumstances and at certain seasons of the year, the test of the readiness of applicants to accept the lowest rate of wages which will suffice to purchase the bare means of subsistence is not a sufficient gauge of the actual destitution of the applicants. (3) As soon as this is discovered to be the case, remuneration in cooked food should take the place of cash payments, cooking-sheds being established at each of the relief works, and workhouses at selected centres for the employment of those who can be more profitably employed on in-door work. (4) So long as the payment of the laborers at minimum cash rates does not attract people to the works, who are not really in absolute need of Government assistance, this method of payment is the most economical, as the purchase, cooking, and daily distribution of food involves a great deal more expense in establishment and contingencies than the system of cash payments. (5) When the cash rates have begun to attract undeserving applicants to the works, the additional expenditure involved in carrying out the system of payments in cooked food will be more than compensated for by the saving resulting from a reduction in the number seeking employment.

143. The real effect of substituting payments in cooked food for cash payments was not actually tested in this district, inasmuch as it was all along known that the setting in of the rains would disperse the vast majority of those employed on relief works, and, if the season continued favorable, distress would steadily decrease from that date. At the same time I am thoroughly satisfied, from what I have seen during the last year, of the correctness of the above conclusions; and that had money payments for work done in the workhouses been continued after the rains set in, there would have been three or four times the number of applicants for admission.

144. *Poorhouses.*—Before entering on the subject of *workhouses* established on the close of the relief works in accordance with Government Resolution No. 474A., dated 16th May, 1874, it will be as well to give some statistics in connection with the poorhouses which were established as adjuncts to the relief works, and ceased to exist on their close.

145. These poor houses were established for the relief of the aged, infirm, and deformed poor, who were physically incapacitated from laboring on relief works. Of this description of poorhouses there were eight in this district, which were established at the places noted in the margin. At Gorakhpur and Gola cooked food was distributed to the inmates; at all the other poorhouses uncooked food was given.

146. In Appendix C. will be found a statement showing the number of adults and minors relieved from week to week at each of these poorhouses, together with the expenditure incurred on account of the price of food, establishment, purchase of cooking utensils, and contingencies.

147. The annexed statement is an abstract prepared from Appendix C., giving the figures monthly for each poorhouse, with the average daily attendance and average cost per head:—

Sudder.
Bansgaon.
Deoria.
Maharajganj,
Gola Gopalpur.
Hatta.
Padrauna.
Mithaura.

Month.	Number fed.			Average daily attendance.			Total cost of food, establishment, and contingencies.	Cost per head.
	Adults.	Children.	Total.	Adults.	Children.	Total.		
Sudder Poorhouse.								
February, 1874	16,999	14,509	31,508	607	518	1,125	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
March	21,256	10,171	31,427	6-6	328	1,125	748 4 3	0 0 5
April	15,488	9,609	25,097	516	320	1,114	1,108 9 7	0 0 7
May	10,738	4,770	15,508	346	154	886	1,093 9 7	0 0 8
	64,476	39,059	103,535	537	326	500	1,197 13 5	0 1 3
Banajon.								
March	610	221	831	31	11	42	31 12 3	0 0 7
April	1,354	475	1,829	45	16	61	81 14 3	0 0 8
May	1,411	779	2,190	46	25	71	88 14 6	0 0 8
June	880	220	600	47	28	75	88 14 6	0 1 3
	3,755	1,695	5,450	42	19	61	255 13 0	0 0 9
Deoria.								
March	796	80	876	40	4	44	31 0 11	0 0 7
April	2,243	519	2,762	75	17	92	94 11 2	0 0 6
May	2,015	578	2,593	65	19	84	89 13 6	0 0 7
June	380	8	388	47	1	48	40 5 4	0 1 3
	5,434	1,185	6,619	61	13	74	255 13 11	0 0 7
Maharajganj.								
March	162	1	163	8	...	8	7 9 3	0 0 9
April	519	16	535	17	...	18	22 13 2	0 0 8
May	522	50	572	17	1	18	23 4 2	0 0 8
June	140	17	157	14	2	16	26 5 0	0 4 2
	1,343	84	1,427	15	1	16	89 15 7	0 1 1
Gola Gopalpur.								
February	190	68	258	32	11	43	13 11 6	0 0 10
March	975	588	1,563	31	19	50	69 6 9	0 0 8
April	1,250	696	1,946	42	23	65	83 9 6	0 0 8
May	1,550	706	2,256	50	23	73	98 0 7	0 0 8
June	702	387	1,089	88	48	136	44 3 6	0 0 8
	4,667	2,440	7,107	44	26	67	308 15 10	0 0 8
Hatta.								
March	376	132	508	29	10	39	19 0 8	0 0 7
April	1,821	227	2,048	61	7	68	81 11 8	0 0 8
May	2,054	1,006	3,060	66	33	99	118 7 8	0 0 7
June	794	201	995	99	25	124	71 13 3	0 0 8
	5,045	1,566	6,611	62	19	61	286 1 3	0 0 8
Padrauna.								
March	790	285	1,075	42	10	52	33 1 4	0 0 6
April	1,095	206	1,301	36	7	43	39 14 2	0 0 6
May	1,553	381	1,934	50	12	62	58 0 0	0 0 6
June	303	41	344	43	6	49	26 12 6	0 1 3
	3,741	913	4,654	43	9	52	157 12 0	0 0 7
Mithaura.								
March	140	108	248	28	22	50	11 14 7	0 0 9
April	2,611	711	3,322	87	24	111	178 7 10	0 0 10
May	2,019	387	2,406	65	18	78	139 14 8	0 0 11
June	495	107	602	55	12	67	31 7 7	0 0 10
	5,265	1,313	6,578	70	18	88	361 12 8	0 0 10

148. The subjoined statement is given in order to show the total number in the district receiving relief of this description during each month the poorhouses remained open, and the monthly expenditure incurred :—

Months.					Number fed.			Cost.
					Adults.	Children.	Total.	
								Rs. a. p.
February, 1874	...	...	...	...	17,189	14,577	31,766	761 15 9
March	"	...	...	...	25,105	11,581	36,686	1,312 7 4
April	"	...	...	...	26,381	12,459	38,840	1,676 11 5
May	"	...	...	...	21,857	8,657	30,514	1,809 3 6
June	"	...	...	...	3,194	981	4,175	304 3 2
Total...					93,726	48,255	141,981	5,864 9 3

149. The system adopted at the sudder station poorhouse was the following :—
A Committee, consisting of European and native gentlemen, official and non-official, was nominated by the General District Relief Committee elected at the meeting held on the 23rd January, 1874, to raise subscription for the relief of the destitute poor. The members of this Sub-Committee were entrusted with seeing after the management of the sudder poorhouse: they took the duty in turns, three or four members visiting the poorhouse every morning.

150. It was incumbent on the members on duty to inspect and distribute the food and to make a selection of the applicants for relief. Once selected, the inmates were supplied with tickets, which served as a passport of admission to the poorhouse. Fresh applicants were separately inspected every morning; and all incapacitated by age, debility, or bodily deformities from laboring on the relief works were admitted; all others were sent to the relief work.

151. Besides examining fresh applicants, the members on duty, before distributing the food, used also to inspect the old inmates, and reject any of them who had so far recovered as to be able to labor on relief works. A daily inspection of this nature was necessary, because the inmates once admitted used to pass their tickets to others who had been rejected as unworthy recipients of charitable relief, and then re-present themselves as fresh applicants for admission.

152. The principle of these poorhouses was of course that none should be relieved in this way who were able to do even light works in the feeble-bodied gangs on relief works, and this was strictly carried out, although sometimes the different ideas entertained by members of the Committee as to what degree of emaciation or bodily infirmity warranted a pauper's admission to the poorhouse were rather conflicting.

153. Eventually, I arranged that fresh applicants should be examined by the Assistant Surgeon, who was also Secretary to the Committee. This was necessary, because applicants who had been rejected one day, instead of betaking themselves to the relief work, used to hang on about the poorhouse in the hope that the members of the Committee whose turn of duty it might be the next day would be more tender-hearted than the members who had rejected them.

154. At first Mr. Ross Scott, Assistant Magistrate, and Muhammad Shaikh, Assistant Surgeon, acted as Joint Secretaries to the Committee; subsequently Muhammad Shaikh undertook all the duties. He looked after the purchase of grain, supervision, and payment of cooking establishment; and until the poorhouse got into working order, he was present almost every day at the selection of applicants and distribution of food.

Indeed he was most indefatigable in every way in the organization and supervision of the station poorhouse, and I have much pleasure in acknowledging the valuable services he rendered.

155. The other members of the Committee, who took the greatest interest and rendered the most active assistance in the management of the station poorhouse, were Reverend Mr. Stern ; Mr. Stephen Read ; Maulvi Ali Bux Khan, Subordinate Judge ; Maulvi Azmat Ali, Munsiff ; Babu Kirat Chand, son of Anant Das, Banker ; and Shankar Dyal Panday, Tahsildar.

156. Of the mufassil poorhouses, those at Bansgaon, Deoria, Hatta, Padrauna, and Maharajganj were under the management and supervision of the Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars. They were conducted on the same principle as the station poorhouse : only as fuel could easily be procured in the interior for cooking purposes, relief was granted in the shape of uncooked food.

157. The poorhouse at Mithaura was, as has already been explained, opened later than the others. It was first placed under the supervision of Mr. McMullin, Assistant District Superintendent of Police, and subsequently Mr. Stoker took charge of it.

158. The Gola poorhouse was under the management of Mr. Spedding, Joint Magistrate ; and here as fuel was not easily procurable, cooked food was distributed as in the station poor-house.

159. The scale of rations adopted is given in the margin, and it was found ample for non-working paupers. Cases in which a more nourishing diet was considered necessary were sent into the relief hospital for special treatment.

160. Under the head of contingencies has been included the cost of erecting the poorhouse sheds as well as other contingent charges of an ordinary nature. The cost of purchasing cooking utensils has been shown separately.

161. These poorhouses were maintained solely from the local subscription fund, the Government grant (which however was not availed of to the full extent offered), and special allotments from the Provincial Relief Fund placed at our disposal by the Secretary of the latter. In the margin I give the amount subscribed to the relief fund in the district, the portion of the equivalent received from Government, and the amount remitted by the Secretary, Central Relief Committee at Allahabad. A small portion only of this money, it will be observed, was expended on the maintenance of these poorhouses. How the remainder was expended will be explained further on.

162. I will now proceed to give a brief account of the state of the district during the latter months of the scarcity, and of the workhouse system of relief.

163. From the date the relief works closed and the rains set in a perceptible and steady diminution of distress took place. The rainfall from that date up to the middle of October was both timely and abundant : spring rice was sown at least a fortnight earlier than usual, and it is not an exaggeration to say that throughout the rainy season we had exactly the sort of weather which was best calculated to benefit the kharif crops and secure a bumper harvest.

164. The full average area was sown ;—indeed in portions of the district it is believed that the area under kharif this year was considerably in excess of the average. The arrangements made for giving takavi advances for the purchase of seed grain, and the free import of jarhan seed from Nipal, greatly contributed towards this result.

165. With such a favorable season, and the prospects of a good harvest, it was to be expected that there would be a material and steady diminution in distress ; and

although for some time after the workhouses started the number of inmates steadily increased, this was not attributable to increased distress, but to other causes which will presently be alluded to in noticing the workhouse statistics.

166. On the 19th June I reported that the three workhouses established, together with the out-door relief afforded to indigent women of the higher classes, would be sufficient to meet all the distress we were likely to have, provided the prospects of the coming harvest continued good.

167. The favorable prospects affected prices, which now began to fall throughout the district. With the setting in of the rains, however, sickness began to increase, and I was compelled to have an additional hospital barrack run up in connection with the station workhouse.

168. Strange to say, about this time increased symptoms of distress were reported to have manifested themselves in the Kasia subdivision. The matter was carefully enquired into by Mr. Robinson and myself, and the report was found to be entirely without foundation.

169. During the first week of July some anxiety was caused by an unprecedentedly heavy and continuous fall of rain, which was general throughout the district : 90 notches having been registered in one day at Gorakhpur. This was followed by an unusual flood in the Rapti, Rohin, and other hillstreams : the maximum flood-level on the 12th July being one foot above the flood-level of 1871.

170. A portion of the city was flooded, and considerable damage done to kucha buildings and to municipal roads and bridges, some of which were submerged for 24 hours. Many old embankments were cut through, and openings had to be cut in the Nichlaul road embankment to save the rice crops on the adjoining fields.

171. The heavy flood also did considerable damage to the *kodo*, *marwa*, *sawan*, and Indian-corn crops in the low-lying lands. For a time, no doubt in particular localities, the inundation of the kachar lands augmented distress. This was however purely local, prices were little affected ; and the flood being succeeded by a continuation of the most favorable and propitious weather, which lasted up to the close of the season, there was really no break in the diminution of distress and the improved condition of the district which had commenced with the setting in of the rains.

172. Weeding the rice-fields now began to afford the means of employment to the poorer classes : prices continued to decline, and even the numbers attending the workhouse began to diminish. Sickness, however, increased, the prevailing diseases being fever and ague and a bad type of dysentery, which refused to yield to medical treatment.

173. About the end of July an outbreak of cholera was reported in the Nipal Tarai. From there it found its way into this district, where it appeared first in a sporadic form, but ultimately became epidemic in the month of September, and has only lately disappeared.

174. On the 1st September cholera broke out in the Gorakhpur workhouse, and it was accordingly determined to break it up a week or two earlier than had at first been intended.

175. On the 9th September I reported the closing of the Mithaura workhouse, and that the Gorakhpur workhouse had also virtually been closed, although relief was still being given to a few non-working paupers. The workhouse at Kasia was closed on the 22nd idem.

176. In Appendix BII. will be found a detailed statement showing the weekly attendance of working and non-working inmates in all the workhouses from the date they opened to the date they closed, with the expenditure incurred in both branches of each workhouse on account of food, establishment, contingencies, road expenses, and prices of raw materials.

177. The gradual increase in the number of inmates, which continued for some time after they opened, is not indicative of increasing distress. When the relief works closed, it was some time before the people came to the workhouses, many who had saved something on the relief works went to their homes for a while before coming to them. There was at first also a greater disinclination to accept relief in cooked food than there afterwards was when the nature of the workhouse arrangements were thoroughly understood.

178. From Appendix BII. the following abstract has been prepared, showing the number of working and non-working inmates in each of the workhouses during the months of June, July, August, and September; also the daily average attendance during each of these months, the monthly expenditure incurred, exclusive of the price of raw materials, and the average cost per head :—

Month.	WORKING INMATES.				NON-WORKING INMATES.				AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF WORKING INMATES.				AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF NON-WORKING INMATES.				Total cost of food, contingencies (exclusive of cost of raw materials), and establishment.	Rs. a. p.	Cost per head.
	Total number fed.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.						
June ...	22,529	4,230	3,915	3,667	11,812	8,508	4,235	2,974	10,717	140	131	122	393	117	141	99	357	1,667 13 1	0 1 2
July ...	29,826	7,171	8,078	8,878	24,077	17,722	2,274	1,703	6,749	231	259	286	776	57	73	55	185	1,893 6 6	0 1 0
August ...	20,996	5,340	5,815	7,190	18,345	951	916	784	2,651	173	187	232	592	31	29	25	85	3,443 11 4	0 1 0
September ...	486	109	39	82	230	98	112	46	256	7	2	6	15	6	8	3	17	179 8 3	*0 6 3
Total	73,837	16,850	17,797	19,817	54,464	6,329	7,537	5,507	19,373	157	167	185	509	59	71	51	181	5,084 7 2	0 1 1
June ...	4,301	338	819	1,248	2,405	1,161	584	151	1,895	15	36	54	105	50	25	7	92	383 11 5	0 1 5
July ...	6,757	1,081	1,084	1,252	3,447	1,388	1,128	794	3,310	35	35	41	111	45	36	26	107	495 0 9	0 1 2
August ...	5,860	898	779	679	2,347	1,219	1,114	1,180	3,513	29	25	22	76	39	36	35	118	548 8 2	0 1 6
September ...	2,637	303	328	200	831	610	538	658	1,806	14	15	9	38	28	24	30	82	161 7 2	0 1 4
Total	19,555	2,620	3,001	3,409	9,030	4,378	3,364	2,783	10,525	24	28	32	84	41	31	26	98	1,538 11 6	0 1 4
June ...	2,858	434	1,011	706	2,151	134	89	484	707	21	48	34	103	6	4	23	33	252 4 6	0 1 6
July ...	3,345	438	1,218	240	1,896	93	176	1,180	1,449	14	39	8	61	3	6	38	47	342 13 11	0 1 2
August ...	3,118	542	1,101	282	1,925	71	92	1,030	1,193	17	36	9	62	2	3	33	38	193 1 5	0 0 11
September ...	303	54	119	24	197	14	14	77	105	11	24	5	40	3	3	15	21	41 12 10	0 2 1
Total	9,623	1,469	3,449	1,252	6,169	312	371	2,771	3,454	17	39	14	70	4	4	31	39	73 0 8	0 1 2

* The average cost price per head in the month of September is high on account of cost of clothes and roadway expenses given to inmates.

179. In the following statement the monthly totals for the whole district have been brought together, so as to show at a glance the total number to which relief was given at these workhouses during each of the months they were open, with the daily average attendance and the expenditure for each month :—

Month.	Total number fed.	WORKING INMATES.				NON-WORKING INMATES.				AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF WORKING INMATES.				AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF NON-WORKING INMATES.				Total cost of food, establishment, &c., (exclusive of cost of raw materials).	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Cost per head.	
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.					
June	29,688	5,002	5,745	5,621	16,368	4,803	4,908	3,609	13,320	176	215	210	601	173	170	139	472	2,363	13	0	1	3
July	39,928	8,690	10,330	10,408	29,428	8,253	3,578	3,677	10,508	280	333	335	948	105	115	119	339	2,631	5	2	0	1
August	29,974	6,780	7,686	8,151	22,617	2,241	2,122	2,994	7,357	219	248	263	730	72	68	96	236	2,085	4	11	0	1
September	3,425	466	486	306	1,258	722	664	781	2,167	32	41	20	93	37	35	48	120	382	12	3	0	1
Total	103,015	20,938	24,247	24,476	69,663	11,019	11,272	11,061	33,352	707	837	826	2,372	387	388	392	1,167	7,353	3	4	0	1

180. These workhouses were organized on the model of the Moradabad workhouse : details of the system pursued in which were furnished for our guidance with G. O. No. 479A., dated 16th May, 1874.

181. As His Honor had deemed it expedient to depute Syed Ahmad Khan Bahadur, C.S.I., on special famine duty to this district, I thought it better to leave the organization of the station workhouse entirely in his hands, as he was personally acquainted with the system adopted by Sir John Strachey at Moradabad in 1861.

182. Shankar Dyal Panday, Extra Deputy Collector, was put in special charge of this workhouse. Syed Ahmad Khan soon succeeded in initiating him into all the necessary details, and under the Syed's personal supervision, and with the able assistance rendered by Mushtak Husain, Muhammad Shaik, and Muhammad Yar Khan, the Gorakhpur workhouse was organized in the course of a few days on the Moradabad model ; and within a week of the date it started the arrangements in every department were working smoothly without any hitch. While writing on the organization of the workhouse, I may as well take the opportunity of noticing the great assistance I received from Syed Ahmad Khan Bahadur and from every one of the native gentlemen mentioned above, as well as the great energy and zeal shown by Shankar Dyal Panday in the management of the workhouse.

183. Without entering into great detail, I will describe very shortly the general arrangements and internal economy of the workhouse. In it there were two separate branches,—the workhouse proper for working inmates, and the poorhouse branch for non-working inmates.

184. There were no restriction as to admission : every applicant was admitted who was willing to accept relief in the shape of cooked food. Every person admitted was furnished with a numbered ticket, and his name entered in a register in the manner adopted at Moradabad. If fit for work, the paupers were then told off to be employed in whatever occupation they seemed most suited for, and their names were then entered in the special register of the workshop to which they were sent, and a distinction-letter was put on their tickets to indicate the occupation to which they had been told off. Those physically unfit for even light work received a poorhouse ticket (of a different shape), and their names were recorded in a separate register.

185. Every morning at a fixed hour the roll was called, and a note made in the register, both of the inmates who were present and of absentees, the numbers in the tickets of those who were present being compared with the entries opposite the corresponding numbers in the register. At the same time fresh applicants were admitted and registered.

186. In each workshop one or two skilled mates were employed to teach the paupers : when possible, these mates were selected from among the paupers themselves ; but for certain works, such as newar-making, rope-making, &c., when no competent mate could be found among the paupers, an outsider was employed and paid a monthly salary.

187. The different trades were carried on in separate barracks, to each of which an open space or yard was attached ; in this yard (excepting when it rained at the time fixed) food was distributed to the paupers, each taking up his position in accordance with the number on his ticket.

188. The food distributed was dal and rice, and baked chapatis of mixed flour. The chapatis were baked of a uniform weight, and the "dal bhat," after being cooked, was divided into donahs (leaf-platters) containing the sanctioned rations for adults and minors, working and non-working inmates.

189. The dal and rice was cooked by Brahmans and distributed by Kahars, the chapatis being baked by regular nanbai bakers : all the lower caste as well as the Muhammadans preferred the chapatis, but as the latter were rather more expensive, the description of food distributed was varied from time to time.

190. The non-working inmates had their food distributed in a separate yard, low-caste Hindus, Muhammadans, and Hindus of the higher classes being formed into separate gangs; to the latter only "dal bhat" cooked by Brahmans was distributed, while the rations of Muhammadans and low-caste Hindus were varied from time to time.

191. One meal a day only was allowed, and the scale of rations adopted is given in the margin. At the distribution of food the manager, Shankar Dyal Panday, and the naib manager were assisted by members of the Relief Committee, who took the duty in turns (as they had done at the poorhouse), as well as by the paid servants of the workhouse.

192. All who wished to do so were permitted to live on the workhouse premises: those however who had homes near and wished to go to them were allowed to do so, provided they put in an appearance by 6-30 A.M.

193. The following are the various occupations in which the working inmates were employed:—

1. Spinning cotton thread.
2. Rope and twine-making.
3. Basket-making.
4. Mat-making.
5. Weaving cloth and small durrees.
6. Newar-making.
7. Earthwork.

194. The number employed on the different works varied of course from time to time, but the returns for the 24th July may be taken as indicating pretty correctly the proportion of working inmates employed in the different occupations.

195. The following statement shows how the working paupers in the Gorakhpur workhouse were occupied on the above date:—

Nature of work.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Cotton spinning	1	92	74	167
Rope and twine-making	103	51	80	234
Basket-making	25	18	21	64
Mat-making	27	27	34	88
Cloth and durree-making	23	10	19	52
Newar and tape-making	9	6	9	24
Earthwork	60	93	96	249
Total	248	297	333	878

196. The following statement, similar to that given in the Moradabad report, has been drawn up to show the result of the work done by the working inmates:—

Number.	Nature of employment.	Articles prepared or work performed.	Quantity of articles prepared.	Expended on account of raw materials.	Estimated value of articles prepared.	Estimated profits.	Details of column 5.		REMARKS.
							Actuals.	Estimate.	
			Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1	Spinning cotton thread	Cotton rope	6 89 3½	237 0 0	280 6 11	43 6 11	8 6 5	272 0 6	This sum includes price of baskets made, and price of raw materials in hand when works were closed.
2	Rope and twine-making	Rope	120 33 5	284 0 10	470 4 8	186 3 10	330 3 4	140 1 4	
3	Basket-making	Baskets	No. 8,356	...	47 15 5	47 15 5	38 6 3	9 9 2	
4	Mat-making	Mats	No. 2,218	...	85 11 10	85 11 10	84 12 10	0 15 0	
5	Weaving cloth and small durrees.	Coarse cotton cloth and jharan and dusuti.	204 pieces	306 14 0	451 5 6	144 7 6	447 4 6	4 1 0	
6	Newar-making	Newar and tape	4 0 10	135 8 0	163 4 5	27 12 5	163 4 5	...	
7	Road-making	Repairs to road-making, digging of tank, &c.	295,264 c. ft.	...	590 8 5	590 8 5	590 8 5	...	
			...	963 6 10	2,089 9 2	1,126 2 4	1,662 14 2	426 11 0	Cotton purchased: no thread spun: the price of the cotton at the present market rate will be Rs. 14, which is shown in the return.
1	Cotton spinning	Cotton thread	1 37 15½	52 3 0	55 2 10	2 15 10	1 7 10	53 11 0	
2	Rope-making	Rope	33 31 1½	52 0 7	74 14 2	22 13 7	70 2 2	4 12 0	
3	Basket-making	Baskets	No. 38	10 4 5	14 0 1	3 11 8	14 0 1	...	
4	Mat-making	Mats	No. 727	26 4 3	46 13 8	20 9 5	46 13 8	...	
			...	140 12 3	190 14 9	50 2 6	...	...	
			...	16 6 7	14 0 0	...	...	14 0 0	
1	Cotton spinning	Cotton thread	2 4 6	2 10 0	8 3 6	5 13 3	0 7 6	7 1 9	Cotton purchased: no thread spun: the price of the cotton at the present market rate will be Rs. 14, which is shown in the return.
2	Rope-making	Rope	No. 869	6 1 4	8 3 6	2 2 2	2 2 0	6 1 6	
3	Basket-making	Baskets	No. 351	15 1 0	14 13 0	...	14 13 0	...	
4	Mat-making	Mats	...	40 2 11	45 7 9	7 15 5	...	...	
			...	...	288 0 0	288 0 0	...	...	
			...	...	...	...	...	...	
5	Earth-work	...	144,000	...	288 0 0	288 0 0	...	...	

197. Beyond a small number of weavers and a good many of the women who knew how to spin cotton into thread, all the working inmates had to be taught the trades and occupations at which they were employed. This of course greatly interfered with the outturn of work, and the results would doubtless have been more favorable had the institution remained open for some time longer. Still on the whole the result is, I think, satisfactory in an economic point of view. In the column of remarks opposite each article I have noted separately the sum which has been actually realized on account of manufactures sold, and the amount which is the *estimated* value of articles still unsold.

198. Even among the women it was wonderful how large a proportion of them were ignorant of how to use the common native spinning wheel: it was only the women from the towns and bazars who seemed accustomed to such work.

199. Twine and rope-making was the trade which found most favor with the male paupers, most of whom declared they could undertake this without any instruction; but it soon became apparent that such was not the case, and that it was the lightness of the work which was the attraction.

200. The Mithaura and Kasia workhouses were managed in the same manner as that at the sudder station, the former being under the charge of Mr. Stoker and Mr. Mills, and the latter under that of Mr. Robinson.

201. The Mithaura workhouse was worked as an auxiliary to the station workhouse, paupers being drafted into the latter from time to time, this arrangement was deemed necessary on account of the unhealthy nature of the climate in the north of the district, and the greater facilities for supervision in the station. At the Kasia workhouse little in the way of manufacture could be done, and the working inmates were principally employed on earthwork. Mr. Robinson purchased cotton with the view of getting the female paupers to spin thread, but he found it impossible to carry this out, not one of the women knowing how to use the spinning wheel.

202. Clothes were from time to time supplied to such of the inmates as were badly in want of them; these clothes were made up of cloth manufactured in the workhouse. When the workhouses were broken up, also, a suit of clothes was given to all inmates who required them, together with road expenses sufficient to enable them to reach their homes. These items of expenditure appear under the head of contingencies.

203. In accordance with the orders conveyed in Secretary to Government No. 533A., dated 11th June, 1874, on a reference made by me, the expenditure incurred in the maintenance and management of these workhouses has been charged partly to the State and partly against the relief fund. The expenditure charged under each of these heads has been distinctly shewn in Appendix B. II.

204. *Out-door relief to pardah-nashins.*—Charitable relief was given to *pardah-nashin* women at their homes from March up to the 1st of September. This was only, however, found to be necessary in the city, where there are a good many women, especially Muhammadans of good family, in straitened circumstances. In the interior of the district distress did not seem to reach that class of society the female members of which would have shrunk from receiving relief in public.

205. The accompanying statement shews the number of *pardah-nashin* females relieved during each month from March to September, with the expenditure incurred, and the work done by the women :—

Month.	Number of women receiving relief.	Average number of women each day.	Expenditure.			Quantity of thread prepared during the month.	Value of thread prepared.	REMARKS.
			In money allowances to women relieved.	On purchase of cotton.	Total.			
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.	
March...	116	3	132 0 0	...	...	...	...	} Before work-houses opened.
April ...	97	3	89 0 0	...	...	...	...	
May ...	25	1	21 0 0	...	...	...	...	
	238	2	242 0 0	25 0 0	267 0 0	0 13 2	22 0 0	..
June ..	141	5	51 5 9	...	...	1 30 5	...	} After work-houses opened.
July ...	163	5	101 4 2	...	...	4 1 14	...	
August ...	134	4	86 6 1	...	...	3 17 1	...	
September	39	1	26 3 9	...	...	...	...	
	477	5	265 3 9	248 10 4	513 14 1	9 9 4	350 0 0	

206. In the earlier months it was not attempted to obtain much work from this class in return for the assistance given them. A large number of these women in ordinary times live on what they can earn by needle-work. High prices however and the general depression in all branches of trade affected their earnings very seriously, especially during the earlier months of the scarcity: there was in fact no demand for the little articles they were in the habit of making up, such as plain and fancy *topis*, *kurtas*, &c., and they were on this account thrown almost out of employment, and required a larger measure of relief than was found to be necessary later in the season.

207. The members of the Relief Committee made a house to house visitation of the city, in order to discover all cases of real destitution among this class; and after personal enquiries made on the spot by the members, the names of these *pardah-nashin* women were brought on a list kept up by Muhammad Shaik, Assistant Surgeon, who up to the date of the opening of the workhouses personally saw to the distribution of this charity. After that date Shankar Dyal Panday and Muhammad Shaik jointly undertook this duty.

208. It is but right I should here acknowledge the great assistance given by Muhammad Shaik Assistant Surgeon, Karim Khan, Vakil, and Mr. Stephen Read, in making this house to house visitation, and personally seeing to the relief of this class of sufferers. This was a duty which could best be performed by Native gentlemen, who could quietly make the necessary enquiries, and distribute the requisite relief without hurting the feelings or unnecessarily offending the prejudices of the parties relieved.

209. In the margin I give a memo. of the expenditure incurred in forwarding paupers from the interior of the district to the workhouse and poorhouses. This includes the cost of the paupers fed on the road, and also cart and doli hire, when it was necessary to forward them by such means. The money was paid

from the relief fund.

210. *Health statistics.*—I will now very shortly give the health statistics of the period under report, at least so far as they refer to laborers on relief works and the inmates of the several workhouses.

211. As has already been remarked, the health of the district was exceptionally good until about the middle of the rains. In the earlier months there was little or no sickness among those employed on relief works: in the hot weather a few cases of small-pox occurred, but it was only at Couriram that they were at all numerous.

212. About the middle of the rains fever and ague and a bad type of dysentery became very common; and the number in hospital at this time, considering the small number then receiving Government relief, was very large.

213. In Appendix D. I. will be found a statement giving the monthly admissions into each of the relief work hospitals, the average daily attendance at the works to which the hospital was attached, the number of deaths, with the usual percentages, as also the expenditure incurred under the heads of Native Doctor's pay, establishment, diet, contingencies, &c.

214. From Appendix D. I. the following statement has been prepared to shew at a glance the total number employed on all the relief works, the admissions into relief work hospitals, and the number of deaths during each month relief works were open :—

Month.	Averages daily attendance at relief works.	Number admitted into relief works hospital.	Deaths.	Percentage of deaths to average daily attendance, column 2.	Percentage of deaths to admissions into hospitals.
March	7,290	22	...	...	...
April	71,001	289	11	0015	3.80
May	75,811	285	13	0017	4.56
June	9,802	23	8	083	34.78

228. In my opinion it was the want of employment and the consequent want of money to buy food, rather than any actual dearth of food, that was the main cause of distress in this district. This, I think, was abundantly proved from there never being a positive dearth of food in any of the bazars, and also from the classes of society who suffered most.

229. But for the extraordinary measures taken by Government to throw a large quantity of grain into the adjoining district of Lower Bengal, there might indeed have been a food famine in Gorakhpur.

230. In the earlier months of the scarcity the export to Bengal caused me some anxiety: by and bye however the prices in this district having risen almost to the same level as in Bengal, the export trade dwindled away, and was only renewed after the rabi harvest had been reaped. There can be no question I think that this district benefitted indirectly from the measures taken by Government to provide grain from distant markets for consumption in Champaran, Saran, and Tirhut.

231. No nominal register was kept up of those employed on the relief works. Enquiries, however, made from time to time, enable me to state pretty accurately the classes of society and the castes which furnished the large mass of laborers: they were principally the artizân and day-laboring class, with a large number of the poorer cultivators who in the north of the district lost their only crop, and had absolutely nothing to fall back upon. The prevailing castes on the relief works were Chamars, Jolahas, Dhunias, Ahirs, Dusadhs, Bhars, Talis, Pasis, Kewats, with a considerable sprinkling of indigent and lazy Brahmans.

232. I have already remarked on the preponderance of the ploughmen and day-laboring classes in the Bansgaon Tahsil; but not only there but in the district generally, it is notorious that the high prices induced the better-to-do cultivators and many of the zemindars to dispense with the services of their ploughmen, cow-herds, and generally with any paid labor they had been in the habit of employing to assist them in field work. The places of such hired laborers was supplied by the members of the cultivator's own family. It was this class of society, deprived of their usual employment, and petty traders and artizans, who felt the pressure most.

233. The period at which large numbers flocked to the relief works may also be referred to in support of this; the variations in prices were not such as to account for the sudden and often enormous increase which took place; the season of the year with reference to the employment procurable in the fields, and the state of the labor market, had much more to do with this increase, than any variation in prices or diminution in the stock of food grain available for local consumption.

234. In connection with the workhouses, a detailed register having been kept up, I am in a position to give caste details of all the inmates.

235. The following statement gives this information, and also shews the number of inmates who belonged to other districts. These figures refer to the inmates of the sudder workhouse on the 11th July, 1874:—

Total number on work-house.	Residents of Gorakhpur District.	Residents of Basti District.	Residents of other districts.	Castes.				Other castes.
1,149	98	891	79	Jolaha	...	...	...	224
				Dhunias	...	...	...	116
				Shekh	...	...	...	23
				Pathan	...	...	...	71
				Chamar	...	...	...	296
				Kurmi	...	...	...	51
				Kewat	...	...	...	73
				Ahir	...	...	...	72
				Pasi	...	...	...	22
				Bansphor	...	...	...	23
								178

236. Those castes of which there were less than 15 inmates have been included in the column "other castes." The figures in this statement bear out what has already been stated regarding the classes who suffered most.

237. The pressure on the poorer classes is also apparent from the increase in the number of crimes against property. The increase is general in all crimes against property, but is greatest in the case of petty thefts. The annexed statement shews the number of the principal offences against property reported during the past three years:—

Year.	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Burglary.	Theft.	Cattle theft.	Receiving stolen property.
1872	6	6	767	1,519	131	336
1873	6	13	1,005	2,343	224	352
Three quarters of 1874	7	18	1,214	2,872	292	363

238. Another symptom of distress is the large number of foundling and abandoned children which have been picked up in the district since the scarcity first began to be felt. A memo. of the number of such children, which were thrown on the hands of Government from 1st October, 1873, to 30th September, 1874, and how they were disposed of may be interesting.

The following statement gives this information:—

Total number of foundling children.			Number of children made over to relatives.		Number of children made over to Hindus and Musalmans.		Number of children made over to Mission Orphanage.	Number of children died.
Hindu.	Musalman.	Unknown.	Hindu.	Musalman.	To Hindus.	To Musalmans.		
75	42	13	16	4	5	58	41	6

239. I have now to notice the measures of relief adopted by Government—(1) in the way of granting advances for the purchase of food grain to be stored in the northern portion of the district; (2) in the way of takavi advances for the purchase of seed grain; and (3) remissions of land revenue to zemindars in the Maharajganj Tahsil.

240. *Advances for purchase of food grains.*—As has already been stated, the Famine Commission were of opinion that an actual dearth of food grain might occur in the north at a season of the year when importation into that inaccessible portion of the district would be very difficult.

241. To prevent the possibility of any such dearth, Government decided to make advances to traders for the purchase of grain.

242. These advances were made on the following terms:—

(1.) Advances were made free of interest, repayable within one year, to traders who guaranteed to store grain at certain centres approved of by the Collector. The rate in the cases of these advances was the average price prevailing in the city of Gorakhpur between the 15th April and 15th May, about which time it was calculated most of the grain would be purchased; and for every 40 seers stored by the contractor at these rates, he was bound to deliver 30 seers at any depôt in the north of the district on a month's notice given by the Collector. Power was reserved to the Government to take whatever quantity of grain might be required at the above rates up to 15th October, after which date the contractor was at liberty to sell the balance as he liked.

(2.) Advances were made free of interest, repayable within six months, to traders who agreed to import food grain into the Maharajganj Tahsil, to be sold *there* at the trader's discretion as soon as the grain imported had been inspected by the District Officer or a subordinate deputed by him.

243. The following statement exhibits the amount of advances and the quantity of grain stored under each of the above conditions :—

Number of persons who agreed to supply food grain.	Quantity agreed to be supplied.	Amount actually advanced.		Quantity actually stored.	Value of quantity actually stored at average market rate prevailing between 15th April and 15th May, 1874.		Amount refunded up to 7th December 1874.	REMARKS.	
		Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.		
		(1.) Under the 1st terms of agreement.							
23	91,400	2,21,118	2 0	90,865	1	2,26,465	1 34,480 0 0	The following gentlemen undertook to supply the largest quantities of grain:— <i>Maunds.</i> Babu Chedi Lal 20,000 " Anant Das 20,000 " Sarju Parshad 15,000 Muhammad Zaka-ullah 10,000 Babu Kalwant Sabu 7,000 " Gobind Sahu and Andh Kishor Shah. 5,000	
		Under the 2nd terms of agreement.							
1	10,000	9,234	14 0	10,700		15,436	9,234 14 0		
23	1,01,400	2,30,348	14 0	1,01,565		2,41,901	43,714 14 0		

244. The orders of Government were that 150,000 maunds should be provided for, unless I had satisfactory grounds for believing that so large a quantity would not be needed. I had formerly reported that in my opinion the storing of grain was not absolutely necessary. I could not however foresee what might happen, and guarantee that private enterprise, unassisted with such advances, would supply a sufficiency of grain for local consumption in the north of the district, so much depended on the prospects and results of the coming kharif.

245. Besides the grain included in the above statement, several traders in Barhaj bazar gave agreements to keep a store of 35,900 maunds grain, which Government might claim up to the 15th October. These men however declined to accept Government advances on the ground that they could not furnish the security required.

246. Being grain-dealers by trade, the storing of grain by these men was a comparatively easy undertaking. It was otherwise, however, with the city bankers and many of the zemindars who took advances for the grain entered in the statement given above; they were not professional grain-dealers, and were only induced to enter into the agreement with the view of assisting Government in providing against a possible famine in a portion of this district.

247. Had Government taken all the grain stored, or even a considerable portion of it, off the hands of these parties, they would certainly have made a fair profit by the transaction: they had the use of the money advanced them free of interest for a year, while the allowance of 10 seers in the maund would have been ample, and more than sufficient to cover all incidental expenses in connection with transport, storing, &c.

248. Prospects improved however so much, and a promise of a good kharif harvest became so certain, that Government had no occasion to call on these parties to deliver over any portion of the grain. As soon as it became manifest that Government would not require the grain, foreseeing the loss the parties under agreement would sustain if prevented from disposing of their grain till the 15th October, I reported the matter, and on the 9th July, 1874, received Government sanction to the contractors selling the grain at their discretion.

249. Notwithstanding this concession, however, there can be no doubt that many of the parties under agreement to keep their grain in store up to the 15th October have suffered serious loss, owing to the great fall in prices, and the difficulty of disposing of such large stores of grain even at the reduced prices.

250. In point of law these men can have no claim against Government, but, considering all the circumstances of the case, I must say I think they are entitled to some consideration, and that some allowance should be made in recovering from them the sums advanced.

251. Some of them have petitioned me on the subject. I have however abstained from holding out promises to them which might in any way compromise Government. At the same time I think it my duty to bring the matter to the notice of Government, as considering the losses some of the larger contractors must have sustained, I hardly think the mere thanks of Government would be sufficient recompense for the services these men have rendered and the losses some of their number have beyond a doubt incurred.

252. Although Government had no occasion to call on these men to deliver the grain, it must not be supposed that the arrangements made were not attended with beneficial results. The purchase of so large a quantity of grain attracted much grain to the district, and the knowledge that so large a stock of grain was in store, on which Government had a lien, and which could at any time be thrown into the market, had a material effect in keeping down prices after the purchase of Government grain was completed.

253. *Takavi advances for seed grain.*—The advances given to enable the zemindars to purchase rice seed have already been referred to in the body of this report. These advances were given free of interest, if repaid within one year, but interest was to be realized on any balance outstanding at the close of a year, the advances under any circumstances to be paid up in full within two years.

254. The following statement shows the amount advanced in each of the six tahsils of this district with the number of proprietors or groups of proprietors who availed themselves of the privilege :—

Tahsils.

	Maharajganj.	Gorakhpur or Sudder.	Hatta.	Banegaon.	Padrauna.	Deoria.	Total.
Number of proprietors or groups of proprietors who took takavi advances.	182	13	12	8	3	2	220
Amount of advance ...	79,241	6,712	2,130	1,635	1,065	688	91,471

255. As was to be expected, the zemindars of the Maharajganj Tahsil availed themselves most extensively of the assistance offered by Government; indeed it was principally to provide seed for this portion of the district, three-fourths of the cultivated area of which is under rice, that it was resolved to grant advances of this description.

256. For all these advances ample security in landed property has been taken, the Government money is safe, and the good done cannot be exaggerated; but for the assistance given by Government in this way, and the measures taken to induce the Nipal Darbar to allow the export of rice seed by purchasers from this district, I much fear a very considerable extent of land in the Maharajganj Tahsil would have been thrown out of cultivation during the past kharif season.

257. *Remissions of land-revenue.*—I solicited the sanction of Government to a remission of one half of the rabi demand in the Maharajganj Tahsil. A uniform remission was asked for, because in point of fact the loss sustained had been equal or nearly so throughout the tahsil; and beyond the fact that some of the zemindars were better able to bear the loss and make good the Government land-revenue from accumulated

capital or other sources, there were really no good grounds for drawing a distinction between them; while, again, any detailed investigation would have certainly offered inducements to bribery and corruption.

258. In my No. 144, dated 19th March, 1874, I gave at length my reasons for soliciting this remission of land-revenue, which it would seem unnecessary to repeat here. The Famine Commission after marching through the subdivision were satisfied that the relief I proposed was not excessive, and Government in letter No. 341A., of 16th April, 1874, to the address of the Commissioner, Benares Division, sanctioned the remission of half the rabi demand, or half of the year's revenue in the Maharajganj Tahsil.

259. I was at the same time empowered to ask for further remission or suspension in other subdivisions of the district, reporting each case separately for order. I am glad to say, however, that I found no necessity for availing myself of this permission, and that with the exception of the remissions granted in the Maharajganj Tahsil, the full land revenue of the district was collected within the year. It was certainly not collected so promptly or punctually, or with such facility as usual, but at the close of the year with the above exception I was able to show a clear balance sheet.

Demand.	Collections.	Remissions on account of			Balance.
		Scarcity.	Dilution, &c.	Total.	
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
16,70,867	16,02,537	66,111	2,219	68,330	...

The statement given in the margin shows the demand, collections, and remissions for the year 1281 Fasli. My instructions to the Tahsildars were to enforce the demand against all zemindars who were well-to-do, and insist on prompt payment by them: those who had suffered most, and who were willing, but unable to pay with their usual punctuality, were frequently allowed several months' grace.

260. *Total expenditure.*—I append a statement showing the total expenditure incurred in connection with the late scarcity and relief operations in this district. I have distinguished the charges which are debitable to the State from those pertaining to the relief fund. Under the orders of Government, however, all subscriptions, &c., to the relief fund were credited in the Treasury accounts, under the head of "Suspense Account, Scarcity;" while all expenditure incurred was also shown under that head. At the same time all expenditure from the funds of the State, in connection with relief works, workhouses, &c., has been shown in the Treasury accounts under the head "Suspense Account, Scarcity." In the Treasury account, therefore, no separate details are shown of those items of expenditure which are debitable against the relief funds and of those which are chargeable to the State. The figures in the following statement, however, show how the two accounts should be adjusted:—

State Fund.	Amount.	Relief Subscriptions.	Amount.
	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.
Relief works, Appendix B. ...	3,20,444 8 8	Poorhouses before workhouses opened, Appendix C.	5,864 9 3
Portion of workhouse expenditure, Appendix BII.	6,247 4 2	Ditto, branch of workhouses, Appendix BII.	2,250 5 2
Relief work hospitals, Appendix DI.	787 9 1	Pardah-nashin women before opening of workhouse, from statement in para. 204.	267 0 0
Portion of workhouse, from statement in para. 224.	1,399 8 9	Poorhouse hospitals, from statement in para. 224.	1,112 10 0
Pardah-nashin women in connection with workhouse, from statement in para. 204.	513 14 1	Portion of workhouse hospitals, from statement in para. 224.	1,399 10 2
District Engineer's charges for construction of three workhouses.	4,755 1 9	Forwarding paupers (see para. 209),	89 15 7
Pay and travelling allowance of Mr. Gash, Rs. a. p. Supervisor, not charged to any work, 752 1 4			
Ditto ditto of Mr. Mills, not charged to any work ... 1,053 10			
Carried over ...	3,35,952 15 10		10,984 2 2

State Fund.	Amount.	Relief Subscriptions.	Amount.
	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.
Brought forward ...	3,35,952 15 10		10,984 2 2
Travelling allowance to Ganga Singh, Assistant Surgeon, and to Native Doctors and Hospital Assistants ...	153 0 5		
Pay of Ganga Singh, Assistant Surgeon, ...	423 14 2		
Pay of two extra Deputy Collectors ...	2,122 13 7		
	2,699 12 2		
Syed Ahmad Khan Bahadur, C.S. on account of deputation and travelling allowance ...	270 15 5		
Mushtak Husain, with ditto ditto ...	138 11 4		
	409 10 9		
Paid up to date for compensation of land appropriated for relief work ...	1,082 2 6		
Survey of Iadrauna, ...	49 9 7		
	1,131 12 1		
Total ...	3,40,194 2 10	Total, ...	10,984 2 2

261. In this statement have been included not only the items of expenditure, details of which have been given in this report under the head of relief works, work-house, poorhouses, &c., but all other items not included in the above. These other items are entered in sufficient detail to explain the nature of the charges.

262. There will be certain re-credits against this expenditure, the exact amount of which cannot however at present be given. These re-credits will consist of the price of hospital and workhouse sheds, cooking utensils, and other miscellaneous articles purchased for use in the poorhouses and workhouses, also the price of articles manufactured in the latter.

263. Before closing this report, I beg to be allowed to bring to the favorable notice of Government the names of those officers in the different branches of the service who have discharged with special energy and zeal the onerous duties thrown upon them during the past year of scarcity.

264. When all have worked so hard it would almost be invidious to select any names for special mention: the opportunities of some were greater than those of others, but every officer engaged in the administration of the district during the year co-operated in the most hearty and zealous way in organizing and carrying out all the arrangements made for the relief of distressed.

265. To Messrs. Spedding, Robinson, and Stoker I am indebted for the accurate information they collected regarding the condition of the crops and the general state at the people in the subdivisions under their charge at the close of last year: the forecast these officers made of the prospects of the season proved to be very correct.

266. Mr. Robinson's subdivision was fortunately almost exempt from any thing like severe distress, and he had therefore no relief works to look after. Mr. Spedding exercised an active supervision over the relief works in the Bansgaon circle, and did much to suppress speculation among the lower subordinates. On Mr. Stoker, however, fell the most onerous and disagreeable duty in connection with the supervision of relief works and workhouses, as he was stationed in the north of the district on this special duty from 1st May to 14th July, 1874.

267. His services there were most useful, not only in the supervision of these works but also in making arrangements between the zemindars and cultivators for the distribution of seed grain. I feel that my special thanks are due to Mr. Stoker.

268. The services of Mr. Peart, in organizing the relief works, have already been brought to the special notice of Government, and he has been rewarded with promotion, which he well deserved.

269. Mr. Mills of the Police was deputed to this district on account of the experience he had gained in relief operations during the last famine in the Jhansi Division. I found him most energetic and willing; he was for some time in charge of the relief works on the Lotan road, and eventually relieved Mr. Stoker at Mithaura, where he was in charge of the workhouse from 14th July, 1874, up to the date it closed. I had every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which he discharged the duties entrusted to him.

270. Of the lower subordinates in the Public Works Department I would select Ewaz Khan, Overseer, for special mention. None of the other Public Works Department subordinates, European or native, displayed the same amount of activity or aptitude in managing the laborers on the relief works and exacting a full day's task from them.

271. Among the Tahsildars, Shankar Dyal Panday alone was called on to perform any extraordinary duties in connection with relief operations. I have already acknowledged his services in the body of this report. He rendered me great assistance in arranging for the purchase of food grains.

272. Baboo Chhattardhari Thakur, Officiating Deputy Collector, did an immense amount of extra work in seeing to the prompt disbursement of the seed and food grain advances, and in keeping up the accounts connected with the same. He has also rendered me very great assistance in checking the accounts and preparing the appendices to this report.

273. My special thanks are due to Syed Ahmad Khan Bahadur, as also to Mush-tak Husain, for the very great assistance they gave me in organizing and starting the workhouses in June.

274. I would also bring to the notice of Government the names of the gentlemen given in the margin, who assisted as volunteers in many of the relief operations. In one way or another all these gentlemen rendered valuable services to Government, and in not a few instances at considerable personal inconvenience and expense to themselves. Of the gentlemen named, Mr. Warren has already received the thanks of Government for the services he rendered in connection with the supervision and management of the Lotan road relief work.

Mr. Warren, of Gopalpur Factory.
Mr. Stephen Read, of Gorakhpur.
Muhammad Shaik, Assistant Surgeon.
Maulvi Ali Bakhsh, Sub-Judge.
" Azmat Ali, City Munsiff
Baboo Durga Parshad, Honorary Magistrate.
" Chhedil Lal, Mahajan.
" Anant Das,
" Sarju Pershad, Treasurer.
Maulvi Habibullah Khan, retired Sub-Judge.
Baboo Balgobind Das, Mahajan.
Muhammad Karim Khan, Vakil.

275. In conclusion, I would take the opportunity of assuring Government that all traces of distress have now passed away, and that the outturn of the past kharif and the prospects of the coming rabi are all that could have been desired. This satisfactory state of matters is not attributable solely to the favorable season we have had, but in a great measure also to the measures taken by Government to assist the people during the past year. The circulation of the money given as takavi advances for the purchase of seed grain, and the remission of a portion of the Government demand, in addition to the help given them by relief works, was an immense assistance to the agricultural classes in the north of the district. It seemed to put fresh heart into them at a time when they had all but given themselves up to despair, and not a few had actually begun to migrate from this portion of the district. I have no hesitation in saying that but for the relief thus afforded the agricultural classes, the northern portion of this district would have been partially depopulated, if not by deaths from starvation, by emigration to more favored tracts; and that in the end, from the large extent of land

which have been thrown out of cultivation, Government would have suffered a very serious loss, and the state of the district could not have been what it now is.

276. Having been provided by Government with the means of subsistence during the pressure of the famine, with their plough cattle safe (owing to the abundance of forest pasturage in this district), and seed grain advanced by Government to such as required it, the cultivators of all classes were enabled not only to tide over the crisis but to take immediate advantage of the favorable season and bring every available bigha under cultivation.

I have, &c.,

J. J. F. LUMSDEN,

Collector.

APPEL Statement

For the fortnight ending with			COMMON RICE.						WHEAT.				
			Fortnightly average from October, 1868, to September, 1869.	October, 1870, to September, 1871.	October, 1871, to September, 1872.	October, 1872, to September, 1873.	October, 1873, to September, 1874.	October, 1868, to September, 1869.	October, 1870, to September, 1871.	October, 1871, to September, 1872.	October, 1872, to September, 1873.	October, 1873, to September, 1874.	
		S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S.
October	...	15th	18 13	24 9	21 4	22 12	14 14	15 8	20 7	21 4	14 0	19	
	31st	24 9		22 15	20 2	15 12	21 1		21 4	13 2	11		
November	...	15th	16 5	24 9	22 15	20 2	16 10	11 4	22 2	21 4	13 2	13	
	30th	25 0		24 9	21 0	14 14	22 15		22 15	12 4	13		
December	...	15th	16 1	26 3	24 9	18 0	13 2	11 6	23 12	22 15	11 0	12	
	31st	26 3		22 15	20 0	13 2	23 9		21 4	11 8	13		
January	...	15th	16 2	27 13	22 15	21 0	13 2	11 6	24 9	21 4	11 13	13	
	31st	27 10		21 4	21 14	10 15	24 3		19 10	12 4	12		
February	...	15th	17 1	24 9	18 13	21 0	10 15	13 0	24 9	16 6	12 4	12	
	28th	24 9		18 0	21 0	10 15	23 12		16 6	13 2	12		
March	...	15th	17 10	22 2	18 0	20 2	11 6	16 4	22 2	15 9	15 12	14	
	31st	22 9		18 0	20 2	11 6	21 8		16 6	16 10	14		
April	...	15th	16 13	21 4	18 0	19 4	10 8	19 12	21 4	15 9	17 8	13 2	
	30th	21 4		16 6	19 4	10 8	22 9		16 6	17 8	14 0		
May	...	15th	16 13	21 4	17 3	19 4	10 8	19 13	21 4	16 6	16 10	14 7	
	31st	21 1		18 0	17 8	10 8	22 6		16 6	15 12	14 7		
June	...	15th	16 8	21 4	16 6	16 10	10 8	19 11	22 15	14 12	14 14	14 0	
	30th	21 4		15 9	16 10	10 15	22 15		14 12	14 0	14 0		
July	...	15th	15 6	21 4	14 14	15 12	11 6	18 3	22 15	14 14	14 0	14 7	
	31st	21 4		15 12	16 10	11 6	22 15		14 14	14 14	14 7		
August	...	15th	12 4	22 15	15 12	17 10	11 3	11 14	25 6	14 0	14 14	14 7	
	31st	23 12		15 12	17 8	11 3	25 8		14 14	15 12	14 1		
September	...	15th	13 8	22 15	15 12	17 8	16 13	12 4	24 9	13 2	14 7	15	
	30th	21 4		17 8	17 8	16 10	22 2		14 0	13 10	14 1		

DIX A.

of Prices.

BARLEY.					PEAS.					GRAM.				
October, 1868, to September, 1869.	October, 1870, to September, 1871.	October, 1871, to September, 1872.	October, 1872, to September, 1873.	October, 1873, to September, 1874.	October, 1868, to September, 1869.	October, 1870, to September, 1871.	October, 1871, to September, 1872.	October, 1872, to September, 1873.	October, 1873, to September, 1874.	October, 1868, to September, 1869.	October, 1870, to September, 1871.	October, 1871, to September, 1872.	October, 1872, to September, 1873.	October, 1873, to September, 1874.
S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
22 14	29 7 29 15	32 12 32 12	19 4 19 4	15 12 15 12	22 1	19 10 21 4	29 7 26 3	21 0 21 0	19 4 19 4	25 12	18 0 18 11	22 15 24 9	21 7 21 7	17 8 16 10
12 15	32 12 32 6	34 6 32 12	19 4 15 12	17 8 17 8	19 14	21 4 21 4	26 3 26 3	21 0 21 0	19 4 19 4	9 15	19 10 20 4	24 9 24 9	21 0 21 0	17 8 16 10
13 2	34 6 33 9	31 2 27 13	14 0 16 0	15 8 16 10	19 14	21 4 21 4	26 3 26 3	22 12 22 12	17 8 17 8	8 9	21 4 21 4	24 9 24 9	19 0 20 4	15 12 15 12
15 12	34 6 33 9	27 13 24 9	18 6 18 6	16 10 13 2	19 10	22 15 22 15	26 3 26 6	22 12 24 8	17 8 14 0	8 6	22 15 22 15	22 15 21 14	21 14 10 8	14 14 10 8
18 10	32 12 31 7	22 15 21 4	18 6 17 8	14 0 13 2	20 13	32 12 36 0	26 3 27 13	26 4 28 0	14 0 14 0	9 7	22 15 22 15	22 2 19 10	22 12 25 6	10 1 12 4
21 1	29 7 30 5	22 15 22 15	17 8 17 8	14 0 15 12	21 10	36 0 32 12	27 13 27 13	28 0 26 4	14 0 14 0	10 2	22 15 22 5	19 10 21 4	26 4 24 8	12 4 14 0
25 10	29 7 31 2	22 15 24 9	22 12 22 12	19 4 19 4	19 3	32 12 32 12	27 13 27 13	24 8 24 8	14 0 14 0	16 6	27 13 27 13	25 6 26 4	28 0 26 4	15 12 14 14
27 2	34 6 34 6	26 3 29 7	22 12 22 12	12 4 19 4	17 14	32 12 32 12	27 13 27 13	24 8 24 8	14 0 14 0	16 0	26 3 26 10	27 13 27 13	26 4 23 10	15 12 15 12
26 11	34 6 35 3	22 15 21 4	21 0 17 8	16 10 17 8	16 12	32 12 32 12	26 3 26 3	22 12 22 12	14 0 14 0	16 1	27 13 27 11	24 9 22 15	21 14 21 14	14 4 14 7
24 15	36 0 36 0	21 0 19 4	17 6 19 4	17 8 17 8	19 0	32 12 32 12	24 9 24 9	22 12 22 12	14 0 14 0	15 14	30 4 29 7	21 14 21 14	21 14 21 14	14 14 14 14
13 15	37 10 39 4	19 4 21 0	19 4 19 4	18 6 18 6	13 9	32 12 37 10	24 8 24 8	22 12 22 12	14 0 14 0	12 15	30 4 30 11	23 10 23 10	21 14 22 5	14 7 14 4
14 6	40 14 39 5	19 4 19 4	19 4 19 4	19 7 19 4	11 14	37 10 32 12	24 8 24 8	22 12 21 0	14 0 14 0	13 12	29 7 26 3	22 12 22 11	21 7 19 4	14 14 14 14

J. J. F. LUMSDEN,
Collector.

APPENDIX BI.

