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EAST INDIA (FA.

PAPERS REGARDING THE FAMINE

AND THE

RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA DURING 1899-1900



VOL. I.—BRITISH DISTRICTS.

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TELEGRAMS.

From Viceroy, 25th July, 1899.

Rainfall has been very deficient over large tracts in Madras, Bombay, Berar, Central Provinces, and Hyderabad, where crops on unirrigated lands are suffering for want of rain, which is urgently needed, and sowing operations have been retarded. Rainfall to date in excess of normal in Western Bengal, Behar, and North-Western Provinces and Oudh, impeding agricultural operations in parts, but crop prospects satisfactory in these provinces. Agricultural conditions generally satisfactory elsewhere. Prices rising in Madras, Bombay, Central Provinces, stationary elsewhere. Monsoon abnormal during past three weeks, but abnormal conditions will probably pass away very shortly.

From Viceroy, 3rd August, 1899.

Your telegram 1st August. Crop prospects. Rainfall in Northern India, Bengal, and Burma has been above the average, and agricultural prospects are satisfactory. On West Coast, in Central India, and in parts of Madras, there has been a keen deficiency of rain, and there is some cause for anxiety, although a heavy rainfall in present month would still arrest serious scarcity. Plague. Plague which died down in the hot weather has recently increased. In Bombay City the total mortality has risen to over hundred a day. Several districts and States of the south and centre of the Presidency are affected. The epidemic is worst in Poona City, where the reported plague cases have during the past week amounted to over 170 a day. There has also been a recrudescence in Calcutta, 28 cases having been reported during the last ten days of July. Plague has also lately increased in the Hyderabad and Mysore States. The north of India is practically free.

From Viceroy, 12th August, 1899.

Rainfall somewhat more general in Madras, Central Provinces, and Bombay, but monsoon is still abnormally weak throughout India, and, until it strengthens, situation will give cause for anxiety.

From Viceroy, 19th August, 1899.

North Bombay, Rajputana, South Punjab, and portions Central India still rainless. Here situation bad. Elsewhere throughout India and Burma good to fair. Rain reported which will materially benefit crops in Central Provinces and Berar. Prospects much brighter in Bengal. Burma rice crops good. Monsoon, after improving, is again weak.

From Viceroy, 26th August, 1899.

Famine situation much the same as last week. Rainfall insufficient in most areas outside Bengal, submontane districts North-Western Provinces and Punjab, though some good rain has fallen in rice tracts, Central Provinces, sufficient to stay immediate danger. North Bombay, Rajputana, parts Punjab, Central India most seriously affected. Prices are rising in many markets.

From Viceroy, 2nd September, 1899.

Famine. Immediate anxiety removed in Central Provinces by heavy rain from Orissa coast extending into Baghelkhand, eastern half North-Western Provinces and Oudh. Elsewhere rainfall insufficient and light. Rain urgently wanted to save standing crops Madras, Bombay, Rajputana, much of Punjab, western section North-Western Provinces and Oudh. Monsoon winds abnormally light. Full reports on situation will be submitted to us by Provincial Governments, Native States, 26th September.

From Viceroy, 9th September, 1899.

Famine. Hyderabad, Madras, Mysore, and Bombay Deccan are receiving frequent showers, continuance of which will do much good. In North Bombay and Rajputana drought continues, and position in Central Provinces again becoming critical. Punjab autumn crops will be much below the average, and anxiety felt regarding North-Western Provinces (west) and Central India, from which monsoon appears to have retreated. The extent and severity of distress depend upon rain sufficient for winter sowings falling within next four weeks.

From Viceroy, 16th September, 1899.

Famine. Fairly general rain has materially improved prospects in Hyderabad, Madras, Mysore, and Bombay Deccan. Cyclonic storm has given some rain in Central Provinces and a portion of North-Western Provinces, but prospects still gloomy in former, and more rain is urgently needed in latter for winter sowings. In Punjab and Rajputana rainfall slight. Prices are rising steadily.

From Viceroy, 22nd September, 1899.

Famine. Rain sufficient for immediate requirements in Madras, Mysore, and Bombay Deccan. Some good rain has fallen in most districts of Central Provinces and North-Western Provinces, but more rain is needed. Monsoon now very light. Prospects bad in Rajputana, parts of Central India, North Bombay, Kathiawar, South-East Punjab. Famine relief being given in Bombay, Rajputana, Central Provinces, Punjab. Prices continue high. Grain traffic active.

From Viceroy, 2nd October, 1899.

Famine. Special reports on situation received. Full average rice crops throughout Burma and Bengal. Both Provinces prosperous and can supply distressed area. Autumn harvest in the North-Western Provinces two-thirds of the average, and despite early cessation of rain cold weather sowings practicable. Lieutenant-Governor considers Province well stocked and generally prosperous, needing little relief. Punjab anticipates extensive relief throughout Delhi Division and elsewhere, failure of crops being great and prospects of cold weather sowings bad. Central Provinces anticipate serious and widespread distress, should no rain fall by the 15th October next. In Madras prospects good and relief unnecessary if north-east monsoon normal. In Bombay anxiety is felt at present for Northern Districts, where extensive relief will be required. Good rain has fallen in Deccan. Provincial estimates aggregate one to one and a half crores for direct relief to end of March. Much, however, depends upon October and November rainfall. Local Governments fully on the alert and their relief preparations well in advance of the situation. We are making numerous railway projects available for famine labour, especially in Rajputana, which will receive our fullest help.

From Viceroy, 7th October, 1899.

Famine. No material rain has fallen during the week. Weather very prejudicial to standing crops and cold season sowings. There has been no improvement in the agricultural outlook. Relief works have been opened on a large scale in Punjab and Gujerat, and are ready, as required, in Central Provinces. Relief organisation in Rajputana is having our special attention.

From Viceroy, 14th October, 1899.

During past week practically no rain in affected tracts, in which distress is increasing everywhere. Relief works have been commenced in Bombay, Punjab, Central Provinces, Berar, Rajputana. Total on relief, 284,000. Prices are rising everywhere owing to uncertainty regarding prospects of spring harvest and export to affected tracts. Favourable rain in Madras and Mysore.

From Viceroy, 24th October, 1899.

Famine. There is no change in prospects in affected area. Relief now in progress in six districts in Bombay, eleven in Central Provinces, seven in Punjab, three in North-Western Provinces, five in Berar; also in Ajmer and Rajputana. On relief:—Bombay, 62,000; Punjab, 71,000; Central Provinces, 122,000; Ajmer, 77,000; Rajputana, 30,000; Berar, 39,000; total, 392,000. In British territory the measures taken to relieve distress in the affected districts were everywhere in good time, and arrangements have been made for the worst emergency.

From Viceroy, 27th October, 1899.

Famine. Showers have fallen in parts of Punjab, North-Western Provinces and Deccan. Heavy rain in Madras. Central Provinces and North Bombay rainless. Winter sowing operations in affected area progressing with difficulty. Grain prices falling slightly through trade activity. On relief:—Bombay, 78,000; Punjab, 62,000; Central Provinces, 222,000; Berar, 29,000; Ajmer, 81,000; Rajputana, 44,000; Central India, 5,000; total, 521,000.

From Viceroy, 7th November, 1899.

Famine. Prospects continue favourable in Burma, Bengal, eastern half North-Western Provinces, Madras, Mysore. Throughout North-Western Provinces spring crops sowings are being actively prosecuted, and no general distress is anywhere observable. Throughout Punjab outturn of unirrigated rain crops very poor and rain is much wanted for spring crops sowings. In Central Provinces rice crops are a practical failure, rain is urgently wanted and distress is extending. Prospects bad in North Bombay, North Deccan, Rajputana, and parts of Central India. Prices are high everywhere, wheat ranging from 7 to 11 seers per rupee, millets from 8 to 14. On relief:—Bombay, 121,000; Punjab, 73,000; Central Provinces, 336,000; Berar, 33,000; Ajmer, 83,000; Central India, 9,000; Rajputana, 53,000; total, 708,000.

From Viceroy, 15th November, 1899.

Famine. Situation generally as reported last week, but extreme dryness of weather is against prospects of winter crops. Fodder difficulty great in many places. On relief:—Bombay, 147,000; Punjab, 70,000; Central Provinces, 414,000; Berar, 33,000; Ajmer, 71,000; Central India, 28,000; Rajputana, 65,000; total, 828,000.

From Viceroy, 24th November, 1899.

Famine. No rain has fallen during past week. In parts of Madras Deccan outlook is not good. Prospects are also reported to be poor in Nizam's dominions; elsewhere, situation unaltered in affected area, where relief measures are steadily expanding. Prices falling slightly in Punjab and fairly steady elsewhere. Markets well supplied. On relief:—Bombay, 169,000; Punjab, 71,000; Central Provinces, 533,000; Berar, 44,000; Ajmere, 80,000; Central India, 23,000; Rajputana, 75,000; total, 995,000.

From Viceroy, 2nd December, 1899.

Famine. Season continues practically rainless, and short north-east monsoon has seriously affected Madras, Mysore, and Hyderabad. Want of winter rain elsewhere is aggravating situation. No change in prices. On relief, last week and this week:—Bombay, 208,000 and 253,000; Punjab, 75,000 and 68,000; Central Provinces, 611,000 and 625,000; Berar, 53,000 and 76,000; Ajmer, 88,000 and 97,000; Rajputana, 95,000 and 205,000; Central India, 21,000 and 34,000; total, 1,151,000 and 1,358,000.

From Viceroy, 9th December, 1899.

Famine. Showers have fallen in parts of Madras. No rain elsewhere. Rain is much wanted for winter crops. Prices steady. Numbers on relief:—Bombay, 315,000; Punjab, 81,000; Central Provinces, 812,000; Berar, 106,000; Ajmere, 101,000; Rajputana, 122,000; Central India, 41,000; Bombay States, 339,000; Baroda, 288,000; total, 2,205,000. In telegram of 2nd December for "Central Provinces 625,000, Rajputana 205,000," substitute "Central Provinces 725,000, Rajputana, 108,000."

From Viceroy, 16th December, 1899.

Famine. There was no rain during the period under report. State and prospects of crops in affected area becoming worse. On relief:—Bombay, 380,000; Punjab, 96,000; Central Provinces, 912,000; Berar, 130,000; Ajmere, 112,000; Rajputana, 158,000; Central India, 49,000; Bombay States, 335,000; Baroda, 54,000; total, 2,226,000. For last week's Baroda figures substitute 41,000.

From Viceroy, 25th December, 1899.

Famine. No rain worth mentioning has fallen in any of the districts during the week. Situation unaltered. Prices stationary. Immense numbers employed on relief works in certain districts may be due in part to insufficient precautions; we are issuing warning and instructions. Numbers on relief: Bombay, 475,000; Punjab, 110,000; Central Provinces, 1,027,000; Berar, 156,000; Ajmere, 111,000; Rajputana, 132,000; Central India, 48,000; Bombay States, 321,000; Baroda, 61,000; total, 2,451,000.

From Viceroy, 2nd January, 1900.

Famine. No rain. Crop prospects becoming worse as the rain holds off, though in North-Western Provinces and Oudh germination is good, and irrigated areas there and in Punjab are safe. Numbers on relief:—Bombay, 523,000; Punjab, 111,000; Central Provinces, 1,173,000; Berar, 199,000; Ajmere, 111,000; Rajputana, 203,000; Central India, 37,000; Bombay States, 330,000; Baroda, 61,000; total, 2,748,000.

From Viceroy, 9th January, 1900.

Famine. Winter crops continue to suffer from absence of winter rains; will be poor throughout affected area, though rain even now may be expected to create some improvement in Punjab. Prices stationary. Reports show that owing to the adequacy of the relief provided public health generally is good in British India. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 578,000; Punjab, 121,000; Central Provinces, 1,273,000; Berar, 212,000; Ajmere, 123,000; Rajputana, 224,000; Central India, 41,000; Bombay Native States, 333,000; Baroda, 64,000; total, 2,969,000.

From Viceroy, 13th January, 1900.

Famine. Winter rains still hold off. Situation unaltered. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 682,000; Punjab, 124,000; Central Provinces, 1,374,000; Berar, 235,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 107,000; Rajputana States, 199,000; Central India States, 53,000; Bombay Native States, 336,000; Baroda, 63,000; North-Western Provinces, 4,000; Punjab Native States, 1,000; total, 3,178,000.