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Weeks.	CHILDREN.				Total.	Wages.	Supervision.	Contingencies.	Total.	OUTTURN.			
	Able.		Unable.							Earthwork.	Turning.	Breaking and cleaning kan.	Mansuiling ma-sonry.
	Men.	Women.											
21st January, 1874	890	830	738	...	2,458	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	...	...	4,776	...
31st ditto	2,189	2,145	746	...	5,080	131 3 2	...	...	131 3 2	...	...	7,260	...
7th February, 1874	843	1,015	292	...	2,155	271 12 6	...	...	271 12 6	...	...	1,857	...
14th ditto	453	298	16	...	757	109 7 4	...	...	109 7 4	...	...	2,660	...
21st ditto	808	801	86	...	1,695	46 2 0	...	...	46 2 0	...	...	...	...
28th ditto	76	97	6	...	179	98 7 5	...	...	98 7 5	...	...	...	...
Head-office charges	...	...	...	...	...	9 9 8	...	...	9 9 8	...	...	...	...
Total	5,264	5,186	1,884	...	12,334	666 10 1	...	...	666 10 1	...	...	16,553	...
7th February, 1874	2,567	2,161	982	...	5,680	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	...	...	...	...
14th ditto	5,871	8,046	3,484	...	17,401	299 5 10	...	...	299 5 10	...	...	...	...
21st ditto	13,712	22,017	8,558	...	44,287	983 14 0	...	...	983 14 0	...	...	...	...
28th ditto	7,672	14,129	7,904	...	29,705	1,606 1 0	10 15 0	...	1,617 0 0	...	...	...	...
7th March, 1874	8,198	16,409	7,159	...	31,766	1,646 11 4	52 12 3	34 4 2	1,733 11 9	...	...	...	...
14th ditto	14,988	26,926	14,764	...	56,678	1,776 15 7	...	...	1,776 15 7	...	...	...	...
21st ditto	21,856	38,726	32,411	...	92,993	3,112 9 2	61 10 0	7 11 0	3,181 14 3	...	...	...	...
28th ditto	33,346	59,539	66,754	...	158,639	5,165 11 3	63 12 0	16 9 6	5,286 0 9	...	...	...	...
7th April, 1874	34,492	55,503	63,718	...	153,713	8,385 9 8	212 9 4	126 11 0	8,795 14 0	...	...	...	...
14th ditto	33,868	59,983	57,519	...	161,370	8,535 15 0	204 14 3	131 15 1	8,872 12 4	...	...	...	...
21st ditto	33,902	73,574	59,509	...	181,449	9,666 15 1	223 9 9	83 8 0	9,900 11 3	...	...	...	...
28th ditto	42,324	102,195	73,061	...	217,580	12,420 8 5	453 1 9	72 10 9	12,693 6 4	...	...	...	...
7th May, 1874	30,712	79,499	52,126	...	183,564	9,618 9 11	421 8 2	107 4 6	10,147 6 7	...	...	...	...
14th ditto	33,007	84,951	52,071	...	194,716	10,466 9 3	423 5 5	104 3 7	10,994 2 3	...	...	...	...
21st ditto	20,223	56,445	31,921	...	123,994	5,835 3 1	413 3 11	199 1 3	6,447 8 3	...	...	...	...

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31st ditto	34,533	104,955	52,892	192,374	10,826 1 7	798 14 4	168 3 8	11,798 3 7	1,097,181	...	...	...
7th June, 1874	9,927	43,368	14,589	75,299	3,766 15 11	658 15 3	19 0 0	4,444 15 2	4,12,500	...	...	...
14th ditto	2,178	18,338	4,224	27,575	1,072 3 1	204 13 1	56 6 6	1,369 6 8	...	...	...	...
Head-office charges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,719 11 3	...	...	...	...
Total	388,776	846,464	602,616	2,004,512	1,03,765 8 8	4,486 13 0	2,097 2 5	1,13,069 3 4	10,217,023	...	...	...
7th February, 1874	883	1,168	952	3,003	160 5 2	...	...	160 5 2	35,665	...	...	...
14th ditto	1,827	1,905	1,269	5,001	279 13 10	...	...	279 13 10	78,210	...	...	...
21st ditto	1,695	1,808	1,262	4,700	262 5 10	40 15 0	7 13 0	311 1 10	63,212	...	...	...
28th ditto	1,115	1,245	825	3,185	176 12 11	11 6 6	...	188 3 5	37,728	...	...	...
7th March, 1874	1,858	1,6 8	1,132	4,648	283 15 7	...	...	283 15 7	57,252	...	...	...
14th ditto	2,197	2,659	1,468	6,324	381 10 0	57 11 8	...	439 5 8	98,250	...	...	...
21st ditto	603	337	342	1,182	76 3 3	16 13 4	...	93 0 7	18,005	...	...	...
28th ditto	6,687	6,183	5,550	18,420	1,055 13 4	63 11 5	27 12 1	1,147 4 10	165,332	...	...	...
7th April, 1874	15,569	14,739	16,269	46,567	2,363 5 1	111 6 9	11 7 0	2,686 2 10	225,274	...	...	...
14th ditto	31,233	31,051	27,779	89,063	4,906 0 9	198 7 3	307 6 2	5,185 14 2	334,137	...	...	...
21st ditto	46,776	48,741	32,087	129,674	7,275 4 8	79 5 2	31 6 2	7,662 0 0	457,179	...	...	...
28th ditto	64,158	64,116	41,430	211,350	11,524 14 7	396 12 3	199 0 3	12,120 11 0	656,483	...	...	...
7th May, 1874	51,821	56,466	35,668	183,910	10,515 15 9	111 4 10	142 10 3	10,769 14 0	521,630	...	...	...
14th ditto	34,164	47,034	27,565	108,763	7,555 7 1	148 12 3	243 2 0	7,947 5 4	487,175	...	...	...
21st ditto	24,093	39,653	23,720	107,288	5,456 0 10	300 14 10	67 13 11	5,824 13 7	435,604	...	...	...
28th ditto	18,794	33,901	18,386	88,691	4,357 11 3	280 6 10	99 6 0	4,737 8 1	462,653	...	...	...
7th June, 1874	3,906	10,340	5,956	24,912	1,175 10 3	101 0 11	348 11 11	1,623 7 1	117,319	...	...	...
Head-office charges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	572 1 4	...	...	...	...
Total	37,269	263,059	239,459	1,667,239	58,007 6 2	1,919 1 0	1,486 8 8	61,985 1 2	42,52,008	...	...	...
14th February, 1874	762	1,363	1,184	3,309	159 13 11	...	...	165 6 11	93,760	...	...	...
21st ditto	1,037	1,797	7 4	3,578	205 3 10	...	...	205 3 10	48,740	...	...	...
Total	1,799	3,160	1,928	6,887	365 1 9	...	...	370 10 9	143,490	...	...	...
14th February, 1874	36	41	65	145	7 6 6	...	...	7 6 6	1,390	...	...	...
21st ditto	1,939	2,504	2,959	7,402	410 12 9	...	...	410 12 9	149,234	...	...	...
28th ditto	3,657	4,778	4,186	12,621	714 5 11	...	...	714 5 11	100,492	...	...	...
7th March, 1874	5,585	6,038	6,418	17,071	978 5 8	55 7 6	19 3 0	1,053 0 2	84,854	...	...	...
14th ditto	7,881	7,450	11,412	26,773	1,560 6 2	...	...	1,580 6 2	50,590	...	...	...
21st ditto	8,861	8,920	13,775	31,556	1,735 9 6	81 9 0	0 10 6	1,817 13 0	90,525	...	...	...
28th ditto	17,018	15,511	35,329	67,853	3,613 4 5	234 7 6	1 7 0	3,879 2 11	134,478	...	...	...

APPENDIX BI.—(concluded).

Weeks.	CHILDREN.				Total.	Wages.	Supervision.	Contingencies.	Total.	OUTTURN.			
	Men.	Women.	Able.							Earthwork.	Turning.	Breaking and clearing kan.	Dismantling masonry.
			Unable.										
7th April, 1874 ...	18,491	16,023	33,225	...	67,739	Ra. a. p. 3,815 7 7	Ra. a. p. 194 3 0	Ra. a. p. 2 1 0	4,011 11 7	89,297	4,060	...	...
14th ditto	23,397	22,167	39,126	...	84,690	4,568 8 2	268 15 6	33 5 6	4,011 11 7	92,602	1,296	...	...
21st ditto	25,618	25,172	30,162	...	84,958	4,568 8 2	390 13 6	23 5 0	4,011 11 7	134,479	1,082	...	...
28th ditto	35,226	38,101	44,681	10,046	137,267	7,417 10 2	411 0 6	23 5 0	4,011 11 7	237,360	75,000	...	...
7th May, 1874	32,717	31,894	35,978	16,911	117,500	6,363 15 6	423 1 6	53 4 4	4,728 5 4	186,800	6,720	...	...
14th ditto	32,717	42,079	43,517	21,662	146,215	7,606 14 5	423 1 6	113 15 0	4,728 5 4	160,500	...	...	...
21st ditto	40,560	49,781	49,460	19,596	159,867	7,461 9 2	491 11 11	46 1 0	7,388 15 1	148,895	...	...	...
28th ditto	45,111	53,324	53,140	20,123	173,698	8,321 3 3	749 5 8	23 1 6	8,993 10 5	...	14,650	...	...
7th June, 1874	1,006	5,263	5,146	1,272	12,687	599 4 8	72 8 4	3 8 0	825 13 4	...	...	...	...
Head-office charges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	881 7 5	...	...	...	...
Construction of hospital, Kauriram	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65,775 10 6	1,641,487	102,828	...	...
Total	306,025	329,049	409,539	106,169	1,150,772	59,919 9 7	5,320 13 8	347 14 6	7,450 10 11	570,440	...	...	3,300
21st February, 1874	552	1,005	708	...	2,265	Tarapur Bridge.	7 0 6	...	126 11 9	62,457	...	...	...
28th ditto	1,630	3,232	2,110	...	6,972	387 2 1	22 10 6	...	409 13 7	50,072	...	...	300
7th March, 1874	2,869	3,193	3,329	...	9,791	455 6 6	55 12 11	...	455 6 6	90,000	...	...	400
14th ditto	2,678	3,552	3,875	...	10,306	510 0 3	56 10 2	...	648 0 4	76,000	...	...	600
21st ditto	3,296	5,585	7,414	...	16,349	838 0 7	36 10 2	...	930 15 10	100,572	...	...	1,800
28th ditto	11,166	13,963	21,595	...	46,794	924 5 11	134 4 11	...	2,679 2 3	90,794	...	...	800
7th April, 1874	8,761	10,936	17,272	...	36,969	1,651 9 11	70 1 6	...	2,066 9 6	86,245	...	...	...
14th ditto	428	728	615	...	1,771	91 8 9	3 4 6	...	106 4 2	13,000	...	...	...
Head-office charges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 12 0	...	...	...	...
Total	31,680	42,144	56,918	...	130,742	6,508 13 3	329 13 0	514 4 9	7,450 10 11	570,440	...	...	...

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26th February, 1874 ...	741	3,849	2,073	...	6,663	Jail Tank.	333 8 4	12 10 6	...	...	...	...
7th March, 1874 ...	1,270	5,537	1,989	...	8,786	474 4 8	617 5 8	238 3 3	...	...	...	...
14th ditto ...	1,106	7,430	3,256	...	11,792	859 1 11	70 3 5	125 0 0	...	...	...	...
21st ditto ...	1,952	9,716	4,949	...	16,617	2,251 8 5	152 10 11	199 18 4	...	...	...	...
28th ditto ...	6,432	19,868	16,325	...	46,898	2,512 9 1	104 4 10	76 2 4	...	...	...	...
7th April, 1874 ...	7,903	20,168	18,837	...	47,354	2,530 5 5	63 6 2	125 8 0	...	...	...	...
14th ditto ...	7,437	19,926	19,391	...	45,602	2,244 6 10	107 11 10	130 15 8	...	...	...	...
21st ditto ...	6,678	18,016	12,135	...	33,338	3,029 2 9	139 7 8	100 12 4	...	...	...	...
28th ditto ...	8,012	22,500	17,504	...	50,929	2,368 1 3	106 9 6	108 10 5	...	...	...	...
7th May, 1874 ...	6,290	17,057	13,758	...	33,087	1,905 6 10	105 7 0	33 3 3	...	...	...	...
14th ditto ...	4,998	14,698	12,043	...	43,406	2,083 1 3	106 13 5	47 8 0	...	...	...	...
21st ditto ...	5,753	17,904	12,409	...	46,780	2,083 1 3	106 13 5	47 8 0	...	...	...	...
28th ditto ...	7,170	24,766	18,183	...	65,966	2,774 7 10	166 9 1	166 15 0	...	...	...	...
7th June, 1874 ...	2,338	9,460	7,939	...	26,817	1,021 4 9	96 13 5	7 0 9	...	...	...	...
Head-office charges ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	68,080	210,885	160,796	81,872	521,633	25,003 11 0	1,460 15 0	1,137 11 1	1,467,521	...	...	...
7th April, 1874 ...	2,237	2,382	3,480	...	8,099	Gola Road.	417 5 11	24 13 0	...	...	...	...
14th ditto ...	21,301	27,961	35,409	...	83,691	4,285 15 5	195 8 6	48 5 11	...	...	...	...
21st ditto ...	32,851	34,076	40,936	...	117,869	5,939 6 9	392 10 0	582 12 1	...	...	...	...
28th ditto ...	43,559	47,644	43,594	...	135,355	7,413 9 3	400 9 1	1,118 12 0	...	...	...	...
7th May, 1874 ...	33,811	37,064	35,176	...	105,951	7,353 5 8	466 12 3	90 10 0	...	...	...	...
14th ditto ...	6,408	17,064	13,444	...	36,931	2,919 8 0	277 6 0	23 4 0	...	...	...	...
21st ditto ...	6,908	17,922	15,544	...	40,391	2,921 8 7	277 6 0	18 7 0	...	...	...	...
28th ditto ...	4,236	10,814	7,765	...	28,100	1,328 8 10	143 11 6	9 11 0	...	...	...	...
7th June, 1874 ...	236	1,913	1,499	...	4,208	208 6 1	79 3 6	...	...	...	...	...
Head-office charges ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	154,257	193,878	205,786	95,170	649,091	31,978 0 6	2,105 5 4	2,763 15 5	2,619,209	...	...	...
30th April, 1874 ...	104	238	197	...	982	Deoria Road.	43 8 6	30 0 0	...	...	...	...
7th May, 1874 ...	962	3,167	1,653	...	8,730	404 14 10	27 0 8	6 4 9	...	...	...	...
14th ditto ...	2,457	8,101	2,667	...	23,536	1,014 8 10	68 3 1	15 8 7	...	...	...	...
...	3,091	8,680	3,693	...	21,076	953 3 8	62 7 10	7 14 0	...	...	...	...
...	6,167	19,495	7,943	...	41,323	1,918 14 1	137 15 0	38 14 9	...	...	...	...
...	3,098	12,969	6,621	...	29,318	1,268 14 1	85 7 6	33 12 3	...	...	...	...
Total ...	14,879	52,690	22,753	33,613	123,935	5,604 0 0	411 2 1	102 6 4	374,842	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	6,667,145	2,91,208 12 11	14,533 15 1	14,701 12 8	21,361,571	102,828	16,553	3,300

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PHAURA WORKHO

J. J. F. LUMSDEN,
Collector.

APPENDIX C.

Statement showing attendance at the Poor houses in the Gorakhpur District, and cost for each week, from date of opening to close of Relief work.

Names of Poor-houses.	Period.	NUMBER RECEIVED UNCOOKED FOOD.			NUMBER RECEIVED COOKED FOOD.			COST OF					REMARKS.
		Adult.	Children.	Total.	Adult.	Children.	Total.	Food.	Establishment.	Cooking utensils.	Contingencies.	Total.	
Sudder, Gorakhpur.	Week ending 7th February, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 15th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 22nd ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 28th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 7th March, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 15th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 22nd ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 31st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 7th April, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 15th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto 22nd ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Ditto 30th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Ditto 7th May, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Ditto 15th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Ditto 22nd ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Ditto 30th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
GRAND TOTAL		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

APPENDIX C.—(continued.)

Names of Poor-houses.	Period.	Total number fed.	NUMBER RECEIVED UNCOOKED FOOD.			NUMBER RECEIVED COOKED FOOD.			COST OF				REMARKS.	
			Adults.	Children.	Total.	Adults.	Children.	Total.	Food.	Establishment.	Cooking utensils.	Laundry.		Total.
BANGAON.	Week ending 15th March, 1874, (12th to 14th).	118	89	29	118	...	...	...	Ra. a. p. 4 7 3	...	...	...	Ra. a. p. 4 7 3	
	Ditto 22nd	293	217	76	293	...	...	...	11 0 6	...	...	...	11 0 6	
	Ditto 2st	420	304	116	420	...	...	...	16 4 6	...	...	...	16 4 6	
	Total	831	610	221	831	...	...	...	31 12 3	...	...	...	31 12 3	
	Ditto 7th April, 1874	390	302	88	390	...	...	...	16 11 3	...	...	...	16 11 3	
	Ditto 15th	505	381	124	505	...	...	...	23 4 9	...	...	...	23 4 9	
	Ditto 22nd	459	326	123	459	...	...	...	21 8 6	...	...	...	21 8 6	
	Ditto 31st	475	335	140	475	...	...	...	20 2 9	...	...	...	20 2 9	
	Total	1,829	1,354	475	1,829	...	...	...	81 14 3	...	...	...	81 14 3	
	Ditto 7th May, 1874	440	316	124	440	...	...	...	18 10 0	...	...	...	18 10 0	
Ditto 15th	487	327	160	487	...	...	...	20 3 9	...	...	...	20 3 9		
Ditto 22nd	518	312	206	518	...	...	...	20 5 3	...	...	...	20 5 3		
Ditto 31st	745	456	289	745	...	...	...	29 11 6	...	...	...	29 11 6		
Total	2,190	1,411	779	2,190	...	...	...	88 14 6	...	...	...	88 14 6		
1st to 8th June, 1874	...	600	380	220	600	...	...	...	23 8 9	...	...	...	23 8 9	
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	GRAND TOTAL	5,450	3,755	1,695	5,450	...	...	...	236 1 9	...	...	...	255 13 0	

APPENDIX C.—(continued.)

(62)

Name of poor-houses.	Period.	NUMBER RECEIVED UNCOOKED FOOD.			NUMBER RECEIVED COOKED FOOD.			COST OF					REMARKS.		
		Total number fed.	Adult.	Children.	Total.	Adult.	Children.	Total.	Food.	Establishment.	Cooking utensils.	Contingencies.		Total.	
Gopalpur.	23rd to 26th February, 1874	258	...	...	...	190	68	258	11 15 3	...	...	...	1 12 3	13 11 6	
	Week ending 7th March, 1874	285	...	...	...	191	94	285	12 14 6	...	...	...	1 15 0	14 13 6	
	Ditto 15th ditto	331	...	...	...	219	112	331	13 5 3	...	...	...	2 3 0	15 8 3	
	Ditto 22nd ditto	419	...	...	...	265	154	419	14 6 0	...	...	...	1 7 0	15 13 0	
	Ditto 31st ditto	523	...	...	...	300	223	523	21 15 6	...	...	...	1 4 6	23 4 0	
	Total	1,558	...	...	...	975	583	1,558	62 9 3	...	...	...	6 13 6	69 6 9	
	Ditto 7th April, 1874	522	...	...	...	325	197	522	19 9 0	...	...	...	1 12 0	21 5 0	
	Ditto 15th ditto	638	...	...	...	339	299	638	22 4 9	...	...	...	1 8 6	23 13 3	
	Ditto 22nd ditto	454	...	...	...	302	152	454	18 9 6	...	...	...	1 2 3	19 11 9	
	Ditto 30th ditto	432	...	...	...	284	148	432	17 9 0	...	...	...	1 2 6	18 11 6	
Gopalpur.	Total	1,946	...	...	...	1,250	696	1,946	78 0 3	...	...	...	5 9 3	83 9 6	
	Ditto 7th May, 1874	324	...	...	...	242	82	324	12 13 0	...	...	...	1 3 9	14 0 9	
	Ditto 15th ditto	562	...	...	...	424	138	562	22 7 5	...	...	...	1 5 0	23 12 5	
	Ditto 22nd ditto	594	...	...	...	379	215	594	24 10 2	...	...	...	1 2 7	25 12 9	
	Ditto 31st ditto	776	...	...	...	505	271	776	32 5 6	...	...	...	2 1 2	34 6 8	
	Total	2,256	...	...	...	1,550	706	2,256	92 4 1	...	...	...	5 12 6	98 0 7	
	1st to 8th June, 1874	1,089	...	...	...	703	387	1,089	43 10 6	...	...	...	0 9 0	44 3 6	
	GRAND TOTAL	7,107	...	...	...	4,667	2,440	7,107	288 7 4	...	...	...	20 8 6	308 15 10	
	19th to 22nd March, 1874	83	48	35	83	...	...	...	2 15 6	...	...	...	...	2 15 6	
	Week ending 31st March, 1874	425	328	97	425	...	...	...	16 1 2	...	...	...	...	16 1 2	
Gopalpur.	Total	508	376	132	508	...	...	...	19 0 8	...	...	...	...	19 0 8	

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HATTA.	Week ending 7th April, 1874	312	271	41	312	...	...	...	12 1 11	...	...	...	12 1 11	
	Ditto 15th ditto	490	153	37	490	...	...	...	18 9 9	...	...	...	18 9 9	
	Ditto 22nd ditto	553	514	39	553	...	...	...	21 15 6	...	...	...	21 15 6	
	Ditto 30th ditto	698	588	110	698	...	...	...	29 0 6	...	...	...	29 0 6	
	Total	2,048	1,821	227	2,048	...	...	...	81 11 8	...	...	...	81 11 8	
	Ditto 7th May, 1874	546	424	122	546	...	...	...	21 2 1	...	...	...	21 2 1	
	Ditto 15th ditto	753	474	279	753	...	...	...	26 6 1	...	...	...	26 6 1	
	Ditto 22nd ditto	717	455	262	717	...	...	...	25 10 7	...	...	...	25 10 7	
	Ditto 31st ditto	1,044	701	343	1,044	...	...	...	40 4 11	...	...	...	40 4 11	
	Total	3,060	2,054	1,006	3,060	...	...	...	113 7 8	...	...	...	113 7 8	
HATTA.	1st to 8th June, 1874	995	794	201	995	...	...	...	41 13 3	...	...	30 0 0	71 13 3	
	GRAND TOTAL	6,611	5,045	1,566	6,611	...	...	...	256 1 3	...	...	30 0 0	286 1 3	
	12th to 15th March, 1874	159	111	48	159	...	...	...	6 0 0	...	...	...	6 0 0	
	Week ending 22nd March, 1874	382	328	154	382	...	...	...	14 0 0	...	...	...	14 0 0	
	Ditto 31st ditto	434	351	83	434	...	...	...	13 1 4	...	...	...	13 1 4	
	Total	975	790	285	975	...	...	...	33 1 4	...	...	...	33 1 4	
	Week ending 7th April, 1874	309	256	43	309	...	...	...	9 8 10	...	...	...	9 8 10	
	Ditto 15th ditto	314	270	44	314	...	...	...	9 11 8	...	...	...	9 11 8	
	Ditto 22nd ditto	264	233	31	264	...	...	...	8 4 4	...	...	...	8 4 4	
	Ditto 30th ditto	414	326	88	414	...	...	...	12 5 4	...	...	...	12 5 4	
PARANVA.	Total	1,301	1,095	206	1,301	...	...	...	39 14 2	...	...	...	39 14 2	
	Week ending 7th May, 1874	419	341	78	419	...	...	...	12 10 8	...	...	...	12 10 8	
	Ditto 15th ditto	524	416	108	524	...	...	...	15 9 8	...	...	...	15 9 8	
	Ditto 22nd ditto	491	388	103	491	...	...	...	14 10 3	...	...	...	14 10 3	
	Ditto 31st ditto	500	408	92	500	...	...	...	15 1 5	...	...	...	15 1 5	
	Total	1,934	1,553	381	1,934	...	...	...	58 0 0	...	...	...	58 0 0	
	1st to 7th June, 1874	344	303	41	344	...	...	...	10 12 6	...	...	16 0 0	26 12 6	
	Total	4,654	3,741	913	4,654	...	...	...	141 12 0	...	...	16 0 0	157 12 0	

APPENDIX C.-(concluded.)

Names of Poor-houses.	Period.	NUMBER RECEIVED UNCOOKED FOOD.			NUMBER RECEIVED COOKED FOOD.			COST OF					REMARKS.			
		Total number fed.	Total		Adults.	Children.	Total	Adults.	Children.	Total	Food.	Establishment.		Cooking utensils.	Contingencies.	Total.
			Adults.	Children.												
MITHAURA.	26th to 31st March, 1874	248	140	108	248	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Week ending 7th April, 1874	1,336	959	377	1,336	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 15th ditto	1,023	753	271	1,023	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 22nd ditto	641	545	96	641	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 30th ditto	432	355	67	432	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total	3,322	2,611	711	3,322	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 7th May, 1874	488	396	92	488	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 15th ditto	529	463	66	529	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 22nd ditto	578	479	99	578	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 31st ditto	811	681	130	811	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MITHAURA.	Total	2,406	2,019	387	2,406	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 7th June, 1874	435	370	65	435	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ditto 8th and 9th ditto	167	125	42	167	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total	602	495	107	602	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL		6,578	5,955	1,313	6,578	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

J. J. F. LUMSDEN,
Collector.

APPENDIX D. I.

Statement giving the monthly admissions into each of Relief Work Hospitals, the average daily attendance at the works to which the Hospital was attached, the number of deaths with the usual percentages, and the expenditure incurred.

Month.	Names of hospitals and relief works.	CHARGES.													Total.
		Average daily number of people employed.	Number in the hospital.	Daily average number in Hospital.	Number of deaths.	Percentage of deaths to average daily number of people employed.	Percentage of admissions.	Pay of Native Doctor.	Establishment.	Contingent.	Cost of medicines.	Diet.			
March, 1874	Kauram hospital, for	7,290	23	657	...	...	...	Rs. 19 5 8	a. 8 15 5	p. 13 11 1	Rs. 5 4 7	a. 3 14 4	p. 51 3 1		
April	Kauram	30,728	34	1236	...	...	...	25 0 0	14 0 0	3 12 6	0 4 0	20 10 10	63 11 4		
May	Taraina	28,160	45	2038	8	0.31	17.7	28 5 4	23 13 9	12 7 0	...	34 11 8	98 5 9		
June	Gola relief works	2,413	23	2083	8	0.33	84.7	25 0 0	29 0 0	4 7 3	3 10 3	50 1 0	113 2 5		
July	...	...	...	232	...	...	...	4 13 5	5 9 6	7 4 0	...	4 13 0	22 7 11		
		...	124	...	18	...	...	102 8 5	80 7 8	41 9 10	9 2 9	114 2 10	347 14 6		
April	Gopalpur hospital, for	15,855	27	646	9	0.057	10.3	25 0 0	3 8 4	8 10 10	0 4 6	0 5 4	37 13 5		
May	Lotan road relief work	16,780	44	2016	...	...	...	25 0 0	17 0 0	0 13 0	...	38 3 7	81 0 7		
June	...	3,558	...	312	...	...	...	...	6 5 4	0 6 0	0 6 11	6 11 4	13 13 7		
		...	131	...	9	...	...	50 0 0	26 13 8	9 13 11	0 11 5	45 4 8	132 11 7		
April	Mithaura hospital, for	24,418	168	147	...	...	...	29 0 6	10 14 10	7 12 10	8 12 3	38 7 1	94 15 6		
May	Nichlan road relief work	24,264	129	91.2	...	...	...	25 0 0	17 12 9	20 8 6	...	41 1 4	104 6 7		
		...	297	...	...	...	...	54 0 6	28 11 7	28 5 4	8 12 3	79 8 5	199 6 1		
May	Bokuladah hospital, for	6,617	67	22.5	5	0.7	7.4	62 15 0	7 7 7	2 13 9	1 2 1	23 15 1	98 5 6		
June	Jail tank relief work	3,831	...	2.4	...	...	...	...	2 6 3	...	...	6 13 2	9 3 5		
		...	67	...	5	...	...	62 15 0	9 13 10	2 13 9	1 2 1	30 12 3	107 8 11		
	GRAND TOTAL	...	619	...	32	...	5.16	269 7 11	145 13 9	82 10 9	19 12 6	269 12 2	787 9 1		

J. J. F. LUMSDEN,
Collector.

FROM

THE OFFICIATING COLLECTOR, BASTI,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

Dated Basti, the 11th December, 1874.

SIR,

THE late Officiating Magistrate and Collector of this district, Mr. F. E. Elliot, not supposing that a report on famine relief operations would be very speedily required from this district, took with him all the memoranda he had prepared for his report, promising to send a complete report from Aden on his way home to England on furlough. In consequence, however, of the urgent orders I have since received, I have endeavoured to collect, from vernacular records, from figures preserved in the District Engineer's office, and from such memoranda as the Civil Surgeon possessed, materials sufficient to give an outline of the facts of the famine, and of the chief results of the operations undertaken to relieve it. The report is, I fear, imperfect; but Mr. Elliot's account, when received, will be at once forwarded, and will doubtless supplement what is here defective. Mr. Inspector Shaw, who was sent here to assist in famine relief operations in June last, has contributed some information from his personal knowledge of facts. He has, too, with great labor collected all the details from which I have been able to compile the present report.

The famine of 1874 in Zila Basti was due to the failure of the preceding kharif crop, following as it did the partial failure of the preceding rabi crop.

I subjoin for your reference the following figures relative to the rainfall:—

Average rainfall in four years in Zila Basti.

				Inches.
From June, 1870 to end of May, 1871	...	...	...	58.6
" 1871 ditto ditto 1872	...	...	...	71.5
" 1872 ditto ditto 1873	...	...	...	60.2
" 1873 ditto ditto 1874	...	...	...	26.7

Rainfall of four months of 1873.

In June, 1873 rainfall amounted to	...	...	...	5.3
" July " ditto ditto	...	...	...	10.7
" August " ditto ditto	...	...	...	5.2
" September " ditto ditto	...	...	...	2.5

Daily rainfall in September, 1873.

On 4th September it rained	...	...	...	9
" 5th ditto ditto	...	...	...	4
" 6th ditto ditto	...	...	...	3
" 7th ditto ditto	...	...	...	1
" 12th ditto ditto	...	...	...	1
" 15th ditto ditto	...	...	...	1
" 16th ditto ditto	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	2.1

This failure of the rains of 1873, and especially their early cessation in September, not only affected most disastrously the autumn crops but very largely prevented the winter sowings.

APPENDIX D. II.

Statement giving the monthly admissions into Poorhouse and Workhouse Hospitals, with the average daily attendance at the Poorhouse and Workhouse, the number of the deaths, and expenditure.

Month.	Name of Hospital.	Average daily number of inmates.		Number of admission in the hospital.	Daily average number in hospital.		Number of deaths.	Percentage of deaths to average daily number of inmates.	Percentage of admissions to deaths to	CHARGES.									
		Poorhouse	Hospital.		Poorhouse	Hospital.				Pay of Native Doc- tor.	Establishment.	Contingent.	Cost of medicines.	Diet.	Total.				
March	Gorakhpur Hospital	1,014	836	189	56.64	53	5.22	35.04	...	...	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.			
April	"	600	600	109	111.63	28	3.34	21.05	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
May	"	...	...	431	111.97	35	7.00	32.11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
June	Ditto	750	961	226	...	116	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
July	"	677	677	242	140.05	67	5.93	29.64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
August	"	33	33	70	143.06	82	8.53	33.88	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
September	"	...	...	6	71.50	70	10.34	29.91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
October	"	...	...	778	17.61	80	93.5	42.85	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
June	Kasia Hospital	187	218	44	...	149	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
July	"	189	189	56	23.82	13	1.13	2.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
August	"	120	120	35	27.99	1	5.96	23.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
September	"	...	...	197	19.84	13	6.87	20.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
October	"	135	108	79	17.6	3	9.50	8.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
June	Mithaura Hospital	100	100	88	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
July	"	61	61	91	32.5	12	8.82	15.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
August	"	...	...	14	37.5	12	14.81	18.01	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
September	"	...	...	...	36.28	36	14.31	37.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
October	"	...	...	...	18.	14	24.90	35.7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
GRAND TOTAL		...	...	1,678	...	467	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			

J. J. F. LUMSDEN,
Collector.

J. J. F. LUMSDEN,
Collector.

The following statement, which is approximate only, will show more clearly the real state of the crops as they stood in October, 1873, as compared with that of the same time in the previous year. The fifth tahsili, Captainganj, is omitted, as its condition was (comparatively) not much affected :—

Tahsil.	Year.	OUTTURN IN MAUNDS.			
		Jarhan.	Dhan.	Kodo.	Rabi.
Bansi	1872	67,727	401,149	23,051	74,274
Ditto	1873	5,012	47,147	9,852	37,659
Domariaganj	1872	117,812	73,014	Dhan and kodo.	80,046
Ditto	1873	14,265	31,815		25,295
Basti	1872	34,247	37,811		98,947
Ditto	1873	1,817	18,680		47,138
Khalilabad	1872	27,432	86,338	34,567	128,017
Ditto	1873	458	72,439	21,291	90,852

The main kharif crop in this district is the jarhan or transplanted rice crop, and this, it will be remarked, was scarcely a tenth of an average harvest. Notwithstanding the failure of the harvest, there is reason to believe that the district contained sufficient grain for its own requirements throughout the period of scarcity. At all events, the Tahsildars who were deputed to enquire into this subject reported that at that time neither export from nor import of grain into this district was going on.

A table showing the prices of grain prevalent here from June, 1872, to June, 1874, is subjoined for reference (Appendix A.)

Distress first appeared in the northern portion of the district, and to relieve this, Mr. Percy Wigram, then Officiating Collector, proposed the construction of certain roads leading to or situated in the affected localities.

This proposition was approved by the Committee appointed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to consider relief measures in the Benares Division, and works were commenced under a system of joint supervision, partly by servants of the Revenue Department, and partly by subordinates of the recently appointed officer termed the District Engineer.

The accompanying table shows the names of these works, the daily average of persons employed on them, the work done, and the expenditure incurred on them :—

List of works on which jamine labor was employed.

Name of works.	...	...	Daily average of persons employed.	Character of work done.	Quantity of work done.	Total expenditure.	REMARKS.
Bansi Road, Basti end	...	89 days	4,729 $\frac{1}{2}$	Earthwork, including dressing.	Cubic feet. 3,420,060	Rs. a. p. 26,621 12 10	Work commenced on 1st February, closed 30th April.
Ditto, Bansi end	...	146 ditto	11,250 $\frac{1}{2}$		10,220,341	1,03,035 9 11	Di to 22nd January, ditto 19th June.
Minhdawal Road	...	109 ditto	23,364 $\frac{1}{2}$		23,846,259	1,30,581 3 6	Ditto 27th February, ditto 18th ditto.
Bansi to Nipal Road	...	107 ditto	12,635 $\frac{1}{2}$		5,550,000	84,622 6 11	Ditto 7th March, ditto 21st ditto.
Domariaganj Road	...	99 ditto	10,861 $\frac{1}{2}$		8,540,000	62,990 3 4	Ditto 2nd ditto, ditto 12th ditto.
Faizabad Road, Basti	...	32 ditto	2,215 $\frac{1}{2}$		311,000	4,039 5 0	Ditto 1st May, ditto 2nd ditto.
Ditto, Belwa	...	53 ditto	5,461 $\frac{1}{2}$		1,626,361	16,666 7 7	Ditto ditto, ditto 22nd ditto.
Total ...	...	...	...	...	53,513,981	4,28,557 1 1	

The number of persons on these works gradually increased till the beginning of June, from which time there was an immediate and very large fall in the numbers everywhere. All these road works were closed by the 22nd June.

The rates paid were at first—

Men	...	...	...	6	pice.
Women	...	...	...	4	"
Children	...	...	...	3	"

but in April were reduced as follows :—

Men with hoes	...	...	...	5	pice.
" " baskets	...	...	...	4	"
Women	...	...	...	4	"
Children	...	...	...	3	"
Infants	...	...	...	1	"

and in May as follows :—

Men with hoes	...	...	...	4	pice.
" " baskets	...	...	...	3	"
Women	...	...	...	3	"
Children	...	...	...	2	"
Infants	...	...	...	1	"

Mates of gangs of 50 received 2 annas per diem. These figures, and the accompanying table, which gives the weekly totals of laborers employed on these works, will show sufficiently distinctly how severe the distress must have been in this district in the first half of this year.

In the last week of May, 1874, over twelve and a half lakhs* of human beings were glad to get work at the rates above specified.

Sheds were built adjacent to the works for those who had come from long distances, but most of the people got shelter in neighbouring villages. Water-carriers were allotted to the gangs, and arrangements were made for banias to bring provisions along the lines. It is noted, however, as worthy of remark, that the quantity of food purchased from banias was extremely small compared with the total number of persons employed; and an inference has been drawn from this to the effect that many repaired to the works who, though poor, were by no means absolutely starving, but had still some resources of their own. It is stated that the comparatively healthy appearance of many laborers corroborated this supposition; on the other hand, it is even more certain that a large proportion of the laborers were in the last stage of indigence, and depended absolutely from day to day entirely on their earnings.

I subjoin a statement (*vide* Appendix B. accompanying) at the end of this report showing the weekly totals of laborers on the famine relief works (roads).

As a rule the people brought with them their own hoes and baskets. Considering the enormous number of people collected on these works, there was on the whole very little sickness. Native Doctors were appointed; sheds were erected as hospitals for the sick. These places served moreover as temporary depôts for the infirm and weakly, who were kept in them until they could be moved to the poorhouses, five in number, which were established as follows :—

Poorhouses.—One poorhouse at Basti in March, 1874.

"	"	"	Bansi in March, 1874.
"	"	"	Minhdawal, beginning of April, 1874.
"	"	"	Domariaganj in 26th April, 1874.
"	"	"	Enturah in 26th April, 1874.

These were charitable institutions, and were supported partly by local subscriptions, but chiefly by grants from the Charitable Relief Committee at Allahabad.

N.B.—This is a mistake. The Collector means "over 1,25,000."

Workhouses.—On the cessation of the out-door relief works (*viz.*, the road works), workhouses were opened, one at Bansi and one at Basti. The former was put under the charge of Mr. Muir, Assistant Magistrate, and the latter was under the personal superintendence of Mr. F. E. Elliot, the then Officiating Collector.

These workhouses were constructed mainly of wattle and thatch, but were made substantial. They were arranged in quadrangular form, and conveniently situated in mango groves.

The sheds were divided into sections for the various works carried on,—spinning, corn-grinding, rope-making, &c., shoe-making, mat and wicker-work in great variety; webbing-making and other industries were also introduced with success.

All were admitted who applied for relief, and at once set to such work as they were fit for. The infirm and weakly were drafted from the poorhouses abovementioned into these workhouses. If found unfit to work they were classed as non-workers.

All received cooked food : scale as follows :—

Atta, 10 chittacks	...	} for working paupers.
Dal, 2 ditto	...	
Salt, 1 pice weight	...	
Atta, 8 chittacks	...	} for non-workers and women.
Dal, 2 ditto	...	
Salt, 1 pice weight	...	

Children—various rates.

Mr. Inspector Shaw was put in charge of the Bansi workhouse in August, when Mr. Muir was relieved of the same.

Close of the workhouses—
 The Basti workhouse was closed on 7th October.
 The Bansi workhouse was closed on 21st October.

A statement of the number of paupers employed at each workhouse and the cost of their maintenance is appended (*vide* Appendix B.)

The expenditure on these two workhouses was divided into two heads :—

1. Expenditure from Imperial Relief Fund.
2. Ditto charitable ditto

All costs of working paupers were debited to the former, and of sick or infirm non-workers to the latter fund.

Attached to each workhouse was a hospital (the former poorhouses at Basti and Bansi were utilized for this purpose), the total inmates of which were maintained at a cost as follows :—

	Number.	Cost.		
		Rs.	a.	p.
Bansi workhouse hospital	...	9,898	2,178	7 8
Basti ditto ditto	...	762	1,993	1 5

Sickness (chiefly bowel complaints) seems to have been very prevalent at Bansi during one period of the famine. The mortality, however, was not proportionately great.

The medical supervision of these hospitals was placed under the Civil Surgeon, except as regards the Bansi workhouse hospital, after the 18th August, 1874, from which date the supervision of its expenditure and general management was entrusted to Mr. Inspector Shaw.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM YOUNG,
 Officiating Collector.

APPENDIX A.

Range of prices from June, 1872, to June, 1874.

Month.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, common.	Gram.	Arhar dal.	Urd dal.	Mung dal.	Salt, common.
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
June, 1872 ...	14 11	20 10	14 6	21 14	13 12	10 0	6 14	5 15
July " ...	13 7	18 2	12 13	18 7	13 2	11 4	6 14	6 4
August " ...	13 7	16 4	13 12	17 3	13 12	10 10	6 4	6 5
September " ...	13 12	17 8	14 11	18 12	12 8	11 4	6 4	6 4
October " ...	14 6	17 8	16 4	19 6	13 12	11 14	6 9	6 4
November " ...	14 0	17 8	17 8	18 12	13 2	12 8	8 12	6 9
December " ...	12 8	16 4	19 6	20 0	13 2	16 14	14 6	6 12
January, 1873 ...	12 8	16 4	18 13	20 0	13 12	15 0	13 7	6 12
February " ...	13 12	16 0	18 2	18 12	13 12	15 0	11 4	6 14
March " ...	17 8	26 4	16 14	23 8	13 12	15 0	10 0	6 14
April " ...	17 8	23 12	16 4	23 12	13 12	15 0	10 0	6 9
May " ...	15 0	21 4	15 0	21 4	13 12	13 12	10 0	6 9
June " ...	14 6	20 0	13 12	19 6	17 8	13 2	10 10	6 4
July " ...	15 10	20 10	14 11	20 0	17 8	13 2	11 4	6 9
August " ...	15 15	18 2	14 11	20 0	17 8	13 12	11 4	6 9
September " ...	15 0	17 8	14 11	18 12	15 0	13 2	11 4	6 9
October " ...	13 7	17 8	11 4	16 14	13 2	11 4	10 0	6 9
November " ...	14 6	15 0	19 9	17 8	12 8	14 1	11 4	6 14
December " ...	14 6	16 4	10 15	16 9	13 2	15 0	13 12	6 14
January, 1874 ...	13 10	15 0	10 15	12 8	11 14	12 8	...	7 3
February " ...	12 8	15 12	11 4	12 8	11 14	13 1	...	7 3
March " ...	15 0	20 0	9 6	16 14	13 12	12 8	11 4	7 3
April " ...	14 1	13 12	9 1	16 4	14 6	12 8	11 4	6 9
May " ...	13 12	16 4	8 12	15 10	12 1	11 14	9 6	6 4
June " ...	13 7	16 4	8 12	15 0	12 8	12 8	8 12	6 4

APPENDIX B.

Statement showing the weekly total of famine relief laborers.

EAST TO BANGL ROAD.			DOMARIAGANJ TO DHEKRI ROAD.			FAIZABAD ROAD, EAST END.		
Week.	Weekly Total.	Grand Total.	Week.	Weekly Total.	Grand Total.	Week.	Weekly Total.	Grand Total.
From 22nd to 31st January, 1874...	40,556½	40,556½	From 2nd to 7th March, 1874	2,272	36,473	From 1st to 7th May, 1874	9,895	67,934
" 1st to 7th February, 1874...	26,351		" 8th to 14th ditto	6,496		" 8th to 14th ditto	14,322	2,973
" 8th to 14th ditto	43,238½		" 15th to 21st ditto	8,690		" 15th to 21st ditto	17,693	
" 15th to 21st ditto	35,250		" 22nd to 31st ditto	19,015		" 22nd to 31st ditto	56,024	
" 22nd to 28th ditto	38,035		From 1st to 7th April, 1874	17,210	208,689	From 1st to 7th June, 1874	2,973	70,907
From 1st to 7th March, 1874	33,828	142,874½	" 8th to 14th ditto	22,169		Total	...	
" 8th to 14th ditto	45,286		" 15th to 21st ditto	45,808		Work closed on the 2nd June, 1874.		
" 15th to 21st ditto	57,294		" 22nd to 30th ditto	123,502		FAIZABAD ROAD, NEAR BELWA.		
" 22nd to 31st ditto	113,880	250,288	From 1st to 7th May, 1874	152,416		From 1st to 7th May, 1874	24,801	
From 1st to 7th April, 1874	96,189		" 8th to 14th ditto	161,780		" 8th to 14th ditto	3,877	
" 8th to 14th ditto	129,865		" 15th to 21st ditto	244,242		" 15th to 21st ditto	47,524	
" 15th to 21st ditto	178,175		" 22nd to 31st ditto	225,780	784,218	" 22nd to 31st ditto	65,656	
" 22nd to 30th ditto	241,393		From 1st to 7th June, 1874	22,581		From 1st to 7th June, 1874,	45,488	169,917
From 1st to 7th May, 1874	140,921	645,623	" 8th to 14th ditto	2,710	25,291	" 8th to 14th ditto	42,525	
" 8th to 14th ditto	152,836		Work closed on the 12th June, 1874.	...	1,054,671	" 15th to 21st ditto	29,030	
" 15th to 21st ditto	172,348							
" 22nd to 31st ditto	251,989	717,994						

APPENDIX B.—(concluded).

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BASTI TO BANSI ROAD.				DOMARIAGANG TO DHUKERY ROAD.				FAIZABAD ROAD NEAR BETWA.			
Week.	Weekly Total.	Grand Total.		Week.	Weekly Total.	Grand Total.		Week.	Weekly Total.	Grand Total.	
From 1st to 7th June, 1874	137,591	366,126		BASTI TO MINHDRAWAL ROAD.				Supplementary for 20th ditto	Rs. 1,408	Rs. 1,408	
" 8th to 14th ditto	83,223	206,645		From 27th to 28th February, 1874,	568	568		For 22nd ditto	1,295	1,295	
" 15th to 21st ditto	45,306			" 1st to 7th March 1874	11,170			Total	...	119,546	289,463
Total	...	...		" 8th to 14th ditto	19,609			Work closed on the 19th June, 1874.			
Work closed on the 19th June, 1874.				" 15th to 21st ditto	27,562						
7th March, 1874	52			" 22nd to 31st ditto	62,720	111,061					
From 8th to 14th ditto	2,622			From 1st to 7th April, 1874	49,561						
" 15th to 21st ditto	6,078			" 8th to 14th ditto	94,994						
" 22nd to 31st ditto	23,654	32,406		" 15th to 21st ditto	56,258						
" 1st to 7th April, 1874	34,560			" 22nd to 30th ditto	257,569	560,382					
" 8th to 14th ditto	50,965			From 1st to 7th May, 1874	289,393						
" 15th to 21st ditto	71,210			" 8th to 14th ditto	348,452						
" 22nd to 30th ditto	134,881	295,616		" 15th to 21st ditto	371,173						
" 1st to 7th May, 1874	144,976			" 22nd to 31st ditto	399,776	1,408,794					
" 8th to 14th ditto	208,437			From 1st to 7th June, 1874	213,160						
" 15th to 21st ditto	203,360			" 8th to 14th ditto	194,425						
" 22nd to 31st ditto	300,648	854,421		" 15th to 21st ditto	50,563	458,145					
" 1st to 7th June, 1874	145,374			Total	...	2,538,953					
" 8th to 14th ditto	84,300			Work closed on the 13th June, 1874.							
" 15th to 21st ditto	46,914	275,588									
Total	...	1,459,031									
Work closed on the 21st June, 1874.											

WILLIAM YOUNG,
Offg. Collector.

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APPENDIX C.

Workhouse relief after close of Works.

Items.	Numbers.	Amount.	Total.	REMARKS.
<i>Bansi Workhouse.</i>				
<i>Working paupers.</i>				
Men	14,131	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Women	14,313			
Children	14,571	2,954 0 11		
Total	43,015			
<i>Non-workers.</i>				
Men	7,271			
Women	9,295			
Children	16,608	2,136 0 11		
Total	33,174			
Construction	...	585		
Raw material for manufacture	...	246		
			0,922 9 9	
<i>Hospital.</i>				
Adults	5,177			
Juveniles	3,200	654 1 11		
Total	8,377			
Construction	...	110 12 11		
Total	...		764 14 10	
			6,637 8 7	
<i>Basti Work house.</i>				
<i>Working paupers.</i>				
Men	15,822			
Women	15,827			
Children	19,082	3,694 6 1		
Total	50,731			
<i>Non-workers.</i>				
Men	3,495			
Women	4,457			
Children	1,908	737 14 10		
Total	9,860			
Construction	...	3,642 9 8		
Raw material	...	586 13 6		
			8,661 12 1	
Construction of hospital.	...		975 10 5	
Total	...		9,637 6 6	
Payable from Imperial relief, Rs. a. p. 3,786 8 9 Ditto from charitable do, ... 2,900 15 10 Total ... Rs. 6,687 8 7				
Paid from Imperial relief, Rs. a. p. 7,923 13 3 Do. from charitable do, ... 1,713 9 3 Total ... Rs. 9,637 6 6				

WILLIAM YOUNG,
Officiating Collector.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF SCARCITY IN THE BASTI DISTRICT IN 1874.

TOWARDS the middle of August, 1873, the scantiness of the rainfall began to occasion apprehensions of a failure of the kharif crops and of consequent distress.

The preceding year 1872-73 had been one of average prosperity, but its abundance had not been such as to enable the district to fully recover from the depression caused by the losses of the two previous years. These had been most unfortunate; excessive rain had damaged the crops, and much of what escaped had been swept away by heavy floods. Even 1872-73 was not free from all calamity. In March of that year a severe hail-storm had more or less devastated the crops of 900 villages lying within a strip extending from east to west across the entire breadth of the district. No remission of revenue had been proposed or ordered on this account, for it was found that the revenue could be collected without much pressure, notwithstanding the losses incurred by the destruction of the crops. But there was at that time no reason to anticipate further misfortune. It was evident that another bad year following upon such a series of disasters, relieved only by a single gleam of moderate prosperity, would try the resources of the people to the utmost. Later on these fears were fully verified. So complete a failure of the rains had not taken place since the district was first established (1865). The following table gives the mean fall at the five tahsils during the last seven years:—

Comparative Table of Rainfall.

1866-67.	1867-68.	1868-69.	1869-70.	1870-71.	1871-72.	1872-73.
39.9	53.0	32.6	52.9	58.6	71.5	60.5

This year no station, up to January, showed more than 28.2, and the mean was 23.7. Even in 1868 the mean up to the same date was 32.3.

The outturn of the early rice was everywhere much below the average, the later rice failed completely, the inferior crops, though fair in some localities, were on the whole short of the full standard. In addition to this the hardened soil could not be properly prepared to receive the "rabi."

Tanks, hollows, and pools, in ordinary seasons reservoirs of water, were dry: sowings were only possible on lands that could be irrigated from wells, and even in these the seed did not always germinate, or sprouted only to wither away for want of moisture.

This state of things was noticed in the annual revenue administration report of the district, and early in October Government took measures to keep itself informed by periodical reports and telegrams of the condition and prospects of the district. Till January, however, prices, though high and rising, had not reached such a pitch as to give cause for serious alarm; nor did Mr. Wigram, who relieved me on the 3rd December, or I, feel that as yet there was any general distress. All depended upon the "rabi," which, though restricted in area, continued, in spite of drought and hurtful west winds, to thrive beyond expectation.

In December a storm of rain revived the wheat and barley most opportunely. On the other hand, a touch of frost somewhat damaged the peas and arhar.

On the 2nd January, 1874, Mr. Wigram summed up the situation concisely and comprehensively in his general report, No. 2A. of that date, the main points of which are as follows:—

He divided the district into three tracts, A, B, and C, extending from west to east across the district. The first of these lies between the Nepalese frontier and the river Rapti, the second between the Rapti and the Koano, and the third between the Koano and the Gogra, which bounds Basti on the south. In A and B, the most northern of these two, the country is swampy and abounds in jhils, and the greater part of it is ordinarily more or less under water for nearly half the year. These characteristics are most marked in A, which extends to within 20 miles of the foot of the Himalayas, and is intersected by numerous hill streams. In both tracts the staple product is rice; of this there are two crops: 1st, the "Usahan" or "Bhadai," sown early in the rains on comparatively high lands and in places cut soon enough to be followed by wheat on the same land; 2ndly, the "Jarhan" or transplanted rice, known also as "Aghani," much the most valuable of the two: this is planted out later, can hardly have too much water, and is cut in October-November. Tract C is less dependent upon the rice crop, and produces a considerable amount of wheat and barley.

The outturn of the early rice was estimated to vary on a favorable computation from one-half to three-fourths of an average yield.

The "Jarhan" had been saved only around the edges of pools, and for purposes of food had been completely lost.

The other "kharif" crops are kodo, kakun, sanwa, mirwa, maize, sugarcane, urad, mung, masur, and mothi. In some quarters these, especially kodo, had yielded unusually good returns, but taken as a whole the outturn did not reach the average. A large proportion of the kodo was found to produce intoxicating effects, and was therefore useless as food. An attempt was made to investigate the reasons and causes of this peculiarity, which is commonly known among the natives, by whom the name "matona" is given to the intoxicating grain: but with no success.

The area under "rabi" was estimated to vary from one-fourth to three-fourths of its ordinary extent. The prospects of the crop have already been stated. They were still hopeful, but extremely critical. Useful tables will be found in Mr. Wigram's administration report showing for each pargana, in each tract, the area in acres, the agricultural and non-agricultural population, and the proportional yield of the autumn and spring crops. It would unnecessarily lengthen this memorandum to reproduce these tables here. The original can easily be referred to. They show the important fact that about 80 per cent. of the population is agricultural, and to this may be added another, that the bulk of the people live mainly upon rice. Wheat is ordinarily consumed only by the higher classes. The scarcity was necessarily worst in tract A, somewhat less in tract B, and hardly, if at all, felt in tract C. Subsequent experience proved that for all practical purposes the metalled road traversing the district from Gorakhpur on the east to Faizabad on the west afforded a sufficiently accurate dividing line, the scarcity being confined to the country lying north of it.

Under these circumstances, nearly every crop having failed more or less, it seemed reasonable to expect widespread distress, if not actual famine. As it turned out, however, there was no approach to the latter at any time, and the distress was much less severe and general than might have been supposed.

The explanation of this is that the quantity of grain produced is generally much in excess of local requirements. Immense quantities of rice are usually sent down the rivers to Bengal. But during the year under report export was observed to be greatly restricted in that portion of the district suffering from scarcity. Landholders, partly from

caution, foreseeing the necessity of providing for the wants of their families and dependents, partly with an eye to greater gains when prices should have risen still further, stored their grain instead of sending it to market. There is no doubt that there were large hoards in every part of the district. The food resources of the country were further augmented in some degree by import, never great, but in this year continued from the west up to the end of April. Again, the general character of the settlement is light, except in Pargana Amorha, Tahsil Captainganj, and there only 34 villages were reported as being especially badly off. The November instalment of the Government demand was realized without much difficulty, the balances being much smaller than was expected.

The agricultural portion of the community, a large percentage, as has been stated, was thus in no imminent danger of starvation. There remained, however, 310,500 persons, or about 20 per cent. of the whole population, who were not in any sense agriculturists, nor were all those who might be classed as agricultural wholly so. The failure of the crops lessened the demand for labour to cut them, to convey the grain to market, to store it, to load it on boats, and the ordinary small outlays of well-to-do men on building, repairs, &c., were all curtailed. There was in short a dearth of labour and the means of buying food, rather than of food itself. There was therefore reason to anticipate considerable distress, especially among unskilled labourers, and for these Mr. Wigram recommended that work should be provided without delay. The most suitable seemed to be earthwork. The country was in almost every direction impassable during the rainy season for want of raised roads, especially in the northern portion of the district, where the distress would be greatest, and the work fulfilled the requirement of being such as could be done by any able-bodied pauper. It is probable, however, that the enormous expenditure and totally inadequate returns which would result from this form of relief were not foreseen. Mr. Wigram, in fact, estimated his total requirements at something less than Rs. 50,000.

Towards the middle of January matters became decidedly worse: frost attacked the peas and arhar, the wells began to run dry, the dew ceased, no rain fell, and strong west winds threatened to utterly dry up the crops, till then still healthy. Prices rose considerably: wheat was at 13 seers 10 chittacks; barley at 15 seers; rice of the common sort at 11 seers, the normal price at that season being 15, 17, and 19 seers for the rupee.

Mr. Wigram's proposals were sanctioned early in February, but the first relief work was opened on the 22nd January. Details of the organization of these will be given further on. They lasted till the end of June, and relieved a daily average of 71,535 persons, at a total cost of Rs. 428,494 paid by the State from a special grant.

The means of livelihood thus afforded to the able-bodied poor were supplemented by the institution of poorhouses for the support of infirm paupers. These were maintained from charitable funds raised in the first instance by local private subscription, but subsequently by contributions from the Central Famine Relief Committee at Allahabad. Small advances were also made at an early stage to tahsildars and police officers, in order that any cases of destitution which might come to notice might be promptly attended to, and the sufferers fed and forwarded to the nearest poorhouse. The system adopted in the Basti poorhouses was from the beginning that of indoor relief: there was no indiscriminate distribution of food to all who asked for it. None but the helpless and feeble were admitted, and it was made a condition that those relieved should reside in the poorhouses. These consisted of rows of sheds having thatched roofs on timber posts and frame-work with mat walls. The Civil Surgeon, Mr. T. M.

Sullivan, as Honorary Secretary of the Local Relief Fund Committee, undertook the organization of these institutions, and they remained under his immediate management to the last. In order to secure the services of the subordinate medical officers, they were all (except at Domariaganj and Intwa) situated close to the dispensaries. In all there were five from first to last: the first at head-quarters, the second at Bansi, the third at Minhdawal, the fourth at Domariaganj, under the eye of the tahsildar, and one, a branch of this last, at Intwa, at the opposite extremity of the same relief works. Cooked food was distributed twice a day. The diet-roll comprized three scales, as

	DIET TABLE.							
	Atta.	Rice.	Dal.	Salt.	Spi-ces.	Oil.	Milk.	Su-gar.
	Chks.	Chks.	Chks.	Chks.	Grs.	Drs.	Chks.	Chks.
Adults—								
1. Atta diet,	...	12	...	2	1/2	30	1/2	...
2. Rice do.,	...	...	10	2	1/2	30	...	...
3. Milk do.,	...	...	8	...	...	...	16	1
Juveniles—								
1. Atta diet,	...	8	...	2	1/2	30	1/2	...
2. Rice do.,	...	...	6	2	1/2	30	...	...
3. Milk do.,	...	...	6	...	...	...	8	1/2

noted in the margin: the first or atta scale was for those who could bear substantial food; the second or rice scale was given to those whose weaker condition required a more digestible diet; the third, a milk scale, was used in the case of half-starved and emaciated paupers on first admission.

Lepers were accommodated in separated sheds, as also paupers suffering from contagious diseases. The establishment was limited, and consisted of a kahar, sweeper, and cook on the wages marginally noted. The services of Brahmin paupers were also utilized in the cook-house. It may be worth mention that all Hindus will not eat food cooked even by Brahmins; some, and these by no means of the highest caste, notably the Saithwars, will only eat food cooked by persons of their own caste, except of course under pressure of extreme starvation. Several instances came to my notice. More than one of the miserable wretches, a few of whom were to be seen on every relief work, declined to accept the gratuitous relief obtainable at the poorhouses, although assured that the food was prepared exclusively by Brahmins. This was not a mere pretence. I satisfied myself by further inquiry that the objection raised was based on (possibly local) custom. As far as possible the paupers were prevented from begging outside the poorhouses, and latterly an attempt was made to give them some work, such as spinning and rope-making. The numbers were, in consequence of adherence to this system, never large. The total number relieved was 32,453, at a cost of Rs. 2,485-9-1.

In March the Travelling Famine Commission visited the district, inspected the works in progress, and deliberated upon the further measures which appeared to be necessary.

The principal results arrived at were the following:—

(1.) That no importation of food grains was called for. This conclusion, which was in accordance with the opinions of the district officers expressed in report to Government, was completely borne out by events. The southern portion of the district exported grain eastward to some extent during the height of the scarcity, and a considerable amount was stored for the use of Gorakhpur under agreement with Government even in the northern parganas.

(2.) That the circumstances were not such as to require any definite or immediate remission of the Government demand. It was, however, left to the discretion of the Collector to submit proposals of this nature thereafter if it should prove to be desirable, and the principles by which he should be guided were defined. No such proposals were submitted. All the tahsildars agreed in representing that if allowed to manage the

matter their own way, they would in all probability succeed in realizing the revenue without much pressure by the end of the year, but that if definite orders of suspension or remission were passed in a single case, their best efforts would be unavailing. Even as it was, the result of compliance with the orders of Government conveyed in paragraph 7 of G. O. No. 35A., dated 9th February, 1874, to the effect that no pressure should be used to realize the January instalment, was a general belief that measures of this nature were in contemplation, and a consequent general determination to withhold payment as long as possible. At the end of March, 1874, the outstanding balances amounted to Rs. 79,576-12-10.

At the end of September, 1874, they stood as marginally noted; of this Rs. 3,219-11-8 have been since collected, and the remainder is in course of liquidation. The large balances in the Basti tahsil are due to the disorganization into which the tahsil had fallen under the late tahsildar, Har Parshad,* one of the most hopelessly inefficient officers I have ever had to deal with. The time of the new tahsildar, Sheo Ram, a very capable man, was much occupied by the supervision of the workhouse at head-quarters, and it was not till towards the close of the revenue year, when this became a lighter task, that he could give his full attention to the realization of the balances left by his predecessor.

(3.) That it was necessary to make advances to cultivators for the purchase of seed rice. The Collector was authorized to make such advances up to half a lakh of rupees upon the following terms: namely, repayment within two years, interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. After the expiry of one year, hypothecation of landed property as security for repayment. Although these orders were fully published, it was not till the close of April that applications began to be received in any number. Landholders were reluctant to pledge their property, fearing to be unable to repay the advance within the stated period, and so to lose it. Those living in the vicinity of the Nepalese Tarai, and especially those possessing land on both sides of the border, had great facilities for supplying themselves. The veto placed upon export from Nepal in the early part of the year, at no time very effectual, was relaxed in April in favour of seed-purchasers, who were to be provided with passes signed by British officials. Not a single pass was asked for except by Mr. Jones, manager of the Newra grant, yet all were supplied with seed; indeed the drain upon the Tarai was so great that the Nepalese Government found it necessary to intimate that rice would no longer be allowed to leave the country except in exchange for wheat or barley.

In the meanwhile the prospects of the district had improved considerably. Towards the end of January the character of the weather became moist and favourable. On the 23rd there was a light but general and very beneficial rain storm. This saved the crops. The wheat and barley revived, prices improved, and the numbers on the relief works fell from 15,000 to 9,000. Mr. Wigram, writing on 9th February, noted that there were then no actually starving people on the roads, and that many who came returned home on finding that they would have to work for their money. Again, on 15th March, he stated that there were not more than nine or ten really emaciated persons wholly unfit for labour to be seen on the relief works at that time. The number subsequently increased enormously, but there is, in my opinion, no reason to believe that the increase was ever an accurate indication of a corresponding increase of distress. The rabi eventually turned out excellently, and, except in respect of the limited area sown, was above the average; as it was it gave the people heart and saved the district from famine.

* Since transferred to Ghazipur.

Early in April I relieved Mr. Wigram. There were then five relief works in progress, as noted in the margin. These had been chosen, in consultation with the Superintending Engineer, as affording relief where it was most needed, and being at the same time important lines of communication. All district work requiring skilled labour was held over with the sole exception of the Koano bridge on the road to Faizabad.

Relief works.

1. Bansi Road—Basti end.
2. Bansi Road—Bansi end.
3. Bansi to Nepal Road (Naugar works).
4. Minhdawal Road.
5. Domariaganj Road.

The rules laid down in G. O., P. W. D., No. 1184A., dated 2nd February, 1874, were strictly followed. The labourers were divided into gangs of 50 each, under mates, one to each gang; to each gang a Public Works muharrir was attached. Tickets were distributed in the morning, and pice paid out in the evening. But it was plain from the beginning that it would be dangerous to place the distribution of the tickets and the payment of the pice in the same hands. The employment of the regular tahsil establishment was found to interfere seriously with the discharge of the ordinary routine duties, and accordingly extra tahsil muharrirs, equal in number to the Public Works staff, were entertained. The duties of the Public Works staff were to arrange the gangs, distribute and recover the tickets. Those of the tahsil establishment were to provide and pay away the pice and to keep the accounts. The muharrirs worked in pairs, the tahsil muharrir being present during the issue of the tickets, while, on the other hand, the Public Works muharrir was present during the payment of the labourers. Thus one set of men acted as a check upon the other, and fraud was possible only when the two combined. The tahsildar or his naib was always on the spot, ready to supply any want, and maintained a constant supervision over their own subordinates. A Public Works Supervisor was posted to each relief work (except the Belwa embankment), to look after the Public Works staff and attend to all professional matters. Mr. Thomson, Assistant Collector, had general administrative charge of the Minhdawal Road Relief Works on the east until the end of April, when ill-health compelled him to take three months' leave. On the west Mr. Muir, Assistant Collector, similarly superintended the relief work at Domariaganj. The central and north-eastern work on the Bansi Road, and between Naugar and Uska, were at first under my own immediate care. When those at the Basti end of the Bansi Road ceased on the transfer of the labourers to Belwa, and those at Domariaganj closed, Mr. Muir took charge of the two remaining works in the northern part of the district. Mr. Thomson, as no other officer could be spared, was replaced by Inspector Shaw. The Belwa embankment was begun and carried on for some time under the eye of Mr. Tait, District Engineer, until his health also gave way, when he was obliged to return to the station.

Checks.

Although the efficiency of the system miscarried occasionally through carelessness and inattention to orders on the part of the subordinate establishment, on the whole it worked well, and prevented wholesale embezzlement or falsification of returns and accounts. There were two great difficulties at first—namely, deficiency of tickets and deficiency of pice. A muster-roll was found to be a useful substitute for tickets, and continued as an additional precaution even after a sufficient quantity had been supplied, upon my representation, from Allahabad, to keep things going until arrangements could be made to procure a supply on the spot (a matter of more difficulty than was supposed). It would have been better and would not have added materially to the expense, if properly cut and stamped tickets had been issued by the Public Works Department from head-quarters at the beginning. The second hindrance threatened at one time to become serious. Government copper coin, though a legal tender, is not as a matter of fact current in the district, and payment was made in what are called Gorakhpuri pice made in Nepal and exported in large quantities to British territory. The money-changers and banyas combined to raise the value of these pice (from 72 to 80 of which ordinarily go to the rupee), and the disordered state of the Nepalese Tarai was such that traders could not be induced to enter it to

Difficulties.

procure a supply. This condition of things was represented to the Resident in Nepal, and measures were taken by the Nepalese Government to remedy it, but it subsequently appeared that the outrages which had become notorious were mainly the work of British subjects living near the border. As soon as this was ascertained to be the fact, steps were taken which resulted in the capture of 85 and conviction of 59, the principal offenders, and the restoration of tranquillity. Pice were also obtained from Faizabad, and thus, though more than once it seemed as though the works must come to a dead lock for want of coin, payments were kept up until by degrees, as the improved prospects of the district became more and more evident, the market rate improved and eventually recovered its usual condition.

Upon making my first tour of inspection I was struck by the sleek and comfortable appearance of the majority of the labourers: a few more days' experience convinced me that a very large proportion of them were in fact not dependent upon Government relief. I was, however, unwilling to take any action until I had acquired further acquaintance with particulars. The Collector of Gorakhpur having, on a longer experience, reached the same conclusions, took steps to test the reality of the distress pretended by the increasing crowds of labourers, by reducing the rates* of payment under the orders of Government approving this measure. A similar reduction was effected in Basti (see margin). It had, however, little or no effect: It is nevertheless perfectly certain that large numbers resorted to the works simply in order to earn without much exertion an addition to their means at a season when otherwise they would be sitting idle. Reduction of rates could of course do little to deter this class of labourers, for any payment, however small, was so much clear gain. Removal to a distance from their homes proved to be a much more efficient test; 10,000 labourers transferred from the Basti end of the road to Bansi, to Belwa, on the Faizabad Road, a distance of about 40 miles, and paid during the journey, had dwindled to 4,801 by the time they reached their destination. Some time later an intention to similarly transfer labourers from the Naugar Works to the Bansi Road near Bansi was frustrated by the incapacity of the Supervisor (DeRoza), who for this and other shortcomings was suspended and afterwards dismissed.

* Men with hoes, 6 pice, reduced to 5
Men with baskets, 5 " " " 4
Women, " " " " 4
Children, " " " " 3
Infants, " " " " 2

† Reduction from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, to 4, 3, 2, 1.

In the beginning of May these and other considerations were discussed at a conference held by the Lieutenant-Governor at Gorakhpur. The particulars and final results of this discussion are so fully stated in Resolution No. 479A., dated the 16th of that month, that any more than a simple reference is unnecessary. The main features were the recognition of the demoralizing tendency of the existing form of relief and the impracticability of continuing it during the rains, but at the same time of necessity of caution in altering it for another; and the issue of instructions to pay the labourers only as much as would suffice at market prices to procure a certain amount of food, instead of a fixed sum; to organize workhouses in which cooked food only would be distributed, and to close the relief works in progress as soon as it was certain that the workhouses could accommodate all those who were really without other means of support. Every effort was made, within the limits prescribed, to weed the multitudes which continued to flock to the works of all not really in need, but with poor success.

A further reduction of one pice upon infants in arms was made immediately after the conference, and was followed later in the same month by a third general diminution† of rates to 4, 3, 2, and 1 pice on all but one road, that from Naugar to Uska, situated in the worst part of the worst tract. This, at last, occurring at a time when the necessity of attending to their fields began to press

upon all those who had any land, had some appreciable effect, and all but the thoroughly idle and the wholly destitute began to seek their homes, but the crowds which clung to the works were still immense.

It had been the aim all through to segregate the infirm and aged from the able-bodied labourers, but it was a difficult task, as it constantly involved the separation of parents from their children, and was therefore steadily resisted. When the labourers at the Basti end of the Bansi Road were transferred to Belwa, the old and weakly paupers among the 10,000 labourers at work, not more than 400, were collected under my personal superintendence and put to work upon the approaches of the Koano bridge by themselves, in order that they might be specially cared for. Subsequently able-bodied labourers, about 3,000, were also admitted at a different part of the embankments. The preference shown for the easy life and low rates of the relief works over higher wages combined with the exaction of full labour, is well illustrated by the fact that the District Engineer had the greatest difficulty in keeping the necessary number of coolies upon the construction of the bridge itself, for which of course full Public Works Department rates were paid. They were perpetually deserting to the approaches, and preferred doing next to nothing there on four pice per diem, to doing a fair day's work at the bridge for seven pice.

The scale of diets prescribed in Resolution No. 479A. was very liberal. Practically few of the labourers eat "dal" at all, and the grain used was chiefly of some inferior kind, such as "aksa:" a small quantity of this with a little "gur" sufficed to sustain them. Mr. Muir observed the following instances:—(1.) A family consisting of a man and his wife, brother-in-law, and child, earning 14 pice, were found cooking meal for all which had cost seven pice. This was their only meal that day and prices were still high. (2.) Two men earning ten pice were found cooking atta and mahua which had cost five pice, their only meal; the quantities being cooked were 10·2 chittacks of atta and 15·2 chittacks of mahua. Gradually, however, as the time for sowing the kharif drew near, the crowds began to diminish. The rains set in unusually early, the ditches filled, and earthwork became almost impracticable. But still thousands remained, and while on the one hand it was desirable to bring the relief works to a close as speedily as possible, it was obviously necessary to be very careful not to abruptly disperse large bodies of men, women, and children without apparent means of support.

Workhouses on the principles prescribed in Resolution No. 479A., dated 16th May, 1874, had been organized and were sufficiently advanced to afford a refuge to the destitute, but scarcely any would consent to be drafted into them. Some said that they could find work at home; others whose appearance had every indication of poverty and infirmity said that their relations would maintain them. Under these circumstances some delay occurred unavoidably in closing the works, in consequence of my being short-handed. It was in my opinion absolutely necessary that the closing of each work should be effected under the personal superintendence of a thoroughly competent and trustworthy officer. Mr. Thomson's valuable assistance had been lost. Inspector Shaw, though most useful, was new to the work. Mr. Muir was fully occupied. The District Engineer was disabled and could not bear the sun, and my own attention was required by the construction and organization of the new workhouses. There were in short six relief works to be closed, and only three officers including myself to close them. However, one by one, they were brought to an end, the closing numbers being still large in most instances, and the disinclination to take advantage of the workhouses still continuing. Making due allowance for unfounded prejudice, which manifested itself in a variety of fictions as regarded the nature and internal economy of the workhouses, there is no doubt that the reluctance to enter them chiefly arose from dislike to the confinement, steady labor, and, above all, the cooked food, and thus exemplified the soundness of the theory upon which they proceeded. The last relief work closed on the 22nd June.

The workhouses were two in number,—one at head-quarters, the other at Bansi, and these were found to be sufficient for every requirement. For some time they (especially that at Bansi, which was the first opened) contained few but professional beggars, and though they were afterwards more freely resorted to by others, driven to seek refuge in them by the scarcity, the whole number of inmates never exceeded 2,000. The poorhouses, as above described, were kept open for some time as depôts or feeders to the workhouses, and were closed one after the other, as the necessity for them ceased. Those at Bansi and Bansi were then turned into workhouse hospitals. At Bansi a large and shady mango grove standing apart among cultivated fields, and within a convenient distance of the new bazar, afforded a most admirable situation for the workhouse. At Bansi, owing to the swampy character of the country, the situation was not so good. The general arrangement was the same in both places. The buildings consisted of substantial sheds forming the four sides of an oblong rectangle; the space inside was kept clear. At Bansi there was a larger shed for the use of the committee, and the muharrirs in the middle. It was found that sheds just broad enough to admit of one man lying across the floor were preferable to larger ones, as being stronger because more compact, and cheaper because they afforded exactly the amount of room required and no more. The floor was raised some inches and well beaten; the edges were finished with bricks secured in their places by strips of bamboo, jammed lengthwise against them by bamboo pegs. On the outer side the sheds were walled with thick mat and grass screens. On the inner side there were movable screens (jhamps) ordinarily kept open by poles. All along and directly under the eaves a sloped gutter carried off the water from the roof. The inner space or yard was drained by narrow ditches cut at right angles to each other. At first a bamboo trellis was put up all round the yard four or five feet from the sheds, from which egress could only be obtained at gates over which peons were posted; the intention being to keep the paupers in their places without the necessity of entering a large number of peons to look after them, but this was found to be unnecessary and inconvenient. A brick building originally intended for the kitchen was found to be unsuitable for that purpose on account of the heat and smoke, but made a good godown. Each pauper was provided with a mat to sit upon. To the sick in hospital blankets and clothes were served out, but these were given very sparingly to the able-bodied paupers. Those in absolute rags were clothed and the rags destroyed.

The inmates were divided first into workers and non-workers. None were allowed to sit idle who could do any sort of work; but the blind, infirm, and aged were kept apart in three wards,—one for Hindus of the more particular castes, one for others of low caste without prejudice, and one for Muhammadans. The object of this distinction was that no offence might arise through contact, which, being helpless, these paupers could not avoid unassisted. Among the workers there was no such distinction, as each on receiving his rations was at liberty to eat it where he liked. These were simply arranged according to the work they were employed on: the rope-makers in their ward, the basket-makers in theirs, and so on. Each inmate had a ticket with his number and the designation of his ward written on it. Bamboo pegs numbered 1, 5, 10, 15, &c., were driven into the floors of the sheds to assist the paupers in finding their places. There were no separate sheds or railed inclosures for the distribution of food; it was found simple and more convenient to give the food to them as they sat in their places in the sheds.

The scale of diet was ordinarily as follows :—

		Atta.	Dal.
Workers...	...	10 chittacks.	2 chittacks.
Non-workers	...	8 "	2 "
Children ...	...	6 "	1 chittack.
Infants ...	...	2 "	1 "

But this was varied occasionally according to the condition of the particular pauper.

The registers followed the classification above indicated,—that is to say, there were three muster roll registers for the non-workers: namely, one for the Hindus of the better classes, another for other Hindus, a third for Muhammadans; and one for each class of workers, without distinction of caste.

Besides the muster roll registers it was found necessary to keep several others, the chief of which were the following :—

- No. I.—That just described.
- " II.—Abstract of totals of No. I. for ready reference.
- " III.—Register of raw material.
- " IV.—Register of manufactured articles.
- " V.—Register of daily consumption of food and its cost.
- " VI.—Register of miscellaneous expenditure.
- " VII.—Order book.
- " VIII.—List of establishment.

The forms of nearly all these registers were supplied by Maulvi Syud Ahmud Khan, whose experience of the workhouse system at Moradabad was most useful.

The establishment consisted of one, and latterly two muharrirs on Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 per mensem; a cook and kahar to every 50; a sweeper to every 100 paupers; a jamadar in charge of the godown; and from 8 to 10 chaprasis. This was not exceeded, I think, at any time, but was reduced as much as possible by utilizing the services of the paupers themselves.

The sick were removed in *dulis*, always ready in the yard, to the hospital, which, both at Bansi and also at Bansi, was at some distance and close to the dispensary. A medical subordinate visited the workhouse every morning and pointed out those who required treatment in hospital.

Latrines were tried and failed, but conservancy was carefully attended to, and the place was kept perfectly clean and free from all offensive odour. Once a week all the floors were leaped, and some of Macdougall's disinfecting powder sprinkled where it was required. There was no need of caution with regard to admissions till towards the end; the difficulty was rather to induce people to enter the workhouses. But a committee was, nevertheless, necessary, especially at the beginning. The almost total absence of non-official native gentlemen made it necessary to make use largely of the native officials.

- Committee.
1. Maulvi Mahammad Kamil, Sudder Amin.
 2. Bhairo Parshad, Civil Serishtadar.
 3. Parmanand, Wakil.
 4. Hafiz Tafazzul Husain, Deputy Collector.
 5. Munshi Sarup Narain, Deputy Collector.
 6. Sheoram, Tahsildar.
 7. Mahabir Parshad, Head Clerk.
 8. Muhammad Zamir-ud-din Ahmad, Deputy Collector.
 9. Muhammad Sajjad, his Peshkar.
 10. Nath Bakshi, Criminal Serishtadar.
 11. Jagmohan Lal, Revenue Serishtadar.
 12. Hasan Baza, Nazir.
 13. Mata Parshad, Revenue Record-keeper.
 14. Sari Newaz Pande.

Fourteen members were appointed, whose names are entered in the margin; the last of these is not, but all the rest are officials. They were assorted in pairs, and to each pair a particular day in the week was assigned for attendance. All attended regularly, but the Sudder Amin, Maulvi Muhammad Kamil, Hafiz Tafazzul Husain, and Munshi Sarup Narain, Deputy Collectors, Sheoram, Tahsildar, and Hasan Raza, Collector's Nazir, were especially useful, and took the most active interest in the institution. Eventually I found it convenient to place Tahsildar Sheo Ram in sole charge of the head-quarters' workhouse as manager, but the committee continued to give its assistance till the last.

The workhouse at Bansi was first established by Mr. Muir, Assistant Collector, after whom, when the relief works ceased and he returned to his usual duties, Inspector Shaw took charge. The arrangements there were, more or less, uniform with those of the Bansi workhouse, and were conducted on the same principles. Inspector Shaw's management was distinguished by an extremely moderate expenditure, the

result of minute and careful supervision on his part. Tahsildar Sheo Ram introduced a great variety of manufactures with considerable success. The articles produced sold well. In accordance with the instructions conveyed in G. O. No. 533A., dated 11th June, the cost of working paupers was charged to the relief grant, and that of the non-workers, including the sick in hospital, to the charitable relief fund: but this arrangement extended merely to maintenance, the whole of the cost of construction was charged to the grant.

The rains were not only early but abundant, and on the whole well timed. At one moment there seemed reason to fear that they would be excessive, and some injury was in fact caused to the minor crops by floods in Tahsil Captainganj and Tappa Minhdawal, Tahsil Khalilabad. In the former, the sugarcane, there a crop of much importance, as also the maize and urad, suffered serious damage. But in many places the flooded lands were re-sown, and on the whole no considerable general loss was sustained. After this there were complaints of want of rain, and after that again of too much, but the final result was a splendid kharif harvest. The outturn of the "Bhadai" rice was nowhere below the full standard, and in some places greatly exceeded it. The "Aghani" was still uncut when I made over charge of the district early in October, but promised a magnificent return. Prices began to decline, as mentioned above, in February, but showed little substantial improvement till July, from which time the downward tendency became more and more decided until at last, in October, they reached the usual level, though still somewhat kept up by the demands of traders.

The Basti workhouse closed on the 7th October, 1874, that at Bansi on the 21st October, 1874.

There is now every prospect of prosperity before the people, and it is probable that in the course of a twelvemonth hardly any trace will remain of a drought which, had rabi failed, would have been followed by the sharpest universal distress, and, if the rains of 1874 had also been deficient, must have resulted in the miseries of famine.

There was little or no sickness during the year, and the health of labourers on the Disease and medical relief works was surprisingly good. All the necessary precautions were taken to be prepared for an outbreak of epidemic. Four extra hospital assistants were stationed on or near the different works, and afterwards at the workhouse. Hospitals were constructed, medicines were in readiness, and the Civil Surgeon made several tours of medical inspection, but there was no noticeable disease. Some few died of heat apoplexy, said to be brought on by drinking water while working in the sun. The percentage of sick paupers in the workhouses was very moderate.

The inquiries made with regard to the respectable women of the better classes satisfied me that there was no hidden distress of the kind referred to in No. 181A., dated 9th March last. The population being mainly agricultural, all the poorer women, of whatever caste, are accustomed to field work, and only those who are well off conceal themselves.

Some doubts were felt with regard to a community of Syads living in Mauza Halor, which is split into a number of infinitesimal holdings, but it was ascertained that no relief was needed or desired. As far as I could learn from inquiries especially instituted by order during the year there was no emigration.

Statistics of previous famines.

I am not aware of any previous famines in Basti. If there have been any, there are no records of them to my knowledge.

A few words in acknowledgment of the good service done by the officers employed in superintending various measures of relief must conclude this report.

Mr. Thomson and Mr. Muir were both in tents during all April and May, engaged in supervising the relief works under their charge. Mr. Thomson's health began to give way early in the year, but he stayed on pertinaciously at his post, and eventually came into the station only in compliance with my request. It was then found that he had barely escaped a dangerous illness. As long as he remained on the Minhdawal Road, I could feel perfect confidence that every effort would be made to carry on the work successfully, and his absence was afterwards much felt. Mr. Muir fortunately did not fall ill, though at one time he too threatened to fail. I am indebted to his intelligence and observation for much information and many useful suggestions. He was in tents till 3rd June, and after that remained at Bansi, in a small rest-house there, till July for the purpose of organizing the workhouse. He was also deputed to report upon the state of the country in the extreme north-east corner of the Bansi Tahsil, of which some alarming, but as it proved exaggerated, reports had reached me. In all these matters he showed his usual ability.

Mr. Sullivan, Civil Surgeon, deserves much credit for the efficient manner in which he arranged all the details of the management of the poorhouses which were under his charge from beginning to end.

Inspector Shaw made himself extremely useful, both in reporting clearly and intelligently upon the state of the people in different directions, where it was essential that I should have trustworthy information, and afterwards in superintending the Bansi workhouse. I have a very good opinion of Mr. Shaw, and have much pleasure in testifying to his satisfactory discharge of every duty entrusted to him.

Tahsildar Sheo Ram deserves great praise for his very capable and successful management of the Basti workhouse. He took the greatest interest in the matter, and nothing could exceed the neatness and order he maintained. Whenever I visited the workhouse, which I did without notice at different hours, I invariably found all at work. Hardly any complaints were made, and very few of those made had any foundation whatever. All the tahsildars exerted themselves very creditably and energetically on the relief works. Amir Singh, of Khalilabad, especially distinguished himself by his zealous effort to carry out Mr. Thomson's wishes.

F. ELLIOT,
Late Offg. Collector.

FROM

No. 398

To

THE OFFG. COLLECTOR, GHAZIPUR,

THE OFFG. COMMISSIONER, BENARES DIVISION.

SIR,

Dated Ghazipur, the 14th November, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to submit the report on scarcity, and statements showing the result of relief operations in the Ghazipur District during the year 1873-74, as prescribed by order of Government, North-Western Provinces, No. 644A, dated 6th October, 1874.

2. It is to be regretted that we have not yet obtained any accurate statistics given the area under cultivation of each kind of edible grain, and of other kind of crops, and the average outturn per acre. In the present year, and in the discussion of the present subject, reliable information upon these subjects would have been of much value.

3. Even though we are not furnished with accurate statistics, it may, I think, be concluded with a considerable amount of certainty that the edible grains grown in the district are in no year sufficient for the maintenance of the people, and that even in the best years there is a large importation of grain.

4. The population of the district is 1,845,401. Allowing five maunds per annum for the average annual consumption, the grain required for their support would come to 6,725,005 maunds, and allowing 2,750,000 maunds for the food of horses and other animals, the total annual consumption of food must be about 7,000,000 maunds.

5. The cultivated area of the district amounts to one million acres. This area, if exclusively devoted to the production of edible grains, would more than suffice for the maintenance of the whole population.

6. As a fact, a considerable extent is not devoted to the production of edible grains. I estimate the area of the cultivation approximately as follows :—

	Acres.
Under opium	20,000
" cotton	5,000
" indigo	10,000
" oilseeds and roses	40,000
" sugar (which occupies the land for two years)	100,000
Total	175,000

Grain is imported to supply the deficiency of grain caused by this appropriation of land to other crops.

7. The following statement exhibits the importation and the exportation of grain during the months of November and December, 1870, by river to and from the city of Ghazipur, and on the main lines of road leading to the city.

Imports.		Maunds.
By river	...	36,642
On the Gorakhpur road...	...	3,689
On the Azamgarh road	...	1,257
Total	...	41,588
Exports.		Maunds.
By river	...	9,966
On the Gorakhpur road	...	2,246
Total	...	12,212

Edible grain imported and exported in the years 1870-71, by East Indian Railway.

1869 and 1870 :—

8. The following tabular statement exhibits the quantities of edible grains imported and exported from the three stations of the East Indian Railway in the district during the years

	1869.	1870.
Imports.		Mds.
Zamaniah ...	118,804	58,915
Dildarnagar ...	8,241	34,816½
Gahmar ...	10,580	49,591
Total ...	137,625	143,322½
Exports.		Mds.
Zamaniah ...	23,226	10,213
Dildarnagar ...	805	1,418
Gahmar ...	2,591	2,092
Total ...	26,622	13,723

The years 1869 and 1870 were, though not productive years, yet not much below the average, and there is no reason to suppose that the proportion of imports to exports was in those years other than usual.

9. The Ghazipur District, compared with most districts in the North-Western Provinces, is a rich district.

10. Nevertheless, the most prosperous parts there are in the district a large part of the population live habitually in a state of poverty. The low-caste some cultural laborers, the village weavers' families, infirm persons depending for their support on alms, the orphan families and widows of persons who have been in private service, even in the best times live from hand to mouth, and are obliged to procure sufficient food.

11. The rates of wages which prevail in the rural districts indicate the poverty of the people. Indigo-planters commonly pay four-fifths of an anna (4 Gorakhpuri pice) per day to mate weeders, and three pice to common weeders; and that at a time when there is more demand for labor than usual; a ploughman with a pair of oxen receives for himself and his cattle two annas, excepting when the harvest is being cut. Laborers are in many parts of the district commonly paid in pice, not in grain, and consequently a rise in prices at once affects the laboring classes injuriously.

12. For a succession of years before 1873 the harvests in the Ghazipur District had been either poor or only tolerable. There had not for ten years or so been a bumper harvest.

13. Mr. Duthoit mentions in his annual administration report for 1872-73,—"When I joined, complaints of a poor rabi harvest, and stories of a ruined rice crop in the kharif, were frequent."

14. The following extract from the letter of an intelligent native of Ghazipur, of the 12th July, 1873, gives a fair account of how the rains commenced, and of the expectations for the season which were then entertained :—

"OUTSTATION GOSSIP.
"GHAZIPUR.

12th July.—"The rains have at last set in, and we have been saved from at least a partial famine. The first shower of the season fell on the 7th instant, and

since then we have had rain every day. Although the ground has not yet been thoroughly saturated, the operations for the kharif sowing have commenced in earnest. The late drought has, however, done considerable injury, and we do not expect a good harvest this season. In the villages the trees have been robbed of their leaves for the food of the cattle, and nothing is left of the 'pipal' except its huge trunk. The price of grain is already rising in the market."

15. The rainy season, which commenced a month later than usual, while it lasted was heavy, but it terminated on the 13th of August, 1873, two months before the usual time.

Statement of average monthly fall during rainy season for three years.

16. The following tabular statement exhibits the average rainfall each month of the rainy season of the present and of the past two years in contrast :—

Months.	1872.	1873.	1874.
June ...	3.2	1 inch.	11.5
July ...	10.4	12.2	7.1
August ...	9.0	10.9	12.9
September ...	6.2	3.1	9.7½
October ...	0.1	0.2	7.6½

Kharif crop.

17. The result of the late commencement and of the early termination of the rainy season were as follows :—

There was a generally scant kharif harvest.

The sugar-cane crop was a bad one.

The whole rice crop in the district was destroyed.

18. The question as to the extent of land under rice cultivation is one of the most interest and importance, but there are no materials for determining it with certainty. In the statement submitted and crops which a few years ago was annually submitted to the Revenue Department, the area under rice cultivation is entered at 150,000 acres. This estimate is merely approximate, but it is probably not very far from the truth.

Area of land under rice cultivation approximately 150,000 acres.

19. In this district rice is grown only in the level upland tracts of kankar formation, and never in the low alluvial soils which have been formed by the deposits of the Ganges and of the Gogra.

20. The parts of the district in which rice is chiefly grown are the parganas on the north, which border the Azamgarh District. There is also a good deal in the south of Pargana Zamaniah, south of the Ganges.

21. On former occasions, when the crops had partially failed in Ghazipur, as in 1867, food was supplied and prices kept down by large importation of rice from Bengal, both by rail and by river. In 1873 the failure of the Bengal rice crop cut off this supply.

In former years of scarcity large importation of rice from Bengal.

22. Under the combined influence of these causes food became scarce and dear, and from the 15th to the 21st October wheat was selling at 10 seers and 6 chittacks to the rupee, about fifty per cent. above the price in the corresponding week of 1874.

Wheat sells at 10 seers and 6 chittacks.

23. The prospects at this time were very gloomy; the ground had become broken hard by the sun after the cessation of the rains, and could only be ploughed for the rabi crop after it had been first watered from a well or tank.

'Prospects very gloomy in October 1873.

Every indication of rain was watched with the keenest anxiety, but though indications were not wanting, the rain did not come.

24. To add to the troubles of the district, this season of the greatest drought was also remarkable for two of the highest floods in the Ganges, which have been ever known.

Two high floods.

25. In the vast extent of fertile lowlands bordering on the river, the bajra and jowar crops were twice sown, and twice when flourishing were destroyed by the inundation of the Ganges.

Bajra and jowar twice destroyed.

26. The people of the district however struggled bravely against their difficulties. A far larger extent of rabi crops was sown than before-hand it could have been thought possible, and after the cessation of the flood of October, rabi crops were sown in the fields when the kharif crops had been destroyed.

A larger area sown than could have been expected.

27. The accounts which came in from all parts of the district were however still very gloomy, the poor people were living on scanty pittances of unwholesome food, or searching the holes of ants and of rats for buried grain.

28. There appeared every probability of scarcity becoming famine, but this calamity was averted by—

Famine averted by Government order reducing the freight of grain and by winter rains.

I.—The order of Government, dated 7th November, 1873, reducing the rate for the carriage of grain.

II.—The timely showers which fell in January and February.

29. The following tabular statement shows the amount of grain imported into the Ghazipur District each month throughout the year by rail. I have entered one-half of the receipts of grain at Buxar as belonging to the Ghazipur District. In reality more than half the grain received at Buxar reached this district, but to counterbalance this some part of the grain received at Zamaniah went to Shahabad :—

Statement showing the monthly grain importation from October, 1873, to September, 1874.

Months.	Zamaniah.	Dildarnagar.	Gahmar.	Buxar.	REMARKS.
	Mds.	Mds. S.	Mds.	Mds.	
October, 1873	18,681	3,774 20	18,340	23,547	
November "	33,172	3,642 0	12,168	17,946	
December "	68,751	2,992 0	24,311	88,346	
January, 1874	43,085	7,036 0	45,662	15,315	
February "	84,028	6,978 0	96,989	43,077	
March "	14,384	1,707 0	5,906	32,925	
April "	9,205	31 0	1,677	18,784	
May "	7,387	1,095 0	4,800	31,005	
June "	28,150	210 0	3,284	29,459	
July "	11,641	139 0	2,103	12,607	
August "	13,752	529 0	872	5,026	
September "	1,052	462 0	1,846		
Total	333,188	28,595 20	216,908	268,087	
Grand Total		Mds. 846,728-20			

30. There was no Government importation. The whole amount of 846,728½ maunds was brought in by private importers.

No Government import.

31. More than 150,000 people were fed during the whole year on the grain imported by rail.

More than 150,000 persons fed on imported grain

32. The large importation of Panjab grain however did more good by preventing the hoarding of grain, and by maintaining uniformity and moderation in the price of grain than even by providing food for 150,000 people.

33. When the scarcity first begun, people who had grain began to hoard it, and in some case speculators bought up grain for the purpose of storing it and selling at the height of the famine. If the district had been left to the tender mercies of the local holders of grain, there was every reason to believe that the price would have run up from ten seers to five for the rupee; but when once the Panjab grain began to come largely into the market, the local holders of grain found all their attempts to run up prices were useless. The district price of grain was regulated by the Panjab price (adding charges and profits of the import). The hoarders brought their grain into the market, and those who brought to store were forced to sell.

34. The tabular statement in Appendix A. shows the price of grain throughout the year, and at a glance it will appear how little we have suffered from sudden panics and rises of price.

35. The rabi crop which had been sown with so much difficulty, and with so little hope, proved contrary to all expectation, the most abundant there have been in the district for several years.

In the lands submerged by the October flood, and in those irrigated from wells, there was a prospect of a fair crop, even if rain did not fall; but even in these lands the outturn was largely increased by the showers which fell on the 11th and 31st of January and on the 5th and 6th of February; while in the land which had not been submerged, nor perfectly irrigated, these showers made all the difference between a bounteous crop and no crop at all. The total quantity of rain which fell was only *eight notches*, but it fell at the right time and in the right way. The showers fell briskly, and then the clouds, the continued presence of which always causes blight in the cold weather, cleared away. The pea crop and the arhar crop was to some extent injured by frost on the 7th or 8th of January, but this partial loss was not taken count of in the general plenty of the harvest.

36. From what I have stated, it will appear that the distress which required relief during the past year in this district was of two distinct kinds—I., general; and II., special. All over the district the poorer classes suffered from the high prices which prevailed during the year. In those villages in which rice is the chief crop a local calamity took place which affected every one, poor and rich, but most of all the poor weavers and low-caste laborers, and those dependant for their support upon alms.

37. Every Hindu village forms a little compact community, in which the interests of all the residents are bound together. When the rice crop failed, the zemindars could not collect their rents, they lost the produce of their seer lands, and had to advance money for seed and to buy grain for their own food; cultivators had to buy food and seed corn, but had nothing to sell; they fell into debt to the village money-lenders. The people who suffered most were weavers, the very poorest. The beggars, who live by getting a share of the abundance of their neighbours, got no share when there was no abundance: people who were hard put to it to get food and seed corn dispensed with the purchase of new cloth, and thus the weavers lost all sale for their goods. The poorer zemindars and many of the cultivators in the present year got their families to do field work, which in ordinary years they were accustomed to have done by the hired labor. The zemindars and cultivators who had no capital had always credit. The laborers have neither capital nor credit. When employed they received as much wages as in other years, but there was less employment, as cultivators and zemindars were doing their own work, and the pay received did not go so far. When grain is

cheap they can live even though all members of the family are not daily employed, or even when food is dear they could live if employment were full and constant; but in the present year they have had, in the rice-growing villages, to struggle against a concurrence of scant employment and dear food.

38. The measures adopted for the relief of the poor during the year have been—I., relief works to persons able to labor; II., gratuitous relief of those who could not work.

39. The tabular statement in Appendix B., exhibits the number of persons employed each week from January to July:—

40. Sanction for the commencement of relief works at the discretion of the Magistrate was conveyed by Government telegram of the 3rd February, 1874, and works were commenced throughout the district on the 9th February, 1874.

Relief works of two kinds. 41. The works commenced were of two kinds:—

I.—Those intended to give temporary work to the unemployed poor all over the district till the cutting of the rabi harvest.

II.—Those intended to give permanent employment in the rice-growing tracts to the unemployed poor, till the coming in of the kharif harvest.

42. The first class of works were stopped in accordance with the orders of the Relief Commission, who visited the district on the 22nd February: they comprised:—

I.—The repair of the road from Ghazipur to Ballia *via* Rasra.

II.—The deepening of two tanks at Rasra and at Gahmar.

III.—The raising and improvement of the road from Muhammadabad to Kasimabad, and thence to Mardeh.

IV.—The widening and raising of embankments on roads at Sahatwar and near Byria.

43. The second class of works included the following works:—

I.—The embankment of the Sayyidpur and Bahariabad road through a long jhil.

II.—The construction of two embankments through jhils near Sayyidpur.

III.—The formation of an embanked road from Pardhanpur on the Sarju *via* Rasra to Nagara in the Azamgarh District.

IV.—The improvement and embanking of the Garwar and Sikandarpur roads.

V.—The construction of an embankment through a jhil to a bridge near Bansdih.

44. A relief work commenced in South Zamaniah was given up, as it was found that the unemployed laborers in that part of the country had gone to work on the Son Canal in Shahabad.

45. The rate of wages paid was first fixed at one anna and a half for men, one anna for women: the rate of wages fixed by the Relief Committee in February was one anna and one-fifth for men, four-fifths of an anna for women, and three-fifths of an anna for children. By the orders of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor the rates were reduced in the commencement of May to four-fifths of an anna for men, three-fifths for women, and two-fifths for children.

46. After this reduction of the rate of wages, the attendance upon all the other relief works gradually diminished, and they were one by one closed.

The attendance upon the works in Pargana Lakhnesar continued to increase during the months of June and July, till they were finally closed on the 22nd July.

47. The cause of the extraordinary demand for employment in Lakhnesar appears to have been the great density of the population in many other parts of the district. For example, in the adjacent Pargana of Zahurabad, rice is grown as much as in Lakhnesar, but elsewhere, after rain fell, the people found employment, and ceased to attend the relief works.

In Lakhnesar, on the other hand, the attendance continued to increase. The number of persons per square mile in Lakhnesar is 771, with the single exception of Pargana Ballia, the densest population of any rural pargana in the North-Western Provinces.

48. The temporary works closed on the 22nd February were under the management of the tahsil officials. The permanent works continued after that date were managed by overseers of the Department Public Works under the orders of the District Engineer.

49. The coolies on arrival at the work on the early morning received a tin ticket, and got their pay for the day in the evening on delivering it up.

50. The Pardhanpur road was completed as far as Rasra, and part of the way to Nagara: the remainder will be finished by the Department Public Works.

The embankments in the neighbourhood of Sayyidpur were completed, but require dressing in the present year. The embankment near Bansdih will be completed from district funds.

51. All the works, so far as they went, were useful. Even, when owing to the falling-off in the attendance of laborers, or from any other cause, the work was stopped, the part executed is a lasting benefit. The total expenditure on all works was Rs. 13,115-12-1. The whole cost was defrayed by Government from the Local Funds of the district.

52. The first measure adopted for the relief of the infirm poor was the distribution of Rs. 500 to the Police officers of the district on the 9th of February, 1874, with orders to use it in case of necessity in the relief of any persons in their jurisdiction who appeared to be starving. This money was advanced by the Collector on his own responsibility, but refunded afterwards by the Relief Committee.

53. On the receipt of the Resolution of Government No. 41A., dated 10th February, 1874, sanctioning the formation of Relief Committees, and promising a supplemental grant equal to the amount of district contribution, action was taken.

54. A Central Committee was formed on the 14th of February, 1874, under the presidency of R. Saunders, Esquire, District Judge, and local Committees were also formed at all the tahsili towns of the district, consisting of Tahsildars and Native Civil Judges and influential residents.

55. The total amount of district collections was Rs. 5,372-6-10. Of this amount District collection, Rs. 1,224-4-0 was contributed and collected by Mr. R. Saunders, the District Judge, and other officials and pleaders connected with the Civil Courts. Mr. Saunders tendered to the Central Committee

double the amount actually paid, but the Central Committee did not think the circumstances of the district required so large a contribution, and returned half the amount of donations tendered.

56. The gratuitous relief distributed in the district was of the following kinds:—

I.—Poor-house (cooked food.)

II.—Hospital maintenance with cooked food.

III.—Distribution of uncooked grain.

VI.—Cash distribution.

57. A small poor-house is maintained in Ghazipur at the expense of the Municipality. In the present year all the infirm poor were received for whom there was accommodation, and the extra expense was defrayed from the relief funds. The daily average was 49. After the closing of the Lakhnesar relief works, a poor-house was opened for the reception of the infirm poor: the daily average attendance was 96.

58. At the same time, in accordance with the suggestion of the Civil Surgeon, those of the infirm poor who were suffering from chronic dysentery, or other diseases which rendered them unable to digest ordinary food, were admitted as patients in the hospital, and received a better class of diet. The daily average attendance was 15. Of the persons thus admitted, four died: a few patients were also maintained from the relief funds at the Ghazipur Dispensary. 17,635 persons received cooked food at the expense of Rs. 990-3-11.

59. Grain was distributed to the infirm poor in Ghazipur, and in all the tahsils, towns and other large places, by the members of the Central and local Committees. Till the food supplies of the rabi harvest came into the market, the distribution took place in the outstations daily, and in Ghazipur twice a week. After the discontinuance of this dole in March, grain was distributed to the infirm poor in Ghazipur only once a week. Distribution of grain on a small scale took place at the Police-stations before the organization of the Relief Committee was complete: 145,959 persons received grain to the value of Rs. 4,238-3-10.

60. Relief was distributed through the native members of the District and Tahsil Relief Committees to poor but respectable persons, mostly widows and orphans: 4,099 persons received Rs. 722-0-5. A charitable grant of Rs. 20 was also given by the Committee to a poor cultivator, whose cattle for cultivation had been stolen.

61. A grant of Rs. 500 was made by the Committee for the relief of the poor of Ballia whose houses and house sites have been recently destroyed by the Ganges.

62. The total expenditure up to the 30th September was Rs. 6,470-8-2: a further expenditure up to the end of October has been incurred of Rs. 425-4-11. Relief operations of all kinds have now been closed.

63. The cash balance at present is Rs. 3,831-6-0. Of this amount I recommend that Rs. 2,000 be allowed as a grant-in-aid to the poor of Ballia, to enable them to rebuild their houses, and that the remainder be added to the invested dispensary funds of the district, which much require replenishing.

64. I would venture to suggest that the chief lesson to be derived from the experience of the past year is, that the district is suffering from over-population, and that it is likely, as years progress, to suffer from it still more.

65. Emigration to Mauritius, the West Indies, and Demerara in some slight degree affords an outlet for the surplus population, but is wholly inadequate for the necessities of the case. In the year 1873-74 the total number of emigrants registered was 1,510, rather more than the one-thousandth part of the population. What is now required is the organization of a complete system of internal emigration, by which the surplus population of this district and of others similarly over-peopled can be transferred to and located in some of the many fertile but scantily-peopled parts of country north and south of the Ganges valley.

66. I have the honor to forward herewith a detailed statement of relief account.

I have, &c.,

W. OLDHAM,

Offg. Collector.

P. S.—I omitted to mention that in January and February, 1874, Rs. 2,000 was advanced as takavi for construction and repair of wells, and for help in irrigation.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the weekly average price of grain in the Ghazipur District from 1st October, 1873, to 30th September, 1874.

Month and date.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Barley.	Bajra.
	M. s. c.	M. s. c.	M. s. c.	M. s. c.	M. s. c.
From 1st to 7th October, 1873 ...	0 10 13	0 12 10	0 15 8	0 14 14	0 12 14
" 8th to 14th ditto ...	0 10 8	0 12 7	0 15 2	0 14 11	0 12 14
" 15th to 21st ditto ...	0 10 6	0 12 7½	0 14 11	0 14 12½	0 12 14
" 22nd to 28th ditto ...	0 10 8	0 12 8	0 15 0	0 14 4	0 12 14
" 29th to 4th November, 1873,	0 10 9	0 11 15	0 15 0	0 13 8	0 13 10
" 5th to 11th ditto ...	0 10 10	0 11 5½	0 14 8	0 13 5	0 14 12
" 12th to 18th ditto ...	0 10 5½	0 10 5	0 13 11½	0 13 2	0 14 4
" 19th to 25th ditto ...	0 10 5½	0 10 8	0 13 11½	0 12 6	0 14 4
" 26th to 2nd December, 1873,	0 10 14	0 11 3	0 14 0	0 13 4	0 14 11½
" 3rd to 9th ditto ...	0 11 0	0 10 1	0 14 3	0 14 3	0 15 1
" 10th to 16th ditto ...	0 11 4	0 10 10	0 14 7	0 14 8	0 14 12
" 17th to 23rd ditto ...	0 11 9	0 10 15	0 14 6	0 14 6	0 15 7
" 24th to 30th ditto ...	0 11 13	0 11 13	0 14 13	0 14 10	0 15 9
" 31st to 6th January, 1874 ...	0 12 6	0 11 8	0 15 1	0 14 12	0 13 3
" 7th to 13th ditto ...	0 12 6	0 11 0	0 14 12	0 14 12	0 15 7
" 14th to 20th ditto ...	0 12 7½	0 10 12½	0 14 13	0 14 12	0 14 12
" 21st to 27th ditto ...	0 11 14	0 11 2	9 14 6	0 13 9	0 12 9
" 28th to 3rd February, 1874...	0 12 7	0 10 12	0 14 5½	0 15 5	0 13 15
" 4th to 10th ditto ...	0 13 0½	0 11 0½	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 14 0
" 11th to 17th ditto ...	0 13 0	0 11 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 14 0
" 18th to 24th ditto ...	0 14 4	0 12 2	0 17 0	0 16 3	0 16 0
" 25th to 3rd March, 1874 ...	0 15 0	0 12 5	0 18 0	0 18 6	0 16 3
" 4th to 10th ditto ...	0 15 4	0 12 10	0 18 5	0 18 10	0 16 0
" 11th to 17th ditto ...	0 15 1	0 12 4	0 18 3	0 19 1	0 16 9
" 18th to 24th ditto ...	0 14 15	0 12 1	0 18 6	0 19 4	0 16 5
" 25th to 31st ditto ...	0 15 0	0 12 0	0 18 2	0 19 8	0 16 2
" 1st to 7th April, 1874 ...	0 15 5	0 11 13	0 19 8	0 20 12	0 16 9
" 8th to 14th ditto ...	0 15 7	0 11 15	0 19 13	0 20 12	0 17 0
" 15th to 21st ditto ...	0 15 8½	0 12 0	0 19 14	0 20 10	0 17 0
" 22nd to 28th ditto ...	0 15 10	0 12 0½	0 20 6½	0 20 13	0 17 6
" 29th to 5th May, 1874 ...	0 15 10	0 11 15	0 20 9	0 21 4½	0 17 6
" 6th to 12th ditto ...	0 15 12	0 11 13	0 20 9	0 20 15½	0 17 6
" 13th to 19th ditto ...	0 15 8	0 11 13	0 20 1	0 20 10	0 17 6
" 20th to 26th ditto ...	0 15 13	0 11 11	0 19 9	0 20 1	0 17 6
" 27th to 2nd June, 1874 ...	0 15 2	0 11 11	0 19 7	0 19 14	0 17 6
" 3rd to 9th ditto ...	0 15 5	0 11 4	0 19 1	0 19 4	0 17 1
" 10th to 16th ditto ...	0 15 3	0 11 5	0 18 11	0 19 2	0 16 12
" 17th to 23rd ditto ...	0 15 2	0 11 7	0 18 8	0 19 14	0 16 12
" 24th to 30th ditto ...	0 15 4	0 11 11	0 19 2	0 19 14	0 16 12
" 1st to 7th July, 1874 ...	0 15 6	0 12 0	0 19 4	0 19 2	0 16 2
" 8th to 14th ditto ...	0 15 7	0 12 1	0 19 9	0 19 3	0 16 7
" 15th to 21st ditto ...	0 15 10	0 12 5	0 19 11	0 19 2	0 16 11
" 22nd to 28th ditto ...	0 15 11	0 12 9	0 19 14	0 19 2	0 16 11
" 29th to 4th August, 1874 ...	0 15 11	0 12 8	0 19 9	0 19 5	0 16 11
" 5th to 11th ditto ...	0 15 10	0 12 8	0 19 8	0 19 4	0 16 13
" 12th to 18th ditto ...	0 15 10	0 12 7	0 19 8	0 19 3	0 16 14
" 19th to 25th ditto ...	0 15 5½	0 12 3	0 19 4½	0 19 0	0 16 14
" 26th to 31st ditto ...	0 15 5	0 12 2	0 19 4	0 19 14	0 16 14
" 1st to 7th September, 1874,	0 15 4	0 12 5	0 19 2	0 19 0	0 16 15
" 8th to 14th ditto ...	0 15 5	0 12 10	0 19 9	0 19 0	0 17 6
" 15th to 21st ditto ...	0 15 5	0 12 12	0 19 15	0 19 1	0 17 10
" 22nd to 30th ditto ...					

APPENDIX B.

Statement showing the average number of persons employed each week on Relief Works, from 15th January, 1874, to 21st July, 1874.

WEEK ENDING	
21st January, 1874.	286
31st January, 1874.	157
7th February, 1874.	127
14th February, 1874.	3,511
21st February, 1874.	2,989
28th February, 1874.	1,832
7th March, 1874.	2,087
14th March, 1874.	1,280
21st March, 1874.	1,818
31st March, 1874.	900
7th April, 1874.	813
14th April, 1874.	749
21st April, 1874.	1,055
30th April, 1874.	802
7th May, 1874.	1,082
14th May, 1874.	1,048
21st May, 1874.	1,030
31st May, 1874.	584
7th June, 1874.	639
14th June, 1874.	843
21st June, 1874.	1,299
30th June, 1874.	1,552
7th July, 1874.	1,631
14th July, 1874.	1,795
21st July, 1874.	1,515

APPENDIX C.

I.

Statement showing total amount of gratuitous relief afforded from February to October, 1874.

Month.	First Week.		Second Week.		Third Week.		Fourth Week.		Total.
	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.	
February 1874	...	Rs. a. p. ...	6,796	Rs. a. p. 196 9 8	24,318	Rs. a. p. 755 5 1	35,293	Rs. a. p. 892 8 9	65,467
March "	24,360	716 11 2	19,709	800 11 10	14,922	617 1 7	7,614	27 2 1	1,844 7 6
April "	2,917	322 1 2	2,742	186 7 5	1,442	77 11 11	658	27 6 7	2,133 9 8
May "	590	19 6 7	690	18 4 2	428	17 13 6	619	35 7 3	2,525
June "	767	45 8 6	567	25 11 10	554	31 12 11	637	75 14 8	7,831
July "	908	28 3 4	1,038	35 12 8	4,395	181 13 11	1,470	105 11 9	7,551
August "	1,691	105 5 7	1,970	136 3 5	2,120	120 15 6	1,770	90 2 10	8,373
September "	1,869	93 15 2	1,758	96 11 7	2,070	96 10 8	2,055	116 0 10	8,569
October "	1,950	84 9 4	2,700	136 11 8	1,864	87 15 1	2,035		435 4 11

II.

Statement showing the number of people who received gratuitous relief in cash from February to September, 1874.

Name of place.	Number of persons relieved.	Amount.	Average per each person.	Remarks.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Ghazipur ...	531	520 0 0	0 15 8	The largest and the smallest sum given to a single family or individual is Rs. 3, and 2 Gorakhpuri pie, or $\frac{1}{2}$ of an anna, respectively.
Shadiabad ...	156	13 12 0	0 1 5	
Karanda ...	31	2 0 0	0 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Nandganj ...	604	17 4 0	0 0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Muhammadabad ...	640	59 1 9	0 1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Zamania ...	98	33 0 0	0 5 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Dildarnagar ...	89	2 12 0	0 0 6	
Byria ...	7	20 0 0	2 13 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Reoti ...	1,168	28 0 9	0 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Gahwar ...	21	2 0 0	0 1 6	
Pardhanpur ...	400	10 0 0	0 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Kasimabad ...	117	4 0 0	0 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Saidpur ...	57	2 9 3	0 0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Khanpur ...	38	3 1 5	0 1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Garwar ...	142	4 7 3	0 0 6	
Total ...	4,099	722 0 5	0 2 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	General average.

GHAZIPUR COLLECTORATE :

The 5th December, 1874.

W. OLDHAM,

Officiating Collector.

III.

Statement showing the number of people who received uncooked food from February to September, 1874.