From Viceroy, 22nd January, 1900.

Famine. In North-Western Provinces and Oudh crops have much benefited by good rain, which has also fallen in parts of Punjab, Central Provinces, and Central India, though unfortunately benefit in affected tracts is small. South Central Madras has also received useful showers. Number of persons on relief:—Bombay, 749,000; Punjab, 132,000; Central Provinces, 1,450,000; Berar, 243,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 119,000; Rajputana States, 245,000; Central India States, 146,000; Bombay Native States, 331,000; Baroda, 65,000; North-Western Provinces, 2,000; Punjab Native States, 1,000; total, 3,483,000.

From Viceroy, 27th January, 1900.

Famine. Good rain has fallen again throughout North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and Punjab. Sowings recommenced in Punjab, but more rain is needed there. Situation not improved anywhere else, and distress is increasing in Bombay, Central Provinces, and Rajputana. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 805,000; Punjab, 147,000; Central Provinces, 1,491,000; Berar, 260,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 109,000; Rajputana States, 232,000; Central India States, 120,000; Bombay Native States, 331,000; Baroda, 63,000; North-Western Provinces, 4,000; Punjab Native States, 1,000; total, 3,563,000.

From Viceroy, 3rd February, 1900.

Famine. General rain has again fallen in North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Punjab, also in part of Central India. Fodder and water scarce in parts of Central Provinces, Bombay, Punjab, Rajputana. Prices stationary. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 876,000; Punjab, 162,000; Central Provinces, 1,476,000; Berar, 297,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 98,000; Rajputana States, 329,000; Central India States, 107,000; Bombay Native States, 343,000; Baroda, 65,000; North-West Provinces, 4,000; Punjab Native States, 2,000; total, 3,759,000.

From Viceroy, 10th February, 1900.

Famine. Standing crops improved by recent rain in North-Western Provinces and Jubbulpur Division, Central Provinces. Elsewhere in Central Provinces yield of crops very poor and scarcity of fodder and water increasing daily. In Central Provinces the decline in the number of persons demanding relief is due in part to harvest and partly to closer supervision. In Punjab cattle, where not dying, are weak and starved; irrigated crops are good to fair, but unirrigated crops the worst for years. Distress is steadily on the increase in Bombay, Rajputana, and parts Central India. Harvest poor in Madras Deccan, and test famine relief work proposed for one district. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 950,000; Punjab, 178,000; Central Provinces, 1,441,000; Berar, 286,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 107,000; Rajputana States, 337,000; Central India States, 83,000; Bombay Native States, 333,000; Baroda, 63,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 3,000; total, 3,784,000.

From Viceroy, 17th February, 1900.

Famine. Though harvest very poor, it is giving temporary employment in Central Provinces, hence the decrease in numbers on works. In Berar, decrease in numbers on works due to similar cause, also to stricter regulations. Distress is increasing in Hyderabad, which reports numbers for first time. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,034,000; Punjab, 188,000; Central Provinces, 1,408,000; Berar, 160,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 116,000; Rajputana States, 351,000; Central India States, 109,000; Bombay States, 373,000; Baroda, 60,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 3,000; Central Provinces Native States, 12,000; Hyderabad, 96,000; total, 3,913,000.

From Viceroy, 24th February, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons employed on relief works is increasing everywhere, though Local Governments report that every precaution has been taken to enforce strict test of the necessity for relief, and for limiting the wages to be given on relief works to bare subsistence. Death-rate satisfactorily low in Central Provinces, while there has been no serious increase in the death-rate elsewhere. Burma and Bengal rice crops and prospects of good spring crops in North-Western Provinces keep prices considerably lower than in last famine, especially in Central Provinces and in the Punjab. It appears that supplies are adequate. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,097,000; Punjab, 207,000; Central Provinces, 1,418,000; Berar, 308,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 113,000; Rajputana States, 373,000; Central India States, 136,000; Bombay Native States, 391,000; Baroda, 63,000; North-Western Provinces, 4,000; Punjab Native States, 3,000; Central Provinces Native States, 19,000; Hyderabad, 114,000; total, 4,252,000. 300,000 should be substituted for 160,000 against Berar, in return for last week: figures were incomplete.

From Viceroy, 3rd March, 1900.

Famine. No change of any importance. Relief commencing in one district in Madras. It is reported that outlook is very gloomy. On relief:—Bombay, 1,153,000; Punjab, 218,000; Central Provinces, 1,402,000; Berar, 309,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 104,000; Rajputana States, 389,000; Central India, 111,000; Bombay Native States, 431,000; Baroda, 63,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 6,000; Central Provinces Native States, 35,000; Hyderabad, 144,000; Madras, 6,000; total, 4,374,000.

From Viceroy, 10th March, 1900.

Famine. Number of persons employed on relief works increasing everywhere. No change of any importance in situation. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,299,000; Punjab, 252,000; Central Provinces, 1,422,000; Berar, 318,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 139,000; Rajputana States, 415,000; Central India States, 125,000; Bombay Native States, 431,000; Baroda, 63,000; North-West Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 7,000; Central Provinces Native States, 42,000; Hyderabad, 158,000; total, 4,604,000. Madras figures wanting.

From Viceroy, 19th March, 1900.

Famine. Numbers on relief works continue to increase, and reports from all quarters show that the extent and severity of the distress is increasing. Prices are rising in Bombay, where they are on same level as in 1897. In Central Provinces prices are as yet below scarcity rates of 1897, and in the Punjab still materially lower. Losses of agricultural stock are great. Fodder is very scarce in the Punjab and Western India. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,291,000; Punjab, 242,000; Central Provinces, 1,494,000; Berar, 329,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 110,000; Rajputana States, 447,000; Central India States, 119,000; Bombay Native States, 474,000; Baroda, 59,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 7,000; Central Provinces Native States, 47,000; Hyderabad, 182,000; Madras, 6,000; total, 4,810,000. Central India and Rajputana figures incomplete.

From Viceroy, 24th March, 1900.

Famine. Situation unaltered. Number of persons on relief works and gratuitously fed have both decreased slightly in some provinces; reduction, probably temporary, may be due in part to incomplete reporting. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,250,000; Punjab, 230,000; Central Provinces, 1,425,000; Berar, 321,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 111,000; Rajputana States, 441,000; Central India States, 123,000; Bombay Native States, 454,000; Baroda, 61,000; North-West Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 7,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 47,000; Hyderabad, 197,000; Madras, 7,000; total, 4,677,000. Relief works being opened in Jammu Province, Kashmir.

From Viceroy, 31st March, 1900.

Famine. Food grain prices show a rise in Madras, millet being 12 and ragi 14 seers per rupee in Deccan. Elsewhere prices stationary or slightly lower than at date of last report. Hot weather conditions setting in;

otherwise there is no change. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,249,000; Punjab, 211,000; Central Provinces, 1,513,000; Berar, 355,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 112,000; Rajputana States, 457,000; Central India States, 129,000; Bombay Native States, 468,000; Baroda, 60,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 19,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 46,000; Hyderabad, 246,000; Madras, 11,000; total, 4,879,000.

From Viceroy, 7th April, 1900.

Famine. The numbers demanding relief have continued to increase, except in Punjab, where harvesting of irrigated crops gives some employment. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,272,000; Punjab, 200,000; Central Provinces, 1,552,000; Berar, 362,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 115,000; Rajputana States, 458,000; Central India States, 82,000; Bombay Native States, 501,000; Baroda, 66,000; North-West Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 21,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 51,000; Hyderabad, 285,000; Madras, 8,000; total, 4,976,000. Punjab and Central Provinces figures incomplete.

From Viceroy, 16th April, 1900.

Famine. Rain has fallen in most provinces during past week. Effect has not been reported yet, but probably benefit confined to North Punjab and parts Madras. Prices and general conditions same as before. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,269,000; Punjab, 194,000; Central Provinces, 1,571,000; Berar, 379,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 122,000; Rajputana States, 460,000; Central India States, 158,000; Bombay Native States, 527,000; Baroda, 70,000; North-Western Provinces, 2,000; Punjab Native States, 21,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 56,000; Hyderabad, 304,000; Madras, 12,000; Kashmir, 4,000; total, 5,149,000.

From Viceroy, 21st April, 1900.

Famine. As anticipated, recent rainstorms have not improved situation. Numbers demanding relief have continued to increase. Relief arrangements in British India are equal to increasing strain. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,281,000; Punjab, 179,000; Central Provinces, 1,594,000; Berar, 390,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 127,000; Rajputana States, 474,000; Central India States, 162,000; Bombay Native States, 567,000; Baroda, 72,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 48,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 61,000; Hyderabad, 342,000; Madras, 18,000; Kashmir, 1,000; total, 5,319,000.

From Viceroy, 28th April, 1900.

Famine relief continues to expand in Central Provinces, where quarter of a million children are receiving relief in kitchens. Death-rate there remains satisfactorily low. It is considerably in excess of the normal rate in Guzerat, where effect of drought seems to be intensifying. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,300,000; Punjab, 189,000; Central Provinces, 1,639,000; Berar, 393,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 138,000; Rajputana States, 484,000; Central India States, 174,000; Bombay Native States, 591,000; Baroda, 76,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 43,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 57,000; Hyderabad, 369,000; Madras, 17,000; Kashmir, 1,000; total, 5,474,000.

From Viceroy, 7th May, 1900.

Famine. Position has materially improved in Madras and Mysore in consequence of recent rain. In the remainder of the affected tracts distress is increasing in intensity owing to want of fodder and water and increasing heat. Increase in relief population occurs chiefly in Central Provinces. In Raipur district 40 per cent. of the inhabitants are being relieved. Central Relief Committee distributed 46 lakhs, chiefly for seed and cattle. Further distribution proposed as money received. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,332,000; Punjab, 179,000; Central Provinces, 1,725,000; Berar, 394,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 138,000; Rajputana States, 470,000; Central India States, 171,000; Bombay Native States, 613,000; Baroda, 84,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 46,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 65,000; Hyderabad, 377,000; Madras, 16,000; Kashmir, 1,000; Bengal, 3,000; total, 5,617,000.

From Viceroy, 14th May, 1900.

Famine. The decline in the number of persons demanding relief in Bombay and elsewhere is probably due to outbreak of cholera, which has broken up many relief camps and enormously increased difficulties of our famine officers. Otherwise situation unaltered. Numbers in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,291,000; Punjab, 158,000; Central Provinces, 1,785,000; Berar, 398,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 124,000; Rajputana States, 467,000; Central India States, 166,000; Bombay Native States, 601,000; Baroda, 88,000; North-Western Provinces, 2,000; Punjab Native States, 25,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 65,000; Hyderabad, 379,000; Madras, 16,000; Kashmir, 1,000; Bengal, 3,000; total, 5,579,000.

From Viceroy, 21st May, 1900.

Famine. Cholera continues very prevalent in Bombay and elsewhere, and chiefly accounts for decrease in numbers on works in some Provinces. Showers have been numerous, improving the water supply and fodder somewhat in parts. No other changes since last report. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,235,000; Punjab, 167,000; Central Provinces, 1,848,000; Berar, 411,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 130,000; Rajputana States, 452,000; Central India States, 166,000; Bombay Native States, 598,000; Baroda, 96,000; North-Western Provinces, 2,000; Punjab Native States, 33,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 71,000; Hyderabad, 381,000; Madras, 13,000; Kashmir, 1,000; Bengal, 3,000; total, 5,607,000.

From Viceroy, 29th May, 1900.

Famine. Good rain has fallen in Mysore, scattered showers elsewhere. Cholera unabated in many parts of Bombay and Rajputana, causing much mortality and impeding arrangements for the relief of distress. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,209,000; Punjab, 165,000; Central Provinces, 1,902,000; Berar, 439,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 141,000; Rajputana States, 472,000; Central India States, 187,000; Bombay Native States, 592,000; Baroda, 95,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 33,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 71,000; Hyderabad, 401,000; Madras, 16,000; Kashmir, nil; Bengal, 4,000; total, 5,730,000.

From Viceroy, 4th June, 1900.

Famine. Cholera continues in many Bombay districts, and condition of the people there is deplorable. As many large works have been deserted, Government of Bombay has authorised opening scattered village works, but reports that situation is very difficult to deal with. Elsewhere relief measures sufficient generally in British India and improving in Native States. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,157,000; Punjab, 165,000; Central Provinces, 1,945,000; Berar, 452,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 140,000; Rajputana States, 497,000; Central India States, 206,000; Bombay Native States, 555,000; Baroda, 102,000; North-Western Provinces, 2,000; Punjab Native States, 33,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 71,000; Hyderabad, 423,000; Madras, 19,000; Kashmir not reported; Bengal, 3,000; total, 5,770,000.

From Viceroy, 9th June, 1900.

Famine. Meteorological Reporter forecasts good, but late, monsoon. Good rain has fallen in Southern India and scattered showers elsewhere; otherwise hot weather conditions still prevail and famine relief situation unaltered. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,189,000; Punjab, 162,000; Central Provinces, 1,951,000; Berar, 444,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 144,000; Rajputana States, 516,000; Central India States, 201,000; Bombay Native States, 512,000; Baroda, 99,000; North-Western Provinces, 2,000; Punjab Native States, 36,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 68,000; Hyderabad, 461,000; Madras, 19,000; Kashmir, nil; Bengal, 6,000; total, 5,810,000.

From Secretary of State to Viceroy, 11th June, 1900.

Please telegraph tidings of monsoon without waiting for weekly famine telegram.

From Viceroy, 12th June, 1900.

Famine. Monsoon setting in on Malabar Coast (Cape Comorin to Goa) and extending northwards. Indications encouraging. Fair to good general rainfall recently over the Deccan and south, and parts of Central Provinces. Good rain has fallen on Orissa Coast (Balasore to Gopalpore).

From Governor, Bombay, 16th June, 1900.

Cholera decreasing generally. Following figures for week ending 9th June. Eleven districts, cases of cholera, 6,584; deaths from cholera, 3,985. Six Native States, deaths from cholera, 1,144. Small-pox prevalent to some extent, not of an epidemic character. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts, 3,294, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per mille. Number of persons on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief is steadily increasing, and has nearly reached a total of 1,330,000.

From Viceroy, 16th June, 1900.

Famine. Week's reports show state of general expectancy, pending advance of the monsoon, which has not yet established itself. Heavy rain has fallen in Burma, Bengal (Deltaic and Central), Behar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh. On west coast monsoon current is weak and has not progressed north of Goa, nor penetrated inland over most of affected area. Hot weather conditions still exist, and no improvement in affected districts, or decrease in numbers on works, possible until rainfall more general and heavier. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,288,000; Punjab,

165,000; Central Provinces, 1,971,000; Berar, 465,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 143,000; Rajputana States, 482,000; Central India States, 196,000; Bombay Native States, 489,000; Baroda, 92,000; North-Western Provinces, 2,000; Punjab Native States, 50,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 68,000; Hyderabad, 485,000; Madras, 16,000; Kashmir, nil; Bengal, 8,000; total, 5,920,000.

From Viceroy, 20th June, 1900.

Famine. Monsoon not yet reached to the north of Bombay and still light. Cyclonic storm on Bengal coast (Chittagong to Balasore) has disappeared.

From Viceroy, 23rd June, 1900.

Famine. Situation unaltered. Frequent showers fell in Deccan and elsewhere, but copious general rain is much wanted for ploughing and sowing of autumn crops, and this holds off. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,378,000; Punjab, 160,000; Central Provinces, 1,941,000; Berar, 480,000; Ajmere-Merwara, 143,000; Rajputana States, 493,000; Central India States, 150,000; Bombay Native States, 468,000; Baroda, 89,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 36,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 64,000; Hyderabad, 493,000; Madras, 17,000; Kashmir, 1,000; Bengal, 7,000; total, 5,923,000.

From Viceroy, 25th June, 1900.

Famine. Monsoon considerably improved West Coast. Rain six inches in Bombay City; rain extending to Berar and Central Provinces; eight inches to heavy rain in Burma and Bengal. Frequent showers sub-montane districts, North-Western Provinces.

From Governor, Bombay, 25th June, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 16th June. Fourteen famine-stricken districts:—7,568 cases of cholera, of which 5,042 were fatal. Sixteen Native States:—Cases of cholera, 7,911; deaths from cholera, 5,235. Total number of deaths among number on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts, 4,340, or 3 1-7 per mille. The numbers demanding relief have continued to increase.

From Governor, Bombay, 1st July, 1900.

Following are figures for week ending 23rd June. Famine-stricken districts:—11,309 cases of cholera, of which 6,659 were fatal. Native States:—Cases of cholera, 11,084; deaths from cholera, 6,722. Total number of deaths among numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief in British districts, 4,728, or 3 4-9 per mille. Some rain has fallen in affected districts of Bombay, Deccan, and Khandesh, and has had the effect of considerably reducing number on relief works. Want of rain causing anxiety in Gujarat, where numbers on relief works continue to increase, and numbers on gratuitous relief are increasing.

From Viceroy, 2nd July, 1900.

Rainfall has been fairly general during past week, but the monsoon current continues weak, giving cause for anxiety. Frequent showers have fallen in parts of Central Provinces, Mysore and Bombay Deccan, Madras, Berar, Hyderabad, but rainfall to date insufficient for general resumption of agricultural operations. Little or no rain has fallen in North-Western India.

In anticipation of rainy season, work near villages and home gratuitous relief are being largely substituted for large works. Government advances are being freely given for purchase of plough bullocks, seed and subsistence, poorer cultivators receiving gifts from Famine Fund. Even after abundant rain has fallen throughout the distressed districts, relief will be necessary on a large scale, until early crops ripen. Excluding deaths from cholera, there has been no serious increase in the death rate in Central Provinces. Mortality still deplorably high in several Bombay, Berar districts, though every precaution has been taken to meet the emergency, and fresh outbreak of cholera reported; dysentery, fever prevalent. European supervising staff reported sufficient, but strain great and breakdowns not infrequent. Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 1,362,000; Punjab, 166,000; Central Provinces, 1,789,000; Berar, 516,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 146,000; Rajputana States, 492,000; Central India States, 167,000; Bombay Native States, 458,000; Baroda, 91,000; North-Western Provinces, 2,000; Punjab Native States, 34,000; Central Provinces Feudatory States, 57,000; Hyderabad, 500,000; Madras, 14,000; Kashmir, 1,000; Bengal, 13,000; total, 5,808,000.

From Viceroy, 2nd July, 1900.

Famine. Our relief measures have already far exceeded Code prescriptions, which are elastic, not rigid, and have been adapted by us to differing local requirements to entire satisfaction of Local Governments concerned. Thus in Central Provinces a multitude of kitchens will feed all comers during the rains. Aged and infirm relieved at home. Able-bodied labourers given local employment by village headmen at cost of State, wherever private demand for field labour slack. Sixty lakhs Land Revenue suspended out of the eighty-six demand. This sum added to 27 lakhs special advances and 30 lakhs charitable relief will, in Chief Commissioner's opinion, secure active agriculture during the rains. Similar relief during rains adopted elsewhere. Bombay Government are extending kitchens and gratuitous lists and granting ryots advances for subsistence, selves and labourers, till next crop. They estimate 25 lakhs for this, besides over 60 lakhs for seed and cattle. Of Bombay Land Revenue only 192 lakhs of 296 collected. In Punjab small farmers and labourers will receive subsistence. Revenue suspensions there very large. Our action regarding special advances fully stated in despatch of 14th June last.

REPORTS.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

No. 1.

Letter from M. W. Fox-Strangways, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 241, dated Nagpur, the 7th October, 1899.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, Notes of Famine Conferences held by the Chief Commissioner with the officers of the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore Divisions on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of September.

2. With rare local exceptions, no rain has fallen in the provinces since the 16th September; and the present position is worse than that reported in the memorandum enclosed with my letter, No. F. 98, dated the 21st ultimo, by three weeks, not only of drought, but also of bright sunshine accompanied by abnormally high day temperature. The crops have suffered also in an unusual degree from the ravages of insects and of fungoid diseases. And there has been a general and rapid rise in prices, due in some districts to failure of crops, and in others to export, which must affect the poorer classes severely, even where a fair harvest may still be expected.

3. So far as the kharif harvest is concerned, the position in the Jubbulpore Division has not materially changed since the 15th of September; or rather, the change has been one of degree rather than of kind. The area of distress is somewhat enlarged, and the distress itself is somewhat intensified. Village relief has already been extended to two more tahsils in Saugor (Saugor and Banda), and will probably be again required in the worst parts of Damoh.

4. In the Nerbudda Division the deterioration is greater than in Jubbulpore, though still of the same nature. Some relief is already being given in parts of the open country of Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad, and will probably be required before long in the similar tracts in Chhindwara and in the two remaining tahsils of Nimar (Khandwa and Burhanpur).

5. In the Bhandara and Balaghat districts of the Nagpur Division distress is steadily widening and intensifying; it has extended to all the rice-tracts of the Chanda District excepting the Sironcha Tahsil and the Zamindaris; and it is doubtful whether anything can now save these areas from general famine. In Wardha village relief has just been sanctioned throughout one tahsil (Wardha) and in part of another (Arvi). Distress is present in the rice-tract of the Ramtek Tahsil of Nagpur, while relief will probably be required almost immediately in the Umrer Tahsil, where also rice is of importance.

6. In Chhattisgarh, the rice-crops of Raipur and Bilaspur are trembling in the balance. Distress is already present in considerable areas in three out of four tahsils in Raipur (Raipur, Simga, and Drug), and in two out of three in Bilaspur (Bilaspur and Janjgir). Immediate and good rain would probably still avert famine from these two districts; but nothing else can.

7. Thus, Sambalpur, Mandla, and Damoh are the only three out of the eighteen districts of the provinces in which distress is not at the present moment receiving relief over a larger or smaller area, for relief is being given in a few villages in the hilly tracts of Chhindwara.

8. The rabi harvest is of cardinal importance in the Jubbulpore, Saugor, Damoh, Narsinghpur, and Hoshangabad Districts, and of very great importance in the whole or large portions of all other districts except Bhandara, Balaghat, Raipur, and Bilaspur. And even where the rabi area is inconsiderable, the prospects of the crop are of importance, partly because the hope of a favourable harvest would put heart into the people, and render advances more easily obtainable, and also because, in many districts, the people of the kharif tracts earn by harvesting the spring crops of the rabi tracts, what supports them during the hot weather.

9. The excellent preparation for the rabi crops which the soil has received has greatly compensated for the short rainfall of the monsoon, and where the rainfall of the middle of September was good, the people are already sowing to a certain limited extent. But if good rain does not fall shortly, the area and outturn will alike be small in the best, and absolutely insignificant in the worst, parts. An inch and a half to two inches of rain before the end of October, with some Christmas showers, would probably still secure a full rabi crop, and save the greater part of the province from famine. In the rich embanked tracts of the Upper Nerbudda Valley somewhat more than this would be required.

10. If the rabi fails, general famine, as bad as or worse than that of 1896-97, seems unavoidable, for, speaking broadly, the kharif crops are fair only where they are of comparatively small importance. Of such an event Mr. Fuller writes (speaking of the Jubbulpore Division):—

“In the case of so terrible a disaster falling on a people already weakened by five years of distress and famine, it is difficult to see what limits there would be to the responsibilities of Government. It is true that the rabi crops would, if sown, not add to the food-supply till after the close of the period we are considering (the current financial year). But the people would be heart-broken at the prospect of losing another harvest, and would flock in crowds to the relief-works. Petty loans would be unprocurable: there would be no work in the fields, or prospect of work for the next eight months.”

In these remarks Mr. Ibbetson entirely concurs.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Notes of a Conference held at Hoshangabad on the 23rd and 24th September, 1899.

Present: Denzil Ibbetson, Esq., Chief Commissioner; F. A. T. Phillips, Esq., Commissioner, Nerbudda Division; M. W. Fox-Strangways, Esq., Chief Secretary; A. S. Womack, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Hoshangabad; J. Walker, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Nimar; B. P. Standen, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Betul; L. E. P. Gaskin, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Narsinghpur; R. C. H. Moss-King, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Chhindwara.