Serial No.	Name of place.	Average number of persons.	Number of days.	Aggregate number of persons.
1	Ghazipur ...	201	231	46,468
2	Shadiabad ...	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	1,370
3	Jalalabad ...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	199
4	Nandganj ...	22	37	818
5	Mardan ...	28	52	1,461
6	Birao ...	30	14	420
7	Karanda ...	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	1,459
8	Saidpur ...	324 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	16,876
9	Sadat ...	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	1,504
10	Khanpur ...	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	185
11	Zamania ...	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	5,017
12	Gahwar ...	118	45	2,725
13	Dhanapur ...	45	37	1,675
14	Dildarnagar ...	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	1,325
15	Muhammadabad ...	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	3,051
16	Koron ...	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	1,297
17	Korantadhi ...	21	45	941
18	Narhi ...	14	23	320
19	Rasra ...	412	44	18,140
20	Kasimabad ...	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	61	876
21	Bahadurganj ...	15	45	678
22	Garwar ...	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	638
23	Balia ...	489	50	24,461
24	Byeia ...	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	918
25	Haldi ...	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	920
26	Reoti ...	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	1,944
27	Bansdih ...	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	45	2,457
28	Maniar ...	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	2,344
29	Sahatwar ...	116	24	2,800
30	Sukpura ...	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	19	2,672
Total ...	...	...	...	145,959

GHAZIPUR COLLECTORATE :

The 5th December, 1874.

W. OLDHAM,

Officiating Collector.

IV. Statement showing the number of persons who received cooked food from March to September, 1874.

Months.	AT GHAZIPUR.			AT RASRAH.			TOTAL.		
	Average attendance (number of persons).	Number of days.	Aggregate attendance (number of persons).	Average attendance (number of persons).	Number of days.	Aggregate attendance (number of persons).	Average attendance (number of persons).	Number of days.	Aggregate attendance (number of persons).
March 1874 ...	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	1,104	...	...	...	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	1,104
April ...	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	1,246	...	...	...	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	1,246
May ...	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	1,046	...	...	...	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	1,046
June ...	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	1,163	...	...	...	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	1,163
July ...	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	1,411	834	9	834	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	2,245
August ...	58	31	1,803	3,778	31	3,778	179 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	5,581
September ...	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	1,968	3,992	30	3,992	174 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	5,250
Total ...	318 $\frac{1}{2}$	214	9,731	7,904	70	7,904	642 $\frac{1}{2}$	214	17,635

W. OLDHAM,
Offg. Collector.

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FROM

THE OFFG. COLLECTOR OF MIRZAPUR,

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

Dated Mirzapur, the 11th December, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, with reference to your telegram of 27th November, to submit the following report on the operations for the relief of scarcity in this district during 1873-74, originally called for in your Circular No. 644A., dated 6th October, 1874. Since I took charge of the Collector's office, on 6th instant, I have had to contend with an unusual pressure of work, and have thus been compelled to let some delay occur in the submission of my reply.

2. Before dwelling on the events of 1873-74, I think it necessary to mention that the scarcity that prevailed in that year was not an isolated calamity, but only the culmination of a series of disasters that had befallen the crops in this district in 1872-73. Extracts from my annual administration report for 1872-73 were printed in the Board's report of that year; and to them I would refer as explaining my view of the gravity of the emergency when the excellent promise of the kharif of 1873-74 was blasted by the untimely cessation of the rains.

3. I may here briefly repeat that the rabi in the spring of 1872 was much below the average; that the yield of the kharif of 1872 in the Ganges valley, and the uplands which stretch from the Ganges valley to the south of the district, nowhere exceeded an eight-anna crop, and in some parts was less; that no rain fell from 20th September, 1872, to 7th July, 1873; and that, in consequence of the drought thus produced, the rabi crop on the uplands, being unirrigated, and in the Ganges valley wherever there are not wells for irrigation, was a disastrous failure, while 43,778 head of cattle perished in the hot weather for want of fodder and water; that great distress prevailed in the south, to alleviate which works were carried on in the Barhar estate and Dudhi; and, finally, that the grain stocks were nearly if not quite exhausted. The district was thus ill adapted to bear the calamity of another bad season.

4. I think it unnecessary to describe the character of the rainy season of 1873. I have already done so in a memorandum which has been incorporated in the annual administration report of the district. It is sufficient here to state that the rains began late, viz., about the middle of July, and ended in the middle of September; and that the rainfall being unequally distributed and occurring chiefly in July, great damage resulted to all the crops, but especially to rice and kodon, the staples in the south.

5. The district may be divided into three sections: (1) Bhadohi, north of the Ganges valley. (2); the Ganges valley; (3) the upland stretching from the first range of hills to the Kaimors and the hilly tract south of the Son.

The outturn of the kharif in these sections was as follows:—

Bhadohi, a ten to twelve-anna crop.

The Ganges valley, an eight-anna crop, except in Kariat Sikhar, where all a high flood of the Ganges, and in the great rice-producing pargana a four-anna crop was obtained.

Uplands and south, a crop ranging from four annas in Upraudh, Dudhi, Barhar and parts of Singrauli.

7. This failure, supervening on the disasters of 1872-73, produced so much distress, that I, in November, 1873, obtained sanction to the opening of relief works in the following parts of the district:—

On the part of Government.—In Dudhi, i. e., in the extreme south of the district; in Upraudh between the first range of hills and the Kaimors.

On the part of the Kantit Estate.—In Saktesgarh on the first range of hills. This pargana is chiefly the property of the Kantit Raja.

On the part of the Agori Barhar Estate.—In Barhar, between the first range and the Kaimors; in Agori, south of the Kaimors; in Kon, south of the Son.

The proprietor of the Agori-Barhar estate is the principal landholder in these tracts.

8. In Upraudh one of the works was the completion of a road from Lalganj on the Deccan road to Halia, a bazar in the south, which was begun in the famine of 1868-69, but left unfinished. All the other works, whether undertaken on the part of Government or of the Barhar and Kantit estates, were designed to increase and improve the means available for the storing of water tanks and embankments, these being the best preventive of the recurrence of the calamity from which the district was suffering. Some works of this kind had been executed in 1868-69, and had been of incalculable service in the drought of 1873 to travellers and cattle, and in some measure for irrigation.

9. The Lalganj and Halia road was made under the supervision of the District Engineer, and was the only work on which the agency of the Public Works Department was employed. The other works were supervised by my assistants, and by officials of the Revenue Department and the Court of Wards, as follows:—

Mr. Moule, Joint Magistrate.—The tanks deepened and enlarged in Upraudh.

Mr. Mulock, Assistant Collector.—The works for the Barhar estate in Barhar and Agori.

Mr. Nicholson, Manager of Kantit Estate.—The works in Saktesgarh.

Manager of Barhar Estate.—The works in Taluka Kon.

Deputy Collector Mehdi Ali and the Sazawal of Dudhi.—The works in Dudhi.

10. In several of the affected parganas, distress was much mitigated by the unexpectedly favourable outturn of the rabi crop in the spring of 1874, produced by a fall of rain in the end of January. On the ripening of the rabi harvest, the works were closed in Barhar and Agori, and the attendance at those which it was considered advisable to keep open in Upraudh and Saktesgarh until the rains set in, diminished.

11. In Kon, but especially in Dudhi, both south of the Son, the rabi cultivation was so deficient in extent, on account of the drought at the time of sowing, that the outturn did little to remedy the consequences of the total failure of the kharif, and the works had to be kept open until the rain fell in June, when all were closed.

12. In Kon one work, viz., the execution of a large tank at Ramgarh, sufficed to give employment to the distressed.

13. In Dudhi, an extensive hilly and jungly tract and sparsely peopled, scarcity of food became so severe, that the people began to emigrate in April in large numbers; and there was every reason to believe that this tract, for the development of which considerable expenditure has been incurred in recent years, would permanently lose a large number of the best cultivators. With the view of relieving the distress which was driving them away, the number of works in progress was increased, until from ten to twelve were carried on at different places. This was the largest number that could be

controlled with any semblance of efficiency; but though they provided employment for a number of the laboring poor, they were not sufficient to attract the starving cultivators. These belong chiefly to the semi-aboriginal tribes, are extremely shy and suspicious, and will not go far from their homes to labor. Instead of opening more works which could not be supervised, and would only have provided for their support till the rains, the course was adopted of making takavi advances to sapurdars (headmen) and respectable cultivators, which enabled them to support themselves and their dependents until a new crop was gathered in. The expenditure on this account will be shown further on.

14. Although the outturn of the rabi was such that distress was generally much mitigated in Barhar and Agori, yet the benefit from this harvest was unequally distributed,—the rabi cultivation bearing but a small proportion to the kharif,—and in many quarters great hardship had to be endured. With the view, therefore, of enabling zemindars to improve the means of storing water (the preventive of future loss), and to employ and feed their laborers, takavi advances, not exceeding Rs. 500 each, were distributed to 60 persons for works of improvement without exaction of interest.

15. The grain stocks in the south of the district being exhausted, and the importation to local markets being uncertain, local supplies for the feeding of the laborers employed on the relief works could not be depended on, or used without the risk of greatly enhancing the price to the public generally. It was therefore necessary to import grain especially for the use of the laborers employed.

16. Grain was collected and stored at three places :—

1st.—At Dudhi, grain was collected to the value of Rs. 7,000, chiefly from the south of Sirgaja and Ratanpur, a small part being the remainder of a supply collected in 1872-73.

2nd.—At Kon, grain was collected to the value of Rs. 4,000 from parts of the district in the north, where the supply was more abundant, and importation by rail was practicable.

3rd.—At Robertsganj, grain was stored which was brought from the Punjab through a merchant in Mirzapur. This was done with the view of providing for the laborers on the works in the Robertsganj Tahsil that would have been opened if the rain had not completely changed the prospects of the rabi; and also for the purpose of supplying the wants of any of the outlying parts in the south where distress might show itself in a severe form in the hot weather. Besides importing grain for laborers on the part of Government, the importation of grain by merchants in private trade was stimulated by the grant of advances to banias in Kon and Dudhi, both south of the Son. The supply in that tract was known to be low, and as importation is rarely carried on during the hot weather and rains, and only under great difficulty from the length of the journey and the character of the country to be traversed, it was considered advisable to aid the banias in making larger importations at the usual season than unassisted they could have made.

17. The expenditure on these different operations was as follows :—

Relief Works.

			Rs.	a.	p.
By Government for works in Dudhi	...	...	6,511	8	3
Ditto ditto Upraudh	...	...	7,471	0	9
Total Government outlay	...	Rs.	13,982	9	0
			Rs.	a.	p.
From Surplus Funds of Barhar estate	...	...	10,282	2	1
Ditto ditto Kantit estate	...	...	2,777	1	0

Takavi Advances.—From Government, which will be recovered :—

* The half of this has been recovered.
† This amount was sanctioned and reported, but Rs. 200-12-0 were refunded within the year.

To banias in Dudhi and Kon	...	Rs.	3,800*
To sapurdars and cultivators in Dudhi	...	"	7,069†
To zemindars for works of improvement	...	"	10,234
Total	...	Rs.	21,103

Importation of Grain.

From Government Funds.—For Dudhi, Rs. 7,000, the whole of which was recovered by retail sale.

For Robertsganj, Rs. 8,789-0-7, of which Rs. 1,245 were recovered by sale of grain; and Rs. 7,544-4-7, the value of the grain unsold, which was forwarded to Behar under the orders of Government, is a charge against the Bengal Famine Account.

From funds of Barhar Estate.—For Kon, Rs. 4,000, the whole of which was recovered by the sale of the grain.

Omitting the sum invested in grain, the whole of which was recovered, the outlay from Government funds, of which the larger portion is recoverable, amounted to Rs. 35,085-9-0, and from funds of estates under the Court of Wards, it was Rs. 13,059-3-1.

No other funds were drawn on,—the favorable outturn of the rabi, and the importation resulting from the diminution of the railway charge for carriage, having rendered it unnecessary to have recourse to other relief measures.

18. Besides the foregoing, the Public Works Department employed an overseer or supervisor in drawing up projects for the improvement of the district communications, which might have been carried out if distress had increased instead of diminishing after the cold weather crop was gathered in. Some of these projects may hereafter be undertaken as ordinary works; and I am not aware how much was spent on their preparation, or whether it is to be considered as famine expenditure.

19. The following is a brief account of the works which have been executed by the laborers relieved.

Upraudh.—Lalganj and Halia Road, Rs. 2,759-8-0.

This road, which is 12 miles long, connects two important centres of local trade. Formerly it was merely a track amongst the fields, much cut up and impassable for carts. It has now been raised and widened, and made passable for carts throughout in the dry seasons of the year.

Tank at Maheshpur.—Cost Rs. 2,386-0-6. This is an old tank on the Deccan road, between the Katra pass and the Belan river. It has now been so enlarged and deepened, that water is sure to remain in it throughout the hot weather. It will therefore, in seasons of drought, be invaluable for cattle and travellers, especially those bringing goods on bullocks.

Tank at Rehi.—Rs. 1,980-2-6. This tank is about a mile from the Deccan road, but it is in the midst of a tract where the cattle suffered much in the drought of 1873. It has now been so deepened as to retain water for the whole year. Some will also be available for irrigation in dry years.

Tank at Nairi.—Rs. 405-5-6. But little had been done to this tank when the arrival of the rains closed operations. The capacity for storing water has been increased.

Dudhi.—I extract the following remarks from a separate report on the works constructed in the Dudhi tapas, submitted with my No. 575, dated 22nd July, 1874.

<i>Tappa.</i>	<i>Village.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>p.</i>
Barha	Harbori. Six embankments, ranging from 270 to 400 feet in length, by which 8 bighas have been made fit for cultivation of rice ...	870	10	3
"	Karkori. Six embankments, from 140 to 400 feet in length, by which 150 bighas have become fit to produce rice ...	569	15	0
"	Supa Chua. A tank seven fit deep and 220×180 feet in superficial dimensions. The scarcity of water every year in the neighbourhood is great. The prosperity of the village will be greatly promoted ...	784	15	7
"	Barwen. Three embankments, from 120 to 270 feet in length, by which 50 bighas have become fit to bear rice ...	360	12	9
"	Kirwil. Three embankments, from 177 feet to 429 feet in length, which will irrigate 75 bighas of rice ...	531	3	7
"	Garhaiya. One embankment, 400 feet long, and irrigating 20 bighas ...	204	5	0
"	Muirpur. Tank. This will be invaluable for the cattle of the numerous kham villages in this neighbourhood, where they often suffer in the hot season for want of water ...	339	8	1
Dudhi	Rani Toli. Clearing out and deepening a tank. This is one of the only three places on the direct road from Chopan to Dudhi, 32 miles, where water can ever be procured in the cold season. In 1873-74 it dried up so soon, that not a drop of water being procurable within ten miles, the work, when little advanced, had to be closed ...	200	0	2
"	Majhau. Tank, 150'×125'×6'. This is the only store of water for about a dozen villages ...	400	3	6
alwa	Pakri. Embankment, which will avail to save the crops of a few bighas in dry seasons ...	209	14	6
"	Dhurpa. Embankment in a sapurdari village, which will irrigate 20 bighas ...	429	13	1
Gonda	Lilasi. Tank. This is an old tank, 257 × 224 feet in superficial area. It has been deepened from three to four feet ...	529	7	9
"	Chainpur. Embankment in an excellent position, which was not quite finished, but which it is expected the supardar will complete ...	345	14	6
Bajia	Kanwa. Embankment in a good place, but the Majhwari of Bajia are wild denizens of the jungles, unaccustomed to earth-work, and the result, though has good as could be expected, not quite equal to the expenditure ...	400	13	0
"	Adhaura. Embankment. The same remarks apply here as in Kanwa ...	333	15	6

Works in estates under the Court of Wards.—The works in the Kantit estates in Saktesgarh were the following :—

	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>p.</i>
Deepening tank at Saktesgarh ...	871	12	9
Embankment and outlet at ditto ...	285	10	0
Ditto at Amilia ...	292	11	0
Ditto at Dadra Hinauti ...	479	11	3
Sinking well at Koshilwa ...	399	4	0
Ditto at Dadra Hinauti ...	450	0	0

These are all works which conduce to the improvement of the estate, and would have been undertaken under any circumstances. They were relief works in so far that no one needing labor was rejected because unable to give a full rate of work; and thus the ordinary rates were exceeded.

Works in the Barhar estate.—These also are all works which it would have been advisable to undertake for the advantage of the estate, without reference to the fact that they conduced to the relief of distress. By employing all in distress who came for work, the cost of several was considerably enhanced, and this enhanced cost is the measure of the relief which the funds of the estate were made to supply. The following is a brief notice of the several works :—

<i>Pargana.</i>	<i>Village.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>p.</i>
Barhar.	Barank, near Rájpur. Embankment with masonry outlet ...	2,764	1	6
"	This is a large work, which intercepts the water coming from the hills south of Rájpur. A former Raja had dammed the stream, but with a bank of insufficient strength, and his work had almost disappeared. In years of drought this will supply water for the irrigation of several important villages.			
"	Rájpur. Tank. This was the enlargement of an old tank. The work was closed when the necessity for further expenditure as a means of relief ceased ...	142	3	3
Agori	Ranbahadurpur. Tank deepened and enlarged. In the hot weather this tank yields the only supply of water to cattle for several miles. It was made by Raja Ranbahadur many years ago, but having silted up and become dilapidated, did not retain water till the hot weather ...	750	0	0
"	Mahwan. Embankment made to enable the farmer of the village to continue to pay the heavy jumma he had engaged for to the late Raja, on the understanding that aid for improvement would be given ...	300	0	0
Taluka Kon.	Kon. Embankment. This was the restoration of an old work made by a former Raja, but allowed to go to ruin. It will be invaluable for irrigation in dry years. ...	824	6	0
"	Dewattan. Embankment. This was the completion of a large irrigation work constructed in the previous year, and which is expected to render secure the cultivation of a large fertile village that had to a great extent become waste ...	129	15	6

Taluka Kon Rámgarh. Tank. This was a new work, excavated to a depth of 14 feet in a place where the water supply is very deficient in the hot weather, and much inconvenience is suffered by cattle and travellers. Rs. a. p.
4,204 8 0

The actual value of the work done at ordinary rates does not exceed Rs. 2,500 ; on the outturn was much nearer the usual standard.

20. Appended to this report is a statement showing the prices of the grains that constitute the principal articles of food for each week during the year from 1st October, 1873, to 30th September, 1874, at Mirzapur, Robertsganj and Dudhi. No register is kept of the rates prevailing in Kon and Upradh ; but in the former the prices were generally higher than in Robertsganj, and in the latter the price seldom differs from that at Mirzapur, with which it is connected by the Deccan road. The following abstract will show what the prices were at the time that the failure of the kharif became almost certain, as compared with the rates of better seasons.

Place.	Wheat.			Barley.			Bajra.			Common rice.		
	January, 1871.	January, 1872.	October, 1873.	January, 1871.	January, 1872.	October, 1873.	January, 1871.	January, 1872.	October, 1873.	January, 1871.	January, 1872.	October, 1873.
Mirzapur ...	16	17	13	24	28	16	20	22	14	18	17	13 & 12
Robertsganj ...	23	24	14	28	36	16	...	...	...	25	22	11
Dudhi ...	18	23½	11½	...	...	...	...	...	...	21½	23½	11½

21. In Robertsganj prices kept at about the same figure during the cold weather, as this part of the country is far from the sources from which imports can be obtained ; but after March, when a fair rabi crop was reaped, prices of wheat and barley became easier. For rice however, which is the staple article of food in this pargana, there was not a corresponding fall in price.

22. In Dudhi, prices were at their highest figure in November, 1873, when rice was sold retail in the bazar some days at 9 seers for a rupee. This resulted from the total failure of the local supply. Thereafter prices gradually fell, in consequence of extensive importations from the south. The efforts made to import grain from a distance for the laborers on Government works produced such an impression in the far south countries which could furnish a supply, that grain poured in in quantities unexpectedly large, which sufficed to keep down the price in a way never before seen in seasons of scarcity. This result was due in some measure to the advances given to banias to enable them to import. The two causes combined operated so powerfully, that while in 1868-69, a year of scarcity not equal to that of 1873-74, rice in the hot season rose to 7 seers and even to 5 seers per rupee, in the latter year the rate gradually fell from 9 seers in November to 11 seers in the cold weather, and 14 seers in the hot weather, which ought to have been the blackest time. Importation, which is on bullocks that have to journey through a hilly and jungly country for three to four weeks, went on also in the hot weather, and even in the rains, a circumstance novel and unexpected. In 1868-69 grain was sent from Mirzapur to Dudhi for distribution at a great expense to Government.

23. In Mirzapur and the Ganges valley, prices of grain had been generally high for full eighteen months before October, 1873, but common rice was not particularly dear until the Bengal crops were affected by the drought of 1873. The market here for other grains than rice became easier before the full effects of the scarcity of 1873 were developed, and the rates continued more favorable for the public than they had been in the preceding year. There were two reasons for this,—first the reduction of the

railway charge for carriage of grain from 1st December, 1873, gave such an impetus to importation from the west, that the market was well supplied with wheat and barley ; secondly, the rabi harvest in the Ganges valley and Bhadohi was a good one. Rice, however, became scarcer and dearer as the year wore on, and no supply could be drawn from this district or from Bengal.

24. All over the district the rains of 1874 were abundant and timely, and the kharif harvest now being reaped is the best that has been seen for many years, so that prices are returning to their old standard.

25. Appended to this report is a statement showing the number of persons employed on relief works. The total number was comparatively small, but the works were opened only at the worst places, in parts of the district where population is not dense and at great distances from each other. The distress when they were started had not reached such a height that it compelled people to go any distance, however great, from their homes to avoid starvation. Such a condition of affairs was near at hand when we were providentially favored with a good rabi crop. The laborers, as a rule, came from villages at a short distance from the works. Lest it should be supposed that the works were opened prematurely, I think it right to mention that on the date on which I am writing, in the very same places it is hardly possible, even by the exercise of some compulsion, to collect as many laborers as will execute the usual repairs to the district road ; while last year at the same time, though the pay given was less, as soon as the works were commenced laborers flocked to them in greater numbers than could well be employed.

26. At first no attempt was made to separate the laborers into full labor and light labor gangs, the plan adopted being that of employing the able-bodied in digging or other work which required strength, and of employing the feeble and young in carrying earth. In Dudhi, where all the works were of a petty character, and even the able-bodied are inefficient laborers, and also partly in Kon, this procedure had to be followed to the last ; but in Upradh, the two classes of laborers were separated into different gangs after March,—the able-bodied being paid by the amount of work done, and the others at rates sufficient for their sustenance.

27. As the extremity of famine was warded off by the outturn of the rabi, and prices in populous places were kept moderate by the importation from the west, it was not necessary to resort to the subsidizing of in-door employment, or to open poor-houses.

28. No special medical arrangements were necessary. The people did not congregate in such numbers as to give rise to disease from crowding ; and as most of them lived at their homes, exposure was avoided. Relief also was administered before they had been reduced to such a low state of health as to be liable to the diseases generated by famine. A Native Doctor was appointed, but after a few weeks he was transferred to Gorakhpur, his services not being required here.

29. Distress while it lasted was felt by all classes of society, but especially by the laboring poor. It was only in Upradh that the more respectable classes—small zemindars and cultivators—contributed to the number employed on the works. Before the distress had become so poignant as to drive them to labor in public as coolies, the rabi crop was reaped, and they were able to struggle through till a more favorable season came. In Dudhi, the more respectable classes were aided by advances at the season when they must have taken to the works or emigrated.

30. The only part of the district from which emigration took place was the Dudhi estate. Four hundred and eighty-seven families of cultivators, besides other non-cultivators, are known to have emigrated to Sirguja, Nagar, Singrauli and Rewa. The actual number is probably larger than this ; and it would have been much larger if at the time when the tide of emigration was setting in active measures to provide food for the people at their homes, otherwise than by opening relief works, had not been taken.

31. In conclusion, I have to say that I received great assistance from Maulvi Mehdi Ali, Deputy Collector and Manager of the Barhar estate, who was immediately in charge of the arrangements made for relief purposes in the south, the sazawal of Dudhi, and other subordinate officers. From all I can learn, the measures for the retailing and distribution of grain to laborers were admirably carried out, and misappropriation reduced to a minimum.

I have, &c.,

H. D. MOULE,
Deputy Collector, for Offg. Collector.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Prices Current of food grains per rupee on 1st January, 1871, 1st January, 1872, and from 1st October, 1873, to 30th September, 1874.

Period.	Mirzapur.				Robertsganj.				Dudhi.				Remarks.
	Wheat.	Barley.	Bajra.	Common rice.	Wheat.	Barley.	Bajra.	Common rice.	Wheat.	Barley.	Bajra.	Common rice.	
	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	
1st January, 1871 ...	16	24	20	18	23	25	...	25	18	...	...	21½	
1st January, 1872 ...	17	23	22	17	24	36	...	22	23½	...	...	23½	
From 1st October, 1873, to 30th September, 1874,—1st week ending 7th October, 1873 ...	13	16	14	13	14	16	...	11	12	...	...	14	
2nd Week ending 14th Oct. 1873,	13	16	14	13	14	16	...	11	12	14½	...	13½	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	13	16	16	12	14	16	...	11	11½	14	...	11½	
4th Ditto 31st ditto,	13	16	16	12	14	16	...	12½	11	13	...	11½	
1st Ditto 7th Nov 1873,	14	17	18	12	14	16	...	12½	11	13	...	11½	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	13	18	18	14	14	16	...	12½	11	...	...	12	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	13	18	18	14	14	16	...	12½	11	13	...	12	
4th Ditto 30th ditto,	13	18	17	13	14	16	...	13	11½	...	...	12	
1st Ditto 7th Dec., 1873,	13	18	17	13	14	16	...	13	11	15	...	12½	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	14	18	19	13	15	16	...	13½	12½	15	...	12½	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	14	20	18	14	15	16	...	13½	11	16	...	12½	
4th Ditto 31st ditto,	14	20	18	13	15	16	...	14	12	16	...	12	
1st Ditto 7th Jan., 1874,	14	20	18	13	15	16	...	14	12	16	...	12	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	14	20	18	13	15	16	...	14	12	16	...	12½	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	14	19½	17	13	15	16	...	14	12	15	...	12½	
4th Ditto 31st ditto,	14	19	17	13	15	16	...	14	12	15	...	12½	
1st Ditto 7th Feb., 1874,	14	17	16½	12	15	16	...	14	13½	16	...	13	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	14	17	16½	12	15	16	...	14	12½	16	...	13½	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	14	17	16	12	15	16	...	12	12½	15½	...	13½	
4th Ditto 28th ditto,	14	19	17	12	15	16	...	11	12½	15	...	13½	
1st Ditto 7th March, '74,	15	19	17	12	15	20	...	11	12½	15½	...	13	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	14	20	17	12	15	20	...	11	12½	15½	...	13	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	14	20	17	12	15	20	...	11	12½	15½	...	13½	
4th Ditto 31st ditto,	14½	20	17	12	17	22	...	11	12	17	...	13½	
1st Ditto 7th April, '74,	14	19	17	12	17	24	...	11	12	18	...	13½	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	14	19	17	11	18	24	...	11	12	18	...	13½	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	15	20	18	12	18	24	...	11	12½	18	...	13½	
4th Ditto 30th ditto,	15	20	18	11	18	22	...	12	12½	18	...	14½	
1st Ditto 7th May, 1874,	15	19	18	11	18	22	...	12	12½	17	...	14	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	14½	20	18	11	18	22	...	11	12½	16½	...	14	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	14½	20	18	11	18	22	...	11	13	16	...	13	
4th Ditto 31st ditto,	14½	20	18	10	18	22	...	11	13	16	...	13	
1st Ditto 7th June, 1874,	14½	19½	18	11	18	22	...	11	11½	16	...	13½	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	15	19	18	11	18	20	...	10½	11½	...	...	13½	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	15	20	18	11	17	20	...	11	11½	...	...	14	
4th Ditto 30th ditto,	15	20	18	11	17	20	...	11	11½	16½	...	15	
1st Ditto 1st July, 1874,	15½	20	18	11	16	20	...	11	12	16½	...	15½	
2nd Ditto 2nd ditto,	15	20	18	11	16	20	...	11	13½	...	...	16	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	15	20	18	11	16	21	...	11	13½	...	...	16½	
4th Ditto 31st ditto,	15	20	18	11	16	21	...	11	13½	18	...	17	
1st Ditto 7th Aug., 1874,	15	20	18	11	16	21	...	11	13½	18	...	18	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	15	20	18	11	16	21	...	11	13½	18	...	18	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	14½	20	18	11	16	21	...	11	13	17½	...	17	
4th Ditto 31st ditto,	14½	19	18	11	16	21	...	10½	13½	17½	...	18	
1st Ditto 7th Sep., 1874,	15	20	18	11	16	21	...	12½	13½	17	...	20	
2nd Ditto 14th ditto,	14½	20	18	11	16½	21	...	13	13½	16	...	20	
3rd Ditto 21st ditto,	15	20	18	13	16½	21	...	13	13½	16	...	20	
4th Ditto 30th ditto,	15	21	18	15	16½	21	...	13	...	15	...	20	

MIRZAPUR COLLECTORATE :

The 11th December, 1874.

H. D. MOULE,

Dy. Collr., for Offg. Collr.

APPEN

Statement of Relief Works in the district

Week ending.	LALGANJ AND HALIA ROAD.						Men.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Daily average attendance.	Total expenditure.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1st to 7th December, 1873	40	16	...	56	8	Rs. a. p. 6 6 0	...
8th to 14th ditto	1,351	746	40	2,137	305	221 1 0	...
15th to 21st ditto	2,380	822	188	3,340	477	360 10 6	...
22nd to 31st ditto	3,146	1,486	564	5,196	520	576 6 0	...
1st to 7th January, 1874	1,557	789	73	2,419	346	247 8 3	1,257
8th to 14th ditto	3,054	1,697	108	4,859	694	494 4 6	2,289
15th to 21st ditto	3,188	1,667	100	4,955	708	509 1 3	2,163
22nd to 31st ditto	384	291	20	695	99	67 15 6	1,795
1st to 7th February, 1874	966	455	22	1,443	206	*276 8 0	1,901
8th to 14th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,148
15th to 21st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,469
22nd to 28th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,727
1st to 7th March, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,140
8th to 14th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	992
15th to 21st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	916
22nd to 31st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,428
1st to 7th April, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	813
8th to 14th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	472
15th to 21st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	779
22nd to 30th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	869
1st to 7th May, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	707
8th to 14th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	767
15th to 21st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	663
22nd to 31st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	971
1st to 7th June, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	758
8th to 14th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	289
15th to 21st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	16,016	7,969	1,115	25,100	364	2,759 8 0	26,316

* This includes pay of extra establishment

† Includes pay of establish

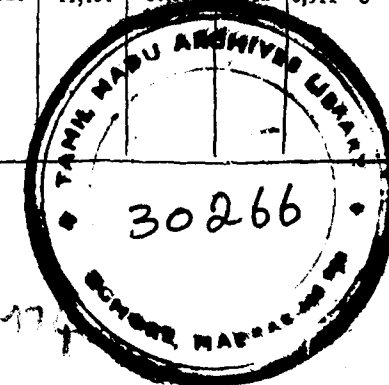
DIX B.

of Mirzapur during the year 1873-74.

TANKS IN UPRAUDH.					GOVERNMENT WORKS IN DUDHI.					
Women.	Children.	Total.	Average daily attendance.	Total expenditure.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Average daily attendance.	Total expenditure.
9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.
				Rs. a. p.						Rs. a. p.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	498	206	113	817	117	77 9 3
...	...	...	...	...	1,040	575	203	1,818	182	183 13 4
788	272	2,317	331	174 11 9	830	404	201	1,435	205	123 2 3
1,641	566	4,496	642	353 2 0	1,588	660	395	2,643	378	239 0 0
1,590	645	4,398	628	336 0 6	1,052	720	358	2,130	304	177 5 6
1,329	633	3,760	376	290 10 0	1,742	1,190	580	3,462	346	375 0 6
1,613	589	4,103	586	289 5 0	209	155	75	439	63	36 7 7
1,788	876	4,812	687	371 2 3	957	905	353	2,215	316	175 14 8
1,592	939	4,000	571	261 5 9	1,221	1,300	589	3,110	444	237 12 1
2,018	1,097	4,842	692	367 14 3	1,102	1,261	449	2,812	402	294 5 6
1,449	722	3,311	473	218 5 0	1,037	937	802	2,276	325	192 11 4
1,272	692	2,956	422	196 4 0	1,347	1,406	543	3,296	471	247 9 3
1,202	668	2,786	398	185 14 9	727	1,127	259	2,113	302	159 11 1
2,014	897	4,339	434	†444 4 6	688	1,276	351	2,315	232	208 11 0
1,166	560	2,529	361	169 11 9	890	891	330	2,111	302	177 13 3
583	281	1,336	191	78 8 6	1,150	1,156	467	2,773	396	239 15 6
931	376	2,086	298	108 12 0	1,369	1,957	645	3,961	566	275 4 10
1,124	457	2,450	273	156 8 3	2,668	3,759	1,176	7,603	945	616 8 8
960	374	2,041	292	106 9 9	1,806	2,808	781	5,395	771	383 5 0
1,098	390	2,255	322	117 15 3	1,631	2,903	642	5,176	739	377 12 3
840	279	1,782	255	96 2 3	2,166	3,785	910	6,861	980	489 9 3
1,433	544	2,948	421	86 10 6	2,700	4,945	1,143	8,788	879	694 2 6
1,147	416	2,321	317	121 2 0	2,336	3,063	568	6,967	852	449 3 9
532	174	995	142	78 8 9	350	531	108	989	141	78 11 13
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28,110	12,437	66,863	405	4,711 8 9	31,094	37,920	11,491	80,505	442	6,511 8 0

entertained in the District Engineer's office.

ment and price of tools.



Y: 4353.24 M74
M75.

APPEN

Statement of Relief Works in the district

DIX B.

of Mirzapur during the year 1873-74.—(concluded.)

Week ending.	KANTIT WORKS IN SAKTESGARH.						BARHAR WORKS IN KON,		
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Average daily attendance.	Total expenditure.	Men.	Women.	Children.
	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
1st to 7th December, 1873...	...	...	...	...	...	Ra. a. p.	...	...	...
8th to 14th ditto	69	199	41	309	44	24 15 6	279	316	965
15th to 21st ditto	79	256	68	403	58	28 9 9	878	969	778
22nd to 31st ditto	214	451	187	852	85	72 7 3	1,609	1,929	899
1st to 7th January, 1874	233	458	217	908	130	66 12 6	4,276	4,110	1,585
8th to 14th ditto	192	374	156	782	105	53 15 6	4,204	3,493	952
15th to 21st ditto	315	586	290	1,191	170	87 18 6	6,501	2,886	857
22nd to 31st ditto	323	563	274	1,160	116	105 9 9	3,517	2,932	595
1st to 7th February, 1874	87	115	63	335	48	25 5 3	4,440	5,204	1,124
8th to 14th ditto	270	654	240	1,164	166	86 2 0	2,302	3,279	798
15th to 21st ditto	255	568	220	1,043	149	74 12 0	1,987	3,599	848
22nd to 28th ditto	221	495	187	903	129	66 12 0	1,348	2,451	506
1st to 7th March, 1874	63	139	29	231	33	17 4 6	763	1,851	372
8th to 14th ditto	54	82	14	150	21	161 5 3	401	679	193
15th to 21st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	708	1,305	298
22nd to 31st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	624	1,131	279
1st to 7th April, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	283	668	207
8th to 14th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	188	428	115
15th to 21st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	295	584	146
22nd to 30th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	346	730	187
1st to 7th May, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	533	1,205	288
8th to 14th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	443	1,324	353
15th to 21st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	553	1,614	394
22nd to 31st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	515	1,652	353
1st to 7th June, 1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	664	2,280	336
8th to 14th ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	301	1,257	246
15th to 21st ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	564	1,641	304
Total	2,375	5,010	1,996	9,381	101	\$871 12 0	39,049	50,368	13,492

N. B.—The average daily attendance on the total number of laborers

MIRZAPUR COLLECTORATE:
The December, 1874.

AGORI AND BARHAR.			TOTAL.						REMARKS.
Total.	Average daily attendance.	Total expenditure.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Average daily attendance.	Total expenditure.	
29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	
860	123	72 13 3	319	332	265	916	131	79 3 3	
2,625	375	319 6 0	2,29	1,914	859	5,071	724	465 6 6	
4,527	647	285 3 5	4,606	3,213	1,268	9,087	1,298	752 0 11	
9,971	997	931 14 1	8,676	6,622	2,539	17,837	1,784	1,764 8 8	
8,649	1,236	844 0 4	8,081	5,932	1,715	15,728	2,233	1,455 14 1	
10,244	1,321	1,055 11 2	13,624	7,258	2,092	22,974	3,822	2,196 1 2	
7,044	1,006	610 15 5	10,235	7,495	1,988	19,718	2,817	1,721 4 2	
10,768	1,077	1,145 9 6	8,687	8,577	2,531	19,845	1,985	1,984 13 3	
6,379	911	502 1 6	5,465	5,687	1,547	12,699	1,817	1,129 11 4	
4,436	919	781 1 0	5,362	6,946	2,317	14,625	2,089	1,414 3 11	
4,305	615	317 15 8	4,298	5,911	2,254	12,458	1,780	891 13 6	
2,486	355	300 12 6	3,813	5,125	2,105	11,043	1,573	2,029 12 3	
1,273	182	101 6 3	2,641	3,204	1,246	7,091	1,012	527 11 1	
2,311	330	186 14 0	3,101	4,065	1,547	8,713	1,245	792 0 6	* Includes Rs. 143-11-9 on account of work done by contract from 12th April to 17th July, 1874.
2,034	291	162 12 9	2,267	3,460	1,206	6,933	990	508 6 7	
1,158	116	95 9 0	2,399	3,958	1,456	7,812	731	750 8 6	
731	104	54 7 9	1,891	2,485	995	5,371	767	402 0 9	
1,014	145	166 5 3	1,907	2,323	893	5,123	732	484 13 3	† Includes Rs. 89-6-0 on account of work done by contract.
1,263	180	95 7 9	2,484	3,618	1,208	7,310	1,044	479 8 7	
2,026	225	181 11 0	4,070	6,088	1,921	12,079	1,342	954 12 0	
2,120	303	151 0 6	2,956	5,092	1,608	9,556	1,365	640 15 3	
2,561	366	187 12 6	2,951	5,615	1,436	9,992	1,427	688 8 0	
2,520	360	180 12 9	3,344	6,277	1,542	11,163	1,595	766 8 3	
3,280	328	266 15 0	4,335	8,658	2,023	15,016	1,502	1,147 12 0	
1,806	258	127 9 0	3,395	5,467	1,232	10,094	1,442	697 14 9	
2,509	358	185 9 9	1,203	2,704	586	4,493	642	342 14 4	
2,011	287	1,070 5 0	447	1,351	213	2,011	287	1,070 5 0	‡ Of this, Rs. 815-10-0 are on account of work done by contract.
102,909	507	10,282 2 1	114,850	129,377	40,531	284,758	1,403	25,136 7 10	\$ Returns can be given only for the work on the tank in Saktesgarh. The other works were executed by contract, and rates for Rs. 1

under each work has been calculated for the period it was open.

H. D'O. MOULE,
Deputy Collector, for Cinstruc-
g to work.

DOCKET No. 443 OF 1874.

FROM

TO

THE OFFICIATING COLLECTOR OF AZAMGARH,

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BENARES DIVISION.

Dated Azamgarh, the 17th November, 1874.

SIR,

WITH reference to Government Order No. 644A., dated 6th October, 1874, forwards the Report on the Scarcity of 1873-74 on Azamgarh District.

E. S. ROBERTSON,
Offg. Collector.

Report on the Scarcity of 1873-74 in Azamgarh District.

THE rains of 1873 ceased early in September. The total rainfall of the season had been very considerably under the average, amounting in the whole year to only 28.6 inches. The result was very extensive failure of the principal kharif crop of the district, the jarhan or transplanted rice.

General narrative.
Failure of rain.
Jarhan crop—total failure.

Mr. J. R. Reid, the Settlement Officer, estimates that of the whole area of the district not less than 30 per cent. is under jarhan rice, and he was of opinion that the whole of this crop perished, except in a few places barely enough for seed. But the failure of rain had only very slightly affected the dry kharif crops, known in this district as the bhadaini harvest.

Mr. Reid, writing from personal observation, says that the outturn of these crops was "at least tolerable." Consequently there was, at the beginning of the cold season of 1873-74, some sort of reserve of food in the district. To this I think we must attribute in some measure the exemption this district enjoyed from the famine which is alleged to have prevailed close at hand in Behar, and also in the neighbouring districts of Gharzipur, Gorakhpur, and Basti, as well as in parts of Oudh. Not only did there appear to be no necessity for opening public relief works in Azamgarh, but when to make assurance doubly sure, the District Engineer was instructed to offer work on the roads at relief rates, the people refused to resort to them, and in one instance a gang of about twenty-five labourers near Nagara personally applied to me to be allowed to go to their fields, and in my own presence throw away the tin tickets which entitled them to relief wages.

Still it is not to be denied that very sharp distress existed. At the very time when the incident occurred which I have just mentioned, the people of Nagara, and indeed the labourers throughout the district, were stinted to one meal of cooked food on alternate days, and this was supplemented by a handful of *sattu* twice a day, and a *lotah*-full of sugar-cane juice daily.

But as a set-off to all this, the demand for agricultural labour was steady and brisk throughout, and what is not a little remarkable, wages remained nearly constant, averaging one anna six pie per day for men, women and children, which is an ordinary average for the district. Never there was a possibility, irrigation for the rabi sowings was most

actively carried on. A very considerable number of new kucha wells were dug, and all natural and artificial reserves of water were freely utilised. Happily these were

This was owing to plentiful natural reservoir of water.

The jhils.

that river.

tolerably plentiful. A glance at the map shews that the district is dotted all over with jhils. The largest and most remarkable of these form a line parallel to the present course of the Gogra, and are probably the remains of an old bed of

The district is also intersected by several streams, some of which, as the Biswi, the Tons, and the Chota Sarju, are of considerable dimensions. The result of this state of things is that there is a tolerably good reserve of water for irrigation, even in such an exceptionally dry season as last year. Not only is the water from the jhils largely utilised (I was told at Ghosi that one irrigation channel fed from the jhil called Pakri Tal was seven miles long), but the water in many parts of the district is very near the surface, insomuch that bullocks are superseded by the contrivance called *dhenkal*, a long lever with a gharra at one end and a counterpoise made of clay at the other.

Even where the rope and bucket are used, the well is very commonly worked by men instead of bullocks.

With these facilities for irrigation, every available hand was employed on the rabi sowings and waterings. The result was an unusually fine harvest, and the disappearance for the present of any anticipation of scarcity.

But during the cold season of 1873-74 there is no doubt that very sharp distress did prevail. Prices rose very high, especially of rice, which was dearest in January 1874, when it averaged $10\frac{1}{8}$ seers per rupee.

Curiously enough, wheat, barley and maize never reached so high a point of price. Wheat was at its highest in October 1873, $12\frac{3}{8}$ seers per rupee. Barley and maize were dearest in January 1874, $14\frac{1}{8}$ and $14\frac{1}{8}$ respectively.

As I have already mentioned, no public relief works were started. Acting on the advice of Colonel Davidson, Joint Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, I instructed Mr. Sheridan, the District Engineer, to try the effect of offering work on the roads at relief rates. The result has been described. But I felt very early in the year that something must be done to relieve those of the poor who from bodily infirmity were absolutely unable to do any work.

On 10th January, 1874, I called a public meeting, and appealed to the charity of the well-to-do natives for assistance to their poorer neighbours. The result was not encouraging. A total sum of Rs. 1,188

was raised; of this Rs. 200 were sent by Mr. James Simson of Agra, formerly Collector of this district; Rs. 545 were subscribed by the few English officials of the district, and only Rs. 443 by the native gentry, many of whom however were very free with advice that I should apply to Govern-

ment for assistance from the public revenues. Happily it proved that there was no occasion to do anything of the kind.

The annexed tabular statement shews the nature and extent of the charitable reliefs administered from the fund raised as above described. The reliefs up to 30th September, 1874, cost only Rs. 932-13-10.

At first there was a daily distribution of a quarter seer of parched grain per head. Subsequently, the distributions were made twice, and at last once a week. The applicants were carefully tested, no able-bodied person being admitted. At first some able-bodied persons came to the distributions, and they were sent to the District Engineer, who has instructions to find employment for those who were willing to work.

Tests by which charitable relief was limited.

A very small number (to the best of my recollection not more than twenty) were thus provided with employment, and these were chiefly people of the Nunia caste, who habitually work on roads, earthwork, &c. In connection with this part of the subject, I may mention that Maulvi Mahomed Ikram, the Government Pleader, found employment for a small number of men at Muhammadabad on his private property. These also were chiefly Nuniyas. I may also mention that the Secretary to the Azamgarh Public Garden once suggested to me that a few cripples and old women should be asked to assist in the weeding of the garden. I consulted the Municipal Superintendent, who had charge of the distributions, and he told me it would never do; I might as well close the reliefs.

These little facts will shew that the scarcity in this district was felt mainly by the infirm poor, and such persons as habitually lived on charity. And even they would not abandon their mendicant habits for the sake of public relief.

It is proper to add that a Committee presided over by Raja Salamat Shah was nominated for the purpose of relieving *parda-nashin* women in destitute circumstances. Such a Committee is the only means of finding out and assisting such people, but either there were none (which I find it difficult to believe), or the Committee did not put much heart into their work, for I could not discover that they ever did very much. Possibly, they were baffled by the obstinacy with which women of that class cling to their seclusion. At any rate, no deaths from hunger appear to have taken place.

Indeed, I do not believe that any deaths during the year resulted directly from starvation. Here and there a wandering beggar died of old age or disease and privation combined, but such deaths occur in all years and in all countries. There were said to be a few suicides prompted by the desperation of want, but it is impossible to say whether the cause assigned was the true one. It is well known that a very trifling motive will often induce a native to take his own life.

As regards migration from the district, I can only speak vaguely. I have had no means of testing the shifting of population, but my impression is that very little, if any, has taken place. I can say that the emigration to the West Indian Colonies, for which there are agencies here, has on the whole rather fallen off in the period under review. This is attributed to the agent's attention having been diverted to other and more distressed districts. Mr. Lumsden of Gorakhpur told me he had seen a sprinkling of Azamgarh men on his relief work. I have heard in a vague manner that Azamgarh men have been seen at Patna on reliefs. A great many *jalahas* have left the towns of Mau, Muhammadabad, Kopah, and Mubarakpur, but that emigration has been going on for years, and is caused by the supersession of native piece goods by English. On the whole my opinion is that shifting of population, if any, has been mainly from village to village within the district. At the same I do not think the people have any insuperable objection to leaving their country for their own good.

I think I have now discussed all the most important aspects of the scarcity as it affected Azamgarh. I do not understand that I am authorized to offer any suggestions of future policy, preventive or al. But such suggestions can be forthcoming if asked for.

F. S. ROBERTSON,
Officiating Collector.

MIRZAPUR

The D.A.

APPENDIX A.

Statement shewing the weekly average price of grain from 1st January to end of October, 1874, in the district of Azamgarh.

Month and date of weeks.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Barley.	Bajra and Joar.	Remarks.
1st to 7th January, 1874 ...	M. S. C. 0 13 10	M. S. C. 0 12 9	M. S. C. 0 17 0	M. S. C. 0 16 3	M. S. C. 0 15 9	The weeks have been arranged in this statement according to the weekly reports of crops submitted to Government.
8th to 15th ditto ...	0 13 10	0 12 0	0 17 0	0 16 0	0 15 0	
16th to 23rd ditto ...	0 12 0	0 10 8	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	
24th to 31st ditto ...	0 11 8	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 14 8	0 15 0	
1st to 7th February, 1874	0 12 0	0 10 8	0 14 0	0 15 0	0 15 8	
8th to 15th ditto ...	0 13 0	0 11 8	0 14 8	0 15 0	0 15 8	
16th to 22nd ditto ...	0 13 5	0 12 9	0 16 3	0 16 3	0 17 11	
23rd to 1st March, 1874 ...	0 13 8	0 12 10	0 16 12	0 16 8	0 17 4	
2nd to 8th ditto ...	0 14 4	0 12 12	0 15 12	0 17 7	...	
9th to 15th ditto ...	0 13 4	0 12 0	0 18 0	0 20 0	...	
16th to 22nd ditto ...	0 13 8	0 12 0	0 18 0	0 19 8	...	
23rd to 29th ditto ...	0 14 8	0 9 8	0 16 8	0 21 0	...	
30th to 5th April, 1874 ...	0 14 12	0 8 13	0 16 0	0 21 0	...	
6th to 12th ditto ...	0 14 12	0 8 13	0 16 0	0 21 0	...	
13th to 19th ditto ...	0 14 12	0 9 0	0 17 0	0 21 8	...	
20th to 26th ditto ...	0 15 0	0 11 0	0 16 8	0 21 0	...	
27th to 3rd May, 1874 ...	0 15 0	0 10 0	0 17 0	0 22 8	...	
4th to 10th ditto ...	0 15 8	0 10 8	0 16 8	0 21 0	...	
11th to 17th ditto ...	0 15 12	0 9 8	0 16 8	0 21 0	...	
18th to 24th ditto ...	0 15 0	0 9 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	...	
25th to 31st ditto ...	0 15 0	0 9 0	0 16 8	0 16 4	...	
1st to 5th June, 1874 ...	0 15 0	0 9 0	0 16 8	0 20 0	...	
6th to 12th ditto ...	0 14 12	0 8 8	0 15 8	0 19 0	...	
13th to 19th ditto ...	0 15 0	0 9 0	0 17 4	0 19 8	...	
20th to 26th ditto ...	0 15 8	0 8 14	0 17 11	0 20 8	...	
27th to 3rd July, 1874 ...	0 16 0	0 10 0	0 17 0	0 19 12	...	
4th to 10th ditto ...	0 15 12	0 10 0	0 17 8	0 20 0	...	
11th to 17th ditto ...	0 15 0	0 11 8	0 17 0	0 20 0	...	
18th to 24th ditto ...	0 15 8	0 10	0 17 8	0 20 8	...	
25th to 31st ditto ...	0 15 8	0	0 18 0	0 20 8	...	
1st to 7th August, 1874 ...	0 15 8	0 10 8	0 17 4	0 20 0	...	
8th to 14th ditto ...	0 16 0	0 11 0	0 18 0	0 21 0	...	
15th to 21st ditto ...	0 16 0	0 10 8	0 20 0	0 21 4	...	
22nd to 28th ditto ...	0 15 8	0 10 8	0 20 0	0 21 0	...	
29th to 4th September, 1874	0 16 4	0 11 0	0 20 12	0 21 4	...	
5th to 11th ditto ...	0 17 0	0 11 0	0 20 12	0 22 2	0 22 0	
12th to 18th ditto ...	0 16 8	0 11 0	0 18 8	0 22 0	0 21 0	
19th to 25th ditto ...	0 16 0	0 11 0	0 19 4	0 21 12	0 22 0	
26th to 2nd October, 1874 ...	0 15 8	0 10 8	0 15 8	0 20 0	0 17 0	
3rd to 9th ditto ...	0 15 12	0 10 0	0 16 4	0 19 4	0 17 0	
10th to 16th ditto ...	0 16 4	0 11 0	0 16 4	0 20 4	0 20 8	
17th to 23rd ditto ...	0 16 0	0 11 0	0 17 8	0 20 12	0 21 8	
24th to 30th ditto ...	0 17 0	0 11 0	0 18 0	0 22 34	0 22 4	

AZAMGARH COLLECTORSHIP:
Dated the 11th December, 1874.

MOHUN LAL,
Dy. Collr. for Offg. Collector in Camp.

APPEN

Statement of Relief Expenditure from January, 1874, to

Month.	1ST WEEK.							
	Cooked food.			Uncooked food.			Cash payment.	
	Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.	Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.	Number of persons relieved.	Amount.
January, 1874	...	M. S. C.	Rs. a. p.	...	M. S. C.	Rs. a. p.	...	Rs. a. p.
February "	...	...	...	1,310	9 8 4	85 5 9	63	3 2 9
March "	...	...	...	4,012	25 26 6	85 6 11	63	3 2 9
April "	...	...	...	500	8 21 8	16 14 0	...	...
May "	...	...	...	300	5 2 8	9 10 6	...	...
June "	...	...	...	300	4 18 4	10 0 0	...	...
July "	...	...	...	420	6 32 8	13 10 0	...	...
August "	...	...	...	605	8 3 2	17 5 0	...	...
September "	...	...	...	222	6 1 8	11 8 0	7	0 7 6
October "	...	...	...	299	7 15 4	15 11 6	...	...

DIX B.

October, 1874, in the District of Azamgarh.

2ND WEEK.								3RD WEEK.		
Cooked food.			Uncooked food.			Cash payment.		Cooked food.		
Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.	Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.	Number of persons relieved.	Amount.	Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.
...	M. S. C.	Rs. a. p.	...	M. S. C.	Rs. a. p.	...	Rs. a. p.	...	M. S. C.	Rs. a. p.
...	...	...	1,210	10 10 4	89 7 6	63	3 2 9	...	...	...
...	...	...	3,762	25 37 2	86 1 9	90	4 9 9	...	...	...
...	...	...	300	5 22 0	9 10 3	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	300	4 39 8	9 8 0	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	300	4 22 8	10 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	840	13 23 2	27 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	768	12 1 13	24 12 9	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	220	6 12 0	12 0 0	5	0 5 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	355	7 36 6	15 14 6	...	...	...	...	...

APPEN

Statement of Relief Expenditure from January, 1874, to

Month.	3RD WEEK—(continued).					4TH		
	Uncooked food.			Cash payment.		Cooked food.		
	Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.	Number of persons relieved.	Amount.	Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.
January, 1874	1,045	M. S. C. 7 36 8	Rs. a. p. 25 5 3	...	...	...	M. S. C. ...	Rs. a. p. ...
February "	1,723	13 7 6	45 6 1	103	5 10 9	...	...	...
March "	3,034	20 10 14	63 6 8	63	3 4 6	...	...	...
April "	300	5 8 0	9 9 0	...	...	...	...	...
May "	300	4 25 0	10 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
June "	420	6 33 0	14 0 0	...	...	...	...	...
July "	576	8 2 8	16 9 0	...	...	...	...	...
August "	356	7 16 4	14 15 9	7	0 6 9	...	...	...
September "	367	8 4 0	16 1 8	33	2 1 3	...	...	...
October "	324	7 9 9	15 1 9	1	0 1 0	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

DIX B.

October, 1874, in the District of Azamgarh—(continued).

WEEK.					TOTAL.						
Uncooked food.			Cash payment.		Cooked food (a.)			Uncooked food (b.)			
Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.	Number of persons relieved.	Amount.	Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.	Number of persons relieved.	Quantity.	Value.	
	M S. C.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a p.		M. S. C.	Rs. a. p.		M. S. C.	Rs. a. p.	
1,335	9 27 4	35 2 0	9	0 7 3	...	...	...	2,380	17 23 12	60 7 3	
3,739	24 12 7	78 15 10	109	5 15 6	...	...	...	7,982	56 33 5	199 3 2	
2,976	26 9 10	75 8 11	90	4 11 0	...	...	...	13,784	98 4 0	310 8 3	
300	5 14 0	9 13 0	...	...	...	...	...	1,400	24 25 8	45 14 3	
300	4 20 0	10 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1,200	19 17 0	39 2 6	
420	6 28 0	13 12 0	...	...	...	...	...	1,440	22 21 12	47 12 0	
672	8 29 0	18 5 6	...	...	...	...	...	2,508	37 7 2	75 8 6	
210	6 18 4	12 12 0	7	0 7 6	...	...	...	1,939	33 39 7	69 13 6	
222	6 13 0	12 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	1,031	26 30 8	51 15 8	
459	8 4 4	17 6 10	...	...	...	...	...	1,437	30 25 7	64 2 7	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,101	367 32 13	964 7 8	

(a.) includes charges for feeding poor patients, Nil.

(b.) includes payments to the members of the Famine Relief Committee for distribution to the distressed females of respectable families.

APPENDIX B.

Statement of Relief Expenditure from January, 1874, to October, 1874, in the District of Azamgarh—(concluded).

Month.	TOTAL—(concl'd.)		GRAND TOTAL.		REMARKS.	
	Cash payment.		Number of persons relieved.	Amount.		
	Number of persons relieved.	Amount.				
		Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.		
January, 1874	...	9	0 7 3	2,389	60 14 6	MEMO. Local subscriptions received up to date, ... 1,188 8 0 Received from Central Committee, Allahabad... .. Total ... 1,188 8 0 Deduct amount disbursed up to date ... 1,002 7 8 Balance in hand ... 186 0 4
February "	...	338	17 15 9	8,320	217 2 11	
March "	...	306	15 12 0	14,090	326 4 3	
April "	...	...	...	1,400	45 14 3	
May "	...	...	...	1,200	39 2 6	
June "	...	...	...	1,440	47 12 0	
July "	...	...	...	2,508	75 8 6	
August "	...	14	0 14 3	1,953	70 11 9	
September "	...	45	2 13 9	1,076	54 13 5	
October "	...	1	0 1 0	1,438	64 3 7	
		713	38 0 0	35,814	1,002 7 8	

AZAMGARH COLLECTORSHIP :

The 11th December, 1874.

MOHUN LALL, Deputy Collector,

For Offg. Collector in Camp.

APPENDIX C.

Memorandum showing the number of persons receiving relief in the District of Azamgarh during the year 1874, or up to 30th September, 1874.