1. Rainfall of the monsoon of 1899 in inches:—

District.	Stations.	10th to 16th September.	Total to 16th September.
Narsinghpur	Narsinghpur	6.97	23.15
	Gadarwara	2.83	21.64
	Mohpani	1.25	23.92
Hoshangabad	Hoshangabad	1.95	21.98
	Harda	4.31	23.24
	Seoni	5.29	26.00
	Sohagpur	6.78	31.08
	Pachmarhi	4.32	37.81
Nimar	Khandwa	0.46	8.97
	Burhanpur	1.75	11.46
	Harsud	0.41	14.06
Betul	Betul (Badnur)	0.30	10.72
	Multa	0.29	10.03
Chhindwara	Sharnpur	1.62	17.81
	Chicholi	1.88	17.64
	Chhindwara	0.58	11.28
	Sausar	0.76	12.87

NARSINGHPUR DISTRICT.

2. *Recent History.*—The crops have suffered since 1893-94, and relief was required in 1894-95 and the following year. In the famine distress was general and severe, especially in the hilly tracts. The crops of 1897-98 were excellent. The kharif of 1898-99 was fair, except in the hilly tracts and on the western border of the district; the rabi also was bad on the western border, and poor everywhere else save in the embanked fields, in which it was fair. The hilly tracts, which are the poorest part of the district, and in which rabi is but little grown, have had only one really good kharif (that of 1897-98) since 1892-93. The cropped area is still 12 and the rabi area 25 per cent. below normal.

3. *Description.*—The Narsinghpur Tahsil includes the eastern and the Gadawara Tahsil the western half of the district. Their character and condition are similar. The district is fringed by hilly country at the foot of the Satpura ghâts to the south, and at the foot of the Vindhyan ghâts to the north, the former being much the more extensive tract. The population of both tracts is about 100,000. There is also a broken strip of country running along the Jubbulpore border to the east, and a broad strip of very poor soil running along the Hoshangabad border to the west. This completes the periphery of the district. The hilly tracts are the poorest portion of the district, and, together with the strip on the western border, have suffered most severely during the past six years. The whole central area is open wheat country, with rich soil, being a continuation of the Jubbulpore haveli, though there is less embankment of fields, which decreases as you go westwards.

4. *Cropping.*—Rice is scattered, and of no great importance. In the southern hills there is very little rabi, while in the northern hills the two harvests occupy about equal areas. In both small millets are the chief kharif staple. The rabi consists mainly of gram and masur. In the open country rabi is the chief harvest, though since the famine kharif has displaced it, and gram, with or without an admixture of wheat, has taken the place of pure wheat to a substantial extent. Juar and tilli are the main kharif crops, the latter being of importance throughout the district. There is very little double-cropping.

5. *Crop prospects.*—The early sowings of the small millets have failed, and if rain does not fall very shortly, the late sowings will yield at best a 4-anna crop. With good rain they might yield 10 annas in the northern portion of the Vindhyan hills (the Kholi tract) where the crops have suffered less than elsewhere. In the southernmost portion of the Satpura hills (the Bachai-Gorakphur tract) and in the sandy strip to the west (Babai-Burha), where they have suffered most, a 6-anna crop is the best that can be expected. Elsewhere an 8-anna crop may be hoped for with good rain. If no more rain falls, the juar should yield 10 annas in good soil (which predominates in the open country, especially in the central portion) and from 4 to 5 annas in the poorer soils, where insects have done much harm. With another fall of rain it should give a normal crop in good, and from 8 to 10 annas in poor, soils. The tilli is doing well, and should in any case give a 10-anna crop.

6. The preparations for the rabi are excellent, both as regards area and thoroughness, and with an inch of rain at the end of the month and some showers in October, a bumper crop might be expected. The people are beginning to sow on the recent rainfall. But if no more rain falls the area sown will be short, and very little can be expected in the way of a crop.

7. *Fodder and Water.*—The juar crop will in any case be fair so far as fodder is concerned, and there should be no scarcity, except, perhaps, in the sandy tracts to the west. Some scarcity of water is already experienced in the southern hills of the Gadarwara Tahsil, where the people depend upon the streams, and in some places in the sandy tract to the west difficulty may be felt later on. But it will in any case be purely local and of limited extent, as the district is intersected by many considerable streams, as well as the Nerbudda River.

8. *Aboriginal Tribes.*—They are numerous in the hills, but for the most part are civilised, and came readily to large works in the last famine. In a small tract in the south of Gadarwara, on the top of the ghâts, there are 500 or 600 who still retain their primitive habits, and for whom special arrangements will be required if distress should reach them.

9. *Stocks and Prices.*—Stocks are believed to be ample, as export has been slack for the last two years. The district is traversed by the railway, and there is no difficulty about distribution.

10. Wheat is selling at 12 and gram at 16 seers. Juar never comes into the market, and gram is the true index. There has been a steady rise of about half a seer a week, with no violent fluctuations. There has been no considerable export as yet.

11. *Prospects of distress.*—Distress already exists in a greater or less degree throughout the whole periphery of the district (see paragraph 3), except, perhaps, the Dholi-Tendukhera tract, in the north of Gadarwara, where the crops seem to be better than was at first reported, and it is probable that no relief is required. In the sandy tract to the west it is increasing rapidly. There is none in the open country.

12. If good rain falls and the rabi prospects are favourable, distress will be confined to these areas, will be much relieved by the kharif harvest (15th October to 15th December) and should wholly disappear with the rabi harvest. If, however, the rabi harvest fails, distress will begin in the open country also after the proceeds of the kharif harvest have been consumed, and will eventually be probably even more general and severe than in 1896-97.

13. *Measures of relief.*—The circle organization is complete and the preliminary lists for gratuitous relief prepared throughout the district. Two Charge Officers have been appointed, which is sufficient for the present. In the event of general distress, two more would be required. The district is compact and distances small.

14. All the Government forests are open to the free extraction of head-loads of minor forest produce; a measure which has greatly assisted the labouring classes in the hilly tracts. No free grazing is required.

15. Village relief has been started in the distressed tracts mentioned in paragraph 11 above, but no returns of numbers have yet been received. In one circle (Gotegaon) the numbers on the preliminary lists appear to be excessive in proportion to the population.

16. No gratuitous relief is being given to the able-bodied. But forest work is being started in the hilly tracts. In the sandy belt to the west of the district, where distress is developing faster than had been anticipated, and where the opening of the forests affords no relief, no forest work is available, however; while if a large relief-work were to be opened now it would probably be closed again almost immediately if good rain falls for the rabi, and the best plan appears to be to start village works for the present. The population of the tract is about 20,000.

17. The forest work in the hilly tracts will only suffice, say, for 4 to 6 weeks' employment. The grass is reported to be so short as to be hardly worth cutting. But even so, it was pointed out that grass-cutting might be useful to fill in a possible interval before the opening of large works, if good rain should not fall for the rabi and large works should be required. The alternative would probably be some still less useful form of employment. Should large relief-works be required there is plenty of work available throughout the district. The small aboriginal population on the top of the ghâts are at present supporting themselves by cutting wood and grass, and can easily be arranged for, should the necessity arise.

18. *Immediate action.*—The numbers brought on to gratuitous relief in the Chhindwara (Gotegaon) circle should be carefully watched; and, if necessary, the Deputy Commissioner should visit the tract himself. Village works should be started at once in the sandy belt to the west.

HOSHANGABAD DISTRICT.

19. *Recent History.*—Crops were bad and relief required in the Sohagpur and Hoshangabad tahsils from 1894-95. In the famine the district suffered severely, especially Sohagpur and the hilly country on the southern border. The kharif of 1897-98 was excellent, but the wheat poor, and the other rabi crops only fair. In 1898-99 the kharif was poor in Sohagpur, fair in Hoshangabad, and fairly good elsewhere; the rabi is bad in Sohagpur, poor in Hoshangabad, and fair elsewhere. The cropped area is 12 and the rabi area 37 per cent. below normal, while inferior grains have been largely substituted for wheat.

20. *Sohagpur Tahsil* occupies the eastern portion of the district, on the Narsinghpur border. It is the poorest of the four tahsils, both as regards the soil and the people; its recent history has been the worst, and it is distinctly the most depressed of all. Village relief on a small scale was given from May to August in the north-east corner. The poor sandy belt already mentioned on the west border of Narsinghpur extends into Sohagpur also, where it forms the Bankheri circle. The southern half of the tahsil is occupied by the hills which lie at the foot of the Satpura plateau. The northern half is open country, the continuation of the similar wheat tract in Narsinghpur.

21. Kharif occupies 43 per cent. of the cultivated area, and is practically the only harvest in the hilly tracts, where it consists mainly of the small millets. In the open country juar is the principal kharif staple, but the rabi

is the important harvest, about half of it being wheat, and a quarter gram. Tilli is also an important crop everywhere. Rice is of importance only in the Bankheri circle on the Narsinghpur border. There is little double-cropping.

22. *Hoshangabad Tahsil* lies immediately to the west of Sohagpur, and comes next to it in order of depression. As in Sohagpur, the southern half is hilly, and the northern open. There is a specially poor tract on the Betul border to the south of the tahsil, in the Borda circle.

23. The cropping is much the same as in Sohagpur. Rice is of some importance in the Borda tract. There is very little double-cropping.

24. *Seoni Tahsil* lies to the west of Hoshangabad, and is the strongest of all to resist distress, the hilly tract forming a smaller proportion of the whole, and there being no other specially poor tracts. Its recent history is also better than that of the two eastern tahsils.

25. Kharif occupies only 36 per cent. of the cultivated area. It consists mainly of juar in the open country and the small millets in the hills. Rice is nowhere of importance. Rabi is practically confined to the open country, and wheat and gram are the principal staples, in the proportion of two to one.

26. *Harda Tahsil* is the westernmost of the four. A larger proportion of the population is aboriginal than in any of the other tahsils. The jungly Charwa tract on the Nimar border to the west is exceedingly poor, in respect both of soil and of people. The Handia tract in the north-west of the tahsil, on the Nerbudda, is also very poor. The south-eastern portion of the tahsil is occupied by hills, of which the Damjipura tract to the extreme south (included in the Charwa Circle) is almost the worst part of the district. The open country to the east on the Seoni border (the Timarni Circle) is rich. It contributes about one-quarter of the whole tahsil. The rainfall in this tahsil has been very unevenly distributed.

27. The cropping is much the same as in Seoni. Rice is important in the Handia tract, and also, though in a less degree, in the Charwa tract. There is but little double-cropping.

28. *Crop prospects*.—The recent rain was fairly general. In two circles of Harda and a small area in Hoshangabad around headquarters the fall was small, but the greater part of Hoshangabad received good rain. The small millets have wholly failed in Damjipura and Borda, and almost wholly everywhere. They have done best in Sohagpur and the south of Seoni, but even there will not yield more than a 4-anna crop under the most favourable circumstances. Rice has also failed completely, except in the Bankheri Circle, where, with more rain, it may yield 4 annas. With good rain presently juar may give a 10-anna crop. Without it, the yield cannot be more than 6, and will probably not be more than 4 annas. It is already withering on the higher lands, and every rainless day extends the damage.

29. The preparations for the rabi are unusually extensive and complete, and if favourable rain falls the harvest should be a fine one. It is too early to begin sowing, and if no more rain falls during seed time probably only the best soils will be sown, the area will be short, and the outturn poor.

30. *Fodder and Water*.—There is no scarcity of fodder at present, the recent rain having greatly improved matters. The juar crop will in any case be fair so far as the fodder is concerned. But outside the Government forests, in which there is a fair supply, the grass crop is distinctly poor.

31. There will probably be scarcity of water during the hot weather in the hills along the foot of the ghâts, but the difficulty will not be very serious or very extensive.

32. *Peons and Native States*.—There are 26 villages belonging to the g's, mostly in the hilly tract, of which 20 are under the

Court of Wards. There are at present no patwaris, the settlement arrangements not having yet been brought into force. But since distress threatened, arrangements have been made for regular reports.

33. The small Feudatory State of Makrai has a Government Officer as Diwan, it is close to Harda, is surrounded by Khalsa territory, and information regarding the state of affairs is ample.

34. *Aboriginal Tribes* are confined to the hilly tracts, and to the Handia Circle, the population of which is almost wholly aboriginal. They are not so primitive as in many districts, and are not so shy as at the beginning of the last famine. Still, they will require careful treatment. They are wildest on the Tapti River, in the extreme south of the district.

35. *Stocks and Prices*.—Rabi seed grain is deficient, as there has not been a good rabi harvest for several years. But food-stocks are ample for the present. The whole length of the district is traversed by the railway, and there is no difficulty of distribution, except, perhaps, in the isolated tract of Damjipura in the southern hills.

36. On the 19th wheat was selling at 10 and juar at 11½ seers. On the 23rd they rose at Seoni to 9.20 and 9.60 seers respectively. The late rain reduced prices temporarily only. The rise has been steady, and there have been no violent fluctuations, though there was for some time a considerable export from Harda to Bombay and Berar, which has now stopped.

37. *Prospects of distress*.—Distress is actually present in the hilly tract of Malni (population 43,000) in the south-west corner of Sohagpur, in the adjoining and similar Borda tract (population 10,000) in the south-east corner of Hoshangabad, and in Handia, Charwa, and the Rahatgaon hills of Harda (population 39,000, 28,000, and 30,000 respectively), which constitute three-quarters of the tahsil. It has not yet appeared in Seoni.

38. Even if good rain should fall immediately, some measure of relief will probably be presently required for a short time in other parts of the hilly tracts, and perhaps in parts of the open country in Seoni. But in that event numbers should decrease sharply with the juar harvest (15th November to 15th December), and distress should wholly disappear with the rabi harvest. If the rabi fails, there must be severe distress all over the district as in 1896-97. They will have had a poor juar and a bad rabi harvest, even in the open country, falling upon a very depressed condition.

39. *Measures of relief*.—The circle organization is complete and the preliminary relief lists prepared throughout the district. Six Charge Officers have been appointed, which is ample for the present. Should general distress supervene, three more will be required.

40. The Government forests have been thrown open to free grazing and to free extraction of head-loads of minor produce everywhere, and of cart-loads of fuel and bamboos in Borda and Rahatgaon. The cattle have resorted to them in large numbers, and the free extraction of produce has been of great value to the labouring classes.

41. Village relief is being given in the distressed parts specified in paragraph 37 above. And in the whole of the Sohagpur Tahsil professional beggars are being relieved where necessary, as they began to flock into the small town of Sohagpur, and it was thought better to relieve them in their villages. The latest numbers are 306 on cash doles, and 300 children being fed in kitchens. By a mistake, which has since been corrected, money doles were at first given to some able-bodied in Borda.

42. Thirteen kitchens have been opened, where village relief has been given, to which the able-bodied who are in need of assistance are admitted, but so far only 286 have taken advantage of them. Kitchens have also been opened in the Makrai State as a precautionary measure.

43. Four large relief works have been sanctioned, at Piparia, Itarsi, Sohagpur, and Chipabar; or two in Harda, one in Hoshangabad, and one in

Sohagpur. These are for the non-hill tracts only. Distress is already present in parts of these tracts (Handia and Charwa); and though it is just possible that distress may be avoided in the remaining portion, yet every rainless day diminishes the probability. It seems, therefore, advisable to have them opened by the 20th October, if only as test works. These works will serve till after the kharif produce has been eaten, even if the rabi prospects are gloomy. After that more will be required.

44. Forest work has been started in Malni, Borda, Damjipura, and Rahatgaon, and has been arranged for, and will be started in a few days, in the remainder of the distressed area. The grass is still too wet for cutting, but grass cutting will be started about the 15th October throughout the hills. The Forest Department can give ample employment throughout the hilly tracts, apparently for an indefinite time. In Handia the forest work and grass cutting will not last long. But there the aboriginals are comparatively civilized, and will come to large works, as they did at the last famine. A certain amount of work can probably be provided, if needed, in the shape of embanking fields in the open country; in Sohagpur, perhaps a good deal, though it is not quite certain whether the people will consent. The kans grass has largely disappeared this year, though it is not certain whether it will not return with an ample rainfall.

45. Areas are being reserved for grass cutting to supplement the fodder supply. The experiment of digging a well close to the bed of a stream is being tried in a ryotwari village in Borda, where water is always scarce.

46. *Immediate action.*—The full revenue staff of the Settlement halka-bandi should at once be appointed in the jagir villages. Preparations should be made to open village works in Handia and Charwa (where forest work is limited and tanks can be made) in case they should be needed as a stop-gap before the large Public Works are opened.

NIMAR DISTRICT.

47. *Recent History.*—The district had favourable harvests until the famine. In that year the main staples gave an 8 to 10-anna crop. But the later sowings of the small millets, which are the main kharif staple of the Harsud Tahsil (the poorest part of the district), failed, and in that tahsil distress was severe. The rest of the district suffered little. The kharif of 1897-98 was excellent, but the rabi poor. The kharif of 1898-99 was fair in Harsud and good elsewhere; the rabi was bad in Harsud and fair elsewhere.

48. *Cropping* is distributed roughly as follows over every 100 cultivated acres:—

Crop.	Harsud Tahsil.	Khandwa Tahsil.	Burhanpur Tahsil.
Rice	11-0	9-5	9-5
Juar	19-0	37-5	37-5
Cotton... ..	12-5	25-0	25-0
Small Millets	11-0	9-5	9-5
Tilli	28-0	6-0	10-0
Tur	3-0	6-0	3-0
Wheat... ..	14-0	6-0	4-0
Miscellaneous	1-5	0-5	1-5
Total	100-0	100-0	100-0

49. *Harsud Tahsil* occupies the north-eastern portion of the district. It is by far the poorest part of the district, and with the worst recent history. A large part of it is only recently occupied on a ryotwari tenure, and the people are poor, and very bad cultivators. At Settlement in 1894 kharif occupied 30 and rabi 70 per cent. of the cultivated area. These proportions are now reversed. The rice is scattered, and the cropping fairly uniform throughout the tahsil. The tilli is mostly the early crop. There is very little double-cropping. Harsud has had more rain than either of the other tahsils, but most of the excess fell before the first break, and the subsequent rain has been very unequally distributed.

50. *Khandwa Tahsil.*—The people are better cultivators and better off than in Harsud. There are some poor villages in the north of the tahsil. The soil is very varied, and the cropping fairly uniform, there being no broad tracts to be distinguished. Most of the tilli is the early crop, and almost the whole of the wheat is irrigated. There is very little double-cropping.

51. *Burhanpur Tahsil.*—About two thirds of the tahsil is Government forest. The occupied portion mainly lies in the south-east corner, round the town of Burhanpur. The soil is rich and the cultivators strong, and, until this year, prosperous. There are some 20 or 30 newly settled villages, which also have done well until now.

52. *Crop prospects.*—The early tilli crop is on the point of failing. A really good shower immediately might perhaps save an 8-anna crop. Without it the yield will be nominal. The late sowings, if they received good rain continued well into October, might give a fair crop; without it, nothing. The juar has failed in light and suffered greatly in good soils. With good rain it might yield 3 or 4 annas, and perhaps a little more in Burhanpur. Without it, only the very best fields will give anything at all, and the general yield will be nominal. Cotton with good rain would give a 6 to 8-anna crop; without it, 2 annas at the outside. The rice and small millets have failed entirely. Immediate rain might save some of the tur.

53. The rabi is unimportant everywhere, though least so in Harsud. A certain amount of gram might be sown where the kharif has failed, but this would be possible only in the best soils; and the people would probably hesitate to sacrifice what remained of the kharif in these soils on the mere chance of a rabi crop.

54. *Fodder and Water.*—Scarcity of fodder is already felt in the open country, especially in Khandwa. The juar crop will be stunted at the best. There is a good deal of grass in the forests, but much of it has been grazed off already. A large quantity of fodder will be required to save the agricultural cattle—more than local resources can supply.

55. Water is also scarce almost everywhere already. The malguzars are already doing something. But in ryotwari villages Government is responsible. The best hope appears to be in deepening wells, and in excavating beds of streams for the cattle. For the ryotwari tract Rs. 2,000 will probably suffice.

56. *Aboriginal Tribes.*—There are about 19,000 of aboriginal descent, mostly in Harsud, especially in the south of the tahsil. They are simple folk, but fairly civilized, and will probably come on to large works, though it is impossible to be certain. They did not do so in 1896, but possibly that was because the edible products of the forests were so plentiful that there was no need for them to do so.

57. *Stocks and Prices.*—Stocks are ample in Khandwa and Burhanpur, but very short in Harsud. All three tahsils are, however, traversed by the railway, and there will be no difficulty of distribution. Holkar has stopped export of grain from Sanawad, the great grain mart of the north-west of the Khandwa Tahsil, which is an *enclave* in British territory. Much grain is locked up there. At the last famine he did the same, but relaxed his restriction at seed time, and it will, perhaps, be as well to leave the place as a store-house of seed grain till seed time comes again.

Prices went up with a bound in August, owing to export, which did not last long. They did not fall again, but stood fairly steady, and on the 19th of September wheat was selling at 9½, gram at 12, and juar at 13 seers. But since then juar, which is the main food-staple, has risen to 8 seers.

59. *Prospects of distress.*—Distress is now present throughout the Harsud Tahsil, and is worst in the centre. The purely labouring classes are not very numerous, but the poorer tenants are already in need of assistance. The jungle fruits have failed this year, which makes a great difference to them, and in the centre of the tahsil the Government forests are too far off to be of much assistance.

60. If good rain falls and the prospects of the rabi harvest are favourable, distress will not increase, and should cease with the rabi harvest. In neither of the other tahsils will the tenants need assistance, but in Khandwa certainly, and in Burhanpur probably, some relief will probably be required by the labouring classes later on, however good the rain may be. Should the rabi prospects be unfavourable, it will be required almost directly, and on a larger scale, while in Harsud distress will intensify, and not disappear until the next kharif harvest.

61. *Measures of relief.*—The increased patwari staff under the new Settlement arrangements have been appointed in Harsud, and also the additional Revenue Inspectors, who have not yet been formally sanctioned. In other tahsils the patwaris are to be reduced, but this has not yet been done. The circle organization is complete in Harsud, but not elsewhere, though it is ready cut-and-dried, and the Circle Officers selected. Two Charge Officers have been appointed, one for Khandwa and the other for Harsud, for which latter tahsil a second is needed.

62. The Government forests are open all over the district for the free extraction of head-loads of minor forest produce, and also to grazing, for which the fees are to be remitted if the crops fail.

63. Village relief is being given all over Harsud. No returns have yet been received, but the numbers on the preliminary lists are about 3,500 on a population of 41,000. This includes only women and children, but the number of the latter is enormous.

64. Seven kitchens for the relief of the able-bodied have been opened in the centre of the tahsil, where no work on grass cutting is available, but very few adults have yet attended them.

65. Eight grass depots have already been opened in the south of Harsud, and two more are being opened in the north and one in the west of the tahsil. But the grass crop is a short one, and the cutting will probably not last more than a month, though the transport will perhaps cover another month.

66. One large relief-work has been sanctioned close to Harsud in the centre of the tahsil, but large works are scarce in Harsud. There is a road wanted for forest produce from Padlia to Kalian, which runs right through the open country outside the forests, and which it was proposed to construct as a forest work. The Bombay road above Harsud will provide a third work for the north of the tahsil. In the other two tahsils plenty of large works are available.

67. There is great difficulty in finding suitable village works, especially in Harsud, where they are most wanted. Grass cutting is available in parts, but the grass is short and the railway near, and this employment will be soon exhausted. If the people will not come on to large works, it will be necessary to employ them as profitably as possible on village improvements. So with the trans-Nerbudda tract, which is cut off from the rest of the district, but has, however, a very small population. Some field embankment in the rabi area may be possible.