Month.	Azamgarh: commenced 4th January, 1874; daily average.	Sarhari: commenced 18th February, 1874; daily average.	Deogaon: commenced 16th February, daily average.	Nagara: commenced 17th February, 1874; daily average.	REMARKS.
January, 1874	196	...	27	116	
February "	196	99	30	70	
March "	210	108	...	...	
April "	137	...	...	...	
May "	150	...	...	...	
June "	180	...	...	102	
July "	210	...	...	137	
August "	210	...	...	46	
September "	222	...	...	...	Re-opened, 19th July.
Total number of reliefs ... 258 Total number of persons received relief... 34,578 Total cost ... Rs. 932					At Azamgarh ... 125 Sarhari ... 42 Deogaon ... 38 Nagara ... 55

E. S. ROBERTSON,
Offg. Collector.

AZAMGARH COLLECTORSHIP :
The 16th November, 1874.

No. 300 A.

FROM

TO

THE OFFG. COMMISSIONER, BENARES DIVISION,

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

Dated the 2nd December, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Ghazipur and Azamgarh reports of the late scarcity, compiled in accordance with the instructions contained in G. O. No. 643A., dated 6th October last. I have received so many urgent reminders from your office for these reports, that I do not like to wait any longer for the returns from Mirzapur, Gorakhpur, and Basti, the receipt of which would have enabled me to submit a complete Divisional report. I think it best to submit without further delay such papers as have been received, with my remarks thereon.

2. *Ghazipur.*—For a retrospect of the state of affairs in this district up to December of last year, I would refer you to paras. 25 to 32, inclusive of my letter to your address, No. 300, dated 16th December, 1873. Mr. Oldham, in the first 34 paras. of his present letter, travels over much the same ground as Mr. Duthoit had already done in regard to the condition of the district and of the people on the first warning signs of the scarcity, prefacing his remarks however with certain figures as to the quantity of edible grains of sorts produced in the district, and which, Mr. Oldham argues, is not sufficient for the food supply of the population thereof, compiled with a few statistics which he has been able to collect regarding the exports and imports by river, road, and rail from and to the district. The information on the first point being avowedly conjectural, need not be discussed at all; and in the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Oldham, that the imported grain fed 150,000 persons (para. 31 of his report), I do not agree, as I know for a fact that much of the grain so imported went to Gorakhpur, for the exports to which district he does not make any drawback for 1873-74, as he had done for the preceding years 1869-70. Compare statement at para. 29 with that at para. 7.

3. At the same time I most heartily concur in the remarks recorded by Mr. Oldham in his 32nd para., to the effect that the lowering by Government of the freight on the East Indian line had the undoubted effect of keeping down the prices of food grains, while the fact that no less than eight lakhs of maunds of grain were thrown into the district by this process must in itself have been an inestimable boon. A glance at the tabular return in para. 29 will show that the largest imports were in January and February,—the time when the distress would necessarily be sharpest, owing to the autumn crop having failed, and the spring crop not having ripened, and it is remarkable to observe how the same imports diminished from April—the period when the last-named harvest came to maturity.

4. The table at para. 34 of Mr. Oldham's letter gives the range of prices, week by week, as required by Government, and it is remarkable to observe how equable these were throughout; and at no time, except in the case of rice (which however is unfortunately the food commonly consumed by the people of the district), approaching to anything like famine prices. There can be no doubt also that the bountiful spring harvest, also well described by Mr. Oldham in his 35th and 36th paras., preceded by the imports before alluded to into the district previous to the ripening thereof, effectually

staved off all famine. The outturn of this harvest, as described by Mr. Oldham, fully realized all the anticipations of the Committee of which the writer was a member, and the report of which as regards this district was submitted to you with my No. 51, dated 4th March last.

5. I come now to the second point on which information is asked for, namely, the number of persons relieved, and the mode of relief adopted. It may be best to describe the last first. There were then, as presumably everywhere, but two great heads of relief—first, that by exaction of the labor test, and secondly, gratuitous or charitable relief; and the latter in this district assumed three shapes, viz., (1) distribution of cooked food, (2) of grain, and (3) of cash payments.

6. The table at para. 29 of Mr. Oldham's letter gives the weekly return of people employed on relief works from the week ending with the 21st January last, when they were first opened, to the week terminating with the 20th July last, when the last work at Rasra was closed under orders of my predecessor, and with the approval of Government. It will be seen that the numbers on these relief works never aggregated 3,000 in any one week, while the average was certainly not above 1,000 a week. This, therefore, the labor test, applied under the most favorable circumstances, namely, in the immediate vicinity of the people's homes, failed to secure any such attendance as could in any way be regarded as an index of famine.

7. As regards the relief works themselves, Mr. Oldham in his present letter classifies them for the first time under two heads,—permanent and temporary. There was no such classification in his report which I submitted to you with my No. 27, dated 1st February last, in which he solicited permission to commence work on eleven main lines of district, and on 27 lines of village communications. However, the present distinction is probably made with a view to answering the Government inquiry as to what permanent effect of the relief works remains. Before answering it, however, I must first correct a somewhat bold statement made by Mr. Oldham in his 40th para., to the effect that all the works which he had commenced in the district with the view of giving temporary relief till the harvest to the unemployed poor, and which works he classes under the head "temporary," were stopped under the orders of the Committee of which I was a member on the 22nd February last. Mr. Oldham should have considered before he wrote this statement, which is not an accurate one. What the Committee really did was accurately described in paras. 16 and 17 of my report No. 51, dated 4th March last, before referred to, and our proceedings were approved by Government in your reply.

8. I come now to the so-called permanent works. A list of these, five in number, is given at para. 43 of the report. These works were all conducted under the agency and supervision of the Public Works Department, and the condition in which they were left at the close of the operations is described in paras. 50 and 51 of the report. I have as yet had an opportunity of inspecting only two of these works since my return to the Division. But these I unhesitatingly state were well and creditably done, and the entire amount expended on all these works, as stated by Mr. Oldham, viz., Rs. 13,115, cannot by any means be regarded as excessive. Mr. Oldham would again in paras. 46 and 47 of his report justify his maintenance, far into the rains, of the work at Rasra. But as this question was fully reported on by my predecessor, and his action in the matter approved by Government (*vide* G. O. No. 628A., dated 25th August last), while full credit was at the same time given to Mr. Oldham for the best intentions, as also for the manfulness with which he took the entire responsibility on his own shoulders, I think that it is not necessary to re-open this question.

9. I come now to the rates of wage at these works. And here also I am sorry to say that I must again correct Mr. Oldham, where, in his para. 45, he writes that

the Special Committee, of which I was a member, lowered the higher rate of wage which he was paying to a lower sum which he names, and *that we fixed this as the rate of wage*. Although Mr. Oldham was most eager that we *should* declare fixed rates of pay throughout the district, we positively declined to do so; and in our replies (which can be submitted if necessary) tried to impress on Mr. Oldham the principle which has even been affirmed by Government, that the pay at relief works should be enough, but no more, than would suffice to provide an adequate amount of wholesome food to those who, by reason of not being able to obtain remunerative employ elsewhere, are obliged to resort to these works; and that it was in the highest degree objectionable that Government should enter the labor market as a competitor. That it was necessary for us to interfere to this extent may be judged from the fact that Mr. Oldham, in para. 11 of his present report, states that the ordinary rate of wage to a man in his district is four-fifths of an anna per diem. We found him however paying an anna and a half, which we suggested should be lowered to one and one fifth of an anna, subject however to the conditions I have above recorded as to rates varying with prices as obtaining of food. In the Resolution of Government, recorded on the 8th May last, after His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Ghazipur, four-fifths of an anna (being, curious to say, exactly the normal rate of wage for an adult, as admitted by Mr. Oldham) was fixed as the maximum amount to be given. With these remarks I may close the subject of relief works, as it is not, I think, necessary to refer to those, such as the Suraha Lake project, the Dildarnagar road, and others, which were never carried out.

10. I come therefore to the question of gratuitous relief. This will probably be reported on at length by the Central Relief Committee at Allahabad. But Mr. Oldham's report also deserves notice. The statement annexed thereto gives the return of gratuitous relief in every shape. There were in all 17,635 meals of cooked food distributed (apparently only at Ghazipur itself, but on this point I have asked for information), at a total cost of Rs. 990; while no less than 145,959 meals of uncooked food were given at different places (of the names of which and of the number fed at each I have also asked for information), at a total cost of Rs. 4,238; and lastly 4,099 persons were relieved by payments in money, aggregating in all to Rs. 722. No work, such as spinning, &c., appears to have been exacted in return for these money payments, and considering the number so relieved (over 4,000 persons) the relief could hardly in any one case have been of the permanent nature which is contemplated when such disbursements are made. Besides the above payments, there were the two noted at foot of the statement, and referred to in paras. 60 and 61 of Mr. Oldham's letter.

11. The local subscriptions up to 30th September amounted to Rs. 5,372, while the Central Committee at Allahabad gave Rs. 5,354. Of the total of these sums, or Rs. 10,727, but Rs. 6,470 were expended, as shown in the statement, up to 30th September last, *plus* a further sum of Rs. 425 expended in October, as per separate statement B.; of the necessity of which last expenditure, however, I have asked for information. Of the balance in hand, Mr. Oldham has asked the Allahabad Committee to let him have Rs. 2,000 for the homeless poor at Ballia,—a proposal which I have supported. Deducting, therefore, the expenditure in October, the cash balance in hand with the local Committee at the time Mr. Oldham's report was written was Rs. 3,831 (see para. 62 thereof).

12. The large local subscription raised through the generosity of Mr. Saunders, the Judge, and his officials, and which is referred to in para. 55 of Mr. Oldham's report, requires special and honorable mention; while the arrangements for the care of the weak and sickly, described at para. 58, seem to have been all that could have been desired, and such as might have been expected from Dr. Jameson's well-known careful supervision.

13. The total expenditure therefore in the district up to 13th September last would appear to have been as follows, *viz.*,—

1. On relief works	...	...	Rs.	13,115
2. In gratuitous relief	...	...	"	6,470
3. In takavi advances for construction and repair of wells, to be recovered, see postscript of Collector's letter ...	...	...	"	2,000
Total	...	...	Rs.	21,585

14. Mr. Oldham does not conclude his report by mentioning any of the officers of the district as having assisted him in his efforts for the relief and amelioration of the people. The omission is, I am sure, quite unintentional, and will, I feel sure, be at once rectified by him on the omission being brought to his notice by Government. Mr. Sells, who officiated for Mr. Oldham, the Civil Surgeon, and the District Engineer, must have all had extra work imposed on them, which, I feel sure, requires recognition.

15. As regards Mr. Oldham himself, though I think that from first to last he took an exaggerated view of the distress, I believe him to have been actuated throughout by the most philanthropic motives, and to have been most keenly and sensitively alive to any distress which he saw in a district in which he has so long served, and to the people of which he has no doubt become much attached.

16. *Azamgarh*.—For a review of the state of affairs in this district up to November of last year I would also refer you, as I have done in the case of Ghazipur, to my letter No. 300, dated 16th December last, paras. 8 to 12 of which relate to this district. The prognostications that Mr. Reid, the Settlement Officer of the district, then made to the effect that, though relief might be required in the large towns of the district, none such would be needed by the agriculturists, have since been fully borne out by events. The forethought of the people in sowing, when they saw that it was not likely to be a good season for rice, a large quantity of land in jowar, repaid them by giving them a food supply, until the ripening of the bountiful spring harvest removed all cause of apprehension. The great facilities which this district has for irrigation were also, as shown by Mr. Robertson, well utilized, and there was throughout such a brisk demand for agricultural labor, that the people positively refused to resort to relief works, and the solitary one experimentally opened at Nagara was closed after the first few days. There is therefore literally nothing to report on the subject of relief works. A scheme of projects was precautionally drawn up as reported to you in para. 23 of our Special Committee's letter No. 51, dated 4th March last, but fortunately it was not found necessary to have recourse to it.

17. I come therefore to the subject of gratuitous relief, and on this the information given by the Collector is very meagre. He annexes, it is true to his report, a statement showing the number of people fed at four different places in his district, and he gives also in the body of his report, the amount of private subscriptions raised, but he does not state whether or no these were to any extent supplemented or not by a grant from the Central Relief Committee at Allahabad, nor does he give a regular account of income and expenditure, as the Collector of Ghazipur has done. I have called on him to supply these deficiencies, and his answer, when received, shall be duly forwarded to you. I infer however that there was no occasion to ask for aid from Allahabad, as it is stated that the reliefs up to the end of September cost only Rs. 932, being an amount less than the sum total of private subscriptions. The relief also could not have been much needed, considering that after the first few days it was confined to a dole of purchased gram given only twice a week, and latterly once a weeks.

18. Of those persons also to whom work was offered, only 20 would appear to have availed themselves of the privilege. I consider that the Collector is right in

inferring from the above facts that the scarcity was not felt in his district except by the infirm and helpless poor, such people as are in the habit of living on charity, and that these would not abandon their mendicant habits for the sake of public relief.

19. The Committee organized for the relief of *pardah-nashin* women, and which was presided over by Raja Salamut Shah, seems to have been an utter failure, the Committee failing to bring a single deserving case to notice. Unless we are to believe that there was really no distress whatever in the district, it is hard to suppose that there was no such case deserving of commiseration, as it is this class of people who, above all others, suffer in a season of scarcity.

20. The Collector reports that there were no certified cases of death by starvation, but that a few suicides were reported as having occurred, and to have been induced by desperation brought on by want. I cannot understand why the Collector is unable to state if the cause assigned for such was the true one or not. Inquiry would, I should have thought, have elicited in every such case so reported the truth or otherwise of the report as made. Such inquiry, if thorough and searching and not perfunctory, could not, I consider, have failed to elicit the real facts of the case. I do not myself see the impossibility which the Collector writes of in eliciting the truth in these matters. I think he is to blame if he allowed such reports to pass unnoticed, and without thorough inquiry. Suicides, moreover, in this country are generally reported to be the results of jealousy or anger, and not of hunger, and the self-victims are generally women, not men. I think that the Collector should be called on for particulars as to these cases.

21. The fact that the tide of emigration from the district to the West Indian colonies was less this year than in ordinary seasons would also tend to indicate an absence of general distress. The emigration of the weavers from Mau, Mahammadabad, and other places has been going on for years. These men go to Bombay, where there is a great demand for their services.

22. The subject of the range of prices, on which information was specially called for by Government, is very briefly adverted to by the Collector. I have called on him to submit a regular weekly table of prices of edible grains similar to that received from Gházipur. It shall be forwarded directly it is received.

23. The other district reports will be forwarded to you without delay so soon as received.

I have, &c.,

C. P. CARMICHAEL,

Officiating Commissioner.

FROM

COLLECTOR OF JAUNPUR,

To

THE COMMISSIONER, 4TH DIVISION, ALLAHABAD.

Dated Jaunpur, the 4th November, 1874.

SIR,

In reply to Government Order No. 643A., dated 6th October, 1874, I have the honor to state (as already reported in my letter No. 457, dated 24th ultimo), that the autumn rice crop failed and no doubt caused distress.

2. No public relief works were needed, and none were opened. Gratuitous relief was afforded as under from private subscription.

Name of Tahsili.	No. of persons relieved.	Amount expended. Rs. a. p.	Period during which relief was given.
Mariahu	... 2,583	89 6 9	10th March, to 4th May, 1874.
Machlishahr	... 406	50 0 0	10th March, to 12th May, 1874.
Kutahan	... 159	8 2 6	10th to 18th March, 1874.
Total	... 3,148	97 9 3	

3. Besides this "Takavi," advances were made to the extent of Rs. 2,542 for irrigation and other purposes.

4. The scarcity practically did not effect this district.

5. The prices of grain were effected by the proximity of districts in which scarcity prevailed.

6. The annexed comparative statement shows the fortnightly prices current from October, 1873, to September, 1874, and October, 1872, to September, 1873, shews that there was nothing deserving of the name of scarcity.

I have, &c.,

E. B. THORNHILL,

Collector.

Comparative Statement showing the fortnightly price current from October, 1873, to September, 1874, and October, 1872, to September, 1873.

Fortnight.	Wheat.	Barley.	Rice, (best sort).	Rice, common.	Bajra.	Jwar.	Gram.	Abrar (dal).	Urd (dal).	Moong (dal).
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Ending 15th October, 1873 ...	13 6	16 9	13 6	14 2	14 2	19 5	18 0	14 13	14 6	13 12
Corresponding fortnight of 1872,	13 6	19 5	12 11	13 6	12 11	19 12	21 14	14 13	18 3	12 9
Ending 31st October, 1873 ...	14 2	17 11	12 0	14 2	14 2	19 1	18 0	14 2	14 6	13 12
Corresponding fortnight of 1872,	12 11	14 13	12 0	13 6	14 2	20 7	21 3	14 13	14 6	12 0
Ending 15th November, 1873 ...	14 5	18 6	12 0	14 7	14 2	19 1	16 4	14 1	14 3	13 13
Corresponding fortnight of 1872,	13 6	16 15	12 11	14 13	19 1	21 3	24 0	16 13	14 2	12 9
Ending 30th November, 1873 ...	14 13	18 0	11 10	14 13	18 0	19 1	17 10	14 13	15 9	14 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1872,	13 6	19 12	14 2	16 3	18 6	24 0	23 4	16 15	14 6	12 9
Ending 15th December, 1873 ...	14 7	17 10	11 5	14 7	17 10	17 10	16 3	14 13	14 6	14 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1872,	13 6	19 12	12 11	16 3	20 7	21 14	21 14	16 15	18 0	12 0
Ending 31st December, 1873 ...	14 13	17 10	12 0	14 7	18 6	16 15	19 1	15 8	14 6	14 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1872,	14 2	19 12	12 11	16 3	24 0	24 0	21 3	16 15	18 5	12 11
Ending 15th January, 1874 ...	13 12	18 0	12 0	13 12	17 10	16 15	18 5	4 7	15 0	13 3
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 2	18 5	14 2	14 13	21 3	21 14	21 3	16 15	18 5	12 11
Ending 31st January, 1874 ...	14 2	16 3	11 6	13 1	16 9	15 14	16 15	13 6	15 0	13 12
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 2	18 6	14 2	15 8	19 12	21 14	21 3	15 8	18 5	18 5
Ending 14th February, 1874 ...	14 2	17 4	11 4	13 1	18 0	16 4	16 15	12 1	14 2	13 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	12 11	19 1	14 2	16 4	21 3	26 13	22 9	16 4	15 13	15 8
Ending 28th February, 1874 ...	14 13	16 15	13 4	13 6	17 10	16 4	18 5	13 6	14 2	13 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	13 6	18 5	14 2	16 15	19 12	25 6	26 13	18 5	17 8	15 8
Ending 15th March, 1874 ...	14 13	23 5	9 14	13 6	17 10	...	20 2	13 6	14 2	13 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 2	18 5	14 2	16 15	18 6	28 4	25 6	18 5	17 8	15 8
Ending 31st March, 1874 ...	16 15	22 15	9 14	11 4	14 2	...	20 2	14 13	14 1	13 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	15 8	23 4	14 2	16 3	19 6	28 4	25 6	19 12	17 8	15 8
Ending 15th April, 1874 ...	17 4	22 4	9 14	10 9	14 13	...	20 2	14 13	14 2	13 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	16 15	22 9	12 11	14 13	18 5	26 13	21 3	21 3	15 9	13 3
Ending 30th April, 1874 ...	17 10	23 5	9 15	10 9	12 11	...	19 1	14 13	14 2	13 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	17 10	24 0	12 11	14 2	15 8	26 13	23 4	21 3	15 9	13 3
Ending 15th May, 1874 ...	17 4	22 4	10 9	11 4	11 4	...	20 2	14 13	13 3	1 9
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	17 4	23 10	12 11	14 2	16 3	26 13	22 9	21 3	15 9	13 3
Ending 31st May, 1874 ...	17 4	21 14	10 9	12 0	10 9	...	20 7	14 13	13 3	13 3
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 3	19 12	13 6	12 11	16 3	19 12	16 15	20 7	15 9	13 3
Ending 15th June, 1874 ...	16 15	22 4	10 9	13 0	10 9	...	20 2	14 13	14 2	14 2
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 2	19 12	12 11	12 11	16 3	16 15	17 10	18 5	15 9	13 3
Ending 30th June, 1874 ...	17 10	23 4	10 9	12 0	10 9	...	20 7	14 2	14 13	15 9
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 2	18 5	12 11	12 11	15 8	19 12	19 1	17 10	15 9	13 3
Ending 15th July, 1874 ...	16 15	21 8	10 9	12 0	11 4	...	19 12	14 2	13 6	12 11
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 2	20 7	13 6	12 11	16 15	21 3	19 12	18 5	15 9	13 3
Ending 31st July, 1874 ...	17 4	23 4	10 9	12 0	12 11	...	21 3	14 13	14 6	13 3
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 2	20 8	12 11	13 6	14 2	19 12	21 3	18 6	15 9	13 3
Ending 15th August, 1874 ...	18 0	24 6	10 9	12 0	13 6	...	22 9	14 13	14 13	13 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 13	20 7	13 8	14 2	15 8	19 12	20 7	18 7	15 0	13 3
Ending 31st August, 1874 ...	18 5	24 11	12 0	12 0	14 13	...	24 0	14 13	15 8	13 6
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 13	19 7	13 6	14 2	14 13	19 12	17 11	17 11	14 6	13 3
Ending 15th September, 1874 ...	16 15	24 0	7 1	16 15	15 9	...	21 14	14 13	14 2	12 11
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 7	19 1	14 2	14 7	14 7	26 0	18 5	15 8	13 12	13 12
Ending 30th September, 1874 ...	17 8	23 10	7 1	11 5	16 15	...	19 12	12 11	14 2	12 11
Corresponding fortnight of 1873,	14 2	14 0	13 6	14 2	14 2	22 9	18 5	16 5	15 0	13 12

JAUNPUR COLLECTOR'S OFFICE :
The 4th November, 1874.

E. B. THORNHILL,
Collector.

FROM

THE COLLECTOR OF ALLAHABAD,

To

THE OFFICIATING COMMISSIONER, ALLAHABAD.

Dated Allahabad, the 26th October, 1874.

SIR,

IN reply to Government No. 643A., dated 6th instant, I have the honour to inform you that though there was no real scarcity in this district, the circumstances of Parganas Bára and Khairágarh are such that a very slight rise in prices causes distress to a class very prevalent in those parts, viz., persons who from some cause or another suffer from an incurable form of paralysis which renders them utterly unfit for manual labour, and leaves them as a burden on their families so long as the other members of the family are not pinched for food. These cripples get sustenance at their homes, but when hard times come, they are turned out to starve.

2. In order to meet this difficulty, I some years ago recommended that a poorhouse, aided by Government, should be permanently kept up at Mejá in Khairágarh, but though Government approved of the principle, it was not thought to be a case calling for aid from Government, and ultimately a poorhouse was started and is still kept up supported by contributions from the landholders of both parganás which afford relief to 75 persons (all of them cripples) daily.

3. As prices rose, it appeared to me likely that more aid than the above would be required, and consequently after thoroughly inspecting different villages, I arranged for two additional poorhouses, one at Bára under the Tahsildar, and another at Sheorájpúr under the direct superintendence of the Rájá of Bára, at the same time letting it be publicly known that any *bona fide* cripple requiring aid would obtain it at either of those three places, the Tahsildar having orders to extend the Mejá Poorhouse so as to include all deserving applicants.

4. The accompanying statement shows the numbers relieved (exclusive of the regular number of paupers always residing in Mejá Poorhouse), the operations extended from 3rd March to 7th July when the cripples were taken back to their home by their friends; the cost per head was one anna per diem including clothing, the funds being provided by the Relief Committee. There was no necessity for affording relief to able-bodied persons, those who were relieved were, as I have remarked above, wretched cripples utterly unfit for any work, who at the best of times are on the verge of starvation, and whose state of destitution can hardly be believed by those who have not had actual experience.

I have, &c.,
J. C. ROBERTSON,
Collector.

Statement showing the number of men relieved and amount of expenses incurred in the Poorhouses of Mejid, Bára, and Sheorajpur, Zila Allahabad, from 3rd March to 7th July, 1874.

Number.	Name of Week.	Number of men relieved.				Amount of expenses incurred.				Price current of				REMARKS.
		Mejid.	Bára.	Sheorajpur.	Total.	Mejid.	Bára.	Sheorajpur.	Total.	At Bára.	Rice.	Dal.	Salt.	
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1	3rd to 7th March, 1874	31	...	...	31	1 15 7	...	...	1 15 7	...	0 13 9½	0 16 4	0 7 3	
2	8th to 15th ditto	76	...	...	121	4 12 10	...	...	8 10 1	0 14 0	0 13 9½	0 15 4	0 7 3	
3	16th to 22nd ditto	109	294	...	534	6 15 0	17 10 8	...	33 2 8	0 14 8	0 13 9½	0 14 4	0 7 3	
4	23rd to 31st ditto	222	743	386	1,351	14 2 2	109 1 9	47 14 6	171 2 5	0 14 12	0 13 9½	0 14 12	0 7 3	
5	1st to 7th April, 1874	224	877	504	1,605	14 4 2	75 9 5	38 9 1	128 6 8	0 13 12	0 13 9½	0 16 4	0 7 3	
6	8th to 15th ditto	270	1,196	719	2,185	17 11 8	73 7 9	37 1 7	128 5 0	0 14 0	0 13 9½	0 14 12	0 7 3	
7	16th to 22nd ditto	248	1,146	740	2,134	15 11 6	111 3 5	37 7 1	164 6 0	0 14 0	0 13 0½	0 15 4	0 7 3	
8	23rd to 30th ditto	343	1,476	851	2,670	22 13 3	124 10 8	49 15 9	197 7 8	0 13 12	0 13 0½	0 15 4	0 7 3	
9	1st to 7th May, 1874	427	1,437	716	2,580	28 6 5	103 5 2	30 13 1	162 8 8	0 14 0	0 12 12½	0 14 12	0 7 3	
10	8th to 15th ditto	548	1,750	833	3,131	36 3 4	85 6 8	39 15 6	169 11 5	0 14 0	0 12 12½	0 15 4	0 7 3	
11	16th to 22nd ditto	503	1,675	774	2,952	35 3 2	118 13 7	33 2 0	153 11 10	0 14 8	0 12 12	0 14 12	0 7 3	
12	23rd to 31st ditto	629	2,268	1,122	4,019	43 4 7	78 8 5	40 7 7	208 7 0	0 14 4	0 12 12	0 15 4	0 7 3	
13	1st to 7th June, 1874	499	1,658	953	3,110	34 4 5	91 4 0	49 9 6	153 4 5	0 14 4	0 12 12	0 15 4	0 7 3	
14	8th to 15th ditto	376	1,713	1,013	3,102	25 14 10	57 5 1	19 2 3	166 12 4	0 14 8	0 12 12½	0 16 0	0 7 3	
15	16th to 22nd ditto	288	1,129	418	1,765	15 10 11	53 10 1	17 2 7	92 2 3	0 14 4	0 12 12½	0 16 4	0 7 3	
16	23rd to 30th ditto	...	1,002	359	1,361	...	24 13 11	20 5 8	45 2 7	0 14 12	...	0 16 8	0 7 3	
17	1st to 7th July, 1874	...	374	308	682	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Total	3,733	18,783	9,827	33,343	317 5 10	1,310 2 5	518 2 7	2,045 10 10	...	...	...	...	

ALLAHABAD,
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE:
The 26th October, 1874.

This relief lasted four months, being a daily average of 277 persons.

G. H. M. RICKETTS,
Commissioner.

J. ROBERTSON,
Collector.

(123)
(COPIES.)
No. 1593.

FROM
THE OFFG. COLLECTOR, BANDA,
TO
THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

Dated Banda, Collector's Office, the 1st December, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor—in reply to G. O. No. 644A., of the 6th October, 1874—to reply that no copy of Mr. Geddes' work on famine is to be found in the library. I have therefore adhered to the questions contained in the letter, and answered them as fully as I can.

2. The cause of the distress in the district of Banda appears to have been want of rain during 1873, suitable to Bundelkhand. A large portion of the soil is what is known as "mar," or black soil. When sodden with rain, it becomes a thick, spongy pulp, through which cattle make their way with difficulty, and which it is impossible to plough, or prepare for seed. The same ground a week's sun will convert into hard clods.

3. The rainy season closed abruptly on the 9th September, 1873. There was no rain worth mentioning after that date, and the Christmas rains entirely failed. The effect of this on prices will be clearly seen from Appendix A.

4. No great apprehension was, however, felt till February, 1874, when Mr. Ricketts, the Commissioner, who was then passing through the district, brought to the notice of Government what he had seen during his tour. At that time bajra and jowar, the cheapest grains, were selling for 18 seers the rupee, and on the eve of rising higher. Still there was never any famine of food. There were no real cultivators among the recipients of relief, and only two cases of persons who had been formerly landholders. Both these classes had taken care of themselves when they reaped the harvest. They had grain, and grain meant the power to get money. But they were wise enough to lay aside enough for their household wants till the days of rabi harvest, and parted only with the surplus. At the same time hired labor was expensive. A seer of grain, whether in money or kind, was nearly twice as heavy a drain as it would have been in ordinary times. Villagers have few luxuries; clothes, shoes, and sweetmeats comprise nearly the whole, and the two former were soon dispensed with. The cotton crop too was miserable, and leather dear. As a consequence, the weaver and chamar found himself deprived of the very work which fills in the gap of leisure-agricultural time, which was then beginning. Field-work, whatever there was of it, was not pressing, and could easily be kept under by the agriculturist's own household, so this door too was closed. Rajput women and children put aside their dignity, and undertook work which is generally done in other years by hired labor.

5. These weavers and chamars, together with other low caste laborers, were those by whom the pressure of distress was most felt.

6. Relief began to be administered on the 30th January and continued till the 10th October, 1874. It was of two kinds—relief in return for labor, and relief gratuitously given. The numbers are shown in Appendices B.I. and C.

7. Thirteen poorhouses were opened at convenient centres throughout the district, and three large relief works were commenced. The District Officers personally inspected the villages where distress was worst, and remained in the interior of the district till the crisis was over. The work of village inspection entailed considerable exposure during the hottest months, and in the most trying climate in the North-Western Provinces.

8. Relief works were opened on both sides of the river Ken, close to the town of Banda. An embankment was made connecting the high water ferry at the Ken with the metalled Saugor road.

9. At Turra, 23 miles from Banda, an embankment was constructed on the main road to Kirwi.

10. At Sarraia, on the road leading from Kirwi to the Manikpur Railway Station, a raised road was made, connecting the important cotton mart of Rajapur with the metalled road leading to the Manikpur Railway Station.

11. The particulars of these works are shown in Appendix B.II.

12. The workmen were paid at first in cash, and by day labor. Later on, as prospects improved, food of the cheapest description—chiefly mohwa—and piece-work was substituted: by this means relief was, as far as possible, confined to those persons who really stood in need of it, and gangs were occasionally shifted from one work to another, in order to test the reality of distress.

13. The local expenditure was as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
* This includes Rs. 750-9-10 on account of Kirwi sub-division.			
From State Funds ...	13,249	4	6
By Local Relief Committee ...	6,026	7	4*
Total ...	19,275	11	10

14. In conclusion, I would beg to refer you to my general report on relief operations, No. 860, dated 25th June, 1874, which was despatched to your address.

I have, &c.,

R. WALL,

Officiating Collector.

P.S.—Separate statements relative to poorhouses in the Kirwi subdivision will follow.

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APPENDIX A.

1.

Range of prices during the last four months of 1873, compared with the two preceding years.

	SEPTEMBER.			OCTOBER.			NOVEMBER.			DECEMBER.		
	1871.	1872.	1873.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1871.	1872.	1873.
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
Wheat, per rupee,	23 0	13 12	12 8	22 0	15 4	13 14	24 12	15 12	12 14	23 4	15 8	13 6
Barley "	31 0	21 4	14 9	29 0	21 12	15 4	30 4	21 12	14 14	28 4	20 11	15 10
Common rice }	15 0	14 0	13 14	16 0	16 8	16 4	17 4	11 8	14 0	15 12	18 10	14 12
Bajra "	22 0	15 12	9 13	21 0	23 8	15 3	31 0	23 0	18 0	25 4	20 6	17 12
Jowar "	29 0	19 4	14 8	27 0	16 4	15 1	33 8	25 0	19 5	25 4	25 0	21 0
Gram "	30 0	26 12	15 12	30 0	28 4	18 0	31 8	27 0	16 14	28 4	24 4	17 6

R. WALL,
Officiating Collector, Banda.

A. II.

Range of prices from February to October, 1874.

	February, 1874.	March, 1874.	April, 1874.	May, 1874.	June, 1874.	July, 1874.	August, 1874.	September, 1874.	October, 1874.
	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.
Wheat, per rupee ...	14	12	17	17	15	16	16	16	17
Barley "	16	16	21	18	18	18	18	18	19
Common rice "	15	12	12	12	12	12	13	13	15
Bajra "	18	17	16	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	24
Jowar "	17	17	17	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	27
Gram "	20	23	21	21	20	21	23	22	24

R. WALL,
Offg. Collector, Banda.

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APPENDIX B. I.
RELIEF WORKS.

Statement showing the number of persons relieved week by week.

Week ending	Weekly total.	Monthly total.	REMARKS.
<i>Ken River Approach, Right Bank.</i>			
January, 1874 31st	1,928	1,928	
February " 7th	3,246		
14th	8,520		
21st	14,993		
March " 28th	22,381	49,140	
7th	18,999		
14th	7,969		
21st	2,398		
April " 31st	5,499	34,865	
7th	3,243		
14th	7,869		
21st	2,426		
May " 30th	2,544	11,121	
7th	1,682		
14th	1,593		
21st	1,325		
June " 31st	1,770	6,810	
7th	947		
14th	766		
21st	642		
July " 30th	604	2,959	
7th	894		
14th	193		
Total	...	587	
<i>Left Bank, Ken River Approach.</i>			
February, 1874 28th	...	106,910	
March " 7th	2,591	2,591	
14th	14,716		
21st	10,162		
Total	...	27,247	
<i>Rajapur and Sarraia Road.</i>			
February, 1874 28th	...	29,838	
March " 7th	1,099	1,099	
14th	5,141		
21st	8,949		
31st	3,394		
April " 7th	5,764	18,848	
14th	1,615		
21st	637		
30th	50		
Total	...	2,302	
<i>Raising 1st Section, Banda and Manikpur Road.</i>			
February, 1874 28th	...	22,249	
March " 7th	4,652	4,652	
14th	12,048		
21st	13,929		
31st	7,039		
April " 7th	7,446	40,662	
14th	5,955		
21st	5,073		
30th	2,776		
May " 1,027	...	14,831	
7th	2,385		
14th	740		
21st	371		
June " 31st	443	3,939	
2nd	...		
Total	44	44	
GRAND TOTAL	...	64,128	
	...	223,125	

Dated the 30th November, 1874.

R. WALL,
Offg. Collector,

R. C. BATTIE,
District Engineer.

APPENDIX B. II.

1. *Ken River approaches.*—This is a most important work: would have been carried out in the usual methodical manner by Public Works Department had the famine not taken place.

Quantity of work done, right bank.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Earthwork, 268,421 cubic feet, cost	...	5,842	4 4

Left bank.

Earthwork, 139,147 cubic feet, cost	...	2,074	13 1
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2. *Rajapur and Sarraia Road.*—This road was only lately opened out as a surface village road, and the raising and bridging was in contemplation when the scarcity happened. It was then taken in hand, and the poor of the parganas of Tarhawan, Mau, and Kamasin, which comprise the Karwi sub-division, were usefully employed in raising the road.

Quantity.	Cost.
	Rs. a. p.

Earthwork	...	298,176	1,499 4 4
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3. *Raising 1st Section, Manikpur Road.*—The project for the work was ready, and the work would have been commenced in the usual way by the Public Works Department; but the famine intervened, and the work was accordingly commenced.

Quantity.	Cost.
	Rs. a. p.

Earthwork	...	412,161	3,335 14 8
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In addition to the above actual expenditure on works carried out, the roads named below were aligned, and projects partially prepared to meet the exigencies of the famine:—

Cost.

Rs. a. p.

Aligning road from Baberu to Attarra	...	202 12 3
Ditto ditto Gulrampur to Badausa	...	149 11 3
Ditto ditto Banda to Khaunan	...	144 8 7

R. C. BATTIE,

District Engineer.

The 30th November, 1874.

R. WALL,

Offg. Collector, Banda.

APPENDIX C.

Statement showing the number of persons relieved in Poorhouses (excluding Kirwi sub-division) week by week.

Week ending		Number relieved.	Monthly total.	REMARKS.	
February, 1874	22nd	334	1,243		
	28th	909			
March "	7th	1,122	17,699		
	14th	4,081			
	21st	5,753			
	28th	6,743			
April "	4th	6,930			
	11th	6,576			
	18th	6,262			
	25th	6,400			
	2nd	6,239			
May 1874	9th	5,820	32,407	NOTE.—Each pauper who was an inmate of the poorhouse for a whole week counts as seven in this statement.	
	16th	5,637	24,244		
	21st	4,375			
	28th	8,412			
June "	7th	3,435			
	14th	2,930			
	21st	2,084			
	30th	2,362			
July	7th	1,591	10,811		
	14th	1,360	5,856		
	21st	1,265			
	31st	1,640			
August	7th	1,014			
	14th	778	2,587		
	21st	339			
	31st	456			
September "	7th	252			
	14th	400	1,564		
	21st	419			
	30th	393			
October "	7th	312			
une "	10th	107	419		
Total	...		96,830		

R. WALL,
Offg. Collector, Banda.

No. 467 of 1874.

FROM

THE ASSISTANT COLLECTOR, KIRWI,

To

THE COLLECTOR OF BANDA.

Dated the 30th November, 1874.

SIR,

IN answer to your letter No. 1586 of 1874, I have the honour to forward the following brief account of the scarcity that prevailed in this sub-division in the early part of this year.

2. As far as I can learn, the lower classes in the three parganas under my charge are at the best of times separated by a very narrow line from actual want. They never have at their command any hoard of food or money, and the moment that a famine of food or of labour shows itself, from that moment with them starvation begins.

3. I am informed that the harvest for the last two or three years have been scanty. The cause assigned is the fall of excessive rain in July and August, which prevented the "mar" soil being properly worked upon. In 1873, the rains came to an abrupt end early in September, and there was no fall of winter rain. The latter cause, however, affects these three parganas less. With them the harvest is the kharif, and the kharif grains at harvest time last year were ranging between eighteen and twenty-three seers for the rupee. Later on in the months of January and February, these same food grains were standing at about eighteen seers for the rupee.

4. I am of opinion, however, that these high prices were much helped by two causes: (1) the news that a camp-of-exercise was about to be held at Kirwi, made the local grain merchants anxious to have at their command large stores of food grain; (2) The high prices ruling in Lower Bengal drained the country of all rabi grains, and threw the people back upon the kharif stores. Certain I am that there were stores of grain kept back, for when this harvest was yet unripe, kharif grains of the past year were selling for half as much again as they did when the harvest was being cut.

5. The mahwa fruit here is for four months in the year the staff of life to the poorer classes. When it is about to fall, whole villages are almost depopulated, so great is the rush on to the hilly tracts to gather in this product. For two years past this harvest, too, has been poor.

6. The high prices did not affect the landholders and cultivators much. What they lost in quantity of yield, they got back more or less by the high prices their harvest commanded. They were shrewd enough to keep back a sufficient stock of grain for their households before parting with what they had reaped, and I do not know of a single instance in which this class of persons was relieved. Some instances there were no doubt, but they never attracted any notice. The only effect upon this class as a body seems to have been that they had to work much harder and do, themselves, much which they would have got done for them by hired labour.

7. As a natural consequence, the petty artisans of the village who eke out their livelihood by helping at weeding time and harvest, found this means of livelihood gone, and our relief works and poorhouses were filled chiefly by weavers, chamars, shirs, and such like persons.

8. Relief operations began on February 19th, and ended on July 20th. The largest number under poorhouse relief is to be found in the sixth week, March 22—28. In the beginning of April, a fairly good mahwa harvest began, and for a whole month none were left on our hands but those who had been so reduced by weakness before they came to us that they had to be in most cases medically treated. In May, number rose slightly again, owing to the harvest being over, but from June a steady decrease set in, which enabled me, in the middle of July, to close all relief.

9. The number of persons relieved are shown in the following table:—

Week.	Date.			Number in poor-houses.
1st	February	19th to 21st	...	50
2nd	"	22nd to 28th	...	627
3rd	March	1st to 7th	...	1,896
4th	"	8th to 14th	...	3,588
5th	"	15th to 21st	...	4,520
6th	"	22nd to 28th	...	4,987
7th	"	29th to 4th April	...	4,734
8th	April	5th to 11th	...	2,643
9th	"	12th to 18th	...	1,080
10th	"	19th to 25th	...	1,008
11th	"	26th to May 2nd	...	915
12th	May	3rd to 9th	...	916
13th	"	10th to 16th	...	983
14th	"	17th to 23rd	...	1,093
15th	"	24th to 30th	...	1,141
16th	"	31st to June 6th	...	1,194
17th	June	7th to 13th	...	1,014
18th	"	14th to 20th	...	635
19th	"	21st to 27th	...	347
20th	"	28th to July 4th	...	195
21st	July	5th to 11th	...	161
22nd	"	12th to 18th	...	142
23rd	"	19th to 25th	...	43
				33,871

10. Relief operations were organized by the Commissioner, Mr. Ricketts; they consisted of relief works at Kirwi and Raipura and poor-houses. My report extends only to the latter; poorhouses were opened at Kirwi, Raipura, Manikpur, and Markundi, in pargana Tirohan.

At Mau, Bargar, and Rajapur, pargana Chiban.

At Kamasin, pargana Kamasin.

At each place a sub-committee of zemindars was formed, and the actual daily supervision entrusted to them. At Kirwi, Mr. Reid superintended the poor-house there, which contained, all through the time of scarcity, the largest numbers. I received much assistance from Mr. Lakin, a platelayer on the East Indian Railway, who supervised daily all the relief that was given at Manikpur and Markundi.

11. The tahsildars and myself were employed in examining the different villages. This work was necessary, as to many of those whom we eventually relieved the labour of crawling to a poorhouse was insurmountable. There were many wild rumours too, afloat as to the object of Government in giving relief. In and near Pahari, the idea was that all relieved would eventually be shipped off to some distant colony; mental terrors like this added much to the physical disinclination to seek Government relief.

12. After a few weeks, the Mau and Bargar poorhouses were amalgamated into one at Hatwa. The landholder here, one Sidhgopal, took a warm interest, and contributed both money and care to the poor wretches who were housed there. These were mostly from the hilly tracts, and were much more reduced by hunger than the inmates of any other poorhouse.

13. I found no signs of neglect at any poorhouse, save those of Mau and Kamasin. In each of these cases the Government official was to blame.

14. The food given was first flour of "channa" with a little dal and salt. This diet was changed to mahwa, when that harvest came in, and on its close, we reverted to the former diet again. A large number, however, had to be brought back to life, and these had to receive more nourishing and generous food. Every care was taken of such cases in the dispensary.

15. The total cost of relief is detailed below:—

		Rs.	a.	p.
In food	...	1,432	14	10
Miscellaneous	...	351	6	0
Total cost	...	Rs. 1,784	4	10

I have, &c.,
G. E. KNOX,
Assistant Collector.

No. 328 of 1874.

FROM

To

THE OFFG. COLLECTOR OF HAMIRPUR,

THE COMMISSIONER, ALLAHABAD DIVISION.

Dated Hamirpur, the 20th November, 1874.

SIR,

As directed in Government Circular No. 643A., dated 8th October, 1874, I have the honor to submit a brief history of relief operations in this district during the year 1873-74.

2. *Cause of distress.*—Distress in this district was not caused by the complete failure of any one harvest. It arose from a series of bad harvests, caused by untimely rather than deficient rainfall. The strain then brought to bear upon the resources of a population poorer than that of any district in these provinces, with which I am acquainted, was more than they could bear.

3. *Necessity for relief.*—Relief works in this district were not commenced by me. I found them going on when I took charge of the district in May last. I have no hesitation in stating that my predecessor was right in commencing them, and that the assistance then afforded to the very poorest classes has been the means of saving very many lives.

4. *Classes employed on relief works.*—The bulk of the persons supported on relief works were laborers and cultivators who, owing to the hard time, were unable to earn a living elsewhere. They were paid at rates just sufficient to give them their daily food, and nothing more. They really did a day's work for their wages. Large numbers of them were half-starved, and were literally kept alive by the wages they received. The low rate of wages paid kept away persons not really in distress. All the money spent upon relief works was well spent.

5. *Classes supported in poorhouses.*—Of the persons supported in poor-houses, perhaps half were the ordinary poor of the country—persons who live by alms. In time of distress such persons naturally find it harder than usual to gain a living. Being used to living on alms, they are only too glad to enter our poorhouses directly they begin to find their own calling unprofitable. I feel that the expenditure upon the support of this class of persons is to a certain extent unsatisfactory: still it is impossible to exclude them from the poorhouses. Nearly all of this class supported in this district were either maimed, halt, or blind, many of whom would unquestionably have perished if left to their own resources.

6. The other inmates of poorhouses were of various classes. Some were widows and orphans left without means of support; some were persons ordinarily supported by their relations, but who had been cast off by them owing to the hard times. Not a few were wanderers from Native States. In supporting these classes of persons in poor-houses a good work was done.

7. *Commencement of relief operations.*—In December, 1873, Colonel Davidson, when marching through the south of the district, noticed signs of distress. He authorized the District Engineer to employ daily labor on road-work. The expenditure shown in the margin was incurred from the yearly grant for repairs of roads. This work, though not strictly speaking a relief work, afforded considerable relief to the people.

Banda and Saugor road,	Rs.	a.	p.
Hamirpur and Kabrai road,	988	5	0
Muhoba and Kulpahar road,	346	9	3
Kulpahar town road,	487	0	9
	25	5	9

8. *Repairs to kacha roads.*—On the 11th January, 1874, the repairs of certain kacha roads in the Muhoba and Kulpahar parganas were commenced as a relief work by Mr. Halkett, whose action in the matter was approved in Commissioner's letter No. 21, dated 2nd February, 1874. These works lasted till the 31st March. The daily average of persons employed was 215. The wages paid were from 2 annas to 1 anna for men, 3 pice for women, and 2 pice to 1 pice for children. The total cost amounted to Rs. 691. This sum was originally charged against the old chaukidari balance, but was eventually repaid by the Public Works Department.

9. *Hamirpur and Kalpi Road.*—On the 1st March, 1874, raising the Hamirpur and Kalpi road was commenced as a relief work for the town of Hamirpur. This work was continued from 1st March to the 4th July, 1874. During that period the average daily attendance was 295. The wages paid were 3 pice for adults and 2 pice for children. The total cost of the work was Rs. 2,232-8-7, which has been defrayed by the Public Works Department. The work done on this road was good. It consisted chiefly in raising the bank near the Rohani bridge. This bank has frequently been carried away by the flood in former years. This year, though severely tried, it has stood well.

10. *Kulpahar Tank and Kirat Saugor Bund.*—On the same date two other relief works were commenced at Kulpahar and Muhoba. The first was the clearing out of a tank at Kulpahar. Work lasted till the 7th April: the average daily numbers employed being 295, and the total cost Rs. 485-12-9. The second consisted of work done in raising the bund of the Kirat Saugor lake. This work was open for 47 days. The average daily numbers employed were 139. The total cost was Rs. 409-10-2. The cost of both these works was defrayed by the Public Works Department. The wages paid were from 2 annas to 3 pice for men, 1 anna to 3 pice for women, and two pice to 1 pice for children.

11. *Maudha and Bewar road.*—On the 7th March, 1874, raising the Maudha and Bewar road was commenced as a relief work. This work was kept open for 64 days, with an average daily attendance of 142. The wages paid were 2 annas to 3 pice for men, 3 pice for women, and 2 pice to 1 pice for children. The total cost, Rs. 569-15-9, was defrayed by the Public Works Department. The work done was good, and the improvement to the road has been considerable.

12. *Road from Muhoba Town to the Banda and Saugor Road.*—On the 15th March, 1874, raising the road from Muhoba to the Banda and Saugor Road was commenced as a relief work. This work remained open for 85 days, with an average daily attendance of 551. The wages paid were 2 annas to 3 pice for men, 3 pice for women, and 1½ to 1 pice for children. The total cost—viz., Rs. 1,836-0-5—was met by the Public Works Department. This was also a useful work, the road being much frequented and lying very low.

13. *Panwari and Rath and Kulpahar and Jaitpur Roads.*—In the beginning of April the relief gangs employed upon the Kulpahar tank were transferred to the Panwari and Rath road, and the Kulpahar and Jaitpur road, it being thought that they could more usefully be employed upon raising those roads. These two works were kept open the first for 38 days, the average daily attendance being 272, and the second for 73 days, with an average daily attendance of 540. The total expenditure upon both roads was Rs. 1,747-1-0 charged to the Public Works Department. The rate of wages paid was 2 annas to 3 pice for men, 3 pice to 2 pice for women, 2 pice to 1 pice for children. The work done on the Kulpahar and Jaitpur roads was good and useful. Work on the Panwari and Rath road, being too far from tahsili for proper superintendence, was not so good; that work was accordingly stopped early in May, 1874.

14. *Muddun Saugor Tank Bund.*—On the 7th May, 1874, some of the laborers employed on the Muhoba and Banda and Saugor roads were transferred to the Mud-

dun Saugor Bund, which required to be slightly raised; work lasted for 8 days. The average daily attendance being 328, and the total cost charged to the Public Works Department being Rs. 117-10-4.

15. *Kulpahar and Muhoba Road.*—As work on the Kulpahar and Jaitpur road was approaching completion, part of the gang was removed to the Kulpahar and Muhoba road, which required levelling and in part widening and raising. Work on this road lasted till the 20th July. The average daily attendance was 510, and the total cost charged to Public Works Department was Rs. 599-3-9. The rate paid were 2 annas to 3 pice for men, 2 pice to women, and 1 pice to children.

16. *Muhoba Town Roads.*—On the 1st July, 1874, the gang employed upon the Muhoba and Banda and Saugor road was transferred to the Muhoba town roads, which in many cases required raising. Some of these roads were also roughly metalled by this gang with murum found in the adjacent hills. Work lasted till the 20th July, 1874, with an average daily attendance of 735. The cost, Rs. 455-2-10, was charged to the Public Works Department. The wages paid were 2 annas to 3 pice for men, 2 pice to women, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 pice for children.

17. *Closing of relief works.*—On the 20th July, 1874, all relief works were closed. By that date rain had fallen in ample quantities throughout the district, and though the relief works were still extremely popular, it was thought unnecessary to keep them open any longer. Indeed, had the rain been less incessant, and consequently field-work less impeded, the works might have been closed somewhat earlier. By this time also work had been begun upon the Hamirpur and Kabrai road, for the raising of which a grant of Rs. 12,192 was made by Government. This work afforded employment to the able-bodied, while the more feeble supported themselves by field labor, weeding, &c.

18. *Total expenditure on relief works.*—In short, relief works proper were carried on in this district from the 11th January, 1874, to 20th July. The daily average of persons employed for the whole of that period was 1,121, and the total cost to Government Rs. 9,144-9-7. Roughly speaking, we may say that 1,100 persons were supported for six months at Re. 1-5-0 per head per month.

19. *Permanent results of relief works.*—As permanent results of the relief works we have the following :—

1st,—Embankment on the Hamirpur and Kalpi road.

2nd,—A raised road for part of the distance from the Kabrai and Hamirpur road to the town of Maudha. This work might hereafter be completed with advantage from local funds.

3rd,—A raised road from the Banda and Saugor road to the town of Muhoba.

4th,—Improved and partly metalled roads in Muhoba town.

5th,—Improvement to the roads from Kulpahar to Muhoba and Kulpahar to Jaitpur.

20. *Poorhouses.*—On the 11th February, 1874, poorhouses were opened by Mr. Halkett at Muhoba, Kulpahar, and Panwari. On 22nd March, 1874, a poorhouse was opened at Rath. On 15th May, 1874, I opened a poorhouse at Maudha, the relief work at that place being closed on that date. On the 2nd of July, I opened a poorhouse at Hamirpur to provide such of the laborers up to that date supported on the relief works, who were unable to earn a livelihood elsewhere. The Hamirpur relief work was closed on 4th July, 1874.

21. *Muhoba Poorhouse.*—The Muhoba poorhouse was open from the 11th February till the end of October. During that period the average daily number of residents was 80. The total expenditure upon food was Rs. 785-10-11, being at the rate

of Rs. 9-13-0 per head for $8\frac{1}{2}$ months, or Re. 1-1-11 per head per month. An additional sum of Rs. 433-12-2 was spent upon servants, housing, and clothing the paupers, fuels, cooking-pans, conveying paupers to their homes, funeral expenses, &c., as per margin: adding the expenditure upon servants and cooking to that on food, the total

	Rs.	a.	p.
Repairs to building	...	52	1 4
Servants and cooking	...	172	7 4
Clothing	...	155	6 11
Expenses of paupers sent to their homes	...	53	1 5
Funeral expenses	...	0	11 2
Total	...	433	12 2

rises to Rs. 958-2-5, or Re. 1-5-11 per head per month.

22. *Kulpahar Poorhouse.*—The Kulpahar Poorhouse was opened on the 11th February, 1874, and closed on 24th October, 1874. During that period the average daily number of inmates was 174. The total expenditure on food was Rs. 1,518-15-7, close upon Rs. 8-12-0 per head for $8\frac{1}{2}$ months, or Re. 1-0-5 per head per month. The miscellaneous expenditure at Kulpahar amounted to Rs. 192-6-2, as per margin. The

	Rs.	a.	p.
Servants...	...	99	2 3
Clothing...	...	43	1 9
Expenses of paupers sent to their homes	...	35	2 3
Medical charges	...	15	0 0
	...	192	6 2

poorhouse was located partly in a Government sarai and partly in the ruined tahsili building, so there was no charge for housing: cooking pots were borrowed by the Tahsildar, and fuel was cut in the neighbourhood by the paupers. Water being obtainable close at hand, only one kahar was kept for drawing water. Hence the charge for servants and cooking were lower at this poorhouse than at any other. Adding in the cost of servants and cooking, the expenditure rises to Rs. 1,618-1-10, or Re. 1-1-6 per head per month.

23. *Panwari Poorhouse.*—The Panwari Poorhouse was opened on the 8th February, 1874, and remained open till the 27th June;

	Rs.	a.	p.
Servants and cooking	...	25	0 0
Clothing	...	1	0 0
	...	26	0 0

when it was closed some portion of the inmates being transferred to Kulpahar. The average daily number of inmates was 104. The total expenditure upon food alone was Rs. 558-8-11, or Rs. 5-6-0 per head for $4\frac{1}{2}$ months, or Re. 1-3-1 per head per month. The miscellaneous expenditure amounted to Rs. 26-0-0 as per margin. Adding the charge for servants and cooking to that for food, the total expenditure was Rs. 583-8-11, or Re. 1-3-11 per head per month.

24. *Rath Poorhouse.*—The Rath Poorhouse was opened on the 22nd March and closed on the 23rd October, 1874. The average

	Rs.	a.	p.
Repairs to building	...	88	13 0
Servants and cooking	...	213	12 1
Clothing	...	54	2 0
Expenses of paupers sent to their homes	...	25	5 0
Funeral charges	...	2	0 0
	...	384	0 1

daily number of inmates was 79. The total expenditure on food only was Rs. 601-7-8, being Rs. 7-10-0 per head for $7\frac{1}{2}$ months, or Re. 1-0-3 per head per month. The miscellaneous expenditure amounted to Rs. 384-0-1, as per margin. Adding the cost of servants and cooking to that of food, the total expenditure stands at Rs. 815-3-9, or Re. 1-6-0 per head per month.

25. *Maudha Poorhouse.*—The Maudha Poorhouse was open from the 15th May, 1874, till the 22nd October, 1874. The average

	Rs.	a.	p.
Servants and cooking	...	86	7 9
Clothing	...	16	8 0
Paupers sent to their homes	...	3	4 0
	...	106	3 9

daily number of inmates was 31. The total cost for food was only Rs. 168-6-8, being Rs. 5-7-0 per head for $5\frac{1}{2}$ months, or Re. 1-0-7 per head per month. The miscellaneous expenditure amounted to Rs. 106-3-9, as per margin. Adding the expenditure on servants and cooking to that on food, the total cost stands at Rs. 254-14-5, or Re. 1-7-11 per head per month.

26. *Hamirpur Poorhouse.*—The Hamirpur Poorhouse was open from the 1st July to the 22nd October, 1874. The average daily number of inmates was 114. The total expenditure on food only was Rs. 458-13-8, being at the rate of Rs. 4-0-0

per head for 3½ months, or Re. 1-1-8 per head per month. The miscellaneous expenditure amounted to Rs. 975-9-11 particulars of which are given on the margin.

	Rs.	a.	p.	
Building	447	10	1	The expenditure at this poorhouse was
Servants, fuel, and cooking pans, &c.	309	5	7	heavy, as an entirely new building had
Clothing	158	14	3	to be constructed, no suitable building
Expenses of paupers sent to their homes	25	11	10	being available. Adding the expenditure
Medical charges	30	4	3	on servants and cooking to that on
Funeral expenses &c.	5	12	0	food, the total expenditure stands at
	975	9	11	Rs. 768-3-6, or Rs. 1-12-9 per head per

month.

27. *Total expenditure upon poorhouses.*—Poorhouses were open in this district from the 8th February to the 31st October. The average daily number of inmates was 434. The total cost for food only was Rs. 4,091-15-5, being at the rate of Rs. 9-7-0 per head for 8½ months, or Re. 1-1-3 per head per month. Adding in expenditure on servants and cooking, the total expenditure rises to Rs. 4,998-2-8, or Re. 1-5-1 per head per month. The total of all charges, including sudder office charges, as per margin, stands at Rs. 6,221-4-9, or Re. 1-10-2 per head per month.

	Rs.	a.	p.	
Muharrir	6	5	4	
Stationary	5	0	0	
	11	5	4	

28. *Funds how obtained.*—The subscriptions raised in this district amounted to Rs. 2,607-10-7. The balance of the expenditure has been defrayed from funds supplied by the Relief Committee at Allahabad.

29. *System prevailing in poorhouses.*—The system maintained in these poorhouses was as follows. Residence at night was not enforced, but all persons relieved at them were obliged to remain the whole day at the poorhouses. Clothes were provided for those who urgently required them; their own rags being taken from them. Work of some kind was exacted from those who had strength for it, but the great majority were quite unfit for labor. At Kulpahar and Muhoba and Rath coarse cloth was made, which was used up as clothing in the poorhouses. At Hamirpur the paupers were employed in grinding corn and in clearing jungle on the station roads. The rations given at all poorhouses were as follows :—

Adults, man or woman	...	...	...	{ Flour 8 Chittacks.
Child, above 10 years	...	...	...	{ Dal 2 "
Do., below 10 "	...	...	...	{ Flour 6 "
Do., at arm "	...	...	...	{ Dal 2 "
				{ Flour 5 "
				{ Dal 1 "
				{ Flour 2 "
				{ Dal 1 "

30. *Health.*—There was no disease of an epidemic nature in the poorhouses, and the health of the inmates on the whole was good.

31. *Numbers in poorhouses.*—In February the average daily number in poorhouses was 256. In the end of April it rose to 461, and in the end of May to 682. In the beginning of June, when the early rainy fell, the attendance fell to 480. The numbers remained fairly steady till the end of July, when they rose to 881; the increase being caused chiefly by the closing of relief works at Muhoba and Kulpahar. In August the number fell again, but rose to 1,031 at the end of the month. At that time the incessant rain rendered field-labor impossible, and the classes who had been gaining a living by weeding were driven to the poorhouse. In September the numbers fell to 730, and remained fairly steady throughout the month. In October the numbers fell to 418, 356, 276, 66, as paupers were gradually drafted off to their homes; at that time prices had become easier, and the harvest was beginning. All poorhouses were closed by the end of October; a few sick paupers remaining, who were supported at the dispensaries.

32. *Prices.*—Prices fluctuated very little during the period under review, and though high for this part of the world, never reached what would be considered famine rates elsewhere. They were at their highest in December, but fell on the rabi grain coming into the market. Wheat was never dearer than 13, and gram than 16 seers for the rupee. Barley and Indian corn are hardly known in the districts. Jowar and bajra, the food of the poor, owing to a succession of bad kharif harvests, were hardly procurable in the market. It was this failure of the kharif crops in several successive years, more than the high prices, which caused distress.

33. *Conduct of officials.*—The relief works were designed and carried out almost entirely by Mr. Black, District Engineer. The organization was good, and the work done was useful. The expenditure was kept as low as possible. The work thus entailed upon Mr. Black was considerable, and was most cheerfully performed. Mr. Black deserves the thanks of Government for his exertions.

34. The relief works at Muhoba and Kulpahar were also superintended by Ambica Parshad and Madho Parshad, Tahsildars, upon whom also fell the entire charge of the two chief poorhouses in the district. I was thoroughly well satisfied with the manner in which both these officials discharged their duties. They looked after things themselves, and managed their poorhouses thoroughly well and economically. Their exertions deserve notice.

35. Annexed to this report are three statements:—

1st,—Showing prices of the principal food grains at the places where poorhouses were opened.

2nd,—Showing the weekly attendance at relief works throughout the district.

3rd,—Showing weekly numbers in poorhouses throughout the district.

I have, &c.,

W. KAYE,

Offg. Collector.

APPENDIX B.

Statement showing total weekly average of people employed on relief works in the
Hamirpur District.

Week.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
11th to 14th January, 1874	84	145	12	241	
15th to 21st ditto	111	167	21	299	
22nd to 31st ditto	376	192	318	886	
1st to 7th February, 1874	1,033	980	1,235	3,228	1,428
8th to 14th ditto	292	1,005	1,925	3,222	
15th to 21st ditto	863	320	1,186	2,369	
22nd to 28th ditto	923	708	706	2,337	
1st to 7th March, 1874	1,471	2,930	1,414	6,015	11,156
8th to 14th ditto	1,707	2,686	1,452	5,845	
15th to 21st ditto	1,731	2,826	1,492	6,049	
22nd to 31st ditto	2,273	4,485	2,417	9,175	
1st to 7th April, 1874	2,271	4,020	1,583	7,874	27,084
8th to 14th ditto	2,278	4,816	1,477	9,571	
15th to 21st ditto	2,985	5,607	1,944	10,536	
22nd to 30th ditto	3,764	7,378	2,224	13,366	
1st to 7th May, 1874	2,933	5,029	1,663	9,625	41,347
8th to 14th ditto	2,646	5,621	2,058	10,325	
15th to 21st ditto	2,661	5,225	2,348	10,234	
22nd to 31st ditto	4,345	8,651	4,574	17,570	
1st to 7th June, 1874	2,933	6,971	4,035	13,939	47,764
8th to 14th ditto	2,326	7,468	4,294	14,088	
15th to 21st ditto	2,312	6,801	4,892	13,905	
22nd to 30th ditto	2,452	8,456	5,897	16,775	
1st to 7th July, 1874	1,553	5,184	3,639	10,376	57,707
8th to 14th ditto	1,427	4,567	2,802	8,796	
15th to 20th ditto	1,101	3,493	2,238	6,832	
Total	49,961	105,711	57,816	213,488	26,004

HAMIRPUR :
The 20th November, 1874.

F. C. BLACK,
District Engineer.

APPENDIX C.

Statement showing the total number of persons relieved in each week at all the Relief
Houses in the District of Hamirpur.

Week.	Adults.	Juveniles.	Total.
From 11th to 28th February, 1874	3,549	1,067	4,616
" 1st to 7th March, "	1,546	352	1,898
" 8th to 31st " "	4,794	721	5,515
" 1st to 14th April, "	3,449	371	3,820
" 15th to 21st " "	1,885	260	2,145
" 22nd to 31st " "	2,765	464	3,229
" 1st to 7th May, "	2,322	365	2,687
" 8th to 14th " "	2,373	428	2,801
" 15th to 21st " "	2,654	464	3,318
" 22nd to 31st " "	4,174	601	4,775
" 1st to 7th June, "	2,891	472	3,363
" 8th to 14th " "	2,877	437	3,314
" 15th to 21st " "	2,809	438	3,247
" 22nd to 30th " "	3,560	561	4,121
" 1st to 7th July, "	2,814	617	3,431
" 8th to 14th " "	2,854	750	3,604
" 15th to 21st " "	2,790	711	3,501
" 22nd to 31st " "	4,731	1,440	6,171
" 1st to 7th August, "	3,576	1,011	4,587
" 8th to 14th " "	3,714	1,107	4,821
" 15th to 21st " "	3,733	1,119	4,902
" 22nd to 31st " "	5,524	1,695	7,219
" 1st to 7th September, "	3,873	1,239	5,117
" 8th to 14th " "	3,889	1,232	5,121
" 15th to 21st " "	3,683	1,182	4,865
" 22nd to 30th " "	4,046	1,259	5,305
" 1st to 7th October, "	2,270	679	2,949
" 8th to 14th " "	1,938	557	2,495
" 15th to 21st " "	1,503	432	1,935
" 22nd to 31st " "	391	73	464
Total	93,232	22,104	115,336

HAMIRPUR :
The 21st November, 1874.

(Sd.) KANHYA LALL, FUNDIT,
Deputy Collr., for Offg. Collector.

No. 111 of 1874.

FROM

THE COMMISSIONER, ALLAHABAD DIVISION,

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.*Dated Allahabad, the 16th December, 1874.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to reply to your letter No. 643A., dated 6th October, calling for a report on the relief operations in the districts affected by scarcity in this Division.

2. There was no scarcity and therefore no relief operations were requisite in Cawnpore, Fatehpur, Jaunpur, and in the Dúab and Trans-Ganges portions of the Allahabad District. In Jaunpur there was at one time a threatening of scarcity, but the people and officials were more frightened than hurt. There was some small assistance rendered by takavi advances* for digging wells, but nothing beyond this was required.

* Rs. 2,542.

3. The districts of Cawnpore and Fatehpur, and the parts of Allahabad (equaling two-thirds of the district) abovementioned, were not only free from any signs of scarcity, but benefited considerably by sending grain at high prices to the famine districts.

4. But there was a different state of things in the districts of Hamirpur and Banda, and in a portion of Allahabad—all situated on the west and south side of the Jumna: Hamirpur and Banda are parts of Bundelkhand, and the whole tract may be described as very similar in climate and physical features and characteristics. The climate is drier and far hotter, the rainfall is generally rather less, it is more uncertain, there is no artificial irrigation, there are no canals or wells (except for drinking purposes), the soil in the plain is principally mar or kábar, which are unproductive, except when the rains are seasonable. I lay stress on this point. The rain to do good must be seasonable; it is all the better if it is abundant also; but if it falls even in great quantities but at the wrong time, it does but little good; for the greater part runs off as there are no tanks or natural jhils for storage, and the nature of the land is such that it requires an early and good fall to admit of ploughing and sowing, a thorough saturation at least once in the season, and then the crop for that season is insured.

5. The wealth of a village in the plains of Bundelkhand is measured by its extent of mar and kábar: mar under favourable circumstances is the most productive and the best soil that I have seen in India. It produces both kharif and rabi crops. The chief kharif crops are the bajra and jowar, to be found everywhere; its rabi produce is wheat, barley, gram, peas, and flax: but it must be understood that the same field cannot produce crops at both seasons, for the rain crops cannot be cleared off in time for the winter sowings.

6. Kábar is akin to mar in some of its characteristics. It is very stiff, it bakes in a dry season into the hardest mass, which costs much labour to break up. Rain crops, excepting a little kodo (a cheap inferior grain grown in kábar for local consumption), are never grown in kábar; but when there is a good fall of rain late in September, or better still early in October, it has the same faculty as mar of absorbing and retaining a great deal of moisture, and then it will produce wheat, barley, and gram, almost if not quite equal to the outturn from the best mar.

7. It will be seen then that to have a good rain crop in Bundelkhand, there must be early and seasonable rain, not too great quantities at first, or the mar is reduced to

an adhesive mass in which men and cattle cannot work, and in which the seed will rot without germinating. When the seed is well up, it will thrive the better the heavier the rain.

8. For the cold weather crop, both mar and kábar require a good late fall of rain to admit of ploughing and sowing. These soils, once saturated at this season, do not require another drop of rain: they retain enough moisture to ensure an excellent harvest.

9. A great part of Bundelkhand is undulating. In these parts the soil is light and poor; but when the rains are heavy and constant, it will produce an excellent kharif crop of bajra and jowar; but to bring about this result, the showers must be constant, as the greater part of the fall is rapidly carried off, and there is no great depth of soil to retain moisture.

10. In some of these undulating tracts a bed of rocks underlies the whole surface, only covered by a few inches of soil. Here no crops can be raised, but if the rains are heavy and constant, a most abundant crop of grass is produced, and the villagers profit largely by raising cattle, or taking in large herds to graze from other districts.

11. There is a fourth description of soil in the hilly parts of Bundelkhand. This is all gravelly and stony debris washed down from the hills, but mixed with enough earth to admit of the cultivation of inferior crops of bajra or jowar, and til (oil-seed), and other inferior grains during very favorable rains, but they produce no rabi crops whatever.

12. Throughout these districts there are no wells for irrigation, no canals, though it is to be hoped there will be canals some day. The only artificial irrigation is from the lakes in the hilly tracts, but owing to neglect or mismanagement not a tittle or a twentieth of the good that might be expected is done by those lakes; and, in the undulating parts, there is a local custom of constructing dams to retain the water in the few places where the bed of the water-course is wide and shallow. By this means a few acres are moistened every here and there, but the total is of no great importance. If I have succeeded in explaining what I wished to say, it will be understood that Bundelkhand relies for both its harvests on seasonable rain. If this is denied, there must be a rise in prices higher than in other parts, owing to its remoteness from other grain-growing tracts.

13. As a fact, the experience of many years shows that they cannot reckon on more than one favorable crop in four;—that is, one favorable kharif out of four, or one favorable rabi out of the same number. They do not get one bumper crop, or both a good kharif and a good rabi to follow out of the same rains oftener than once in ten or more years.

14. I may as well here state that the crop they had in the last kharif, and expect in the rabi now on the ground, is the best they have ever had since 1859—the year after the rebellion, or after an interval of 15 years.

15. The position of this province (of Bundelkhand) and the state of the people must be considered in any report treating of a famine (or, to be accurate, a scarcity) and its management.

16. If Bundelkhand cannot grow sufficient grain to support itself, it can rely only on the Dúab districts to its north (approximately) for assistance: to the south it borders on Rewa and the Saugor territory, on the west on the Native State of Gwalior (the Jhansi districts of Jalaun and Jhansi intervene, but they are part of Bundelkhand), and these all partake so much of the nature of Bundelkhand itself as to render them liable to the same influences of climate, and in an unfavorable season equally in need of assistance.

17. The people throughout all classes are poor, population is sparse, the area under cultivation is small (not one-fifth of the whole is under cultivation, and not nearly

that proportion in many parts), the want of capital and labor, and inveterate caste prejudices, render cultivation very primitive and ineffectual. The Government revenue is light, but it is paid with great difficulty; for, owing to the causes above-mentioned, and a general recklessness and improvidence, all the old proprietors that are left, and the greater number of the new ones, are deeply in debt. They have no resource but their fields, and these often fail them. Thus it follows that there are no large grain stores, excepting in the dealers' hands; there is not much money to spare to buy grain in a bad season when prices are high; so when a really bad season does come, the better off amongst the landed proprietors get deeper into debt, the small proprietors and tenants are fed to keep them alive by the village grain-dealers, to whom they are one and all indebted; and then the lowest class of all the village artisans, and the common laborers, who at the best of times live roughly and have nothing to spare, are put to great distress when the fields are dried up by drought, and the call for labor ceases, and there are no wages.

18. Then the wages for labor in Bundelkhand are on a peculiar system, unknown in the richer districts of the Dúab, but the natural inheritance of the poor in a poor country. In the Dúab, the laborer is permitted to carry away a good proportion, varying from 5 or 6 seers a day to a $\frac{1}{16}$ of the crop (according to the crop) he reaps for his employer. He and his family can thus lay by a store of grain which will last them for many months of the non-working season; but in Bundelkhand the laborer hardly ever receives this liberal treatment; at the most he receives 2½ annas a day pay, and this only when the harvest is at its height and labor is scarce; generally he receives less than this, and his women and children even less in proportion; but to all is accorded the privilege of eating as much as they can whilst they work, and they munch the dry hard corn all day whilst they are reaping. Other agricultural operations are paid for either in money or a ration of grain.

19. In a hard season like the last, I was myself a witness to the competition which meets the laboring classes, and deprives many of them of labor and wages which they enjoy as a matter of course in ordinary seasons. Ordinarily the Rajpút and Brahmin proprietor or tenant, and they are very numerous in Bundelkhand, will never plough or weed or reap. This year they all, attended by their wives and daughters, and even their young sons, who were withdrawn from the village schools for the purpose, labored all day at the harvest, and thus saved for themselves the grain or money usually paid away to the lower classes.

20. These were thus reduced to a greater degree of distress than ever, and the wonder was how they managed to live. Fortunately in those parts (I speak especially of Banda, where I personally saw what I am here relating, but it was the same elsewhere where the scarcity was greatest,—that is, in the undulating hilly tracts) there is always some jungle near, and to these jungles all who could go so far, and who had no occupation, resorted daily to search for berries, fruits, and gum, which are fortunately plentiful at that season, and with which they supplemented any small portion of regular food they might manage to obtain fairly or by begging, or stealing; as a fact, the children lived chiefly on this jungle produce. I have myself seen cultivators, men apparently tolerably well off and in good bodily condition, thin but capable of work, who were watching their ripening corn, and had nothing to eat but a sup-dently nutritious.

21. There is one more resource which saves the lives of hundreds of the poor in a hard season: everywhere they are permitted to gather shoots from the gram plants before it comes into flower. This nipping the young shoots makes the plant spread and grow, and produce more abundantly. The proprietor of the field benefits by the practice; and it is a most important item of food for all classes. It is an invaluable assistance to the very poor; and fortunately gram is grown most extensively. Then

when the crops are in grain and ripening, there is a great deal of stealing at night. The field watchers are generally low-caste laborers; often they are women; they connive at thefts committed by their fellow-villagers. I have had many complaints from the owners of fields about this constant stealing, and I have seen the long straw standing, and not an ear of corn to be seen in all the fields nearest to many a large village. However, it keeps the people alive, and it may be reckoned on as a certain resource in hard times.

22. The actual scarcity to which this report refers has been the subject of numerous letters and reports from district officers and myself to your office. There can be no advantage in repeating here what has already been said about it. It will suffice to say that it was brought about by a continuance of bad years, ending in a distressingly unfavorable rainy season in 1873. In that year the rains were scanty and unfavorable. There was positively no rain-crops at all in great parts of the district; nowhere was the crop more than one-fourth of the average. Then early in the autumn of 1873 the demand for grain for the famine districts in Behar caused the withdrawal of a considerable quantity of grain from the stores in the grain-trading villages on the banks of the Jumna, and this rise in prices continued all through the winter of 1873-74, until the spring, when there was a sudden declaration of considerable distress all through these Bundelkhand districts. All private stores were gone, there was no labour wanted, charity diminished, begging increased; for the usually large class of professional beggars was considerably added to by recruits from these poorer classes who had hitherto been dependent on labor, and just above begging, and then throughout this part of the country a demand that there was no mistaking arose, that relief must begin at once, or many lives would certainly be lost. Fortunately, all this time the cold weather crops of wheat, barley, flax, and gram were ripening all round; there was a promise of an abundant harvest of mhowa flowers, on which the poor chiefly live for many weeks; but there was an interval of six or eight weeks during which relief was imperative.

23. My personal experience of this destitution was in the Banda District. On 23rd February, in Kirwi, I first saw some people from neighbouring villages begging about the bazars and streets. They were in such a state of emaciation and suffering from hunger, that inquiry was at once suggested. From that day to March 20th, I was occupied in marching through all parts of the Banda District, inspecting villages, searching out the starving poor, establishing poor-houses, and organizing relief. The result of my inspection was that I marched 230 miles searching the villages on my tour of march and round my halting places: 21 poorhouses were established by myself or my assistants, containing on an average daily 4,000 poor of all ages and both sexes. Through the Kirwi subdivision I was assisted in this for a few days by Mr. Fisher, and then by Mr. Knox in charge of the subdivision.

24. In the mean time the Magistrate's Assistants in Banda were occupied inspecting in other parts of the district, establishing poorhouses, causing a close search to be made for suffering people, and organizing relief works for the able-bodied.

25. I do not know a more dispiriting or fatiguing duty than this search all day in villages to discover suffering and starving people. At first they were quite unable to understand the object for which they were sought out, and none came forward of their own accord. A house to house search had to be made, and was made by officers of all ranks, the police in many places giving excellent assistance.

26. Then a report, originating I could never discover how or where, but spreading far and wide, was universally believed that the object of collecting all these poor people in poorhouses and relief works, was to sweep them all off at once as emigrants to Burmah, to replace a ship-load from the district, which had been lost in the voyage. In this belief many of the most miserably poor, had no sooner been lodged in poor-

hours less than they stole away again to their homes; and able-bodied men and women avoided the relief works, or only stayed a few days until the gangs were increasing in strength, when they expected the final stroke would be carried out, and they would be moved away under guard, and so they escaped as they thought by returning to their homes.

27. It was also found necessary in dealing with such a peculiarly backward race, but little better than savages, to have the poorhouses within a day's walk, six to eight miles or so, of their homes; numbers of them had never left the neighbourhood of their own villages in all their lives, and dreaded being removed to a distance; as fast as they were escorted, and in many instances carried to the poorhouses, they stole away home again after receiving one or two meals. Therefore to induce them to remain, poorhouses were at first established in circles within about a six mile radius, or roughly about 12 or 14 miles apart, and those living near, who were in want of relief, were permitted to attend to receive their day's ration, and then to return to their homes.

28. After a time the fear of being pressed for emigration and the dislike to being removed to a remote poorhouse were off, they came and went, and returned again, and found there was nothing to fear, and work and wages, or food gratis, for all who sought it; and then (but this was after many weeks) the poorhouses were reduced in number. There was a poorhouse also at the head-quarters of each place, where relief works were being carried on, and the cases were very numerous, of persons of all ages and both sexes, being received at first and kept in the poorhouses and fed for a few days, until they were fed up into a condition to admit of their being drafted into the labor gangs. In some places connected with the poorhouse was a large hospital ward, where the worst cases were medically treated.

29. The officers employed in Banda were at first Mr. Thornhill, the Magistrate. He was relieved on 6th April, 1874, by Mr. Wall. Mr. Knox, the Joint-Magistrate, was in charge of the subdivision of Kirwi, and the Assistants in Banda were Messrs. Rose and Hardy, and Deputy Magistrates Fuzal Ahmud and Kadir Ali.

30. Mr. Fisher was also for a few days in charge of Kirwi.

31. It will be as well here, before entering into the detailed management in districts, to record that Mr. Wall on his arrival found everything well organised and in working order. He had an excellent and zealous staff of Assistants in Messrs. Knox, Rose, and Hardy, who had already travelled over and searched every part of the district, and knew their work thoroughly.

32. Mr. Wall and the officers under him worked continuously during all the hot weather months, inspecting and supervising in every part of the district. They all kept diaries, which were forwarded to me weekly, giving an account of their inspections, the places they visited, the poor they found, the attendance at poorhouses and relief works, and every thing connected with their special duties.

33. Mr. Wall was attentive, active, and business-like. Messrs. Rose and Hardy were intelligent, active, and reliable men, and did their duty thoroughly.

34. Mr. Knox had charge of the many poorhouses, and the numerous poor and the relief works in the subdivision of Kirwi, where the distress was greater than in any other part. He was indefatigable, never sparing himself; he had great distances to travel, and at the hottest season, but invariably his work was done cheerfully, thoroughly and well; his reports were complete, giving the fullest information. I attribute it chiefly to his constant care and activity that there were no deaths in his part of the country. He succeeded as far as they were concerned in converting a famine into a mere scarcity. When there is hard work of this kind to be done, no district officer could have a more thoroughly able, willing, and efficient an assistant, or one in whom greater confidence could be placed that he will not shirk or shuffle.

35. The work of all the English officers was much increased by the fact that the Native staff of Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars was conspicuously inefficient, with but very few exceptions. This is a difficulty which under the present system cannot be set right at once, for the Board of Revenue insist on old men being allowed to remain in employment until they can be pensioned.

36. The worst part of the Bánda district, as I have above said, was to the west, where it borders on Rewa along the line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. This is in the Kirwi subdivision. The country in this part is undulating, rocky, or hilly, and the scarcity was universal throughout it. It gradually grew less and less with a bad blot every here and there, until in the neighbourhood of the Ken river, which runs north by Bánda town, into the Jumna, there was a tract of country where the people were far better off. This tract extends for some distance across the Ken, when we come to the district of Hamírpur. The country changes here, it is again hilly, or rocky, and undulating, and in this part of Hamírpur there was considerable distress, but it appears to have been on the whole better off than Bánda.

37. In this district also relief works and poorhouses were organised betimes by Mr. Halkett, the district officer, and after he left were carried on by Mr. Kaye, who succeeded him. I have every reason to believe that the work was thoroughly done.

38. The difficulties in Allahabad were confined to one pargana and portion of another, both south of the Jumna, and similar to those parts where the distress was greatest in Banda and Hamirpur; but fortunately these tracts (in Allahabad) are not extensive, a better and more cultivated country either adjoins or intervenes, so there was never the great scarcity or rise in prices that occurred in other districts. There was therefore, not the great and sudden check that obtained elsewhere to the customary charity on which the begging classes live: nor were there so many as elsewhere of the laboring able-bodied poor reduced to begging: all the distress that arose was met by poorhouse relief.

39. Mr. Robertson's letter well describes the miserable paralytic cripples, who are to be found in every village in this division, where there is rocky ground and black cotton soil. At the best of times they are the most wretched objects imaginable; they hobble, begging, all day and every day through their own and neighbouring villages. It is a wonder how they live at all, even to those who are accustomed to see them, but they live on for many years, though they never recover.

40. It must not be supposed though for a moment, that these alone furnished the inmates for the poorhouses in Banda and Hamirpur. These crippled mendicants formed but a small portion of the crowds whom it was found necessary to relieve. The cripples and habitual beggars are a class apart, and can be recognised in a moment as the victims of disease and long exposure. Those suffering from distress caused by starvation, can be recognised in a moment also by the weak voice, sunken eyes, hollow look, drawn in cheeks, as well as by the extreme emaciation, never equalled even by the paralytic cripple, who is actually physically the better looking of the two in many cases ; for he is used to a hard life, and possibly has begged and obtained more to eat than the poor wretch who cannot beg, and who has suffered from unusual hunger, and has often not tasted any food for two or three days at a time.

41. It will be seen from this that during a period of about two months, whilst the rabi harvest was ripening, and the crop of mhowa flowers were awaiting the commencement of the hot winds to develop, the lower classes of laborers and artisans were on the very verge of famine. Numbers would certainly have died had they not been assisted. A succession of unfavorable rains and defective rain-crops will always cause distress amongst the poor in these districts, for they live almost entirely on bajra and jowar, and kodon, and in parts on rice. These are all rain-crops. Those

who can afford it, eat gram, but wheat they never touch: it is too valuable. They say wheat is not meant to eat, but to sell, and for the same reason barley is not much eaten either.

42. The fact that Bundelkhand is at times a large grain-producing country, and at times also subject to famines, and a great demand for grain, renders it a most favourable country for dealings and speculations in grain. We find accordingly (and it is a fact that should be remembered, for it would much facilitate operations undertaken by Government in a famine year, whether to obtain grain for other parts, or to feed the people in Bundelkhand itself by arrangements from head-quarters), that in every village of any importance there is a grain-dealer corresponding with, or employed by larger dealers, having their stores and head-quarters in the large villages on the banks of the Jumna, who again are well known to a still larger class of dealers in all large cities, and specially those situated on the banks of the Jumna or Ganges; for the grain trade still prefers the river traffic to the rail. Grain is so heavy and bulky, that transit by rail eats up a great portion of the profits, and the course of the trade, too, is from west to east generally, that is down-stream.

43. The manner of storing grain is rather peculiar. It is kept in deep pits underground. These pits are filled in favourable seasons, and the grain in them will keep for years, and is never touched or drawn on until a real hard season occurs. All general trade and dealings go on, as they say, with the grain above ground. The owners and dealers are generally rather reticent about the number and state of their store pits, but still their actual state can be found out. This year they were all very nearly empty. It will probably take some years before they are all filled again; for as I have said, they are filled only when grain is unusually cheap. During the last season much grain was imported into Kirwī via Manikpur on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from far down in the Central Provinces, the local stores were all consumed. From Kirwī it was distributed far and wide through the Banda District.

44. I have embodied in a divisional statement the tabular information submitted by Collectors on the points on which information was called for.

45. It is useless to repeat here the information they have given regarding the lines of road, &c., on which labour was employed. It will suffice to say generally that all lines on which relief gangs were employed have been lines, marked for years, as necessary to improve district communications, but awaiting funds, or postponed for other schemes. Generally throughout the districts of Hamirpur and Banda the work was limited to earth-works, raising lines of road through low country liable to flooding in the rains; the good thus done will be permanent, though perhaps rather costly *quoad* the work turned out, though well worth the money spent when all is considered.

46. In your letter you required information called for to be given according to the headings in Mr. Geddes' work on famines: neither my district officers nor myself have ever seen this publication. I should much like to have it in my office library. Can you send me a copy from the Government Secretariat shelves?

I have, &c.,

G. H. M. RICKETTS,
Commissioner.

No. 272 OF 1874.

FROM

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JHANSI,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

Dated Jhansi, the 2nd December, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to send in the following report* on the operations for the relief of scarcity in the Jhansi District, in compliance with Government letter No. 643A. of 1874.

2. The operations will be more conveniently described by dividing them into two distinct periods, viz., those undertaken in 1873 and those in 1874, as there was an interval of some three months between them.

1873.

3. The severe distress in the Jhansi District was mainly confined to the parganas of Mau and Garotha.

4. The distress was directly owing—1st, to the failure of the 'kharif crops of 1872 from unseasonable rains, the Jowar crop more especially suffering from this cause, and the rabi, too, of 1873 was a partial failure; and 2nd, to the great spread of káns grass since the drought of 1868, by which the area of land under cultivation had been much reduced, and many had been deprived of their usual agricultural occupations.

Besides the above two causes, it is a mournful fact that since the famine of 1868-69, there have not been two consecutive average good harvests in the Mau and Garotha parganas, either the rabi or kharif crops having failed more or less each year, and the failure of the kharif crops was only the last straw that broke the camel's back, and made the scarcity in those portions of the district severely felt.

5. The abstract below will show the number of persons employed on relief works and the amount expended from the opening of the works on the 8th February, to the close on 31st October, 1873.

		Amount.			No. employed.
		Rs.	a.	p.	
February ...	...	...	653	2 6	10,136
March ...	...	...	1,326	6 3	17,496
April ...	...	...	1,601	5 3	21,542
May ...	...	...	2,020	14 0	23,600
June ...	...	...	2,149	11 2	25,981
July ...	...	...	1,871	10 6	24,211
August ...	...	...	1,324	14 0	17,315
September ...	...	...	784	6 9	10,775
October ...	...	...	1,233	11 3	15,423
Total, Rs.		12,966	1 8		166,479

* NOTE.—The original report, as submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, contained a detailed account, with tabulated statements, of the distress during the first nine months of 1873. Of this only so much has been left as serves to illustrate the condition of the district in the beginning of 1874, when distress again made its appearance. A supplementary report followed on 11th December, and is incorporated with this.

To this must be added 20,141 persons employed on the Magarwara tank at a cost of Rs. 1,577-5-0, from 9th April to 31st July, under the charge of the Irrigation Department, Public Works. Total number of persons relieved, 186,620 at a cost of Rs. 14,543-6-8.

The relief works in the Mau and Garotha parganas which afforded employment

1. Sukhnai Bridge Branch Road.	6. Kanja and Kurancha Road.	to the above numbers of labourers during 1873, were nine in number. They are shown in the margin.
2. Rupa Dhauna Road.	7. Lakheri Cutting.	
3. Ranipur and Ratosa Road	8. Mau and Gurseai Road.	
4. Ranipur and Seaori Road.	9. Magarwara Lake.	
5. Bajpai Tank.		

1874.

6. At the end of February, 1874, signs of distress again showed themselves in the parganas of Mau and Garotha, owing to the total failure of the cotton crop, the very small outturn of the arhar and small grains, and a generally bad kharif all over the district, which, coming after the hard times of the year before, made some relief works of a temporary nature necessary, not only to relieve the actually starving poor, which the lumbaridars and richer cultivators, themselves now impoverished, could not be expected to support, but also to check the emigration to Malwa, much of which had taken place during the months of January and February: the Assistant Commissioner of Mau reporting that 1,458 cultivators had emigrated to Malwa and neighbouring districts. Notwithstanding, therefore, that the rabi prospects were good and above the average, it was feared the distress would press very heavily on the poorer classes of labourers and cultivators, though landholders were likely to do well on account of the high prices that were current. Sanction was therefore accorded by Government, on the representation of the Commissioner and myself, in its Resolution No. 703B.R., dated 14th March, 1874, to the immediate commencement of the following three works:—

1. Raising certain portion of the Jalaun and Saugor Road	Rs. 3,000
2. Raising Ranipur and Seaori Road	„ 1,200
3. Restoring Bijaygarh Tank Bund and Canals for irrigation	„ 1,000

Besides the above works, the Ranipur and Ratosa Road was kept open as a relief work under the orders of the Commissioner.

Relief works were commenced on the 1st March, but regular returns were not sent in till the 21st March, and Appendix B. therefore includes only the period from the 21st March to the 14th July, when the relief works were closed.

7. Though the works as relief works were closed on the 14th July, yet it was considered advisable to continue the metalling of the Ranipur and Ratosa road as a measure of relief for the poor classes in the neighbourhood of Mau; changing its character however to that of an ordinary work. Up to the end of September a further sum of Rs. 651 was spent on it, and has been included in the amount expended on relief works.

8. Besides these works two other small works of purely local importance were set on foot, viz., Baragaon and Garotha road, on which Rs. 38 were spent, and the repair of the Nand Sagar tank in Katehra, which cost Rs. 497-8-3, and was defrayed from the revenues of the estate under the Court of Wards. The latter has not been included, therefore, in the relief returns.

9. The following figures will show the amounts expended on each work:—

1. Jalaun and Sagar road,	Rs.
2. Ranipur and Siaori road,	2,936
3. Bijeygarh tank, ...	934
4. Ranipur and Ratosa road,	1,180
	1,254
	6,294

	Rs.
5. Ranipur and Ratosa road after close of relief works proper, to end of September, ...	651
6. Baragaon and Garotha road, ...	38
	6,983

10. The total expenditure on these works has been sanctioned, but the outlay has not yet been finally adjusted; it is to be divided in each case between the Public Works Department and relief proper.

11. The average rate per person, according to the statement, comes to nearly one anna two pie, excluding value of material for Bijeygarh tank and carriages.

12. The total number of persons relieved, as per Appendix B., was 84,939, at a cost of Rs. 6,286. Including, however, some 5,000 persons employed on works 5, 6, and 7, for which no returns were kept, the total number during 1874 comes to about 90,000 persons relieved, at a cost of Rs. 6,983, excluding the Nand Sagar tank.

13. The numbers do not vary to any great extent, and call for no special remark. They show, however, that the scarcity, though never very severe, was sufficiently so to justify the measures taken in its relief, and there is no doubt they helped to mitigate very considerably the distress that would otherwise have probably, if not so met, entailed in the long run a greater expenditure, as well as a higher degree of suffering among the agricultural classes.

14. Taking the years 1873 and 1874 together, the whole expenditure direct and indirect on relief works was Rs. 22,720, and the number of persons employed 276,620.

RELIEF FROM PRIVATE CHARITY.

There was no Government money expended on poorhouses in the Jhansi District, as the private subscriptions raised in accordance with instructions from the Central Relief Committee were advisedly kept by the Local Committee for the relief of destitute persons unfit for employment in the district itself.

The sum raised, Rs. 324, was sufficient to support these for some four months. In the beginning of March, when it was expected the distress would be more severely felt than fortunately proved true, small sums of money were distributed to Assistant Custom Patrols and Police Officers for the relief of starving villagers and travellers; but with the exception of the relief at Katehra, which cost Rs. 46, and was defrayed from the income of the Raja, the expenditure at other places (excluding Mau) was only Rs. 25.

In the neighbourhood of Mau, where, as in last year, the scarcity was greatest, the amount spent during the year to the middle of September was Rs. 218. There remains a balance of Rs. 28-7-9 in the treasury. An account showing the monthly number of persons relieved from March to July is annexed (Appendix B). It will be noticed that Rs. 87-3-5 was subsequently expended by Mr. Sturt.

PRICES CURRENT.

A form showing the monthly prices current of the year 1873, and up to July, 1874, compared with those of 1871 taken as an ordinary year, is annexed (Appendix A).

I have, &c.,
G. W. ANSON, LIEUT.,
Asst. Commr., for Dy. Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.

Average prices of grain in Pargana Mau for 1873, and from January to July, 1874, compared with the average prices of an ordinary year, 1871.

Month.	PER RUPEE.											
	Wheat.			Gram.			Bajra.			Jowar.		
	1873.			1874.			1873.			1874.		
	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.	S. C.
January	14 0	14 4	21 8	19 0	16 8	25 0	18 4	22 12	20 0	19 0	24 0	9 4
February	14 0	14 12	21 4	20 0	15 6	26 10	16 0	22 4	20 8	16 4	24 8	9 4
March	14 0	15 4	21 4	20 8	21 4	26 10	19 8	22 4	20 0	17 8	24 8	9 4
April	13 14	16 6	23 7	17 6	18 12	30 8	16 4	27 14	17 6	18 12	27 14	9 4
May	14 0	16 4	25 10	15 12	18 12	31 15	16 4	31 0	16 4	19 0	32 4	9 4
June	13 12	17 0	25 7	14 4	19 0	33 8	14 2	33 8	14 12	19 0	33 8	9 2
July	12 10	16 8	24 10	14 10	18 4	33 12	14 10	31 2	14 10	18 4	33 6	9 0
August	12 8	...	25 6	14 10	...	35 3	...	31 0	14 12	...	33 0	9 1
September	11 6	...	19 4	13 8	...	...	...	27 8	13 10	...	31 0	9 2
October	11 8	...	21 2	12 12	...	27 8	...	27 8	12 12	...	27 8	9 4
November	12 4	...	22 8	14 0	...	29 4	15 4	28 4	18 12	...	28 4	9 4
December	13 8	...	21 8	14 12	...	27 4	16 8	23 12	20 4	...	25 0	9 8

G. W. ANSON, LIEUT.
Asst. Commr., for Deputy Commissioner.

APPENDIX B.

Relief works in Mau Pargana from March to July, 1874.

Relief works in Mau Pargana from March to 1906.						
Week.	Money expended.	PERSONS EMPLOYED.				REMARKS.
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	
March.						
21st to 31st ...	Rs. a P. 69 12 6	459	195	145	799	
April.						
1st to 8th ...	273 0 6	1,051	1,908	741	3,706	
9th to 15th ...	486 13 3	1,716	3,585	997	6,298	
16th to 21st ...	329 15 3	1,362	2,383	676	4,421	
22nd to 30th ...	538 15 3	1,856	4,446	1,233	7,535	
May.						
1st to 7th ...	462 2 9	1,492	3,518	1,404	6,414	
7th to 14th ...	556 8 0	1,693	3,984	2,098	7,775	
15th to 21st ...	410 12 6	1,429	3,708	2,104	7,241	
22nd to 30th ...	618 0 0	2,467	4,221	1,165	7,853	
June.						
1st to 7th ...	499 2 6	2,482	2,990	996	6,468	
7th to 14th ...	448 15 0	1,698	3,754	687	6,139	
15th to 21st ...	485 12 0	1,925	39,94	763	6,682	
22nd to 30th ...	504 15 0	1,851	4,284	739	6,874	
July.						
1st to 7th ...	378 9 6	1,549	3,209	484	5,242	
8th to 14th ...	108 8 3	399	792	301	1,492	
Total ...	6,172 8 3	23,429	46,971	14,539	84,939	
Value of material for Bijeygarh tank.	31 6 0					
Carriage, &c. ...	83 9 6					
Total ...	6,286 13 9					
G. W. ANSON, LIEUT., Asst. Commr., for Deputy Commissioner.						

G. W. ANSON, LIEUT.
Asst. Commr., for Deputy Commissioner.

APPENDIX 'C.

I.

Account of Charitable Relief in Jhansi District from March to July, 1874.

Month.	EXPENDITURE.			No. of persons relieved.	
	Cash.	Food.	Total.		
1	2.	3	4	5	6
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	
March 1874 ...	9 8 0	7 15 2	17 7 2	276	ABSTRACT. Amount of local subscriptions collected ... 324 0 0 Amount expended in relief operations in the district, for which accounts have been submitted to the Central Committee from March to July, 1874, 209 4 10 Amount subsequently expended by Mr. Sturt, for which no accounts were submitted, as reported to Central Committee, vide docket No. 259, dated 26th August, 1874 ... 87 3 5 In hand in the Treasury ... 28 7 9 ----- 324
April " ...	17 8 6	9 10 0	27 2 6	380	
May " ...	20 2 9	36 1 10	56 4 7	1,559	
June " ...	8 13 9	43 15 10	52 13 7	1,494	
July " ...	44 7 3	10 1 9	54 9 0	1,192	
Total ...	100 8 3	107 12 7	208 4 10	4,901	

II.

List of Poorhouses.

Name of poorhouse.	Date of opening	Date of closing.	Amount expended in each.	REMARKS.
			Rs.	
Mau ...	March 1874.	14th July, 1874.	218 0 9	Under Mr Sturt.
Katehra ...	Ditto.	Ditto.	46 6 3	Sazawal.
Erich ...	April.	Ditto.	11 1 6	Patrol.
Babina ...	Ditto.	Ditto.	7 8 6	Ditto.
Barwa Sagar ...	Ditto.	Ditto.	1 13 6	Police Officer.
Moth ...	Ditto.	10th August.	2 9 0	Tahsildar.
Baghera ...	May 1874.	July, 1874.	2 13 9	Police Officer.
Jhansi ...	...	...	5 3 0	Tahsildar.
Total ...	...	...	295 8 3	...

G. W. ANSON, Lieut.,
Asst. Commissioner, for Deputy Commissioner.

DOCKET No. 188.

FROM

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JALAUN,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

Dated the 8th December, 1874.

WITH reference to his telegram No. 666A., dated 27th ultimo, has the honour to submit a note on relief operations in the Jalaun District, drawn out by Mr. White, Assistant Commissioner, with Appendices A. and B.

A. E. DAVIDSON, COLONEL,

Deputy Commissioner.

Note by Assistant Commissioner, Jalaun.

At the request of the Deputy Commissioner, Colonel A. G. Davidson, I write this note in reply to G. O. No. 643A., dated 6th October, 1874, regarding famine relief operations in Jalaun during 1873-74; but personally I had no connection with the matter. What little was done, was done under Colonel Ternan's own direction and responsibility, and his final opinion on the question of scarcity in the district is shown by the following incident:—

On the 11th May, 1874, the Commissioner, Jhansi Division, wrote for "copies of the telegrams that (may) have been forwarded direct to Government regarding the state of the district with respect to scarcity;" and Colonel Ternan answered that there was no scarcity, nor had any telegrams been sent to Government. There is naturally very little to show therefore in the way of operations for relief.

It does, however, seem that about two months earlier, the existence of scarcity was represented, because the Resolution of Government, Public Works Department, dated 14th March, 1874, sanctioning certain relief works for Jalaun and Jhansi, refers to a "demi-official letter from the Commissioner, dated 3rd March, 1874,*

forwarding a letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Jalaun, reporting that there is considerable distress in the Jalaun District amongst the poorer classes, caused by partial failure of the kharif and the high prices of grain." But I see no trace of such a letter from Colonel Ternan in the file before me; probably, as being demi-official, no copy was kept.

The Resolution above quoted sanctioned the opening out of two relief works in this district, namely,—

- (1.) Drainage cuttings in the town and neighbourhood of Madhogarh.
- (2.) Raising the Shergarh Ghat Road.

The first work was not apparently taken in hand.

The second was begun on the 8th April, 1874, and closed on the 7th June following: the sum of Rs. 924-11-0 in all being spent on it. The daily number of individuals employed on it averaged nearly 180; and the whole result was that earthwork to the extent of 193,347 cubic feet was raised on the road. Weekly details of the number of persons employed, rate of wages paid, and work done are shown in Appendix B. This was the only expenditure from State funds, and no workhouses were opened.

The sum of Rs. 203 was spent in the town of Jalaun in partly levelling the earthen mound of the old fort, and the sum of Rs. 90 was expended in the town of Orai in cleaning its pukka tank. These sums were raised from local subscriptions in aid of the poor of those places.

The monthly range of prices of grain in each of the five parganas of the district, for the revenue year 1873-74, is shown in Appendix A.

This note is an unavoidably meagre one under the circumstances of the case. (Mr. Geddes' "administrative experience recorded in former famines" is not, it is said, in the Deputy Commissioner's official library).

P. J. WHITE,
Assistant Commissioner.

Dated the 7th December, 1874.

APPENDIX A.

Monthly price current of grain as on record in the Deputy Commissioner's Office for the five parganas of the Jalaun District on account of the year 1873-74.

Pargana.	For what period.	Wheat, 1st sort.		Wheat, 2nd sort.		Barley.		Gram.		Rice.		Dal Arhar.		Dal Mung.		Dal Urd.		Jowar.		Bajra.		Mung.	
		M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.
JALAUN	October, 1873	...	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 17 8	0 17 8	0 17 8	0 17 8	0 11 4	0 15 8	0 15 4	0 15 8	0 15 4	0 15 4	0 15 4	0 15 4	0 15 4	0 19 0	0 19 0	0 19 0	0 19 0	...	...
	November "	...	0 13 12	0 14 0	0 17 0	0 17 0	0 17 0	0 17 0	0 11 0	0 20 0	0 19 0	0 20 0	0 19 0	0 19 0	0 19 0	0 19 0	0 19 0	0 21 4	0 21 4	0 19 0	0 19 0	...	...
	December "	...	0 14 12	0 14 0	0 19 4	0 19 4	0 19 4	0 17 0	0 14 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 18 12	0 18 12	...	...
	January, 1874	...	0 14 8	0 15 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 17 8	0 13 12	0 15 4	0 16 0	0 15 4	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 15 4	0 15 4	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 17 12	0 17 12	...	...
	February "	...	0 14 0	0 15 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 18 0	0 12 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 17 8	0 17 8	0 17 0	0 17 0	...	...
	March "	...	0 15 0	0 17 12	0 18 0	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 22 8	0 12 8	0 12 8	0 12 8	0 12 8	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 13 8	0 13 8	...	...	0 17 0	0 17 0	...	...
	April "	...	0 17 12	0 18 0	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 21 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
	May "	...	0 18 0	0 17 12	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 20 8	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
	June "	...	0 18 8	0 18 12	0 21 0	0 21 0	0 20 12	...	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
	July "	...	0 17 12	0 18 0	0 20 4	0 20 4	...	...	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	...	...	...	...	...	...
	August "	...	0 17 8	0 17 12	...	...	...	...	0 7 8	0 7 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	0 14 8	...	...	...	...	...	...
	September "	...	0 18 0	...	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 21 0	0 21 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
ORAI	October, 1873	...	0 13 8	...	0 19 0	0 19 0	0 17 0	0 17 0	0 10 8	0 10 8	0 13 8	0 13 8	0 13 8	0 13 8	0 13 8	0 13 8	0 13 8	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	...	...
	November "	...	0 13 0	...	0 18 0	0 18 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 20 0	...	...
	December "	...	0 13 0	...	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 16 8	0 16 8	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 21 0	0 21 0	0 18 0	0 18 0	...	...
	January, 1874	...	0 13 8	...	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 17 8	0 17 8	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	...	...
	February "	...	0 14 0	...	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 11 0	0 11 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 17 0	0 17 0	0 16 8	0 16 8	...	...
...	March "	...	0 17 0	...	0 20 0	0 20 0	0 24 0	0 24 0	0 11 0	0 11 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 16 8	0 16 8	0 16 0	0 16 0	...	...

APPENDIX A.—(Continued.)

Pargana.	For what period.	Wheat, 1st sort.		Wheat, 2nd sort.		Barley.	Gram.	Rice.	Dal Arhar.	Dal Mung.	Dal Urd.	Jowar.	Bajra.	Mung.
		M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.
ORAI	April	0 17 0	...	...	...	0 22 0	0 21 0	0 11 0	0 13 0	0 14 0	0 13 8	0 16 8	0 16 0	...
	May	0 18 0	...	...	...	0 22 0	0 21 0	0 11 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 16 8	0 16 0	...
	June	0 18 8	...	...	...	0 20 0	0 21 8	0 11 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	...
	July	0 18 0	...	...	...	0 20 0	0 21 0	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 16 8	0 16 0	...
	August	0 18 0	...	...	...	0 20 0	0 21 0	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 16 8	0 16 0	...
	September	0 18 0	...	...	...	0 20 0	0 21 0	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 16 8	0 16 0	...
	October, 1873	0 13 7	0 14 4	0 15 0	...	0 15 15	...	0 11 4	0 13 0	0 12 8	0 13 8	...	...	...
	November	0 11 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 18 12	...	0 14 12	0 10 0	0 19 6	0 18 8	0 18 8	0 20 10	0 18 12	...
	December	0 14 4	0 13 4	0 13 4	0 18 4	...	0 16 0	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 20 0	0 18 12	...
	January, 1874	0 14 4	0 14 1	0 14 1	0 16 8	...	0 16 0	0 10 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	0 20 0	0 18 4	...
KURCH	February	0 14 4	0 18 12	0 19 1	...	...	0 22 8	0 12 8	0 13 0	0 12 12	0 12 0	...	...	...
	March	0 18 12	0 18 2	0 18 2	0 20 0	...	0 20 10	0 12 0	0 13 0	0 14 0	0 14 0	...	...	...
	April	0 18 12	0 18 12	0 19 1	...	...	0 20 5	0 11 4	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 16 0	...	...	...
	May	0 19 12	0 19 1	...	...	...	0 20 10	0 12 8	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 14 0	...	...
	June	0 18 6	0 17 13	...	...	...	0 19 6	0 11 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	...	...	...
	July	0 18 12	0 18 2	...	...	...	0 21 0	0 11 8	0 12 8	0 14 0	0 13 8	...	...	...
	August	0 20 1	0 19 12	...	...	...	0 21 10	0 11 0	0 14 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	...	...	...
	September	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

KALPI	October, 1873	0 14 0	0 15 8	0 20 8	0 19 8	...	0 15 0	0 16 8	0 16 8	0 16 8	...	...	...	...
	November	0 14 8	...	0 19 8	0 17 8	...	0 15 8	0 16 8	0 16 8	0 16 8	...	...	0 19 8	...
	December	0 14 8	0 4 8	0 19 8	0 17 8	...	0 14 8	0 17 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	...	...	0 19 8	...
	January, 1874	0 14 4	0 14 8	0 13 8	0 18 4	...	0 14 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	...	...	0 19 8	0 18 4
	February	0 14 12	0 4 12	0 17 0	0 16 8	...	0 13 8	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	...	...	0 16 4	0 16 4
	March	0 13 4	0 15 8	0 20 8	0 22 8	...	0 15 8	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	...	...	0 19 8	0 16 0
	April	0 16 8	0 16 8	0 21 8	0 20 0	...	0 14 8	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	...	...	...	...
	May	0 15 12	0 16 8	0 21 8	0 19 8	...	0 14 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	0 16 0	...	...	...	...
	June	0 16 12	0 16 8	0 19 8	0 19 8	...	0 13 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	...	...	...	...
	July	0 16 8	0 16 8	0 20 8	0 20 8	...	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	...	...	...	...
MADHOGARH	August	0 16 12	0 16 12	0 21 12	0 21 8	...	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	...	...	...	...
	September	0 17 8	0 17 12	0 23 8	0 22 0	...	0 16 8	0 13 0	0 16 8	0 13 0	...	...	...	...
	October, 1873	0 13 12	0 14 1	0 15 0	0 16 13	...	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	...	...	0 22 8	...
	November	0 14 1	0 14 6	0 17 8	0 17 8	...	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	...	...	0 21 0	...
	December	0 13 12	0 14 1	0 17 8	0 17 8	...	0 16 4	0 16 4	0 16 4	0 16 4	...	...	0 18 12	...
	January, 1874	0 13 12	0 13 14	0 17 8	0 16 4	...	0 14 2	0 14 2	0 14 2	0 14 2	...	...	0 18 12	...
	February	0 13 15	0 14 1	0 18 12	0 18 12	...	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	...	...	0 20 0	...
	March	0 16 12	0 17 4	0 22 8	0 21 8	...	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	...	...	0 18 0	...
	April	0 17 0	0 17 4	0 20 0	0 20 0	...	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	...	...	...	...
	May	0 17 0	0 17 8	0 20 8	0 20 8	...	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	...	...	...	...
	June	0 17 8	0 18 0	0 20 0	0 20 0	...	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	...	...	...	...
JALAN DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE:	July	0 16 4	0 16 9	0 18 7	0 18 2	...	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	...	...	...	...
	August	0 16 4	0 16 9	0 19 6	0 19 6	...	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	...	...	...	...
	September	0 17 3	0 17 8	0 20 5	0 20 5	...	0 16 8	0 13 12	0 13 12	0 13 12	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Statement of Relief Operations from 8th April to 7th June, 1874.

Statement of Relief Operations from 8th April to 7th June, 1874.

Date.	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED.				RATE OF WAGES.				Total amount expended.	Brief abstract of work done.
	Men.			Total number.	Women.			Children.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.		Men.	Women.	Children.			
From 8th April to 14 to April, 1874	273	75	20	368	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.	Ra. a. p.	29 11 9	4,590 cubic feet of earthwork.
" 15th to 21st ditto	393	218	138	749	25 9 6	3 5 3	0 10 0	51 6 0	13,020 ditto.	
" 22nd to 30th ditto	1,020	591	281	1,892	26 13 6	10 3 6	4 5 0	132 1 0	28,200 ditto.	
" 1st to 7th May, 1874	1,081	579	262	1,922	93 9 6	27 11 0	8 12 6	136 10 9	81,780 ditto.	
" 8th to 14th ditto	1,031	565	222	1,818	101 5 6	27 2 3	8 3 0	130 1 3	29,875 ditto.	
" 15th to 21st ditto	602	334	144	1,080	96 10 6	26 7 9	6 15 0	81 13 9	16,950 superficial feet dressing.	
" 22nd to 31st ditto	940	637	248	1,825	56 7 0	20 14 9	4 8 0	135 9 0	12,750 superficial feet dressing.	
" 1st to 7th June, 1874	720	435	146	1,301	67 8 6	27 3 0	4 9 0	99 4 0	37,423 cubic feet, earthwork.	
Add charges for establishment and contingencies as per weekly returns.	6,060	3,434	1,461	10,955	568 0 0	183 15 6	45 10 0	796 9 6	45,840 superficial feet.	
Total, Rs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128 1 6	...	193,347 cubic feet—total quantity of works.
Average number of persons employed daily	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,840 superficial feet.
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	179:9

JALAN DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE :

Dated Orni, the December, 1874.

P. J. WHITE,

Assistant Commissioner

FROM

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
CENTRAL FAMINE COMMITTEE, N.-W. PROVINCES.

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

Dated Allahabad, the 28th January, 1875.

SIR,

In pursuance of a resolution passed at a public meeting convened at Allahabad on the 7th February, 1874; His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to nominate a central committee to concert measures for the relief of the indigent classes in such districts of the North-Western Provinces as were threatened with scarcity, and in the famine-stricken districts of the North-Western Provinces.

2. His Honor was pleased to intimate that the Government would provide labour for all who could work, but that the support of the sick and aged, the young and tender, and the infirm, must mainly be the care of private charity; and His Honor announced that to all subscriptions raised for these purposes, the Government would contribute an equal sum.

3. On the 12th February the central committee appointed an executive committee, instructing it to meet at regular intervals for the transaction of business.

4. At a meeting of the executive committee held on the same date it was resolved—(1) that the Collectors of the several districts in the North-Western Provinces should be requested to form committees to collect subscriptions; (2) that the Collectors of Basti, Gorakhpur, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Hamirpur, and Banda should be requested, if they had not already done so, to form relief committees, to keep the central committee acquainted with the state of destitution in their respective districts, and the amounts which they might from time to time estimate as required for relief of the poor who might be unfit for labour; and (3) that while the circumstances of particular places or persons might require and justify a departure from the rules prescribed by the committee, relief should only be given ordinarily to those persons only who could not labour on relief works, and in the shape of cooked food, not exceeding 10 chittacks per diem for each adult.

5. On the 22nd April the Government, North-Western Provinces, issued a circular to the Collectors, declaring that the entire supervision of charitable relief, and auditing of accounts connected with it, had been confided to the central committee, and ordering that the accounts both of collections of contributions and disbursements should be submitted to the committee in such form as the committee should prescribe. It was at the same time announced that the Government would not sanction any expenditure for poorhouse or charitable relief shown in the treasury accounts of any district until it were shown to have been approved and audited by the central committee.

6. In order to prevent any migration of the poor from the district of Gorakhpur into the district of Champaran, Lower Provinces, and thereby disturb the calculations of the officers of that district, the executive committee requested the Collector to establish centres of relief at the outlying tahsils, and to put himself in communication with the Collector of Champaran.

7. Acting on the instructions, and guided by the principles above indicated, the executive committee procured the appointment of local committees where they had not

been appointed in districts requiring relief, received the contributions forwarded from the several Collectorates, made grants, and received and scrutinized accounts of expenditure.