68. *Immediate action.*—The extra patwaris should not be reduced till the distress is over. A second Charge Officer should be appointed at once for Harsud. Circle Officers should now be appointed for the Khandwa and

Burhanpur tahsils. It must be remembered, with reference to village relief in Harsud (paragraph 63 above) that women who are able to do a fair day's work come under "able-bodied," not "dependants," and that when there are a number of children in the same family this should be very strictly interpreted, so that the relief given may not become excessive. (Orders on the subject of reducing the total dole in such cases will shortly issue.) It will be better to turn the forest road in the south of Harsud into a large relief-work under the Public Works Department, who will be asked to survey it at once, so that it may be ready when required. Grass-cutting should be begun in the Punassa reserve in the north of Khandwa, the poorest part of the tahsil, where distress will first appear; and also, if necessary, in the Khirgaon reserve to the south of the poor tract. If distress should become general so that the able-bodied need relief, the work should be done on the famine system of task and wage. Meanwhile, it should be done at ordinary market rates, and will usefully assist the people in finding employment until the harvest. A grant for improving the water supply in the ryotwari villages should be applied for. Wherever relief-workers may at any time be available, they may be utilized for this purpose, and advances under the Agricultural Loans Act may be made to malguzars, for which the Government of India have been asked to sanction certain special terms.

BETUL DISTRICT.

69. *Recent History.*—The wheat crops suffered from rust from 1890 to 1895. In 1895-96 the famine was preceded by a failure of the kharif in the uplands. In 1896-97 the numbers on relief did not rise so high as elsewhere, but the mortality was great, and the distress in the wilder parts probably as acute as in any district of the Province. The kharif of 1897-98 was good except in the hilly tracts, more especially in the south, where it was only fair; but the rabi was poor, and some relief was again required in the uplands. In 1898-99 the kharif was average, and the rabi fair. The cropped area is 11 and the rabi area 26 per cent. below normal.

70. *Description and cropping.*—The Multai Tahsil occupies the eastern third and the Betul tahsil the western two-thirds of the district. The cropping varies from north to south. In the northern half of the district small millets and oilseeds are the chief staples, both juar and the rabi crops being unimportant. In the southern half the kharif and the rabi occupy about equal areas. In the former, juar, small millets, and oilseeds are all three of equal importance. The latter is chiefly wheat. There is very little double-cropping. The northern half of Multai, or the north-eastern quarter of the district, has received markedly better rain than the remainder of the district.

71. *Crop prospects.*—In the northern half of Betul the early small millets and the maize have failed. With good rain the later sowings might bring up the small millet yield to 6 annas at the best; without it, they also will fail. Tilli will give an average crop, even without rain. In the southern half of Betul the small millets have failed altogether, while the juar, even with good rain, could not yield more than 2 annas, as it is for the most part in light soil, in which it has already withered. In the northern half of Multai (north of the Bel River), with a population of 33,000, the outturn of all the crops will be normal if good rain falls shortly. But without it the outturn will be poor, as the last fall was very scanty in this tract. In the southern half of Multai the crops vary from village to village, the best being like North Betul and the worst like South Betul. Practically speaking, the kharif harvest of this district has failed except in the north-eastern quarter, where good rain would still secure an average crop.

72. The preparations for the rabi are unusually extensive and complete. But the monsoon rainfall has been so scanty, and the soil is so dry, that it seems doubtful whether any rain which is at all probable at this time of year would be sufficient to secure a really good crop. If no more rain falls in time for the rabi sowings, the people will probably eat their seed grain.

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73. *Fodder and Water.*—There is already great scarcity of fodder, especially in the south of the district. Grass is selling at double the usual price. But little is to be hoped for from the juar crop, which, being mostly in light soils, has withered altogether. There is, however, plenty of grass in the Government forests.

74. In the south of the district water is already failing, and the supply is scanty almost all over the district. Many villages are already fetching their water from a distance of 2 or 3 miles, and three villages have moved to the river bank.

75. *Aboriginal Tribes.*—The people of the hilly parts of this district, which cover a large area, but are sparsely populated, are almost wholly aboriginal. They are not so wild as in many districts, but it is doubtful whether they will come on to large works. They did not do so in 1896-97, and it is probable that special arrangements will be needed for their employment.

76. *Stocks and Prices.*—Stocks are believed to be very short. The Deputy Commissioner estimates that to feed the district for a year it will be necessary to import between 2 and 3 lakhs of maunds for food, besides 4 lakhs more for seed. There is, however, no anxiety about the general supply, as communications are sufficiently good. But the Banyas of the hilly tracts are at the best of times exceedingly small men, their capital is now exhausted, and it will be necessary to make them small advances to enable them to purchase grain, as was done in several districts under similar circumstances in the last famine.

77. Wheat has been selling as high as 9 seers and juar as 10 seers. On the 19th they were selling at 10 and 13, and now at 9 and 11½ seers respectively. They were driven up by export to Rajputana, with which place the Marwari traders of the district have connection. Grain is now beginning to come back again, and is also coming in from the Berars.

78. *Settlement operations* were suspended some time ago, and the staff sent back to their circles.

79. *Prospects of distress.*—Distress is already present all over the district, except in the north-eastern quarter (population 33,000). It is general, but is acute only in the south of the district.

80. The distress will in any case be temporarily relieved by the kharif harvest. If good rain falls, it will not extend to the north-eastern quarter; it will probably not grow worse than at present, and it should cease by the end of March. If no more rain falls, the north-eastern quarter also will need relief after the kharif produce has been consumed, and the distress will probably grow worse and worse till the end of August.

81. *Measures of relief.*—The circle organization has long ago been completed throughout the district. Three Charge Officers have already been appointed, but two more are wanted.

82. All the Government forests are open to free grazing, and the free extraction of head-loads of grass and of edible products. In the south they are open for head-loads of all minor produce. This measure has given great relief, especially in the south, as grass is fetching a very high price in Berar. Cattle have gone in large numbers to the forests. Unfortunately the cattle from Berar which have come to graze in the south, below the ghâts, have brought anthrax with them.

83. Village relief is being given everywhere except in the north-eastern quarter of the district. The last returns, which were not complete, showed 3,880 on gratuitous relief. The population of the district is 323,000, and of the north-eastern quarter 33,000. A kitchen has been opened for children, and more are being opened. No gratuitous relief has been given to the able-bodied.

84. Five large Public Works have been sanctioned, and will be open by the 15th October at Masod, Satner, Multai, Bermendi, and Sakadehi. These are all in the open country (which includes two-thirds of the population of the district), and will provide sufficient work for months to come.

85. Meanwhile three small road works have been opened on the intermediate system, at or close to the first three of the places named in the preceding paragraph, the expenditure being met from local funds. Within a few days they had 1,700, 1,000, and 500 workers on them respectively, and the Masod work has been rushed, so that there has been difficulty in organizing gangs fast enough. All three are in the south of the open country, on the edge of the hills, but almost all the workers have come from the open country, many of them from a distance of 12 to 15 miles.

86. For the north of the open country six village works have been opened, all connected with the improvement of the water supply, and have 2,500 workers on them. They are being paid at the reduced scale for village works. These works will be superseded by the large works when the latter are opened. But some village works will still be required to serve areas remote from the large works. Tank work is available, and is being arranged for for groups of villages.

87. In the hilly country 8 grass depots have already been opened, which have about 1,100 workers on them, and 22 more are being opened as fast as possible. In the south of the district the grass-cutting will probably not last much more than a month; in the rest of the hills it will probably last for three months. The transport will probably take as long as the cutting. But ample forest work is available, and arrangements are already being made for it in the south of the district. No tank work is possible in these tracts.

88. The grass available will be sufficient for local needs, though there will probably not be much to spare for export. In the south of the district relief labour is being employed to deepen wells and dam up streams and dig holes in their beds, the work being superintended by patwaris and mukaddams, to whom small advances are made. Relief labour will be available for this purpose wherever the water supply is bad.

89. *Immediate action.*—Two more Charge Officers should be provided at once. If the numbers on the Masod road work become large, they should be drafted off to village works in the neighbourhood until the large Public Works Department works are opened on the 15th October. This the Deputy Commissioner can arrange for. All expenditure upon these road works should be made provincial from the 1st October.

CHHINDWARA DISTRICT.

90. *Recent History.*—The crops were fair or good up to the famine, in which the district as a whole did not suffer severely, though distress was severe in the jagirs and in the north and west of the Chhindwara tahsil, where the small millets failed entirely. The crops of 1897-98 were good, and the kharif of 1898-99 fair; but the rabi of the latter year was poor, especially in the tracts which had suffered most in the famine. There has been some substitution of kharif for rabi.

91. *Description and cropping.*—The jagirs occupy the northern, the Chhindwara tahsil the central, and the Sausar tahsil the southern (and smallest) third of the district. The whole of the jagirs are hilly, and there are considerable hilly areas in the west and north of the Chhindwara, and small ones in the west and east of the Sausar tahsil. In all these areas there is little or no rabi, and small millets are the main kharif staples. Rabi, mostly wheat, is of great importance in the south-east portion of Chhindwara. In this tahsil the kharif area is half under juar and half under small millets and jagni. In Sausar there is little rabi, and juar and cotton are the main kharif staples. Tilli is of small importance. There is very little double cropping.

92. *Crop prospects.*—In the median belt of open country which runs across the Chhindwara tahsil and comprises about half its area, and in the hills of the Sausar tahsil, the small millets have virtually failed. Elsewhere, with more rain immediately, they will yield a 6 to 8-anna crop, but without it little or nothing. They are best in the Jagirs. Juar, in the median belt, where it is important, cannot at the best yield more than a 2 to 4-anna crop. Elsewhere, with fair rain, it should yield 8 to 10 annas. Without it it might possibly yield 6 annas in Sausar, where it is mostly in heavy soil. Elsewhere it is in light soil, and would yield but little. Cotton is important in Sausar, and with good rain will give a 10 to 12-anna crop.

93. The rabi is of importance only in the south-east of Chhindwara. The usual area has been prepared, but the recent fall of rain was not sufficient to sow upon, and the total rainfall up to date has been so light that it is improbable that the harvest will be good, even if good rain should fall in time for sowing.

94. *Fodder and Water.*—There is plenty of fodder available. Nor is there any scarcity of water at present, though it is to be feared that it will be generally scarce in the hot weather.

95. *Jagirs.*—The population of the Jagirs, about 68,000, are all aborigines, and many of them very wild. Special arrangements will be required for their relief, should distress reach them. The Revenue staff has been augmented at the recent Settlement, and is sufficient. Four of the estates are under the Court of Wards, including the two largest.

96. *Aboriginal Tribes.*—See the preceding paragraph. There are also a few aborigines in the khalsa on the skirts of the Jagirs.

97. *Stocks and Prices.*—Stocks are believed to be ample. Wheat is being exported from the district.

98. Prices have risen steadily, without violent fluctuations. On the 19th wheat was selling at 12, gram at 13, and juar at 14 seers. A few days before juar was 16 seers at Chhindwara and 18 at Sausar.

99. *Prospects of distress.*—Some distress is reported to exist in the small Mahawaljhir tract, with a population of 6,000, situated just under the Jagir hills. It is part of one of the Jagirs which is under the Court of Wards. There is at present no distress in any other part of the district. But the kharif has virtually failed in the median belt of Chhindwara (population 110,000) and the Sausar hills (population 10,000), and the Deputy Commissioner is of opinion that relief will be required there by the middle of October.

100. If fair rain should fall in time to save the kharif that is left and give hopes for the rabi, there should be no distress outside this area, and the distress should cease with the rabi harvest. If no more rain falls, both crops will fail, and distress will be general, except perhaps in the open country of Sausar, where the kharif would still give a crop of some sort.

101. *Measures of relief.*—The circle organization is complete on paper, and the officers selected for the whole district. But Circle Officers have been appointed in the Jagirs only, where the area is large and the superior Revenue staff insufficient.

102. Blocks of forest have been thrown open to free grazing, and to the extraction of head-loads of minor produce, in parts where this assistance was required.

103. The Deputy Commissioner proposes to open two large Public Works, at Amarwara and at Linga (or Saoli) in the median belt. It seems doubtful, however, whether the latter work is necessary, at any rate for the present. The Linga Circle is above the average of the tahsil in productiveness and character of the population. It did not suffer in the famine, and the crops of the last two years have been good to fair. No distress is actually present, and though some measure of village relief may be required later on, it seems doubtful whether, if the prospects of the rabi should be favourable, any further assistance will be required. There has been a small District

Council road work open for some time in the neighbourhood of Amarwara, in which famine wages are given, but no task has so far been exacted. The number of workers upon it have never exceeded 700; they fell to about 100 when the early millets were being cut, and are now only 360. Plenty of large work is available in the open country should relief works be needed.

104. In the Jagirs and the Sausar hills there is plenty of grass to be cut, and when that is finished the people can be usefully employed, if necessary, in improving the local roads, which are bad.

105. *Immediate action.*—The small road work should be put on the intermediate system at once, a full task being exacted and payment being made strictly by results. The Circle organization should be completed, as far as the appointment of Circle Officers, over the whole of the district. The Commissioner should at once visit Chhindwara and ascertain the state of affairs. If it seems very probable that general relief will be presently required in the median belt and Sausar hills, he should appoint a Charge Officer, or two if it seems necessary. He should also report as to the advisability of opening two Public Works as proposed (paragraph 103 above). They would in any case be opened as test works, and be strictly on the intermediate system. Meanwhile the Public Works Department will be instructed to make the necessary preparations for opening them. Such small measures of village relief as may be required in the Mahawaljhir tract (paragraph 99 above) will for the present be given by the Court of Wards. Grass cutting may be started in the Sausar hills if the Conservator can utilize the grass for the supply of any demand at a reasonable cost. The work will be done at ordinary market rates in the first instance. Should distress appear and relief to the able-bodied become necessary, the work may be started, with Commissioner's sanction, as relief work, the famine task and wage system being adopted.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Notes of a Conference held at Jubbulpore on the 25th September, 1899.

Present: Denzil Ibbetson Esq., Chief Commissioner; J. B. Fuller, Esq., Commissioner, Jubbulpore; M. W. Fox-Strangways, Esq., Chief Secretary; B. Robertson, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Jubbulpore; A. L. Saunders, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Saugor; E. H. Blakesley, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Damoh; W. M. Crawford, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Mandla; F. C. Turner, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Seoni.

1. Rainfall of the monsoon of 1899 in inches:—

District.	Station.	10th to 16th September.	Total to 16th September.
SAUGOR	Saugor	1.40	22.52
	Khurai	1.94	26.08
	Rehli	2.02	22.49
	Banda	0.88	22.77
DAMOH	Damoh	1.50	29.26
	Hatta	3.72	31.66
	Tejgarh... ..	0.63	27.80

District.	Station.	10th to 16th September.	Total to 16th September.
JUBBULPORE...	Jubbulpore	3.28	33.88
	Sihora	1.25	26.46
	Murwara	1.59	31.14
	Bijeraghogharh	0.85	22.56
MANDLA	Mandla	2.78	27.59
	Tikaria	1.20	23.74
	Dindori (Ramgarh)	0.51	23.11
SEONI	Seoni	1.09	21.91
	Lakhnadon	3.63	22.50

SAUGOR DISTRICT.

2. *Recent History.*—The Saugor District and its neighbour Damoh have suffered more severely than any other part of the province. Relief measures were instituted as early as 1894; further bad harvests followed; and in 1896–97 the distress was general and acute. In 1897–98 the kharif was excellent, but the rabi poor. In 1898–99 both harvests were bad. The cropped area has decreased by 30 and the rabi area by 52 per cent., while inferior grains have been largely substituted for wheat. In the Khurai or northernmost tahsil the deterioration is terrible; and there and in the neighbouring tract of Dhamoni, relief has been given since March last.

3. *Cropping of 1898–99 in thousands of acres :—*

Crop.	Khurai Tahsil.	Banda Tahsil.	Saugor Tahsil.	Rehli Tahsil.
Rice	5.4	4.8	6.3	12.1
Juar	32.8	29.7	55.2	31.4
Small millets	10.6	15.4	8.1	21.9
Others (oilseeds, pulses, and a little cotton).	25.2	23.2	46.3	48.3
Total Kharif ...	74.0	73.1	115.9	113.7
Wheat	8.1	3.8	34.0	24.7
Pulses	1.2	0.7	6.3	10.9
Linseed	0.3	0.8	4.9	12.1
Others (mainly gram with or without a little wheat).	39.1	36.8	84.8	80.8
Total Rabi	48.7	42.1	130.0	118.5
Total cropped ...	122.7	115.2	245.9	232.2
Double-cropped ...	5.3	3.3	4.0	4.8

4. *Khurai Tahsil.*—In the north-west of the district. With the adjoining Dhamoni tract in the Banda Tahsil, it is by far the most depressed part of the district. The soil is rich black soil, but very stiff and intractable, giving very fair crops under favourable, but very poor ones under unfavourable conditions. Conditions have not been favourable in any one year since 1892–93. It used to grow rabi almost entirely, and mostly wheat. The rice cultivation is scattered. In the hilly area to the east of the tahsil the small millets, and in the open country juar, are the main kharif staples.

5. The rain of the 12th to 14th September was very unequally distributed. The small millets may give 50 per cent. of an average crop. Juar will give 70 per cent. at least without, and 80 per cent. with further rain. The oilseeds (mainly ramtilli or jagni) will give a very small yield in any case.

6. *Banda Tahsil* in the north-east of the district. In the hilly country to the north the small millets, and in the open country to the south juar, are the main kharif staples. There is no rice-tract proper.

7. The small millets will yield without further rain a 25 per cent., and with rain a 30 to 40 per cent. crop. Juar, without rain a 60, and with rain a 70 to 80 per cent. crop. The oilseeds (tilli and ramtilli in equal areas) only a 10 per cent. crop.

8. *Saugor Tahsil* occupies the centre of the district. The cropping is very uniform all over the tahsil.

9. The small millets will yield without rain a 25 per cent., and with rain a 30 to 40 per cent. crop. The juar will yield 70 per cent. at least without, and 80 per cent. with further rain. A 30 to 40 per cent. crop may be expected from the oilseeds.

10. *Rehli Tahsil* in the south, is the richest tract of the district. Its recent history has been more favourable, and this year's rain has been better distributed, than elsewhere. A hilly tract crosses the tahsil diagonally, and a strip of country on the southern border on the top of the Vindhyan ghât is poor. The cropping is fairly uniform all over the tahsil.

11. The rain of the 12th to 14th September was general. The small millets will give a 40 to 50 per cent. crop without, and a 50 to 60 per cent. crop with further rain. The juar should yield 70 to 80 per cent. without, and a normal crop with rain. Oilseeds will yield 60 to 70 per cent.

12. *Rabi prospects.*—The preparations are excellent over a large area, except in Khurai, where the people have not been able to plough their stiff soil sufficiently. With favourable rain there should be a bumper crop. The people intend to sow on the recent fall; but if they have no more rain, the area sown will be very short, and the yield very poor, and the harvest will virtually fail.

13. *Fodder and Water.*—No difficulty is anticipated. There is plenty of grass in the forests.

14. *Aboriginal Tribes.*—There is an admixture almost everywhere, and a good many on the southern ghâts. But they are comparatively civilised, and came freely to large works in the last famine.

15. *Stocks and Prices.*—The stocks are believed to be very low. With the exception of the kharif of 1897, there has not been a single good crop since 1892–93. But the district is traversed by the Railway, and communications are good everywhere.

16. There has been some export to Bombay; and directly it begins, it sends prices up with a jump. When the export ceases they drop again. On

long as the works were not too far off from their villages. No special measures are required for them.

36. *Stocks and Prices.*—Stocks are low, except in the rice tracts. But the district is traversed by the Railway and there will be no difficulty of distribution.

37. Prices have been subject to violent fluctuations, once having risen by as much as 6 seers in three days. But these rises have been temporary, and on the whole the rise has been steady. Wheat is now selling at 11½ and gram at 15½ seers. Juar never comes into the Damoh markets. A somewhat large export to Bombay is now beginning.

38. *Prospects of distress.*—Distress was present, though not in a severe form, in the haveli, and still more slightly in the northern hills, from April to August, but has now disappeared.

39. If the rainfall is favourable for the rabi, it should not reappear. But should the rabi fail, the distress will probably be as general and as severe as in 1896-97.

40. *Measures of relief.*—Village relief was begun in April in the haveli and the northern hills. It was confined to the destitute infirm, and to some of the children in large families among the poorer labourers. The numbers never exceeded 2,500. At the end of August the dole for September was distributed, and relief operations closed.

41. There is ample employment available on large works in the haveli. In the rice-tracts there are three large works available, which will be sufficient for them and for the surrounding hills. The population of the northern hills is only some 2,000 in all, and can be served by Village Works in case of need.

JUBBULPORE DISTRICT.

42. *Recent History.*—The bad years date from 1893-94. In the famine the district as a whole suffered terribly, especially the Murwara Tahsil. In the Jubbulpore and Sehora haveli, however, the distress was slight. The kharif of 1897-98 was good; as also that of 1898-99, except in the Kanthar riverain to the north-west. The rabi of 1897-98 was fair. In 1898-99 it was poor generally, and failed entirely in the Kanthar.

43. *Cropping of 1898-99 in thousands of acres :—*

Crop.								Murwara Tahsil.	Sehora Tahsil.	Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54.0	85.3	48.9
Juar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.4	1.5	25.7
Small millets...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72.1	37.2	42.3
Others (mainly tilli, cotton, and pulses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28.4	15.1	56.1
Total Kharif								164.9	139.1	173.0
Wheat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.9	23.9	24.3
Pulses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.8	13.6	17.3
Linseed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.3	8.7	3.7
Others (mainly gram, with and without a little wheat)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55.9	127.4	225.2
Total Rabi								93.9	173.6	270.5
Total Cropped								258.8	312.7	443.5

44. *Murwara Tahsil* occupies the north-east of the district. It suffered most in the famine; but it has the advantage of a light assessment, the crops since then have been good, and it has recovered far more completely than Sehora. Rice is cultivated generally all over the tahsil; but the tract to the south-west, beyond the line of the Kaimur Range, is a pure rice tract. Juar is practically confined to the Mahanadi valley in the north-east of the tahsil, where tur is also largely grown. Tilli is important, but there is little cotton. The rabi is generally distributed, except in the south-east corner of the tahsil. There is very little double-cropping.

45. *Sehora Tahsil* occupies the centre of the district, and is the weakest and most depressed of the three tahsils. The tract in the north-west corner, beyond the Kaimur range, is, like the adjoining area in Murwara, a pure rice-tract. The centre of the tahsil is open haveli, for the most part embanked, and mainly a rabi area, but rice is cultivated generally over the remainder of the tahsil. The small millets are cultivated in the hilly tract to the east. Juar and cotton are insignificant, but tilli is important. The haveli used to be a great wheat area; but since the famine, juar has largely taken the place of wheat. In it rice is often sown as a catch-crop before the rabi. Rabi is of some importance also in the north-east of the tahsil, but of none in the rice-tract. There is little double-cropping except the haveli rice-crop just referred to.

46. *Jubbulpore Tahsil* occupies the south-west of the district, and is (with the exception of the Kanthar, which has suffered greatly, and is much depressed) the richest and strongest of the three tahsils. The south-eastern half of the tahsil is hilly. Along the Hiran and Nerbudda rivers which bound the tahsil to the west and south-west, there is a narrow strip of riverain known as the Kanthar. A continuation of the Sehora haveli occupies the rest of the tahsil, to which the description already given applies. There is no pure rice-tract, and the rabi is of importance everywhere, though much more so in the haveli than elsewhere. In the Kanthar and in the southern hills of the Bargi tract, the kharif staples are juar, with cotton and tilli; in the north-eastern hills of the Kundam, small millets take their places. There is not much double-cropping except the haveli rice.

47. *Crop prospects.*—In the rice-tract beyond the Kaimur range the rice has failed entirely, and indeed everywhere outside the haveli, where it is a mere catch-crop. In the haveli, it may yield a 60 per cent. crop without, and a 75 per cent. crop with more rain. Juar in the Kanthar will give 60 per cent. without, and 75 per cent. with rain. In Murwara the corresponding figures will be 80 and 100. The small millets will yield 60 or 75 per cent. under the same conditions. The early tilli will give a normal crop without rain. Late tilli has been sown over a large area and has germinated well. It should give 75 to 80 per cent. without, and 120 per cent. with rain. Cotton is at present doing excellently, but will need more rain.

48. The preparations for the rabi are unusually extensive and complete. The people will probably sow some rabi in the haveli, even if no more rain falls presently, and good Christmas rain might give some yield. But the embanked fields need a heavy fall still to bring them into proper condition for sowing. Elsewhere a moderate fall should ensure a full rabi. But with no rain during the next few weeks, the rabi harvest must virtually fail.