8. The committee received from the undermentioned districts the subscriptions entered in the subjoined statement:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Allahabad, ...	5,030	3	0
Agra, ...	799	6	0
Badaun, ...	2,721	10	3
Bareilly, ...	1,242	8	0
Bijnor, ...	2,269	13	0
Bulandshahr, ...	1,848	10	0
Etawah, ...	1,137	12	0
Farukhabad, ...	2,095	0	0
Jaunpur, ...	102	0	0
Lalitpur, ...	202	9	0
Meerut, ...	10,201	8	0
Mirzapur, ...	1,774	0	0
Moradabad, ...	2,524	4	0
Muttra, ...	8,520	0	0
Muzaffarnagar, ...	3,233	8	0
Roorkee, ...	578	13	6
Saharanpur, ...	3,367	12	0
Shahjahanpur, ...	1,500	0	0
Total Rs.	49,149	4	9

9. In the districts mentioned in the subjoined statement the Collectors received in subscriptions, and, under the sanction of the committee, applied to local requirements the sums therein shown:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Allahabad, ...	100	2	0
Banda, ...	1,718	2	11
Ghazipur, ...	5,372	6	10
Gorakhpur, ...	5,084	10	1
Hamirpur, ...	2,607	10	7
Jhansi, ...	208	4	10
Basti, ...	754	6	5
Total Rs.	15,845	11	8

10. The districts of Fatehpur and Aligarh gave no contribution to the fund, nor did the district and wealthy city of Benares. Of the sum subscribed in the district of Muttra, no less than Rs. 7,000 were the gift of Seths Gobind Das and Lachhman Das of Muttra, who received the thanks of Government for their liberality. Subscriptions were raised in the district of Azamgarh, and, it is believed, expended to meet local requirements; no account of these subscriptions or of their disbursements has come to the hands of the committee.

11. The total amount of subscriptions received by the committee and by the district officers, over which the committee has had control, is Rs. 64,995-0-5.

12. Before the full amount subscribed was received, the committee drew from the treasury the sum of Rs. 13,036-12-4, being the amount contributed by the Government under the order before mentioned.

The committee has therefore to account for Rs. 78,031-12-9.

13. The sum of Rs. 15,000 was subscribed and remitted by the inhabitants of Bombay for the relief of sufferers from famine in the North-Western Provinces. When the gravity of the crisis in the North-West had disappeared, and it had been ascertained that the sums subscribed in these Provinces would be adequate to meet local requirements, it came to the knowledge of the committee that distress existed in Scinde, for the relief of which an appeal to Bombay was probable; the committee therefore replaced at the disposal of the subscribers in Bombay the Rs. 15,000 which had been remitted from that Presidency.

14. The central relief committee in Calcutta announced to this committee a resolution passed by it declaring that the funds received from subscribers in England were available for the relief of the distressed in the North-Western Provinces. The committee for the North-Western Provinces, finding that its funds were amply sufficient, did not avail itself of this resolution.

15. Before discussing the particulars of the expenditure incurred under the sanction of the committee, it will be convenient to state that the extent of population and the incidence of Government revenue per acre have been taken from the census tables recently published, and that the number of persons stated to have been employed on public works has been ascertained from a return obtained from the Department of Public Works, which apparently does not include the number of persons employed on works of which the expense was defrayed from local funds.

16. Relief was given in the shape of cooked and uncooked food and cash. The cooked and uncooked food consisted chiefly of the cheaper grains, such as dāl, bajra, gram, barley and common rice, and the flower of the mahua tree. The sick and infirm under medical direction received more nutritious diet. Relief in cash was distributed principally to *parda-nashin* women.

17. The miscellaneous expenditure (where it is not otherwise stated) includes these cash payments. It also includes charges for the construction of poorhouses, for the provision of culinary vessels, firewood, cotton for the employment of those able to spin, and medical assistance and medicines.

18. The district officers submitted accounts showing the particulars of the expenditure weekly, and these accounts have been carefully scrutinized by the committee.

19. The following is an account of the operations of the committee in the distressed districts:—

Ghazipur.—This district has been selected as the first for mention because the committee has received from the Officiating Collector, Mr. Oldham, a copy of a carefully compiled report submitted by him to the Commissioner of the Division; and, putting aside the peculiar circumstances of the district, many of the remarks made by Mr. Oldham are, it is believed, applicable to the other districts in which operations for the relief of distress were carried out under the supervision of the committee.

The features which distinguish Ghazipur from the districts last mentioned are the greater density of its population; its production of valuable crops other than food crops, circumstances which conduce to a third difference—its greater reliance on imports for its food supply; and lastly, as compared with some of the other districts, its enjoyment of greater facilities for importation in the shape of railroad and river communications with foreign markets.

The average population of Ghazipur is estimated at 620 persons to the square mile. The incidence of the Government revenue per acre is Re. 1-1-4 to the total area, Re. 1-1-7 to the area under settlement, and Re. 1-8-0 to the area under cultivation. The Officiating Collector estimates the area under cultivation at 1,000,000 acres; and he considers that of this 20,000 are devoted to opium, 10,000 to indigo, 40,000 to rose and oil-seeds, and 100,000 to sugarcane. Thus a total of 175,000 acres are abstracted from the total area under cultivation to produce crops other than grain crops.

To meet the deficit in the food supply, the Officiating Collector calculates that in ordinary years from 120,000 to 130,000 maunds of edible grains are annually imported by rail, and a yet larger quantity by road and river. From 1st October, 1873, to 1st October, 1874, the importations by rail amounted to no less than 864,728½ maunds. This increase was doubtless in some measure due to the reduction of freight, but still more to the circumstance that whereas in ordinary years the district draws much of its supplies from Bengal, and the grain from Bengal is introduced by road and river, in the year ending 1st October, 1874, the bulk of the food supply was obtained from the North-West and the Panjab. The increase in importation by rail was, in addition to these causes, mainly due to the failure of the kharif crop in the district.

The Officiating Collector insists on the fact that the whole of this importation was effected by private enterprise, and the circumstance is certainly noteworthy. The disaster in Orissa has been frequently made the text of diatribes against the science of political economy. It has been urged that the ordinary rules of that science are inapplicable to the circumstances of India. This objection, when taken to the rule that demand begets supply, merely comes to what every political economist would allow, that the rule is only applicable when there are facilities for the supply. There must be the article available, the means of transport, the wealth with which it can be purchased by the importer, the energy which sets the importer in motion, and the retail distributor. In Orissa several of these essentials were found wanting. In Ghazipur they were all present, grain was to be had in foreign markets at rates which made its importation profitable, the railroad conveyed it to the place where the demand existed, the importers and retail distributors merely extended operations to which they were habituated, and for which the wealth of the district was adequate to provide funds.

In dealing with famines it may be found necessary, according to the peculiar exigencies of the crisis or the circumstances of the locality, to provide any one or more of the facilities above mentioned.

If a Government recognizes it as an incumbent duty to protect its subjects from famine, it may have to bring the food required within the reach of the importer, to supply the means of transport, or itself to take the place of the importer or distributor, or it may have only to furnish funds to importers and distributors to enable them to extend their operations; but inasmuch as any interference on the part of the Government may tend to check private enterprise by rendering its gains hazardous, it is obvious that, where it is possible, the interference of Government should be limited to those matters which private enterprise cannot achieve, or can only achieve with assistance. The provision of access to foreign markets by railroad or water communications is a work, in the present condition of India, generally beyond the means of private enterprise, and therefore the intervention of the Government in this matter is essential.

There can also be no question of the soundness of the policy pursued by the Government, North-Western Provinces, during the recent crisis in offering to importers and distributors advances to enable them to extend their operations. This amplification of the ordinary channels of trade educates and stimulates private enterprise; and where a sufficient number of importers and distributors are provided with funds, so as to secure healthy competition, the cost of the importation and distribution of the food supply, when carried out by private enterprise, will probably be found far less than it would be were the same work accomplished by the agency of a staff of officials suddenly called into existence to meet the emergency. The importers and distributors bring their experience to bear on the work, their private interest inculcates the strictest economy, and they keep and check their own accounts. The importations into the district of Ghazipur during the scarcity of 1873-74 go to show that in this country private enterprise is equal to meet such crises where the normal conditions exist which are essential to the operation of the law of supply and demand. Although the committee is not in possession of figures which would enable it to speak with

certainty upon the subject, it is believed that large importations of food grains also reached the other distressed districts in these Provinces through private enterprise.

The main feature which is common to Ghazipur and the other distressed districts is the poverty of the labouring classes. The Officiating Collector states that at a time when there is more than the ordinary demand for labour, indigo-planters pay mate weeders four-fifths of an anna per diem, and common weeders three-fifths; and that, excepting in harvest time, a ploughman with a pair of oxen receives for himself and his cattle only two annas per diem.

Cash wages are, however, by no means the rule in villages in the North-West. The proprietors ordinarily pay their labourers a certain allowance of grain, and on rare occasions a rupee or two to buy clothes. The greater portion of the land being held in small parcels by proprietors or tenants, no sooner does scarcity manifest itself, than the hired servants are, as is pointed out by Mr. Oldham, discharged, being sometimes replaced by the members of the family who in ordinary seasons would not labour in the fields. Again, in an Indian village, which, as Mr. Oldham has pointed out, is in itself a kind of small community, the occurrence of dearth deprives of employment the village artisans, such as weavers and blacksmiths. Even in richer countries high prices of food check the retail trade in all articles with which the consumer can for a time dispense. The small wages of the village artisan, which are ordinarily paid in grain, afford no reserve to which he can have recourse when employment fails or his wages are unpaid. Lastly, the charity habitually practised by the natives of India, in the support of the aged, the infirm, and the religious mendicant, comes to an end with the small funds out of which it was doled. The general indigence of the small proprietary and labouring classes causes the effects of a bad harvest to be felt more immediately than in a country in which these classes are either themselves richer, or dwell amongst, and in a measure depend for their employment on, a wealthy proprietary body. It is therefore absolutely essential, in order to ward off from the people of this country the evils of famine, that energetic measures should be taken on the first threat of the calamity.

In Ghazipur, as in the other distressed districts, the cause of the dearth of 1873-74 is to be found in the failure of the kharif crop, on which the poor principally depend for their food supply.

The central committee remitted, for the relief of distress in this district, the sum of Rs. 5,354-12-3, and the subscriptions collected by the district officers amounted to Rs. 5,372-6-10, making together Rs. 10,727-3-1.

Twenty-three thousand five hundred and fourteen rations of cooked food were distributed, at a cost of Rs. 1,348-4-7, and 148,649 rations of uncooked food, at a cost of Rs. 4,305-8-1; while Rs. 742-0-5 were distributed in cash to 4,100 persons. The balance, Rs. 3,831-6-0, has been appropriated to the relief of sufferers from inundation, as will be hereafter explained.

The months in which the largest number of rations were distributed are shown in the marginal table, together with the number of persons employed in the corresponding months on relief works. The average cost of a day's ration of cooked food is shown as eleven pies;

		Number of rations distributed.	Number of persons on relief works.
February,	...	65,467	808
March,	...	66,605	1,247
April,	...	7,759	647
May,	...	2,227	689
June,	...	2,521	956
July,	...	7,831	...
	...	...	...

but as the whole of the sums entered as miscellaneous expenditure are shown as expended in cash donations, it appears that the sums charged in other districts under this head are included in the cost of the cooked rations in the Ghazipur return. The average cost of a ration of uncooked food is shown as less than six pies.

It will be seen that the necessity for relief greatly diminished in this district when the harvesting of the rabi crops commenced.

The number of persons employed on relief works shown in the above table is taken from a return obtained from the office of the Department of Public Works. The return furnished by the Officiating Collector shows a considerably larger number, possibly because in it are included persons employed on works of which the cost was defrayed from local funds. The rates of wage originally paid to persons employed on relief works was one and a half anna for each man, one anna for each woman. In February the rates were reduced to one and one-fifth anna for each man, four-fifths of an anna for each woman, and three-fifths of an anna for each child; and subsequently to four-fifths of an anna for each man, three-fifths of an anna for each woman, and two-fifths of an anna for each child.

20. *Gorakhpur*.—In this district the number of persons to the square mile is 441; the incidence of the Government jumma per acre is Re. 1-9-6 on the total area, Re. 1-10-2 on the area paying revenue, and Re. 2-11-2 on the area cultivated.

Mr. Simson reported on the 2nd March, 1874, that the kharif crop had almost totally failed, and that less than the ordinary area was under cultivation for the rabi crops.

The district officers collected in subscriptions Rs. 5,084-10-1, and the committee remitted Rs. 7,704-0-1, making a total of Rs. 12,788-10-2. The sum of Rs. 12,383-15-11 was expended in providing 175,149 rations, and in meeting miscellaneous charges to the sum of Rs. 5,981-12-1.

The average cost of a daily ration, excluding miscellaneous charges, was therefore about 7½ pies.

	Number of rations distributed.	Number of persons on relief works.
March, ...	...	...
April, ...	22,222	21,825
May, ...	25,840	78,281
June, ...	30,415	78,059
July, ...	17,409	29,344

The table in the margin shows the months in which the largest number of rations was distributed and the number of persons employed in the corresponding months on relief works.

21. *Basti*.—In this district the population is 528 to the square mile; the average incidence of Government revenue per acre is Re. 0-11-11 to the total area, Re. 0-12-3 to the area under settlement, and Re. 1-1-8 to the cultivated area.

The circumstances of the district much resembled those of Gorakhpur.

The sum of Rs. 7,358-8 was remitted by the committee, and accounts have been received of the expenditure of Rs. 7,982-12-9 in providing 106,741 rations, and in meeting Rs. 1,967-13-11, miscellaneous expenditure. The average cost per ration, excluding miscellaneous charges, was about 10½ pies.

A balance of Rs. 130-1-8 remains to be accounted for or remitted to the committee.

	Number of rations distributed.	Number of persons on relief works.
April, ...	...	...
May, ...	5,848	56,697
June, ...	11,794	125,908
July, ...	24,660	49,935
August, ...	23,857	...
September, ...	20,663	...
October, ...	14,459	...

The table in the margin exhibits the months in which the largest number of rations were distributed and the number of persons employed in the corresponding months on relief works.

22. *Hamirpur*.—The population of this district is shown as 231 to the square mile; the incidence of the Government jumma per acre to the total area is Re. 0-11-10, to the area under settlement Re. 0-12-1, and to the cultivated area Re. 1-5-8.

The Collector reported that a succession of bad seasons had reduced the people to such poverty that many were starving. The Sanitary Commissioner, North-Western

Provinces, in his report for 1873, had brought to the notice of the Government the miserable condition of the people in several parganas of this and the adjoining district of Banda, reporting that many appeared to him bordering on starvation. The normal condition of the district will account for the circumstance that the rise in the price of food grains throughout the North-Western Provinces was specially felt there.

The district officers collected Rs. 2,607-10-7, the committee remitted Rs. 4,236-4-0, making a total of Rs. 6,843-14-7. Of this sum, Rs. 6,530-8-0 has been accounted for in providing 115,519 rations and meeting Rs. 2,387-7-5, miscellaneous charges; the average cost of a ration, excluding miscellaneous charges, being somewhat under 7 pies. A balance of Rs. 313-6-7 remains to be remitted to the committee.

	Number of rations distributed.	Number of persons on relief works.
April, ...	9,254	1,323
May, ...	13,551	1,540
June, ...	14,045	1,955
July, ...	16,707	...
August, ...	21,632	...
September, ...	20,408	...
October, ...	7,832	...

The table in the margin exhibits the months in which the largest number of rations were distributed and the number of persons employed in the corresponding months on relief works.

The Collector attributes the increase in the numbers

believed in July partly to the closing of relief works, and partly to the fact that, owing to the incessant rains, employment in the fields in weeding, &c., was not procurable.

From the circumstance that only 1,955 persons were employed on relief works in June, it is obvious that the closing of the relief works can hardly account for the increase in August and September. It is more probable that employment in the fields was scarce, and that until the chief grain crops, the produce of the kharif, were harvested, the poverty of the landholders in the district prevented them from maintaining hired labourers and dependents.

23. In *Banda* and *Karwi* the population averages 240 to the square mile; the incidence of the Government jumma per acre to the total area is Re. 0-11-9; to the area under settlement Re. 0-12-1, and to the cultivated area Re. 1-6-7.

The circumstances of the district appear to resemble those of Hamirpur, and the observations recorded by the Sanitary Commissioner in his report for 1873 apply, as has been stated, to several of the parganas of Banda.

The sum of Rs. 1,514-12-0 was collected by the district officers, and the sum of Rs. 5,914-12-0 was remitted by the committee, and Rs. 203-6-11 were received as sale proceeds of the products of labour for which material was provided by the local committee. Of the total receipts, Rs. 7,632-14-11, Rs. 4,747-7-4 were expended in food rations, Rs. 826-11-3 in out-door relief, and Rs. 1,488-10-1 in miscellaneous charges. The average cost of a ration, excluding miscellaneous charges, was somewhat less than 7 pies. A balance of Rs. 570-2-3 remains to be accounted for or returned to the committee.

	Number of rations distributed.	Number of persons on relief works.
March, ...	...	3,916
April, ...	42,247	941
May, ...	34,187	329
June, ...	28,660	99
July, ...	13,876	...
August, ...	6,402	...

The months in which the largest number of rations were distributed is shown in the marginal table, together with the number of persons employed in the corresponding months on relief works.

It will be seen that the number employed on relief works in Banda is small as compared with the number of rations distributed. This is probably to be attributed to the circumstance that the distressed population were scattered over so large an area that it would have been necessary to open a number of relief works at an

inordinate expense, whereas at a much less expense relief was afforded to small groups of distressed persons at each tahsil centre. In Karwi there were no relief works. The pressure of distress in the district was apparently relieved immediately on the harvesting of the rabi crop.

24. *Jhansi*.—In this district the average population is 203 to the square mile, and the average incidence of the Government revenue per acre is to the total area Re. 0-7-6, to the area under settlement Re. 0-8-3, and to the cultivated area Re. 0-15-9.

The sum of Rs. 208-4-10 was collected in the district, and expended in 4,901 rations; the average cost of a day's ration, including miscellaneous expenditure, which is not distinguished in the accounts of this district, being somewhat in excess of 8 pies.

	Number of rations distributed.	Number of persons on relief works.
March, ...	276	708
April, ...	380	720
May, ...	1,559	943
June, ...	1,494	861
July, ...	1,192	...

The table in the margin shows the months in which the largest number of rations were distributed and the

number of persons employed in the corresponding months on relief works.

25. *Allahabad*.—In this district there is a population of 507 persons to the square mile; the incidence of the Government jumma per acre is to the total area Re. 1-3-6, to the area under cultivation Re. 1-8-9, and to the cultivated area Re. 2-0-8.

The Collector reported that although there was no actual famine, many persons residing in the parganas of Barah and Khairagarh are so poor that the slightest rise of prices affects them. In ordinary seasons about 80 persons are fed at a poorhouse at Mega, the expenses of which are met by the zemindars of the two parganas. In the spring of 1874 the number of necessitous poor increased so largely that an application for assistance was made to the committee. The committee accordingly remitted to the Collector Rs. 1,945-10-10, making, with a sum of Rs. 100-2-0 collected in the district, a total of Rs. 2,045-12-10. This sum was expended in providing 33,502 rations, and in meeting miscellaneous charges to the amount of Rs. 401-4-2. Excluding miscellaneous charges, the average cost of a day's ration was about 9 pies.

No relief works were, it is believed, opened in this district.

The stress of the scarcity was most felt in this district in the months of April, May, and June. In April 8,622 rations were distributed; in May 12,682.

The number fell to 9,348 in June and to 682 in July, when extraordinary measures of relief were discontinued.

26. In addition to the sums above shown as expended, the committee made grants for the relief of distress occasioned by sudden calamity other than dearth, and pressing the more severely on the people by reason of the high price of food. Thus in several small townships or hamlets of Ghazipur the dwellings of the population were destroyed by violent rains and abnormal inundations. Immediately on the occurrence of the disaster, the Collector remitted Rs. 500 for the relief of the indigent poor in Ballia, an expenditure which was at once sanctioned, while grants to the extent of Rs. 3,331-6-0 have been made to assist the people in rebuilding their houses.

27. A like calamity in Shahjahanpur necessitated a grant of Rs. 3,000; while, on the recommendation of the Commissioner, a sum of Rs. 121-8 was remitted for the assistance of the inhabitants of Dumdumwa, in the district of Benares, whose houses were destroyed by fire.

28. On the closing of the Banda poorhouses, a sum of Rs. 900 was granted to the Reverend J. Hill, of Banda, on his undertaking to take charge of some bed-ridden paupers for whom it was necessary to provide a home.

29. The charges of the central committee for clerk, peon, postages, &c., amount to Rs. 288-2-3.

30. There has been expended in the whole a sum of Rs. 52,251-0-6, and there remains in the hands of the committee, including Rs. 1,013-10-6 to be accounted for by district officers, a balance of Rs. 26,780-12-5. Of this balance, it is proposed to devote Rs. 13,306-12-4 to the repayment to Government of the like amount contributed at the commencement of the committee's operations, as the equivalent of subscriptions received up to that date, and to invest the residue in Government paper, to be available for expenditure in any future famine or scarcity.

31. Many of the working members of the executive committee are now absent from Allahabad, so that I am unable to circulate this report for their consideration and approval. I am sure I may venture to express, on behalf of all the members, their obligation to the district officers and local committees by whom the work of relief has been carried out. Information has at all times been freely supplied to the central committee, satisfactory accounts of expenditure furnished, and a careful selection of the objects for charity and economy in expenditure appear to have been kept in view in all the districts in which operations have been carried on under the direction of the central committee.

32. In conclusion, I have also to bring to the notice of Government the valuable services rendered to the committee by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. Tyrrell, C.S.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES A. TURNER,
Chairman of the Executive Committee of the
Central Famine Committee, North-Western Provinces.

PARTICULARS OF RELIEF OPERATIONS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICERS IN THE N.W. PROVINCES.

District.	Month.	No. of adults relieved.	Amount expended.	No. of juveniles relieved.	Amount expended.	Miscellaneous expenses.	Total No. of persons relieved.	Total expenditure.	Remarks.
Allahabad,	March,	2,168	119 3 0	...	...	...	2,168	214 14 9	Local subscriptions, Remitted by Committee,
	April,	8,031	407 1 6	9,554	447 10 6	...	12,605	484 12 10	...
	May,	3,128	161 4 0	9,554	356 0 5	...	12,605	484 12 10	...
	June,	4,087	184 5 11	6,882	30 4 7	...	10,969	482 15 8	...
	July,	...	...	...	...	...	...	45 2 7	...
Banda and Karwi,	Total,	17,414	871 14 5	16,038	772 10 3	407 4 2	33,502	2,045 12 10	...
	February,	1,920	100 7 9	...	...	...	1,920	100 7 9	Local subscriptions, Remitted by Committee,
	March,	42,247	1,771 10 7	...	...	...	42,247	1,771 10 7	...
	April,	34,189	1,228 1 5	...	...	...	34,189	1,228 1 5	...
	May,	28,660	850 10 10	...	...	...	28,660	850 10 10	...
Rasht,	June,	13,876	431 9 6	...	...	...	13,876	431 9 6	Local subscriptions, Remitted by Committee,
	July,	6,402	215 13 9	...	...	...	6,402	215 13 9	...
	August,	2,576	83 13 9	...	...	...	2,576	83 13 9	...
	September,	1,543	51 2 8	...	...	...	1,543	51 2 8	...
	October,	414	14 1 4	...	...	...	414	14 1 4	...
Rasht,	Total,	131,837	4,747 7 4	...	...	2,315 5 4	...	2,315 5 4	...
	March,	1,575	115 6 1	445	...	...	1,575	115 6 1	Local subscriptions, Remitted by Committee,
	April,	4,782	324 12 5	1,061	...	...	4,782	324 12 5	...
	May,	8,891	566 12 9	2,903	...	...	8,891	566 12 9	...
	June,	16,463	1,103 1 8	8,187	...	...	16,463	1,103 1 8	...

Ghazipur, †

February,	65,467	1,704 5 0	...	...	...	...	1,844 7 6	Local subscriptions, Government grant, Remitted by Committee,
March,	65,605	1,801 5 3	...	...	...	...	1,801 5 3	...
April,	7,759	388 14 7	...	...	...	...	388 14 7	...
May,	2,237	82 14 10	...	...	...	...	82 14 10	...
June,	2,521	137 14 6	...	...	...	...	137 14 6	...
July,	7,831	287 5 1	...	...	...	...	287 5 1	...
August,	7,551	448 4 3	...	...	...	...	448 4 3	...
September,	7,733	377 8 3	...	...	...	...	377 8 3	...
October,	8,569	425 4 11	...	...	...	...	425 4 11	...
Total,	176,243	5,553 12 8	...	...	...	...	5,553 12 8	...
February,	17,171	420 6 2	...	...	...	...	420 6 2	Local subscriptions, Government grant, Remitted by Committee,
March,	24,951	925 8 4	...	...	...	...	925 8 4	...
April,	26,301	1,188 11 24	...	...	...	...	1,188 11 24	...
May,	21,857	1,073 1 10	...	...	...	...	1,073 1 10	...
June,	12,820	772 14 10	...	...	...	...	772 14 10	...
July,	4,831	361 9 10	...	...	...	...	361 9 10	...
August,	4,563	253 5 10	...	...	...	...	253 5 10	...
September,	1,856	58 10 9	...	...	...	...	58 10 9	...
Total,	118,860	5,083 15 4	...	...	...	...	5,083 15 4	...
February,	3,519	146 3 9	...	...	...	...	146 3 9	Local subscriptions, Government grant, Remitted by Committee,
March,	6,340	277 0 1	...	...	...	...	277 0 1	...
April,	5,354	298 1 9	...	...	...	...	298 1 9	...
May,	13,581	489 5 10	...	...	...	...	489 5 10	...
June,	12,137	476 5 4	...	...	...	...	476 5 4	...
July,	12,137	510 10 6	...	...	...	...	510 10 6	...
August,	12,137	510 10 6	...	...	...	...	510 10 6	...
September,	12,137	510 10 6	...	...	...	...	510 10 6	...
October,	12,137	510 10 6	...	...	...	...	510 10 6	...
November,	6,082	224 13 10	...	...	...	...	224 13 10	...
Total,	92,355	3,506 14 7	...	...	...	...	3,506 14 7	...

Particulars of Relief Operations of the District Officers in the N-W. Provinces—(concluded.)

District.	Month.	No. of adults relieved.	Amount expended.	No. of juveniles relieved.	Amount expended.	No. of juveniles relieved.	Amount expended.	Miscellaneous expenses.	Total No. of persons relieved.	Total expenditure.	REMARKS.
Jhansi.	March,	276	Rs. a. p. 17 7 2	...	...	...	...	...	276	Rs. a. p. 17 7 2	Local subscriptions, ... Rs. a. p. ... 208 4 10
	April,	380	27 2 6	...	...	...	...	...	380	27 2 6	Expenditure, ... 208 4 10
	May,	1,559	56 4 7	...	...	...	...	...	1,559	56 4 7	
	June,	1,494	52 13 7	...	...	...	...	...	1,494	52 13 7	
	July,	1,192	54 9 0	...	...	...	...	...	1,192	54 9 0	
	Total,	4,901	208 4 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	208 4 10	* In this district no distinction was made in the statements between adults and juveniles.

(170)

District.	No. of adults relieved.	Amount expended.	No. of juveniles relieved.	Amount expended.	Miscellaneous expenses.	Total No. of persons relieved.	Average cost of relief.	Total expenditure.	Balance.	REMARKS.
Allahabad,	17,414	Rs. a. p. 871 14 5	16,088	772 10 3	Rs. a. p. 401 4 2	33,502	Rs. a. p. 0 0 9	Rs. a. p. 2,045 12 10	Rs. a. p. ...	Rs. 54-5-2 refunded to Committee.
Banda,	131,827	4,747 7 4	...	...	2,315 5 4	131,827	0 0 7	7,062 12 8	570 2 3	
Basti,	68,486	4,440 10 7	38,255	1,574 4 3	1,967 13 11	106,741	0 0 10-10	7,982 12 9	180 1 8	Rs. 404-10-3 refunded to Committee.
Ghazipur,	176,263	5,653 12 8	...	...	742 0 5	176,263	0 0 6-10	6,395 13 1	...	
Gorakhpur,	115,860	5,083 15 9½	59,889	1,318 4 0½	5,981 15 1	175,149	0 0 7½	12,383 15 11	...	
Hamirpur,	92,836	3,606 14 7½	23,183	536 1 11½	2,387 7 5	115,519	0 0 7	6,530 8 0	313 6 7	
Jhansi,	4,901	208 4 10	...	...	...	4,901	0 0 8	208 4 10	...	
Total,	607,087	24,613 0 3½	136,315	4,201 4 5½	13,795 14 4	743,902	...	42,610 0 1	3,013 6 7	
										REMARKS.
							Average cost of relief.	Amount expended.	Balance.	
							Rs. as. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. as. p.	
							5 1 0	121 8 0	...	Rs. 8-8-0 sent to Basti.
							3 4 7-57	500 0 0	3,831 6 0	{ Reserved for further relief, after sites for buildings are selected.
							6 10 5-16	3,000 0 0	...	
							5 14 11-58	3,621 8 0	3,831 6 0	

(171)

Banaras (given to sufferers from fire in village Daudnawa)

Ghazipur (given to sufferers from destruction of town Ballia by the Ganges)

Shahjehanpur (given to sufferers from inundation)

Total,

RECEIPT:

RECEIPTS.					
Subscriptions received by the Central Committee :-			Rs. & P.		
	Rs.	P.		Rs.	P.
Agra,	799	6 0			
Allahabad,	5,080	3 0			
Budaun,	2,721	10 3			
Bareilly,	1,342	8 0			
Bijnor,	2,369	13 0			
Bukandshahr,	1,848	10 0			
Etawah,	1,137	12 0			
Farrukhabad,	2,095	0 0			
Jampur,	102	0 0			
Lalpur,	10,201	8 0			
Meerut,	1,774	0 0			
Mirzapur,	2,524	4 0			
Moradabad,	8,520	0 0			
Muttra,	3,233	8 0			
Muzaffarnagar,	578	13 6			
Roorkee,	3,267	12 0			
Saharanpur,	1,500	0 0			
Shahjahanpur,					
Total	49,149	4 9			
Subscriptions collected by District Officers and retained to meet local requirements :-					
Allahabad,	100	2 0			
Banda,	1,718	2 11			
Basfi,	754	6 5			
Ghaziipur,	5,372	5 10			
Gorakhpur,	5,084	10 1			
Hamiirpur,	2,607	10 7			
Jhausi,	208	4 10			
Total	15,845	11 8			
Drawn from the Government Treasury in part of the equivalent of subscriptions,					
	13,036	12 4			
Total Rs.	78,031	12 9			

EXPENDITURE.					
Remitted to or retained by District Officers :-			Rs. & P.		
	Rs.	P.		Rs.	P.
Allahabad,	...	...			
Banda,	...	...			
Basfi,	...	...			
Ghaziipur,	...	...			
Gorakhpur,	...	...			
Hamiirpur,	...	...			
Jhausi,	...	...			
Total	2,045	12 10			
Special Grant :-					
To relief of sufferers by destruction of the town Ballia by the Ganges, Zila Ghaziipur,	...	...			
Ditto ditto by inundation in Shahjahanpur,	...	...			
Ditto ditto by fire in manza Dandumwa, zila Benares,	...	...			
Ditto to Revd. Mr. Hill to support poorhouse in Banda,	...	...			
Expenses :-					
Clerk to the Committee,	...	...			
Feon and postage, &c.,	...	...			
Balance :-					
Amount to be accounted for by Banda,	...	...			
Ditto ditto by Basfi,	...	...			
Ditto ditto by Hamiirpur,	...	...			
In Bank of Bengal,	...	...			
In hands of Treasurer,	...	...			
Total Rs.	26,780	12 6			
Total	78,031	12 9			

(C O P Y.)

No. 82.

FROM

THE OFFG. SECY. TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE,
AND COMMERCE.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

DATED CALCUTTA, THE 25TH FEBRUARY, 1875.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Governor-General of India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1 of the 1st of January last, submitting the reports of the local officers on the scarcity of 1873-74 in certain districts of the North-Western Provinces, together with a narrative of the scarcity so far as it affected those Provinces—of your letter No. 4 of the 11th of January, forwarding the remarks of the Lieutenant-Governor on the conduct of the civil officers engaged in the relief operations—of your letter No. 9 of the 29th of January, forwarding Mr. Elliot's report on the scarcity in Basti—and of your letter No. 13 of the 11th instant, forwarding the report of the Central Famine Relief Committee for the North-Western Provinces.

2. Considerable apprehension was felt by Sir William Muir, who was then Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, lest the unusual deficiency of the late rains in the season of 1873 should occasion an extensive failure of the winter crops; and early in November reports on the state of the crops and the prospects of the coming season were called for from the local officers. The information received showed that no scarcity was anticipated excepting in the eastern districts, in which there had been a serious failure of the crops.

3. Sir William Muir had successfully dealt with a period of severe scarcity in 1868-69, and the Government of India left to him with confidence the provision which should be made for the distress that was expected to occur ; after assuring him that they

* Despatch from Vice-roy to Secretary of State, B of November 12th, 1873.

William Muir's opinion no considerable difficulty was likely to be felt in dealing with the districts where the rice crop had failed, and the Government of India found, when they assembled at Agra at the end of November, 1873, that all the precautionary measures had been taken which the occasion demanded.†

4. The fear that the failure of the winter crops of 1873 might be followed by the more serious calamity of a failure of the spring crops of 1874 was removed by the winter rains which, though late, fell plentifully at the end of January and in the beginning of February.† This timely rainfall, to quote the words of the narrative, “was of incalculable benefit, and through its influence a year of high prices was substituted for a year of famine.” A large spring harvest was secured, and means were thus afforded for meeting the demand for food which arose from the failure of the winter crops. On the 13th of February the Government of India had the satisfaction of being able to inform the Secretary of State that “Sir William Muir had taken every necessary measure for the relief of distress in the south-eastern

districts of the North-Western Provinces, and that no intimation had been received from him that he would require assistance in the way of supplies from the Government of India in respect to those districts, the prospects of which had, on the whole, been materially improved by the late rains."

5. As the year went on, it became apparent that severe distress would be limited to the northern portions of the districts of Gorakhpur and Basti, where rice constitutes the main staple of agriculture. In the month of March, Sir William Muir deputed a Commission composed of Mr. Simson, Junior Member of the Board of Revenue, Mr. Carmichael, Commissioner of Bénarès, and Colonel Davidson, R.E., Superintending Engineer, to visit those districts. They recommended that certain remissions of land revenue should be made,—that money should be advanced to a limited extent to grain-dealers, on condition that they would provide a certain amount of grain which should be at the disposal of Government in a part of the country where some apprehension was felt of a dearth of supplies,—and that liberal advances should be made for the purchase of seed-grain. These measures were adopted by Sir William Muir with the cordial approval of the Government of India. The supply of seed caused at that time much anxiety, which was soon after relieved by arrangements with the Government of Nipal, that the prohibition of the export of seed-grain from Nipal should be removed.

6. A Central Famine Relief Committee was established at Allahabad, as well as local committees, who were charged with the care and management of the poor-houses which the Collectors were authorised to set up where necessary, and at which cooked food was distributed to those who needed assistance and could not work. The expense of maintaining the poor-houses, and of all charges incurred in relieving the distressed among the higher classes who could not labour on the relief works, was met by subscriptions received from the public, aided by donations from Government.

7. The distress appears from the narrative to have reached its highest point at the end of March or at the beginning of April, 1874, and the measures which had been taken to meet it were judicious and sufficient. In the beginning of April the daily average attendance on relief works in Gorakhpur and Basti was about 80,000. These numbers were not out of proportion to the character and extent of the scarcity.

8. Sir William Muir had directed that the pay on the relief works should be sufficient to enable the persons employed to provide themselves with sufficient food to sustain life, but no more; the amount in money being regulated by the price of grain in the neighbouring markets. The rates of pay given in March were—

For men	6 Gorakhpur pice a day.
" women	4 ditto ditto.
" children	3 ditto ditto.

Mr. Lumsden, the Collector of Gorakhpur, thinking that these rates, with reference to the season of the year, were so high as to attract laborers who were not in absolute want of employment, reduced them in the second week of April to—

For men	5 Gorakhpur pice a day.
" women	4 ditto ditto.
" children	3 ditto ditto.
" infants.	2 ditto ditto.

The same reduction appears also to have been made in Basti.

9. Sir John Strachey succeeded Sir William Muir in the office of Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces on the 8th of April, 1874.

10. In the beginning of May Sir John Strachey personally visited the Gorakhpur and Basti districts. He found that during the month of April the numbers employed upon relief works had risen from 80,000 to 219,000, notwithstanding the reduction of the rates of pay, and although there was no reason to believe that the

condition of the people had deteriorated or that there was any dearth of food. It became evident that advantage was taken of the relief works by many persons who were not really in distress. The opinion of Sir John Strachey, and the orders which he issued under these circumstances, were recorded in his minute of the 16th of May. The rates of wages on the relief works were compared with the price of provisions, and it was found that they were not unduly high: the only change made in them was the reduction from two pice to one pice a day of the dole to infants. In order to prevent improper advantage being taken of the relief works, the Collectors were instructed to pay wages in food instead of in money, and authorised to order applicants off the works who did not really require assistance. Sir John Strachey took care to prevent the risk of relief being withheld from any one in want; and the power, which was given to local officers at their own request, was qualified by the condition that their orders were to be based "on individual knowledge of the persons or the village, not on general consideration."

11. The modes of relief applicable to the altered condition of affairs were clearly described in Sir John Strachey's Minute. A more extensive application of the work-house test was provided, and warning was given to the people that relief works would shortly be closed. "Circumstances," Sir John Strachey remarked, "have greatly altered since the works were undertaken. They were then beyond any doubt very useful and necessary works, and it is only lately that the numbers employed on them have become so immense. Owing to the general good out-turn of the rabi harvest in a country, only a small portion of which is dependent on a single crop, and to other causes, the people of these districts are undoubtedly better off now than was the case when the works were commenced."

"The Lieutenant-Governor" (Sir John Strachey truly observed in another part of his Minute) "by no means asserts that the arrangements now contemplated would necessarily be sufficient to meet the extreme emergencies of severe famine where it falls upon the majority of a great agricultural population. Such emergencies unhappily exist in some of the districts of Bengal, but they do not now exist in the North-Western Provinces, nor is there at present any reason for apprehending them."

12. The Government of India approved of the orders issued by Sir John Strachey, and the results showed that he had rightly appreciated the situation of affairs. The good out-turn of the spring crops, coupled with early* and plentiful rain, soon relieved the pressure upon the agricultural population, and the necessity for any further relief operations ceased. The relief works were closed in June, and all that was required afterwards was a moderate amount of relief dispensed from poor-houses.

13. The relief operations which were carried on in other districts of the North-Western Provinces do not call for any special remarks.

14. The most interesting subject connected with the history of the scarcity of last year in the North-Western Provinces is the analysis of the causes of the difference between the condition of the Eastern Districts of the North-Western Provinces and that of North Behar. Sir John Strachey, in his Minute of the 16th of May, has referred to some of those causes. The far wider extent of the area of the drought and of the failure of the winter crops—the much greater proportion of the winter crop of rice to other winter crops—the smaller proportion of the spring crops to the food-supply of the year—the longer distance from sources of supply not affected by the drought—coupled, in many tracts, with a denser population—constitute the principal reasons why the distress was far more general and prolonged in Behar.

15. The reduction of the rates for the carriage of grain by railway, and the large supplies of grain sent by Government into the neighbouring districts of Behar, are stated by the local officers to have materially diminished the effects of the scarcity in the North-Western Provinces. Some interesting figures are given in the

* Despatches from Government of India, to Secretary of State, No. 32, May 22nd, and No. 42, June 30th, 1874.

report of the Central Famine Relief Committee as to the trade of the district of Ghazipur. It is calculated that in ordinary years this district imports by rail from 120,000 to 130,000 maunds of edible grains, besides importations by river. From the 1st of October, 1873, to the 1st of October, 1874, the importations by rail alone amounted to no less than 865,000 maunds. The Relief Committee lay great stress upon this example of the promptness with which supplies are brought forward in India to meet a sudden demand. They truly observe that where, as in the case of Ghazipur, "grain was to be had in foreign markets at rates which made its importation profitable, the rail-road conveyed it to the place where the demand existed, the importers and retail distributors merely extended operations to which they were habituated, and for which the wealth of the district was adequate to supply funds," there can be no necessity for any interference by Government with the provision of supplies. A still more striking instance of this was given in South Behar; about ten times the quantity of grain imported into Ghazipur was poured by merchants into South Behar, and prevented any dearth of food throughout all that tract of country. The necessity of the interposition of Government arose in Orissa in 1866, and in North Behar during the past year, from the absence of all or some of the conditions enumerated by the Committee. The manner in which the demand has been met by an extension of the ordinary operations of trade, where those conditions existed, is very satisfactory: it supplies a valuable confirmation of the opinion which the Government of India have expressed, that the causes which have hitherto rendered interference indispensable on certain occasions will gradually be removed as the means of communication are extended and the wealth of the country increases.

16. The operations of the Central Famine Relief Committee for the North-Western Provinces, as described in their report, were well conducted and successful. It is satisfactory to observe that funds were liberally subscribed, and that there was no need to take advantage of the offer of assistance tendered by the Central Relief Committee at Calcutta. The distress never assumed such dimensions in the North-Western Provinces as to prevent charitable relief being distributed under the directions of the Relief Committees,—an arrangement which was made on former occasions with advantage. The same course was followed in many parts of Bengal last year; it was only departed from in the case of those districts where the scarcity was so wide-spread that it would have been impossible, without serious risk of failure, to have made use of two agencies for the purpose of dealing with it. I am to request that you will convey to Mr. Justice Turner and to the Members and Secretary of the Relief Committee at Allahabad the thanks of the Government of India for their services, and for their able and interesting report.

17. The thanks of the Government of India are due to Sir William Muir for the foresight and good judgment which he has shown in dealing with the scarcity, as well as for the cordial and valuable assistance which he rendered to the Government of Bengal upon several occasions during the period of greatest difficulty in the Lower Provinces. I am to convey to Sir John Strachey the thanks of the Governor-General in Council for the judicious and able manner in which he prevented the measures of relief from being abused as soon as the substantial safety of the affected districts was secured; and I am to express the entire concurrence of the Government of India with the approbation which Sir John Strachey has bestowed upon the Collectors, the Officers of Government, and other gentlemen, European and Native, who were actively engaged upon the relief operations. The experience of the past year in the North-Western Provinces shows the soundness of the means adopted for dealing with a scarcity of limited extent, under circumstances which gave rise to no serious apprehensions of an extensive dearth of food.

I have, &c.,

G. H. M. [Signature]
Offy. Secretary to the Govt. of India



Note (in continuation of that dated 28th April 1877) on the progress, ad finem, of the measures adopted to relieve the distress caused by the Famine in the Deccan and Southern Maratha Country, in the years 1876 and 1877.

1. As the period of the Famine is now over, the time has come for completing the history, begun in the Note Government recorded in April last, of it, and the measures taken to meet it.

2. In the Note just referred to a previous Note recorded in December 1876 is mentioned as stating the conditions of the problem that had to be faced, and it was added that those conditions had not in the interval (December 1876 to April 1877) materially altered. Upon the facts known, and the conditions estimated in December, it was calculated that the period of distress requiring relief from Government would probably last till the middle of June, but subsequent to the compilation of the Note in April a serious departure from the ordinary and expected course of the season occurred, which materially altered the conditions estimated in December, and still accepted as probable in the Note of April. This unexpected event was that, after the commencement of the monsoon without marked irregularity in the latter part of June, the rain, instead of continuing to fall heavily through the greater portions of July and August, failed almost entirely till towards the end of the latter month. This is the principal cause of the prolongation of the period of distress so far beyond the date at first looked forward to as likely to terminate it.

3. In September the season greatly recovered itself, and has since then been generally favourable—though in Khandesh, and the Districts nearest to it, the rain has been insufficient, while in the Southern part of the Deccan and in the Southern Maratha Country it was at one time excessive.

4. The prices of food-grains continued their gradual rise from the date of the Note in April, and in July, when a second season of drought was expected, the rise became more rapid. No considerable fall took place till the middle of September. Thenceforward the fall has been steady, and the average rate now is 80 pounds per rupee, the ordinary average rate being 56 pounds. The highest price touched was 8½ pounds for a rupee. This extremity was reached at the beginning of August in the Belgaum and Dharwar Collectories, and in September in Kaladgi.

GRAIN SUPPLIES.

5. The following table is a continuation of that given in paragraph 5 of the Note of 28th April, showing the imports of food-grains month by month into the distressed districts of this Presidency:—

Food-grains sent to	From 22nd to 30th April 1877.	In May 1877.	In June 1877.	In July 1877.	In August 1877.	In Sept. 1877.	In October 1877.	In Nov. 1877.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Southern Maratha Country ...	7,435	28,657	4,491	857	15,204	3,919	525	1,138	61,626
South-Eastern line, from Poona to Sholapur ...	2,768	12,594	20,348	20,484	21,506	16,256	8,720	1,867	1,04,543
North-Eastern line, from Bhowal to Nasik ...	273	1,221	2,014	1,524	8,043	2,519	4,637	1,725	21,956
Total ...	10,476	42,472	26,853	22,865	44,753	22,094	13,882	4,730	1,88,125

The total shown above, together with that of the table up to 21st April, gives a grand total of 4,34,000 tons of grain imported into the distressed districts during the fourteen months. This importation was effected entirely by private trade, Government having adhered to the end to their declared policy of not interfering with trade.

6. It was, however, found necessary to arrange with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company that a certain amount of food-grain destined for the distressed districts should be carried on that Company's line in preference to all other goods. It was calculated that besides delivering 800 tons a day at the stations in the Bombay Deccan, 900 tons could be delivered daily at Raichur for the Madras Presidency, and 300 tons at Shahabad for His Highness the Nizam's dominions. The Bombay Government undertook, therefore, that, provided there were no delays caused by accidents, and provided that the full quantities specified were booked by dealers, these amounts of grain should be carried daily for Madras and the Hyderabad districts. This arrangement came into force from the 1st August. The deliveries, however, during the early days of that month fell short of the specified quantities, and accordingly Government issued directions (Government Resolution No. 14 M., dated 11th August 1877) that, in order to fulfil the promises made to the Madras Government and the Resident at Hyderabad with the knowledge and consent of the Railway Company's Officers, absolute preference should be given to all Famine traffic to Raichur and Hyderabad; to the exclusion of all general traffic, to such extent as might be needed to secure carriage of the quantities agreed upon. At the same time it was arranged that the Railway should take not only the specified quantities for the future, but also such additional quantities as should make up for the previous short deliveries. To do this it was necessary that 350 wagons of grain should be passed over the Bhore Ghaut daily. And this could only be done by transferring engines from the North-Eastern to the South-Eastern line of the Railway. Directions were issued accordingly (Government Resolution No. 23 M., dated 16th August 1877). Still it was found at the end of the month that the daily average number of wagons worked into Raichur had been under 90 instead of 145, and the daily average number worked on to the Nizam's line little over 30 instead of 44. In the following month, owing to the rise of prices in the North-West Provinces, the tide of Famine traffic turned in that direction, and it was found practicable (Government Resolution No. 103 M., dated 29th September 1877) to remove the restriction that grain should only be booked for stations in the Famine districts. The preference however to be given to grain booked for such stations was still maintained. Shortly afterwards (Government Resolution No. 137 M., dated 9th October 1877) this preference, so far as it related to grain for the Bombay Deccan, was withdrawn, and before the end of the month (Government Resolution No. 173 M., dated 26th October 1877) the preference in favour of Raichur and Shahabad was withdrawn also, and the Railway traffic left to follow its ordinary course.

7. It was mentioned in paragraph 11 of the Note of April that Government ordered grass to be cut, pressed and laid down on the principal lines of grain traffic, such grass to be reserved exclusively for sale for the aid of such traffic. This work was carried on, chiefly under the supervision of the Conservator of Forests Northern Division, till the end of May, and some stocks were kept in hand until the monsoon was assured. The amount expended on this account was Rs. 57,742, for which 46,73,456 pounds of fodder were purchased, pressed, and delivered. The realizations by sale of the fodder amounted to Rs. 10,704.

8. After the rains began the use of cattle for the carriage of grain was supplemented by human labour. Large numbers of persons were engaged both in carrying head-loads and in dragging laden carts. This had the further important consequence of setting free for employment in agriculture many cattle which would otherwise have been necessarily engaged in bringing food for the people. As a measure of encouragement Government directed (Government Resolution No. 254 P., dated 23rd July 1877) that, where practicable, without breach of engagements with toll farmers and contractors, exemptions from tolls and ferry charges should be granted to persons carrying grain either by head-loads or in vehicles drawn by human labour. Special instructions were also issued for the protection of persons thus engaged.

RELIEF WORKS.

9. In supplying labour for those who would otherwise be without means of subsistence Government have never found reason for departing from the leading principles laid down in the Note of April, namely—

- (1). That the works to be undertaken should be large, concentrated, and in themselves useful;
- (2). That checks and tests should be applied to deter from seeking relief those who are not in real need, and to prevent the abuse of public charity as far as possible.

10. The following table gives the total number of persons employed on relief works for each week from that ending on the 21st April—the corresponding table in the Note of the 28th April last gives the numbers up to the preceding week—till the end of November, when all relief works were closed. It will be seen that the numbers rose to maxima in January, June, and August. The highest maximum was that of June, when— for one week only—the average daily number of labourers upon relief works exceeded 4,00,000.

Week ending	On Civil Agency Works.	On Public Works Department Agency Works.	Total.
21st April 1877	29,007	2,48,290	2,77,297
28th ditto	30,578	2,64,564	2,95,142
5th May 1877	26,419	2,91,456	3,17,875
12th ditto	30,734	3,21,802	3,52,536
19th ditto	32,940	3,35,545	3,68,485
26th ditto	33,749	3,40,709	3,74,458
2nd June 1877	37,804	3,55,686	3,93,490
9th ditto	37,804	3,62,033	4,02,540
16th ditto	40,507	3,24,277	3,64,289
23rd ditto	40,012	3,24,277	3,64,289
30th ditto	33,294	2,95,120	3,28,414
7th July 1877	27,959	2,71,005	2,98,964
14th ditto	24,856	2,56,972	2,81,828
21st ditto	22,096	2,43,025	2,65,121
28th ditto	22,351	2,32,048	2,54,399
4th August 1877	23,917	2,24,475	2,48,492
11th ditto	20,322	2,43,228	2,63,550
18th ditto	21,476	2,45,580	2,67,056
25th ditto	23,621	2,39,423	2,63,044
1st September 1877	34,718	2,58,796	2,93,514
8th ditto	27,711	2,60,898	2,88,609
15th ditto	24,064	2,26,334	2,50,398
22nd ditto	22,993	1,89,773	2,12,766
29th ditto	22,619	1,68,207	1,90,826
6th October 1877	24,855	1,40,157	1,65,012
13th ditto	21,659	96,113	1,17,772
20th ditto	18,445	77,679	96,124
27th ditto	14,388	55,517	69,905
3rd November 1877	10,109	43,881	53,990
10th ditto	7,776	36,183	43,959
17th ditto	5,147	23,210	28,357
24th ditto	2,310	15,642	17,952
30th ditto	1,090	11,886	12,976
	795	9,570	10,365

The three maxima are to be thus explained: (1) Up to January the numbers were too great for thorough supervision by the existing establishments, wages were liberal, and the works generally were too attractive; after January the proper remedies were applied by strengthening establishments, reducing wages, and enforcing work. (2) In June the

Famine was at its height; when the monsoon broke, the demand for Government assistance grew immediately less. (3) In August it seemed that a second season of drought had commenced; at the end of that month the rain came and dissipated the fear.

WAGES ON RELIEF WORKS.

11. As set forth in the earlier narrative one of the principles adopted as a means to prevent persons resorting to the works who were not in need of aid was that the scale of wages should be low. The scale first adopted, and the modifications made subsequently up to the date of the Note of April are described in paragraphs 17—19 and 27—30 of that narrative. No considerable changes were made afterwards. Such as were made are stated below.

12. In the latter part of May the price of the staple food-grain of Kaladgi became as dear as 13 pounds for a rupee, and it was found that the quantity that could be purchased at this rate for a young child's allowance of a quarter of an anna was insufficient. It was therefore ruled (Government Resolution No. 387 E.—1260, dated 29th May 1877) that young children in the Kaladgi district might be paid the value in cash of a quarter of a pound of the grain instead of a quarter of an anna a day.

13. In August this concession was extended to the other distressed districts (Government Resolution No. 383 P., dated 23rd August 1877).

14. As the time for the break of the monsoon approached the question arose as to how the labourers upon relief works should be maintained, when the works were stopped by rain. And Government passed a Resolution (No. 56 P., dated 13th June 1877), directing that the Civil Agency rates should be allowed to labourers upon works under Public Works Department Agency when the work was interrupted by rain and full tasks could not be exacted.

15. And with regard to works under Civil Agency it was directed (Government Resolution No. 141 P., dated 2nd July 1877), that when such works were interrupted by rain each man should be paid the money value of a pound of grain *plus* a quarter of an anna, each woman the value of a pound of grain, and each child employed as a labourer the value of half a pound of grain *plus* the sixth part of an anna.

16. By July prices had risen to such a distressing rate in Kaladgi that a further modification of the wages rate was found necessary, and it was ruled (Government Resolution No. 190 P., dated 8th July 1877) that, failing the relief that an immediate fall of rain would afford, where the price of staple grain should be dearer than a rupee for nine pounds, wages should be paid for Sundays as well as week days, or, in other words, that an increment of sixteen per cent. should be made to wages on all works.

17. In the following month authority was given (Government Resolution No. 317 P., dated 10th August 1877) to all Collectors of distressed districts to pay the Sunday wage on works in any taluka where rain still held off, and where the staple food-grain was selling at a rate dearer than nine pounds a rupee. As a fact, such a rate was reached only in the Kaladgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar districts, and in one taluka of Sholapur.

TASK WORK.

18. In the Note of April the system of tasking was mentioned as another means of preventing the relief works from being used improperly. It will be well now to state what the orders issued on this subject were.

19. It was first directed (Government Resolution No. 206 C. W.—869, dated 21st November 1876) that where operations were heavy and concentrated—such as tank embankments or clearances, or heavy road banks—supervising officers should endeavour to introduce a system of task-work by gangs which would enable the labourers, without over-exertion, to earn as much as their daily rate of pay, or to earn more than that rate should they prefer to do so. It was at the same time premised that these instructions were not intended to authorise any reduction of the settled rates of wages. It was further prescribed (Government Resolution No. 33 E.—103, dated 19th January 1877) that, on works under Of-

ficers of the Public Works Department, the task should be fixed at not less than 75 per cent., and on works under Civil Agency at not less than 50 per cent. of the task that would be required from a labourer on full wages in ordinary times. And these words "the task that would be required from a labourer on full wages in ordinary times," it was subsequently explained (Government Resolution 156 E.—546, dated 10th March 1877) meant the task that the particular labourer, looking to his strength, condition, and skill, would be able to perform if he worked to the full extent of his ability.

20. Thus the orders were that labourers should be tasked, not according to a fixed common standard, but according to the individual capacity of each, and that the tasks exacted should not be in proportion to the full capacity, but less by 25 or 50 per cent., according as the labourer was on a work under the Public Works Department, or on a work under Civil Agency: *i. e.*, looking to the original classification of labourers, according as he was "able-bodied" or "less capable" (see paragraph 20 of the Note of April).

21. But in practice it became necessary—particularly in order to allow the different members of a family to work together—to employ other than able-bodied persons upon the large works under the Officers of the Public Works Department, and it was found impracticable in many cases to exact even the task prescribed in the orders noted above. Besides this, really able-bodied persons through idleness or obstinacy would sometimes not perform the allotted work. To meet such cases it was directed (Government Resolution No. 410 P., dated 28th August 1877) that on works under the Officers of the Public Works Department able-bodied labourers who did not perform the required tasks should be paid only for the portion done, though the effect might be to reduce their wages below the rate paid on works under Civil Agency; but that non-able-bodied labourers should be paid not less than the Civil Agency rates. The principle adopted here was that a labourer presumably unable to perform more than he did should not be left without a minimum amount of support, but that a strong able man desiring to idle in hope that he too would receive that minimum should not be permitted to do so on those terms. At the same time it was enjoined that should an able-bodied man, through continued short payments, become non-able-bodied, he should then receive the Civil Agency rate of wage.

THE DISTANCE TEST.

22. This principle was first applied by the Collector of Ahmednagar who, as early as December 1876, directed his Assistants to send villagers who were supposed to be well-to-do, and who were engaged on relief works close to their homes, to more distant works. Government approved the principle (Government Resolution No. 314 C. W.—1118, dated 27th December 1876), as suitable to meet the case of idle or well-to-do persons on relief works, and further directed that villages should, as far as possible, be divided into groups, and only one or two works be proceeded with at once in each group, so that the majority of the labourers would have some distance to go to their work. The same rule was again prescribed by Government Resolution No. 69 C. W.—160, dated 25th January 1877, in which it was stated distinctly that it was "not advisable to provide work for people near their own homes, and arrangements should always be made, when practicable, for employing them at a distance from their villages." The same instructions were repeated on the 29th January (Government Resolution No. 93 C. W.—205), with an exception made in favour of weakly or infirm persons who were also in distress.

23. Again, soon after the Dhond and Manmad Railway works were opened, it was more particularly enjoined (Government Resolution No. 164 E.—576, dated 14th March 1877), that persons living so near the line that they could return to their homes at night should not be employed on the railway works, and a distance of ten miles was recommended as a convenient limit to fix.

24. The only other direction it was found necessary to issue with regard to the distance test, was that the principle should be applied not rigidly but with discretion. It was then again laid down (Government Resolution No. 225 E.—774, dated 7th April 1877) that the distance test was to be adhered to, as a general rule, with the view of keeping

25. The table below shows the expenditure in each district from the Collector's Discretionary Grant, and the expenditure on account of children, under seven years of age, of labourers upon the relief works :—

DISTRICTS.	EXPENDITURE.	
	Discretionary Grant.	Children.
Khandesh	Rs. 3,359	Rs. 4,864
Nasik	3,736	23,297
Ahmednagar	48,395	40,841
Poona	2,30,149	64,370
Sholapur	2,03,183	45,774
Satara	1,06,091	45,600
Kaladgi	2,75,029	86,190
Belgaum	1,55,314	25,450
Dharwar	73,709	36,534
Ratnagiri	429	1,549
Kanara	6,517	587
Tanna	3,219	0
Total ...	Rs. 11,09,130	Rs. 3,75,056

The number of young children naturally varied generally as the number of labourers upon relief works. It was highest in the week ending the 9th June, when the daily average amounted to 120,867. The number of persons aided from the Collectors' Discretionary Grants was inconsiderable till April. From the middle of that month it rose gradually till it reached 60,000 at the end of June. Then, in consequence of the monsoon, the number began to fall, but naturally at a rate slow in proportion to that of the diminution of labourers upon works, as the more helpless people were the slowest to take advantage of the opportunities offered for their ordinary pursuits. And on the first alarm of a second year's drought, the number began again to rise, and continued to do so till it reached its maximum of 1,00,182 a day in the week ending the 15th of September. During October and November the number fell rapidly, and according to the last returns received only 4,248 persons are now left on the hands of Government.

26. With regard to the administration of gratuitous relief, the following instructions were issued on the 24th April (Government Resolution No. 292 E.—942) :—

“ Local officers have hitherto, as regards the relief-house arrangements, been working in connection with private Relief Committees, both central and local, and have availed themselves freely of the assistance of influential local inhabitants, whose conduct in connection with the relief of the suffering poor has been beyond all praise and commendation. This arrangement should be continued, and, if practicable, strengthened and improved, and the local officers should specially seek the advice and aid of the central Bombay Committee, in whose hands Government have lately placed the funds subscribed by various munificent persons and bodies, to enable them to assist the local Committees. To the proper establishment and organization of relief-houses and stations, Collectors of districts and their Assistants should, therefore, pay very careful attention, and should very strongly impress on their Native Subordinates, Mamlatdars, Relief Mamlatdars, &c., the importance that the Government attach to this branch of the general measures. Warning and caution should also be once more conveyed to Patels and village officials, in language that will admit of no doubt, that they are responsible for preventing the occurrence of any case of unrelieved distress in their villages. Taluka

the notice of higher authority any risk of being
to endanger the safety of the poor who are in need of charity.

27. And on the 30th April, in view to obtaining uniformity of principle and, as far as might be desirable, of practice also (Government Resolution No. 307 E.—987), detailed rules were published for the regulation of relief-houses. These will be found in the Appendix to this narrative. They were drawn up in the first instance by the Revenue Commissioner Southern Division on the model of those introduced by Sir John Strachey at Moradabad. Government published them, with certain modifications, for information and general guidance, premising that it was not intended to make their provisions absolutely binding in every instance and in every district.

EXPENDITURE.

EXPENDITURE.

EXPENDITURE.

28. The total expenditure upon famine relief has been, as nearly as can at this date be ascertained, 114 lakhs of rupees. This gives a saving of 15 lakhs upon the last estimate made, namely, that of the 4th September last. In the table below the expenditure is compared with the estimates both of the 24th February and 4th September. It will be understood that the first of these estimates, amounting to Rs. 1,16,00,000, was made on the supposition that there was only the failure of the rains of 1876 to deal with—the second year's failure not being apparent till the following July; and that the last estimate, amounting to Rs. 1,29,00,000, was made just before the favourable change which began in September was assured.

the actual Expenditure with previous Estimates.

Table contrasting the actual Expenditure with previous Estimates.

Table contrasting the actual Expenditure with previous Estimate										
RELIEF LABOUR.										
	Monthly Average Number of Labourers.					EXPENDITURE AS ESTIMATED ON 4TH SEPTEMBER.	APPROXIMATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE.		Approximate Net Saving upon Estimate of 4th September 1877.	
	Estimate of 24th February 1877.	Estimate of 4th September 1877.	Actual.	Decrease or Increase in Actuals compared with Estimate of 24th February 1877.	Decrease or Increase in Actuals compared with Estimate of 4th September 1877.		Works.	Charity, Establishment, Tools and Plant, Land Compensation, Medical Supervision, &c.		
1877										
May ...	5,00,000		3,53,338	- 1,46,662						
June ...	3,50,000		3,57,541	+ 7,541						
July ...	2,00,000		2,62,460	+ 62,460						
August ...	1,00,000		2,71,791	+ 1,71,791						
September...	50,000		2,21,522	+ 1,71,522		2,66,652	4,47,852	1,29,00,000	93,00,000	21,00,000
October ...		1,75,000	79,876	- 95,124						
November...		1,25,000	22,722	- 1,02,728						
December ...		1,00,000		- 1,00,000						
1878										
January ...		75,000		- 75,000						
February ...		50,000		- 50,000						
March ...		25,000		- 25,000						
										15,00,000

REMISSIONS.

29. The remissions of land revenue in the year 1876-77 on account of the famine amounted to only Rs. 2,15,110 out of a total revenue of Rs. 1,40,78,500 to be collected that year in the nine famine-stricken districts. The great difference between this result, and the anticipations expressed in paragraph 35 of the Note of April, is due in part to the adoption of the plan of merely suspending collections instead of absolutely remitting payment of revenue. Thus, besides the Rs. 2,15,110 remitted, there are Rs. 27,44,230 under suspension and to be recovered. Of the revenue of 1877-78 it is not anticipated that any part will have to be either remitted or suspended on account of the famine.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

30. The total number of persons upon Government relief, noticed in the last narrative as being on the 21st April 3·49 per cent. of the whole population of the distressed districts, rose till in the second week of June the percentage reached 7·1 of the whole population, or 10 per cent. of the affected population. Then—the number of labourers being by far the largest of its component parts—it necessarily fell rapidly. In August it began to rise again, but—though the increase at this time under the head of gratuitous relief was large—never reached the height attained in June. From the beginning of September, though the helpless poor did not diminish, the reduction in the number of labourers continued to bring the total number down, and after the middle of that month the reduction became general under all heads. The last labourers were discharged at the end of November, and the relief-houses are being gradually but rapidly closed.

31. The general good conduct of the people commended in the Note of April continued to the end. Nor was there any marked repetition of that resistance to the measures of Government of which some instances were alluded to in paragraph 42 of the earlier narrative.

32. The special relaxation of the general orders regarding work and wages made in respect of the immigrants into the Konkan and Kaladgi and Dharwar was continued till towards the end of May, when it was considered advisable that they should, before the monsoon, begin to proceed towards their homes. Special facilities were allowed them for doing so, each head of a family or single individual requiring assistance being granted a pass which enabled him to obtain the necessary provisions at fixed places on his route home. (Government Resolution No. 367 E.—1209, dated 23rd May 1877).

33. Wanderers from the distressed districts also made their way in large numbers to the City of Bombay. Their condition became a subject of enquiry as early as March, and in April Government undertook to grant to such of them as really required it a free passage and subsistence batta to enable them to reach relief works to be pointed out to them. (Government Resolution No. 309 E.—997, dated 30th April 1877.) But in August it was thought advisable to stop the immigration of famine-stricken persons into Bombay, and camps were formed for their detention at the Sion Causeway and the Port of Panvel, and afterwards at Tanna. For this purpose a Discretionary Grant was placed at the disposal of the Collector of Tanna. To these camps helpless persons who had wandered or were wandering into Bombay were sent, and there they were detained and fed, and when necessary treated medically, and thence when they had sufficiently recovered they were sent at the expense of Government to works or to their homes, according to their condition and circumstances.

C. J. MERRIMAN, Colonel, R. E.,
Acting Secretary to Government.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:
22nd December 1877.

REMISSIONS.

29. The remissions of land revenue in the year 1876-77 on account of the famine amounted to only Rs. 2,15,110 out of a total revenue of Rs. 1,40,78,500 to be collected that year in the nine famine-stricken districts. The great difference between this result, and the anticipations expressed in paragraph 35 of the Note of April, is due in part to the adoption of the plan of merely suspending collections instead of absolutely remitting payment of revenue. Thus, besides the Rs. 2,15,110 remitted, there are Rs. 27,44,230 under suspension and to be recovered. Of the revenue of 1877-78 it is not anticipated that any part will have to be either remitted or suspended on account of the famine.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

30. The total number of persons upon Government relief, noticed in the last narrative as being on the 21st April 3.49 per cent. of the whole population of the distressed districts, rose till in the second week of June the percentage reached 7.1 of the whole population, or 10 per cent. of the affected population. Then—the number of labourers being by far the largest of its component parts—it necessarily fell rapidly. In August it began to rise again, but—though the increase at this time under the head of gratuitous relief was large—never reached the height attained in June. From the beginning of September, though the helpless poor did not diminish, the reduction in the number of labourers continued to bring the total number down, and after the middle of that month the reduction became general under all heads. The last labourers were discharged at the end of November, and the relief-houses are being gradually but rapidly closed.

31. The general good conduct of the people commended in the Note of April continued to the end. Nor was there any marked repetition of that resistance to the measures of Government of which some instances were alluded to in paragraph 42 of the earlier narrative.

32. The special relaxation of the general orders regarding work and wages made in respect of the immigrants into the Konkan and Kaladgi and Dharwar was continued till towards the end of May, when it was considered advisable that they should, before the monsoon, begin to proceed towards their homes. Special facilities were allowed them for doing so, each head of a family or single individual requiring assistance being granted a pass which enabled him to obtain the necessary provisions at fixed places on his route home. (Government Resolution No. 367 E.—1209, dated 23rd May 1877).

33. Wanderers from the distressed districts also made their way in large numbers to the City of Bombay. Their condition became a subject of enquiry as early as March, and in April Government undertook to grant to such of them as really required it a free passage and subsistence hatta to enable them to reach relief works to be pointed out to them. (Government Resolution No. 309 E.—997, dated 30th April 1877.) But in August it was thought advisable to stop the immigration of famine-stricken persons into Bombay, and camps were formed for their detention at the Sion Causeway and the Port of Panwel, and afterwards at Tanna. For this purpose a Discretionary Grant was placed at the disposal of the Collector of Tanna. To these camps helpless persons who had wandered or were wandering into Bombay were sent, and there they were detained and fed, and when necessary treated medically, and thence when they had sufficiently recovered they were sent at the expense of Government to works or to their homes, according to their condition and circumstances.

C. J. MERRIMAN, Colonel, R. E.,
Acting Secretary to Government.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:
22nd December 1877.

THE FAMINE OF 1876 AND 1877

IN THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

NOTES ON THE GENERAL POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ON THE
PROGRESS OF THE MEASURES ADOPTED TO RELIEVE THE DISTRESS
CAUSED BY THE FAMINE IN THE DECCAN AND SOUTHERN
MARATHA COUNTRY.

Note on the General Policy of the Government in respect to Scarcity now prevailing in a part of the Bombay Presidency.

The general progress of the scarcity in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country has been recorded fully, but not so fully, in the Weekly Statements which have been published by the Government, and which commenced from the week ending the 31st of October last.

2. These Statements exhibit facts of great value as regards the state of the season and crops, the condition of the people, the comparative prices of grain, the progress of imports, and the measures adopted for the relief of distress; but the information is given in a concentrated form, and the time may now have arrived for reviewing the position of Government in regard to the scarcity somewhat more at length.

3. The previous season, that of 1875, has been an average one. The monsoon of 1876 opened at about the usual time, but the fall of rain up to the middle of August, though not wanting, was scanty. About that time, uneasiness began to be felt as to the prospect of the season in parts of the Deccan and the Southern Mahratta Country, but it was not until September that this ripened into serious apprehensions that great distress was impending, that it would be necessary for Government to undertake the relief of a large number of the population, who, owing to the failure of the monsoon crops, and the absence of agricultural operations in preparation for the rabi crops, would be without food, and without the means to purchase it.

The danger first began to manifest itself in the Khandesh Collectorate, and the first work of relief was authorized there on the 28th August, but rain fell in the eastern part of the Collectorate early in September, and the difficulty that was anticipated in a great measure passed away. In Sholapur, relief work was first authorized on the 4th of September, and, from that time up to the present, there has been no relaxation of the stringency of the situation either in that Collectorate, or in any of the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country districts, though distress, which at one time promised to be very severe in Satara, Kaladgi, Belgaum and Dharwar, was somewhat mitigated by a slight fall of rain which occurred in some parts of those districts in October.

5. As soon as it became apparent that there was a serious failure of the monsoon crops, and that there would, probably, be an almost entire absence of cold-weather crops, the price of food-grains at once rose, and on the 15th of November the staple grains, jowari and bajri, were selling in some parts of the Southern Mahratta Country at 12 and 14 pounds per rupee, respectively. In some localities, especially in Belgaum, Dharwar and Kaladgi, the nominal prices were high, but grain could hardly be procured at all, and much of what was offered was old and of bad quality. The holders of local stocks refused to dispose of them, except in very small quantities, either waiting for higher prices, or in view to husbanding their stores in anticipation of still greater scarcity, and, possibly, another year's drought. At the present time of writing, prices have fallen, the markets throughout the country are fairly well stocked, some of them over-stocked, and although the fall in price has been slight, the quality of the grain has greatly improved, and it has been brought closer to the homes of the people. The average price of jowari is now 21½ lbs. per rupee, and of bajri 20½. Jowari is dearest in Kaladgi, where its price is 15½ lbs. per rupee, and cheapest in Nasik where it is selling for 32 lbs. per rupee.

6. Owing to the long-continued drought and absence crops, there is a general want of forage throughout the eastern part of the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country, which presses very hardly upon the cattle and their owners, and many of the owners have left their villages, and have driven their cattle away to distant pastures. The drought has also occasioned a considerable difficulty in respect to water-supply in some localities. The absence of forage and of water upon some of the lines of road, especially in the eastern districts, has greatly complicated the question of transport, and has rendered it, on a very large scale, almost, if not quite impracticable in some parts of the country.

7. The area of the districts which are more or less affected, is 54,355 square miles, and the population is 7,963,927.

8. The area of the most affected parts of these districts is 33,873 square miles, and the population is 4,981,613. The population is almost entirely agricultural, there are few large towns and no extensive manufactures; the land tenure is ryotwari, and there are no large landlords or persons corresponding to the Zemindars of Bengal.

9. The above are briefly the main conditions of the problem that has arisen, and it now remains to note—

10. As soon as it became apparent that, owing to the rise of the price of food-grains, and to the action of the local holders and dealers, large importations would be necessary to prevent great distress, the Government had to consider and decide what course they should take; whether they should follow the precedent of the Bengal Commission of 1874, and themselves undertake to import grain, or whether that necessary provision of private traders. The matter was most carefully and thoroughly considered, and it was at length determined that Government might safely leave it to the trade to do all that was needed; and although the Government have been strongly urged to depart from this policy, they have firmly and consistently adhered to it with entirely satisfactory results up to the present moment.

11. In weighing the matter, the Government considered that any decided movement on their part would be likely to act prejudicially on the trade; that if the merchants were led to expect that they would be subjected to the competition of the Government, they would withdraw; and as it was clear that, no matter how powerful the Government might be, and that on however extended a scale their efforts might be made, they could not hope to effect all that the trade, if it exerted itself, could do, it was held that it would be better for Government not to enter into the market at all; for, though the Government might be able to do more than many merchants could do, they could not hope to effect so much as could be done by all of them. It was, therefore, publicly made known that Government would not, in any way, interfere with the grain trade, or with the movements of grain unless actually forced to do so by failure of supply or by excessive extortion on the part of dealers; that they would buy nothing on their own account for importation into the affected districts, though they were ready to enter into contracts for the delivery on their own works of food-supplies to their own labourers; that, in fact, they were not prepared to do more than to act through the trade on behalf of those who come upon their relief works, and that they would not, in any way, themselves assume the position of traders or importers, so long as they could ensure the people on the works being supplied with food.

12. The expectation that the Government would not interfere with the grain trade, or with the movements of grain unless actually forced to do so by failure of supply or by excessive extortion on the part of dealers, was widely known, and it was generally expected that the Government would not interfere with the grain trade, or with the movements of grain unless actually forced to do so by failure of supply or by excessive extortion on the part of dealers.

12. The expectations that the natural demand for food would produce the usual effect on the supply have been justified so far by the result, and the relief works the Government have commenced have acted as powerful auxiliaries in heightening this effect and have been not only directly useful in supporting persons employed upon them, but have been indirectly useful to the rest of the population by causing money to circulate, and, by thus providing purchasers, have encouraged and stimulated the supply.

13. In October, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway began to deliver large supplies of grain to the stations in the affected districts, and up to the present time have conveyed to these stations; the grain movement has been most extraordinary, the Railway could not provide engines and rolling stock for its conveyance, and their stations and sidings did not contain room for its accommodation, the station and traffic staff had to be largely increased, and along parts of the line, the accumulations, that could not be at once disposed of, became very large. At this moment, there is little, if any, diminution of the grain traffic, and it is a fact that all the towns in the affected districts along the Railway are over-stocked; from these towns, as fast as carriage can be obtained, the grain is passing into the interior, and most of the local markets are now reported to be well supplied. In one district only has it been necessary for Government to take any active or decided steps as regards grain imports. For this district, Kaládgi, from its remoteness, and from the fact that it contains few Marwaries, or Bunyas, the grain stocks being chiefly held and sold by the Patels and Kulkarnis of the villages, and by the more wealthy ryots, who manifested great reluctance to sell on any terms, it became necessary for Government to take exceptional steps; this was done by sending grain gradually, but not in large quantities, from Belgaum, and also from Sholápur; and the result, according to late accounts, has been to induce the dealers to do the same, and to cause the local holders to open their stores, and there is now no great difficulty as regards food-supply in this district, though it is not yet so well provided for, as the more westerly parts of the affected area; this defect, however, is in process of rectification.

14. At the ports of the Southern Mahratta Country the grain imports have also been very large, and have already amounted to 36,812 tons. The roads leading from the ports to the interior, all of which cross the great barrier of the Western Ghâts, are crowded with grain carts, and apparently the only limit to the movement is the amount of carriage that can be obtained, and the supply of available forage. Up to the present time there has, however, been no failure in this respect, and Government are now turning their attention to measures which are calculated to help, and facilitate the traffic later on in the season, without directly interfering with the arrangements of the dealers. From enquiries that were made of the grain merchants, it was ascertained that any interference by Government with the transport arrangements, or, indeed, any direct attempt to aid the merchants in obtaining carriage, would only have the effect of increasing the price of cart-hire, and the Government were requested to let matters take their own course. Acting on the general principle which

rice of food-grains, and it would be necessary to prepare that course they should have in 1874, and themselves be left to the operation considered, and if the trade to do all that was required to depart from this satisfactory results up to

guided them in respect to grain importation, Government, therefore, decided that it was better to leave the trade to itself; but, as above remarked, they now have under consideration questions connected with the transport (such as the cutting and storage of forage,) which, if satisfactorily settled, will materially aid the transport, without interfering with it.

15. It may be added that Police arrangements have been made for ensuring the safety of the grain while in transit through the country, and Government have also permitted the traders to deposit in the Kutcheries the sums received for the grain sold.

16. Such has been the general policy of the Government as regards grain supplies, and, as above remarked, it has been completely successful up to the present time; and the Government have the gratification of knowing that this policy has received the approval of the Government of India, as expressed in the 12th para. of their letter No. 365, of the 25th of October. This approval was accorded, it may be remarked, at a time when its generally successful result was not so apparent as it has since become.

The

—1st, *The Organization of Relief Works*; 2nd, *The Distribution of Charitable Relief.*

RELIEF WORKS.

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calculated about the middle of October, that the number of persons who
relieved in the three Deccan Districts, Poona, Ahmednagar and Sholapur,
about 220,000, and that continued relief, or employment, would have to be
for 8 months; adding the probable number that would require relief in the
other districts, it was not safe to reckon that a less average number than between
50,000 persons would require support in some shape during the period up to
June, perhaps until the next harvest.

18. So, the Government taking, as a basis, the proportions adopted on that occasion, it was afterwards at relief might have to be given at the worst season to about one million of to 20 per cent. of the population of the affected districts, and a rough approximate made of the outlay that would devolve on the Government, amounting to £1,40,000. At first, i.e., in September and part of October, the Government endeavoured to meet the case by the application of the resources within their own command, by using the Provincial and Local Funds, and by anticipating, to some extent, the local resources of the districts. It was not long, however, before it soon became apparent that these efforts would only to a very small extent meet the exigency of the case.

and scattered works had been undertaken in the period, but about the middle of the year it became clear that, if the difficulty was to be met at all, far more serious measures must be set on foot.

20. It was the view of the Government that properly to deal with the crisis in a manner that would ensure avoidance, as far as possible, of waste of public funds, it was necessary to set on foot works on which large bodies of men could be concentrated, supplied with food, and properly organized and controlled. This view was in accordance with the ruling of the Government of India, laid down in the first para. of the Resolution No. 1—59-71, dated 18th February 1875, and that at an early stage of distress "large works should be opened at once, small works subsequently, as the necessity for them arises."

21. Acting on this commencement of the work—a work which, from its importance, was approved by the Government once accepted the decision to work which this Government ratta Country, i.e., that portion of the Dharwar Collectorate.

22. The Government had by No. 365, of the 25th October, taken away any restrictions beyond those authoritatively recorded by the Government. His Excellency the Governor so as to prevent any loss of the lives and expenditure of public money in excess of the amount determined by the Government of India, and that the Council will exercise Majesty's subjects, with a view to the interests of the case."

Note on the progress, to date, of the measures adopted to relieve the distress caused by the Famine now prevailing in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country.

1. The time has arrived when it is advisable to review, in general terms, the progress of the famine now prevailing in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country, and to note the measures that have been adopted to combat the difficulty, and to save the people from extreme distress.

2. In a Note regarding the General Policy of the Government, dated the 18th of December last, the conditions of the problem that had at that time to be faced were stated; and those conditions have not materially altered as the season has advanced.

3. No rain has fallen during the season, until within the last few days, when there were heavy and very general showers in the southern and eastern parts of the Presidency. In Dharwar the fall was general, and averaged about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; in Belgaum there was a fall over half the Collectorate of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; in Kaladgi from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches fell over half of the district; in Satara the rainfall, though more partial, was considerable, and in Sholapur, Poona, and Ahmednagar there were slighter falls. This rain will benefit the water-supply, and will stimulate the growth of grass, and although it will not be of much use as regards the next season's crops, it will mitigate the great heat, and encourage the people. In some places it will admit of the commencement of ploughing.

4. The prices of food-grains have been kept fairly steady by the imports; the course of prices was very gradually downwards from November last to February, since which date they have begun slowly to rise, as was to be expected, on the approach of the monsoon; they now stand at an average of about 21 $\frac{1}{3}$ lbs. the rupee for Jowari, and 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. the rupee for Bajri.

The highest prices touched were—

Jowari	12	lbs.	per	rupee	in	Kaladgi.	} In November 1876.
Bajri	14	„	„	„	in	do.	

and the lowest—

Jowari	36 $\frac{1}{3}$	lbs.	per	rupee	in	March 1877.	} In Khandesh.
Bajri	29	„	„	„	in	January 1877.	

GRAIN SUPPLIES.

5. Government have adhered strictly to the policy of non-interference with the trade; and the results of this policy have hitherto been entirely successful. The grain imports by rail to the different districts have been large, and as much has been thrown in by the southern ports into the Southern Mahratta Country as the local means of transport could convey away. The following table shows the imports, month by month, to the distressed districts since the commencement of the movement of importation began:—

Food-grains sent to	In October 1876.	In November 1876.	In December 1876.	In January 1877.	In February 1877.	In March 1877.	In April (up to 21st.)	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Southern Mahratta Ports... .. <i>G. I. P. Railway.</i>	7,675	19,228	17,312	13,459	16,075	16,798	13,964	104,511
South-Eastern line, from Poona to Sholapur ...	11,683	30,014	25,498	15,471	12,477	13,760	10,088	118,991
North-Eastern line, from Nasik to Bhusawal ...	4,447	4,776	3,606	1,615	2,622	3,231	2,073	22,373
Total ...	23,805	54,018	46,416	30,545	31,174	33,792	26,125	245,875

6. Still larger imports would, no doubt, have reached the famine districts if the Railways could have carried more; but, owing mainly to insufficiency of Engine-power, the Railway Officers, although they have made the most strenuous and praiseworthy efforts, have not been able fully to deal with the famine traffic in addition to the ordinary traffic of the present season; much grain from the North-Western and Central Provinces, the Berars, &c., has been delayed in transit for want of haulage, and some, it is to be feared, has, from the same cause, been diverted to other markets. Still the supplies thrown into the affected parts, though not so large as they might have been, have been sufficient for present

requirements, and it is believed that stocks have accumulated, with, perhaps, one or two exceptions, which are receiving attention, which will last till the opening of the next season, until the new local crops mature, or until fresh imports can be sent from more favoured parts of India, should there be a second year's drought in the Deccan and the Southern Mahratta Country.

7. The resources of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have been further strained by the necessity it has been under of providing for the through grain traffic to the distressed districts of Madras; and the ability of the Railway to serve the famine tracts of the Bombay Presidency has been *pro tanto* reduced. During the season a total quantity of nearly 40,000 tons of grain has been passed through the Junction Station of Raichore from the Great Indian Peninsula to the Madras Line, and a larger quantity than this would, no doubt, have been transferred, if the Madras Railway had from the first been able to deal with it.

8. It has been clearly brought out by the facts of the present season's famine traffic, that occasions such as the present may arise when, in order to feed a large population, grain has to be carried over single lines of Railway for long distances, in quantities sufficient to strain to the utmost the resources of the best appointed lines on the standard 5½ feet gauge, and as it may be assumed that narrow gauge lines would be far less efficient, the unsuitability of the metre gauge for long lines of through communication cannot be put out of sight when thought is taken for the proper and efficient administration of a country liable to be affected with drought and famine. Although the Railway lines that have been concerned in the present case, *i. e.*, the East Indian, the Great Indian Peninsula, and the Madras Railways, have failed to do all that was required of them, or that was needful to meet the full necessities of the case, they have yet, it may be truly said, largely contributed, so far, to save Southern India from a very great calamity; but they have not done this with any margin to spare, or without some injury to particular sections of general trade or to individual traders. The standard gauge lines have barely been able to satisfy essential and urgent demands; and under similar circumstances narrow gauge lines would probably have been taken altogether. Indeed, it is known that in the southern part of the Madras Presidency considerable inconvenience arose at a break of gauge.

9. As regards the grain transport by ordinary roads from Railway stations, and from the Coast ports, there has hitherto been no difficulty, though owing to the dearth of forage on some of the inland lines, the price of grain has been enhanced.

10. On the lines of road leading from the Coast ports over the Western Ghaut range, there has been, and is, forage and water in sufficient quantities, but on the more easterly communication both are, and have been, very scarce.

11. Having this fact in view, the Government, in their Resolutions No. 93 E. of 20th December, and No. 336 C. W. of 1162, dated 30th December 1876, ordered grain to be cut, pressed, and laid down on the principal lines of grain traffic, such grain to be reserved exclusively for sale for the use of that traffic, so that, late in the season, no considerable impediment might exist to supplying, from the rail, or from the Coast, some of the principal local markets, such as Indr, Bijapur, Kaladgi, Athni, &c., in the more easterly districts. The lines along which pressed forage is now being laid down under these orders are, from

- Sholapur *via* Indr towards Bellary.
- Do. to Bijapur.
- Chiplun to Tasgaon and Athni *via* Karad.
- Vingorla *via* Belgaum to Kaladgi.
- Koompta *via* Sirsi to eastern districts, Dharwar.
- Karwar *via* Yellapur and Dharwar to Kaladgi.

Should the forage not be needed for the grain traffic, it can, it is believed, be sold, without great loss, to the owners of cattle employed in the ordinary work of the country. Measures have also been taken to improve the water-supply on the main lines of grain traffic.

RELIEF WORKS.

12. As soon as the real dimensions of the general distress became apparent, the Government, in regard to the relief to be afforded by means of Public Works, determined to act upon the following leading principles:—

- 1.—That, as far as possible, large, concentrated, and useful works should be undertaken.
- 2.—That checks and tests should be applied, which would deter persons from seeking relief who were not in real need, and which would, as far as possible, prevent the abuse of public charity.

13. Although the first-named principle was asserted by the Government on the 16th October 1876, it was not until the 9th February following that they were placed in pos-

session, without condition, of the authority they had desired from the moment that the extent of the failure of crops and the gravity of the situation had become apparent to them.

14. They had previously, by the force of circumstances, been compelled to commence a few large undertakings, but, as a rule, they had been obliged to restrict operations to small works over which very little supervision could be exercised, or discipline maintained, and on which many more people crowded under the plea of want, than were believed to have any claim on the charity of the State.

15. The following table gives the total number of persons employed on relief works, for each week, from nearly the commencement of the scarcity to the present time. It will be observed that the highest number touched, 339,439, was for the week ending 20th January 1877; from that date the Government were enabled to give better effect to the restrictive measures they had previously devised, and endeavoured to carry out; they were enabled to enforce discipline by the transference of the people from the small scattered works, and to concentrate the labour under proper supervision on the larger undertakings, and the result was an immediate, and most marked, diminution of the numbers seeking relief; in one week they fell off by 52,590, and continued steadily to diminish until towards the end of March 1877, when the period of greatest distress may be said to have begun; since then, they have been slowly rising, but they have not yet reached the number at which they stood in January, when the Government were able to give full force to the tests that had been determined on:—

Total number of work-people on relief works for the weeks ending—

	On Civil Agency Works.	On Public Works Department Works.	TOTAL.
18th November 1876	35,118	62,838	97,956
25th ditto	69,993	97,449	167,442
2nd December 1876	86,214	113,616	199,830
9th ditto	104,604	129,253	233,857
16th ditto	112,307	146,626	258,933
23rd ditto	119,366	172,583	291,949
30th ditto	123,536	173,000	296,536
6th January 1877	123,829	185,250	309,079
13th ditto	140,361	196,025	336,386
20th ditto	134,975	204,464	339,439
27th ditto	105,014	181,835	286,849
3rd February 1877	83,147	186,626	269,773
10th ditto	64,815	183,880	248,695
17th ditto	49,020	178,066	227,086
24th ditto	41,628	185,930	227,558
3rd March 1877	38,336	175,003	213,339
10th ditto	31,091	193,776	224,867
17th ditto	20,637	194,514	215,151
24th ditto	25,728	212,460	238,188
31st ditto	28,293	223,986	252,279
7th April 1877	27,081	242,324	269,405
14th ditto	31,229	260,680	291,909

From the beginning of the famine the Government had endeavoured to place as many as possible of the works undertaken, under the supervision of the Public Works Department; and when the Government were in a position to concentrate the labour, force was given to this arrangement, as will be seen from the foregoing table which shows, week by week, the numbers employed on Public Works Department and Civil Agency Works. It will be observed that on the 20th January last, of the total number of 339,439 employed, 134,975 were engaged on petty Civil Works, and that this number has now been reduced to 31,229 out of a total number of 291,909.

16. Such, very briefly, and in general terms, are the results obtained; and it remains to note the checks and tests instituted to prevent persons resorting to the works who were not in need of aid; they were as follows.

17. **A low scale of wages.** The rates were at first fixed at 2 annas per diem for a man, 1½ anna for a woman, and 1 anna for a boy or girl capable of work. This scale was ordered early in November, and about the middle of the same month the payments were made dependent on the price of staple food grain by the application of a sliding scale, which provided that the money rate should vary with

the price of food-grain, when prices rose over 16 lbs. per rupee, and that a man should always receive the price of 1 lb. of grain in addition to 1 anna.

18. Experience seemed, however, to show that these rates were too liberal, and that, owing to the wages given, and to other causes, the works were becoming "too attractive"; in December 1876 it was, therefore, ordered that the sliding scale should be applied when prices fell below the assumed zero point of 16 lbs. to 18 lbs. per rupee, and it has since been the invariable rule that the people should be paid the value of a pound of grain in addition to a fixed money payment. No musters were taken on Sundays on the large works under Public Works Department supervision from the commencement of the scarcity, and no pay has been issued for that day on these works; in December 1876 a similar rule was enjoined on Civil Agency works, and has since been acted on.

19. On the 19th of January 1877, the rates of wages on the small Civil Agency works were reduced to $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna for a man, $1\frac{1}{4}$ for a woman, and $\frac{3}{4}$ for a boy or girl, subject to the sliding scale noticed above. The Civil works are usually situated near to the homes of the people, and on them only very light tasks are exacted. The rates on both scales have since stood as follows:—

Public Works Department Scale.

MAN.	WOMAN.	CHILD OVER 7 YEARS OF AGE.*
1 anna, plus the value of 1 lb. of grain.	$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, plus the value of 1 lb. of grain.	$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, plus the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of grain.
$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, plus the value of 1 lb. of grain.	$\frac{1}{4}$ anna, plus the value of 1 lb. of grain.	$\frac{1}{4}$ anna, plus the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of grain.

Civil Agency Scale.

MAN.	WOMAN.	CHILD OVER 7 YEARS OF AGE.*
1 anna, plus the value of 1 lb. of grain.	$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, plus the value of 1 lb. of grain.	$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, plus the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of grain.
$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, plus the value of 1 lb. of grain.	$\frac{1}{4}$ anna, plus the value of 1 lb. of grain.	$\frac{1}{4}$ anna, plus the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of grain.

Paid for 6 days only.

It will be observed that the sliding scale of payments in accordance with the prices of grain—a measure which does not seem to have been adopted on any previous occasions of famine—has the advantage of equalizing the wages paid over all parts of the affected districts, and thus of preventing under-payments in one district, and over-payments in another. While on the one hand it secures to the labourer a fixed amount of food in addition to a fixed sum of money, no matter what the state of the market may be, on the other, it gives the Government the benefit of any fall in grain rates.

20. A great object was to segregate and classify the work-people, and on the 21st November this was ordered, and the people were classified as below:—

Class 1st.—The able-bodied men and women who should, as a rule, be drafted to the works, where there are any such within reach, under the Public Works Department, where the supervision is of a stricter and more effectual character, and where the value and quality of the work performed can be more correctly regulated and estimated.

Class 2nd.—The less capable, the older men, and the women and children who may, in larger proportions, be employed on the works under the Collectors, where the supervision, though it may be less strict, should still be maintained as far as is compatible with the object of the works; the work-people should not be permitted to idle, and the work done should be regularly measured up, and its value calculated with reference to the expenditure incurred.

Class 3rd.—People incapable of travelling any distance to work, and incapable of ordinary labour, who should be employed, to the extent of their powers, on trifling works about their villages, such as prickly-pear clearances, and the like.

Class 4th.—The old, infirm, blind, and cripples, who have no one to supply their needs, and to whom it is necessary to give alms for their support.

21. **Task-work** was also at the same time enjoined, and as large works were organized,

Government Resolution No. 205 C. W.—869, of 21st November 1876.
Circular Memorandum No. 119 F., dated 8th December 1876.

Government Resolution No. 33 E.—103, of 19th January 1877.

Government Resolution No. 156 E.—546, of 10th March 1877.

22. **The test of distance** was ordered in December, and it was laid down that, as far

Government Resolution No. 314 C. W.—1118, dated 27th December 1876.

13. **Alt.** In October 1876, some small scattered works. When work was everywhere to be found, and at every the temptation to idlers, and frequently well-to-do persons, to make a convenience the charity was too great, and the relief organization was not, when scattered in on, sufficiently strong to put a stop to abuses.

in under 7 years of age receive an allowance of $\frac{1}{4}$ of an anna per diem, but do no work.

23. It was found by experience that a low rate of wages was not of itself a reliable test; persons would seek employment on almost any wage, provided the works were not far distant and they could return to their homes at night, and provided that, when present, they could perform as little labour as suited them.

24. The really effectual tests combined with moderate wages were, some trouble in seeking the works, and the necessity for exertion when on them. The Government had clearly foreseen the necessity for, and had endeavoured to provide, these checks, and their full force was felt as soon as they could be brought into operation, i. e., when works became concentrated.

25. As the rates of wages finally brought into force were admittedly low; and as the tests of classification, task-work, and distance, were applied with considerable rigidity; it became necessary to provide for particular cases, so that the general arrangements, devised in the interests of the public, and having for their object the prevention of the abuse of State charity, might not press harder on the suffering people than could be borne.

26. It was found that the classification, if too rigidly carried out, separated families, and threw an almost insuperable obstacle, in some cases, in the way of those seeking relief on the larger works; it was therefore ordered, as regards such cases, that when able-bodied persons were employed on works, their families and immediate dependents, though not themselves able-bodied, should also be received, and the arrangement has since worked very satisfactorily; the stronger members of the family having endeavoured very generally to make up for any shortcomings of their weaker relatives.

27. Many of the relief labourers had large families of children; some of them were able to work, and all over the age of seven years who were capable of carrying a basketful of earth, were mustered and paid on the works; but the younger children were found not only to exercise a great drain on the scanty earnings of the parents; but if admitted indiscriminately to the works, were greatly in the way, and impeded the movements of the elder people; it was, therefore, determined that, as regards the children below the age of 7 years, to the youngest infants, regular musters should be taken; and that these children should each receive a small daily payment as subsistence allowance. Also that they should be kept near, but quite apart from, the works on which their parents were employed; and under the charge of a few elderly women, who were mustered and paid for the purpose; and in some cases they were placed under the control of village school-masters whose schools were closed owing to the general absence of the people from some of the villages.

28. The arrangement regarding the payment of young children, made on the 26th of December, has since been in full force, and has, except in some few instances where orders were not attended to, worked with success: it has given great satisfaction to the people; and, while it has not added very materially to the cost of the relief operations,* it has supplied just what was wanted to supplement the low rate of famine wages.

29. It is very probably due to the fact that the allowance to young children has been made almost since the commencement of the relief operations, that the subsistence wage has been hitherto found sufficient. It was feared that a man and his wife, with a large family to support, could hardly sustain himself, and his children, on the amount he could earn on the works; but when the elder children received payment as labourers, and the young children, even down to the infants, were paid a small subsistence allowance, the earnings of the family* became considerable; and, as the results have shown, have hitherto proved sufficient to prevent distress in every case in which the general system of relief inaugurated by the Government, has been fully and completely applied. In addition to this advantage, the parents were relieved, by the arrangements made, of care and anxiety for the children during working hours, and the elder people, generally, were freed from the impediment, and obstruction, caused by the presence of a number of small children on the work.

* The allowance of a quarter of an anna, per head, per diem, for children under seven years of age, whose parents or guardians are employed upon the Relief Works, is paid both by the Civil and Public Works Departments, so that, assuming that there are 26 working days in the month, and that grain is selling at 16 lbs. the rupee (and it is seldom so dear as this), a family, consisting of a husband, wife, and four children, two over, and two under, seven years, can earn Rs. 7-11-6 monthly on the former, and Rs. 9-12-0 on the latter, e. g.,

	Man.	Woman.	2 Children over 7 years.	2 Children under 7 years.	Rs. a. p.
Civil Agency.....	As. $1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2} \times 26 = 7\ 11\ 6$
Public Works Agency. „	2	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$6 \times 26 = 9\ 12\ 0$

This amount for a family is not less than the earnings of some peons or lower class of servants who frequently have as large a family to support.

30. It was also provided that special cases, (such as nursing mothers,) arising on the works, should be specially treated, and full authority was given to local officers to take action in such matters. Provision for sick persons, and for their attendants, was made for a and the cases of transfer from one work to a distant one, and of drafting to a distant one were met by orders directing that, in such instances, subsistence batta should be made.

* Expenditure under this head, up to April 14th, is given in the table in para. 37, at the end of the report.

31. The time has not yet arrived to review finally the result of the measures adopted and carried out by the Government and above briefly described; but it may now be safely said that, so far, they have been successful.

32. Works that will be of great permanent benefit are in successful progress; though it must be admitted that some have been undertaken which will not be very useful. Many of the former are canals and large tanks which will, when completed, go far to secure their neighbourhood against the effects of any future drought, and some of the road constructions and improvements will be of very great service to the general traffic of the country.

33. The condition of the people generally is as satisfactory as could reasonably be expected; while the numbers that have sought relief have been far less than were expected, and than would undoubtedly have been on the hands of the Government, had a less careful and severe administration of the famine arrangements been secured; and it follows that the total outlay that will be incurred in combating the serious difficulty that is now being met, will very probably be far less than was at one time estimated.

34. It is, of course, quite impossible at present to fix precisely what the outlay on direct relief will be; but an estimate was made on the 30th November last, which was avowedly little more than a guess, and which amounted to £ 1,400,000 as the direct cost of the entire system of relief, provided a second season of drought did not ensue. This estimate was revised on the 12th January 1877 by Sir Richard Temple, who calculated the entire cost at £ 1,500,000 to £ 1,750,000. The Government, under date 24th February 1877, again revised the figures, and brought out a total sum of £ 1,160,000. Comparing the estimated figures of the 3rd and lowest estimate with the actuals up to the present time, it will be seen that there has been a very considerable reduction; and there is little or no doubt, if there be a timely and sufficient monsoon, that this rate of saving will be more than maintained. It will be observed that the estimated saving, up to the end of April, exceeds 25 lakhs of rupees, or £ 250,000.

Table contrasting the expenditure to the end of April with previous Estimates.

	Relief labour.					Charity Establishment, Tools and Plant, Land compensation, Medical Supervision, &c. &c.				Net probable saving upon Estimate of 24th February 1877.
	Estimate of November 30th 1876, after deducting 10 per cent for persons upon charitable relief.	Sir Richard Temple's Estimate of 12th January 1877.	Estimate of 24th February 1877.	Actuals.	Decrease or increase in Actuals, compared with Estimate of 24th February 1877.	Estimate of 24th February 1877.	Approximate Expenditure.	Saving upon Estimate of 24th February.		
	Monthly average number of labourers.									
						Total decrease in number of labourers below the Estimate of 24th February 1877.				
						Saving upon Estimate of 24th February 1877, taking each labourer at Rs. 3 per mensem.				
December 1876.	1,80,000	...	2,50,000	2,55,717	+	5,717				
January 1877.	2,70,000	4,16,000	3,10,000	3,17,938	+	7,938				
February 1877.	4,05,000	4,16,000	3,20,000	2,43,233	—	76,767				
March 1877	6,75,000	4,16,000	4,50,000	2,28,805	—	2,21,195				
April 1877	9,00,000	7,05,000	6,50,000	2,83,828*	—	3,66,172				
						650,479				
						Rs. 19,51,437				
						Rs. 10,00,000				
						Rs. 4,50,000				
						Rs. 5,50,000				
										Rs. 25,01,437

NOTE.—The expenditure shown in the Weekly Summaries includes about 6 lakhs spent prior to December, which it was considered would be met from Provincial and Local Grants, and which amount was not included when the estimate of 24th February was drawn out.

* Actual average for three weeks Rs. 2,81,771
Estimate for 4th week " 2,90,000

REMISSIONS.

35. It cannot yet be stated what the amount of remissions will eventually be. The total loss of revenue due to the famine was estimated in January at Rs. 78,64,000, viz., Rs. 54,94,000 for the current, and Rs. 23,70,000 for the coming year. The question is now under the careful consideration of the Revenue Officers, and all that can, at present, with any certainty be said is that the original estimate will not be exceeded, and there is every probability that the actuals will be considerably within the estimated amount.

CHARITABLE RELIEF.

36. This description of relief has been very freely, perhaps too freely, dispensed by private individuals and others actuated by the best and most praiseworthy motives, but not always guided by a wise discretion. It is not intended here to dilate on this subject, but to confine observations to the charitable relief afforded by Government.

37. In October last, Collectors in the affected districts were provided with discretionary grants, to enable them to relieve cases of distress that could not properly or effectually be dealt with on the relief works; and it is a remarkable fact that this class of relief, though the Government have no reason to suppose it has not, in the great majority of instances, been rightly and sufficiently afforded, has been very trifling in amount, as will be seen from the following table showing in each case the amount of the discretionary grant, and the outlay against such grant to last known date:—

Amount of Discretionary Grants made.	Districts.	Collector's Discretionary Grant.			Expenditure incurred under the authority of Government Resolution No. 312 C. W.—1116, of 26th December 1876, on account of Children under 7 years of age whose parents are upon Relief Works.		
		Average number of persons relieved during the Week ending 14th April 1877.	Expenditure during the Week ending 14th April 1877.	Total Expenditure up to 14th April 1877.	Average number of Children, and of Women taking care of them, during the Week ending 14th April 1877.	Expenditure during the Week ending 14th April 1877.	Total Expenditure up to 14th April 1877.
		No.	Rs.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Rs.
5,000	Khandesh	*	*	*1,017	*1,213	*117	*1,030
10,000	Nasik	†	†	†206	6,712	862	7,613
25,000	Ahmednagar	1,533	630	8,672	9,582	1,013	6,248
25,000	Poona	3,930	1,711	17,087	13,521	1,452	22,098
25,000	Sholapur	3,720	2,071	20,890	15,402	1,530	12,509
25,000	Satara	484	211	6,055	11,597	1,440	9,068
25,000	Kaladgi	1,398	767	3,801	5,443	685	4,072
25,000	Belgaum	2,253	924	5,721	4,318	461	2,942
35,000	Dharwar	1,453	852	6,925	7,014	678	4,101
5,000	Kanara	159	47	88	278	67	272
300	Ratnagiri	†	†	†	74	13	18
205,300	Total	14,930	7,213	70,462	76,154	8,318	69,971

* Collector's returns not received.

† No expenditure has been incurred by the Collector.

38. In connection with this allowance for charitable relief, orders were issued in November last, imposing on the village authorities the duty of affording immediate assistance in all isolated cases of want, of helping indigent travellers, and of immediately bringing to notice all unusual instances of distress; the village head-men were also informed that they would be held responsible, should any one die of starvation in their village through neglect of the orders of Government.

39. These instructions were reiterated on the 1st of March last in a Resolution which gives a full account of the taluka and village organization, and the village system is now worked so well by means of the chain of supervision that has been established, that the Government believe no unusual occurrence could anywhere take place without their being immediately informed of it.

40. It is probable that the demand for charitable relief may now increase; and Government have lately again reiterated their orders as regards the necessity of great vigilance in village and house inspection and supervision, and have signified their willingness to increase the discretionary grants, for charitable relief, to any extent that may be shown to be necessary.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

41. On the precedent of the Behar famine of 1874, it was anticipated that about 20 per cent. of the population of the affected districts would be in receipt of State relief of some sort at the worst time of the year; at the present time the actual percentage on the last known date, *i. e.*, on the 21st April, was, however, only 3.49 per cent.; and considering the extent and intensity of the crop failure, and the generally miserable condition of the country throughout the famine tracts, it is clear, that the self-sustaining power of the people was under-rated, that the private means of individuals were under-calculated, and the willingness and ability of the richer persons to relieve and employ their poorer neighbours were not sufficiently appreciated.

42. Among the people themselves there has been, as far as can be ascertained, little discontent, there has certainly been a marked absence of crime, and their temper and conduct have been so far beyond all praise. They have been quiet in their homes, and docile and obedient on the works, and generally they have evinced much apparent gratitude for the efforts of the Government to assist them. They have, it is true, in a passive, and persistent manner, not infrequently endeavoured to resist the measures of Government, and to avail themselves of any advantage that the character or situation of the relief offered them would afford; and this feeling has manifested itself in several movements which have had all the character of strikes; but it is believed that this has been brought about, not so much by the desire and temper of the people themselves, as by the action of persons who have endeavoured to influence them to demur to the reasonable arrangements of the Government, and who have thereby proved themselves to be no true friends of the people by leading them sometimes into difficulties, which they would probably have avoided, had they been left to themselves. Many of those who were induced to leave the works when the Civil wages were reduced, and who did not desire to make any exertion on the works, or to go far from their own villages in search of relief, no doubt suffered much distress that they might have spared themselves; but the class who have fallen into the greatest straits are the emigrants who, leaving the villages in the eastern part of the Presidency, went in attendance on cattle to the grazing grounds in the western range, particularly to Belgam, Dharwar, and North Kanara.

43. These persons, though not without means when they commenced their journey, and though every effort has been made to provide work, or relief, for them when absent from their homes, have suffered very greatly from the effects of a climate to which they were unused. Those in Kanara and the Belgam and Dharwar western districts have been weakened by repeated attacks of the fever peculiar to this part of the Western Ghats, and have become greatly demoralized, not so much by want as by disease. They are now being specially cared for, and the measures that have been ordered for their relief, and return to their homes, will, no doubt, be successful; but much suffering is before these people, not from want of food, but from the effect of the malarious fever which they are not likely to shake off for some time.

44. They are now evincing a great desire to return to their homes, and there has hitherto been some difficulty in restraining a movement which must be considered to be premature so long as agricultural operations in the east cannot be resumed, and there is no grazing for the cattle. But heavy and very general rain has now fallen in the southern and eastern parts of the Presidency, and, no doubt, the natural desire of the people to seek their own villages has become, in consequence, too strong to be restrained. Orders have been issued to provide the people with food on their return, and for regulating their journeys, and progress through the intervening districts, so that there may be as little distress as possible among them, and so that they may not be a burden on the population through which they may pass.

45. Until the cattle can be re-assembled at the different villages, and ploughing commenced, it will be difficult to form an opinion as to the extent of the losses in this respect; it is feared that they must have been very serious as to number, but there is every reason to hope that the best animals have been preserved. There has been no scarcity of cattle for transport and traffic purposes, and, no doubt, the high rates of cart-hire that have prevailed have enabled cattle-owners to preserve their animals, and find profitable employment for them in large numbers in connection with the great activity that has prevailed throughout the season in the distribution of grain.

46. The water-supply has, on the whole, been sufficient, although here and there difficulties have been experienced; as was contemplated from the beginning, there has, in this respect, beyond considerable though partial inconvenience, been nothing anywhere approaching to a calamity.

M. K. KENNEDY, Major-General, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

Public Works Department,
Bombay, 28th April 1877.

APPENDIX.

RULES FOR THE REGULATION OF RELIEF-HOUSES.

1. Relief-houses are intended

- (a.)—For the gratuitous distribution of food to the blind, infirm, young children, and very aged needing relief, but unable to work.
- (b.)—For the aid of those able to perform some work, but prevented from doing it either from physical inability or other well accepted cause; such as women with children from whom they cannot be separated.

Those under (b) should be required to perform, for the aid given, some work, and thus earn their living.

2. Both (a) and (b) may be divided into two classes:—

- 1.—Those who, after careful examination, are not fit to attend the Relief-house, and are fit objects for out-door relief.
- 2.—Those who are capable of attending the Relief-house, and who should, therefore, be compelled to do so.

3. It will be the duty, in the first instance, of the Village Officers (Patels and Kulkarnis) to prepare, for their village, lists showing the names and occupations of each of those who come under the headings entitling them to be considered as fit objects of relief under these rules. These lists to be as follows:—

List A.—To include those who are unable to do any work, such as the blind, infirm, maimed, so as to be unable to work, and orphan children with no one to look after them. *N. B.*—Care is to be taken that no Brahmans, mendicants, Fakirs, or professional beggars, are included in this list, unless they happen to be blind, infirm, or maimed, so as to be unable to work.

List B.—Those who are able to work, such as Pardeh-nashin women, women with children at home whom their husbands cannot support, or deserted women with children preventing their going out for labour.

List C.—Those who, though unable from physical causes to do out-door work, yet are able either to perform some skilled labour to which they have been accustomed, or are able to do such light labour as may be found for them at the Relief-houses.

4. These Relief-houses may be established—

One Central Relief-house at the Sadar Station,
One Relief-house at the Head Quarter Station for each Taluka, and
Branch Relief-houses in each Taluka, wherever needed.

5. The Central Relief-house at the Sadar Station should be placed in charge of a competent person, and should be under the management of a Committee consisting of the Collector, the Judge, the Executive Engineer, the Civil Surgeon, the Huzur Deputy Collector, and the Subordinate Judge, with power to add to their number by inviting any gentlemen, European or Native, to assist.

6. The Taluka and Branch Relief-houses should also be placed in charge of a competent person, and be under the management of a Committee consisting of the Officer in

charge of the Taluka, the Mamlatdar, the Subordinate Judge, the Chief Constable, and the Local Fund Overseer, with power to add to their number by inviting any Native gentlemen to assist.

7. The Taluka Committee should send into the Sadar Station Relief-house any person who, in their opinion, is a fit object for relief under these rules, and the Branch Relief-house Committee should adopt a similar course as regards the Taluka Head Quarter Relief-house. When persons are thus sent to the Sadar, the Taluka Committee shall supply them with means of reaching the Sadar Station, and with food upon the journey. The object is to concentrate as many of the poor as possible into Sadar Relief-houses, and into Taluka Head Quarter Relief-houses, where they will be under better care and supervision.

8. The Relief-house should be located in some convenient locality at a short distance from the town or village, if possible under a grove of trees; temporary huts should be erected as dwellings, with temporary sheds as work-shops, cooking places, &c.

9. A general register in the subjoined form to be kept of all persons admitted.

1	2	3			4	5	6			7	8
Date.	Number.	Name.			Father's name.	Caste.	Residence.			Age.	Rate at which food is given.
		Man.	Woman.	Child.			Zilla.	Taluka.	Village.		

10. A ticket to be given to every person admitted, bearing a number corresponding with that in column 2 of the register, and signed by a member of the Committee. No one to receive food at the Poor-house until he presents this ticket.

11. No person to be admitted except by order of the Committee.

12. Patels of villages will send to the Taluka Committee such persons as require to be admitted.

13. It is laid down as a rule that relief is only to be given in the shape of cooked food, the only exceptions being (a) in the case of those who are evidently in want of food at the time of examination. These must be relieved on the spot. (b)—In the case of those who are given material to work up at their houses.

14. The food given is not to exceed what may be needed to preserve health.

15. The scale* adopted in the Belgaum Relief-house may be taken as a standard.

The above are ordinary rates for all non-workers, but to working paupers, who may be considered to require a larger allowance of food, 1 lb. of grain and 4 ozs. of dall may be allowed.

16. As regards water, it should be brought by some of the paupers; when this is not possible, bhistis may be employed.

17. In preparing food for those whose caste prejudices have to be considered, a Brahman cook may be retained.

* This scale was for each man 1 lb. 2 oz., woman 12 oz., child over 10 years 9½ oz., and child under 10 years 6 oz. of jowari bread, together with a ladle full of masur-dal soup, and for the children a pint of gruel also.

18. The people to be fed in gangs. For each gang a register, similar to the general register, is to be kept, with columns for each day, showing whether each person was present.

19. The food to be distributed daily between the hours of 10-12 A. M., or at such time as the Committee may determine. Food to be given only once in 24 hours. All the grain used is to be ground by the paupers.

20. Mukadams to be appointed to superintend the work done. These should be selected from the body of paupers, and paid half an anna a day in addition to their food. This extra payment only to be made at the end of the month, and to be dependent on the Mukadam securing from his gang a proper out-turn of labour.

21. Work is to commence at 6 o'clock A. M.

Work till 11 A. M.

Rest for 2 hours.

Work again till 5 P. M.

22. Nature of work to be performed:—Cotton spinning, cloth and nawar manufacture of kinds, rope-making, grinding corn, road-making, tank excavation, building sheds and occupations connected with the Poor-house, and any other suitable work.

23. In the morning each person will have a certain task allotted to him. Material—cotton, hemp, &c.,—to be provided daily in sufficient quantities.

24. A gang sent out to work on roads, &c., will have its day's labour marked out for it.

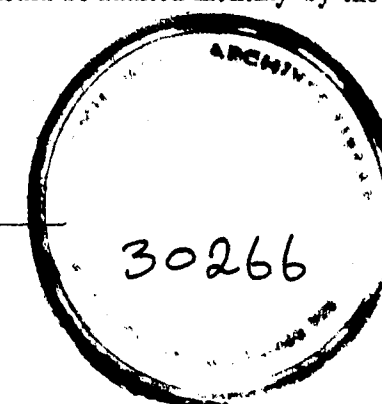
25. A Native Doctor to be in charge of each Taluka Relief-house. Should the Doctor order it in the special case of patients, there may be a change in the diet.

26. Lepers are to be kept entirely distinct.

27. For Pardeh-nashin women, for whom out-door relief should be found, raw cotton should be purchased, and given to them in fixed quantities, sufficient for seven days' work, and should be returned by them spun into thread. It is considered that a woman is able to spin daily, without much difficulty, two ounces of cotton-wool, and that the money value of the allowance under the Belgaum Relief-house scale is sufficient to provide her with food. A supply of cotton enough for seven days' work should be enclosed in a small basket, and this, with money, as calculated above, for the week's sustenance, should be sent to every woman who receives this kind of relief. When seven days have elapsed, a second basket with more should be sent to her, and, before delivering it, the first basket should be taken back, filled with the thread into which the first supply of cotton has been spun. Thus, each woman will receive an allowance in advance sufficient to maintain her for seven days.

28. A weekly report must be submitted as to the working of each Taluka and Branch Relief-house, to the Officer in charge of the Sadar Relief-house; and he, in his turn, should submit a report of the working of the Sadar Relief-house, and should incorporate in his report the reports received from the Taluka Relief-houses. This report he should submit to the Collector, who should send the same to Government through the Revenue Commissioner.

29. Regular accounts of the receipts and expenditure of each Relief-house must be kept by the Manager or Secretary, and these should be audited monthly by the Committee.



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