49. *Fodder and Water.*—No difficulty other than purely local is anticipated. In the north of Murwara the streams will be dammed up for the use of cattle, with the aid, where necessary, of small grants from Local Funds.

50. *Aboriginal Tribes.*—The hills to the south and south-east of the Jubbulpore Tahsil (Bargi and Kundam tracts) are wholly peopled by aborigines, who still retain their primitive habits, more especially on the eastern border. Should distress reach them, special measures will be required.

51. *Stocks and Prices.*—Stocks are believed to be sufficient, and communications are good. For about a month there was a good deal of export to Bombay—so much so, that about the 12th September the Jubbulpore telegraph office was blocked ; but it has now ceased.

52. Wheat is now selling at 12 and gram at 15½ seers. Juar never comes into the Jubbulpore market. There has been a good deal of fluctuation, but no sudden permanent rise.

53. *Prospects of distress.*—Distress, though not severe, is already present in the Kanthar tract of Jubbulpore, where the area sown is short, the outturn will be poor, and the recent history has been bad, two consecutive rabis having failed entirely.

54. Even should favourable rain fall, distress will grow in the Kanthar, and will extend to the rice-tract beyond the Kaimur range ; and village relief will be required in both these areas, and possibly in the level parts of the hills of the Jubbulpore Tahsil, where maize and the early crop of small millets have failed. It may also be advisable to open a relief-work. The necessity for relief should cease with the kharif harvest, except in the rice-tract, where it may be necessary to continue it till the rabi harvest.

55. If no rain falls for the rabi sowings, there will be general and severe distress ; for the labouring classes, even in purely kharif tracts, depend greatly upon the rabi harvest of the haveli for employment.

56. *Measures of relief.*—The circle organisation has been made out, and circle officers elected, for the whole district ; but no appointments have yet become necessary.

57. The Bargi forests have been opened to the free extraction of head-loads of minor produce, and this has greatly assisted the people. In the Kundam tract the market is too far off for a similar measure to be useful.

58. Village relief is being given on a small scale to infirm and children in the Jubbulpore Kanthar. The latest report showed 140 on relief.

59. Large works are available all over the district, and there will be no difficulty in this respect. In the aboriginal Kundam and Bargi tracts there will be difficulty. In the former scarcity of water stopped the relief-works even in March 1897. The available tank-work was mostly exhausted in the last famine ; and there is not much grass to be cut, and but little kâns to be eradicated. There will be a little field-embankment possible in Kundam ; and in both tracts some of the people will come on to large works. But many will not ; and it will be necessary to list them and employ them in their villages as may be found possible.

60. *Immediate action.*—The advisability of opening the forests in the Kundum hills and in the trans-Kaimur rice-tract, and of appointing circle officers at once in those tracts (see paragraph 54) where distress is apprehended, should be considered.

MANDLA DISTRICT.

61. *Recent History.*—The kharif of 1895-96 failed in the uplands, and relief was required. In the famine the distress was acute and the mortality high, the Dindori Tahsil suffering most severely. The kharif of 1897-98 was exceptionally good, and the rabi good. In 1898-99 the kharif was poor in Dindori, but good elsewhere ; while the rabi was everywhere only fair. The cropped area is still 14 per cent. below normal.

62. Cropping of 1898-99 in thousands of acres :—

Crop.	Mandla Tahsil.	Dindori Tahsil.
Rice	70.1	51.7
Juar	6	—
Small millets	82.3	102.1
Oilseeds, &c.	31.9	49.4
Total Kharif ...	184.9	203.2
Wheat	31.1	14.9
Pulses	7.7	2.4
Linseed	3.7	3.7
Gram, &c.... ...	44.9	38.7
Total Rabi ...	87.4	59.7
Total cropped ...	272.3	262.9

63. *Mandla Tahsil* occupies the south-west half of the district, and is far the richer of the two tahsils. Last year's rice-crop was particularly good. The open country to the south, south-west, and west of Mandla is rich and well populated. There is a pure rice-tract in the west, almost the whole of which, however, is double-cropped. In the remainder of this area rabi, with or without rice, is the main crop. In the open country to the east of Mandla and in the hilly tracts small millets are the chief staple. Tilli is also a very important crop. The extreme east of the tahsil is a great pasture.

64. *Dindori Tahsil* occupies the north-east half of the district, and is more jungly and generally poorer than Mandla. Rabi is important, only on the north-east border along the Nerbudda River. Otherwise the cropping is fairly uniform, tilli being again an important crop.

65. *Crop prospects.*—Rice will yield only half of a normal crop ; but all the other staples are doing well, and even without further rain should yield a normal, and with it, an exceedingly good crop.

66. The prospects of the rabi are much the same as in Sangor and Damoh ; with this difference, that in Mandla it can be sown much later, up to the end of December.

67. *Fodder and Water.*—No difficulty of any sort is anticipated.

68. *Aboriginal Tribes.*—Almost the whole district except the rice-tract in Mandla is peopled by aborigines, who in the hilly parts are of the wildest sort. If distress should reach them, special arrangements would be required. There would be a certain amount of forest work available ; and when that was finished, they would have to be employed on such village improvements as might be available.

69. *Stocks and Prices.*—Stocks are sufficient. Wheat is selling at 14 and gram at 19 seers ; the prices have fallen somewhat during the week.

70. *Prospects of distress.*—There is at present no distress in the district. With enough rain for a moderate rabi, for which another inch during seed-time should suffice, no distress need be apprehended.

71. Should no more rain fall, some relief would probably be required by about February ; but it is impossible at present to say to what extent, or for how long a period.

72. *Measures of relief.*—The circle organisation is complete on paper, and the officers selected.

73. In the rich open part of Mandla, which is densely populated, plenty of large works are available. In the remainder of the district, in which the population is sparse, there would be difficulty in providing useful employment (see paragraph 68 above).

SEONI DISTRICT.

74. *Recent History.*—The kharif of 1893-94 and 1894-95 was poor, and in the latter year some relief was required. In the famine year the district as a whole did not suffer so severely as many. But in the rice-tracts of Barghat and Ugli, in the east of the Seoni Tahsil, and in the north and north-east parts of Lakhnadon Tahsil, the distress was extremely acute. The kharif of 1897-98 was excellent, though sown on only 71 per cent. of the normal area, and the rabi fair. In 1898-99 the rice was good, but the other kharif crops bad, especially in Lakhnadon ; while the rabi was fair to poor. The cropped area is still 21 and the rabi area 37 per cent. below the normal.

75. *Cropping of 1898-99 in thousands of acres :—*

Crop.	Seoni Tahsil.	Lakhnadon Tahsil.
Rice	67.7	18.0
Juar	23.5	14.3
Small millets	42.2	69.2
Others (mainly oilseeds, pulses, and a little cotton).	33.3	59.8
Total Kharif ...	166.7	161.3
Wheat	106.3	47.8
Pulses	21.2	11.1
Linseed	8.4	3.4
Others (mainly gram with or without a little wheat).	45.6	43.0
Total Rabi ...	181.5	105.3
Total cropped ...	348.2	266.6

76. *Seoni Tahsil* occupies the southern half of the district. Along the whole of the eastern border is a tract, with a population of some 120,000, which is almost wholly rice, with but little rabi or double-cropping. Apart from this, in the south of the tahsil the small millets are the main staple, and rabi is unimportant. In the north juar and rabi are grown ; while immediately to the north of the town of Seoni is an open tract which is mainly rabi, which used to be a great wheat area, and which still produces a great deal, though since the famine less valuable staples have largely taken its place.

77. *Lakhnadon Tahsil* is in every way poorer than Seoni ; a good deal of the cultivation is ryotwari, much of it recent, and it has had worse crops of late years than Seoni. The country is very broken, and there are no broad tracts worth distinguishing. The kharif staples are mainly small millets, tur and tilli, the last being important.

78. *Crop prospects.*—Between the 12th and 14th the whole of Lakhnadon and the northern portion of Seoni had some 3 inches of rain, but the rest of Seoni one inch only. It came too late to save the rice, which has failed completely. The small millets will give a 60 per cent. crop in Seoni without, and a normal crop with further rain. In Lakhnadon they will give a normal crop in either case. The juar will yield about the same, and a little more rain should give a bumper crop in Lakhnadon. The tilli and cotton are doing excellently, though a little more rain in Seoni would improve them. The crops are markedly better in Lakhnadon than in Seoni.

79. The rabi preparations are unusually extensive and complete, and favourable rain should give a splendid crop. It is said that, even with no more rain till Christmas, and good rain then, the people hope for a 6-anna crop ; but this seems extremely unlikely.

80. *Fodder and Water.*—Fodder is sufficient ; and scarcity of water is apprehended, only in a small tract in the south-east of the district below the ghâts, where the rain has been less than elsewhere, and water is already running short. It is believed that a supply can be obtained by excavating the beds of streams, and deepening existing wells.

81. *Aboriginal Tribes* are numerous everywhere, but for the most part civilised. But in the hills in the west of the Lakhnadon Tahsil they are still primitive, and will require special treatment if distress reaches them. Large works are impossible there, and they will have to be employed on village improvements.

82. *Stocks and Prices.*—Stocks are believed to be quite sufficient. There is some difficult country for transport in the north-west and northern hills (Adegaon and Kedarpur). The people of the latter tract would probably be moved down on to the Nerbudda. But the Banjara traffic passes through these tracts, and there would be no difficulty of supply. None was experienced in the last famine.

83. Wheat is selling at 15, and gram at 13½ seers, prices having fallen since the preceding week. There have been no violent fluctuations. There has been a considerable export to Kamptee throughout the monsoon season.

84. *Prospects of distress.*—Distress is already present throughout the rice-tract. If favourable rain falls for the rabi harvest, there will be no distress elsewhere, and if the rabi is good, it will probably be possible to discontinue relief after it is reaped, say from March, as all the labourers of the rice-tract go to the harvest.

85. If the rabi fails, there will be distress throughout the district, which will begin earlier and be more severe in Seoni than in Lakhnadon, but even in the latter tahsil, will probably become acute after the rabi harvest-time is over.

86. *Measures of relief.*—The increased Revenue establishment which is contemplated by the arrangements of the recent Settlement has been appointed; and the circle organisation has been planned and the circle officers selected for the whole district. Circle officers have been appointed in the rice-tract, but no charge officer as yet.

87. No Government forests have as yet been thrown open, the markets being too far off for the collection of minor produce to be of much assistance. Later on the mahua crop will be a valuable help.

88. Village relief has just been started throughout the rice-tract. No returns have yet been received, but the preliminary lists include 1,400 souls, consisting of infirm and children. An approximate (but not a binding) maximum of 2 per cent. of the population has been laid down for present guidance.

89. No able-bodied are relieved at present. But it is proposed to open four kitchens as tests.

90. There is plenty of employment on large works available throughout the district. Two roads in the rice-tract, one from Chhapara to Barghat in the north, and the other to Piparwani in the south, are being laid out; but no other preparations are being made. One of them at least will almost certainly be required; but the tools are ready in hand, and work could be started at very short notice. Metal-breaking is also available on the Ari and Barghat roads.

91. A great deal of grass-cutting is available, especially in the south of the district.

[It was pointed out to the Deputy Commissioner that, if grass-cutting should be started in a tract in which distress is general and acute, the work must be done under famine conditions, the task and the wage being regulated by the prescribed standards. In other tracts it should be done at ordinary contract rates, and only where the grass can be carried to the railway at a remunerative cost. In this case it would be a valuable additional employment for the labouring classes.]

92. For aboriginal tribes see paragraph 81 above.

93. *Immediate action.*—A Charge officer should be appointed at once for the rice-tract. The advisability of opening the Government forests which adjoin the rice-tract for the free extraction of edible products should be considered. The four kitchens in the rice-tract (paragraph 89 above) should be opened at once. The Commissioner should at once ascertain from the Superintending Engineer what portions of the Plateau Railway it has already been arranged to open as relief-works, and how far it will be possible for the line to serve the rice-tract, the northern portion of which lies between the main line and the Seoni branch. A month's notice to the Government of India is required, so that no time should be lost. But no work is to be started on the line in any part where there is a crop worth cutting, until the kharif harvest is over.

No. 2.

Letter from M. W. Fox-Strangways, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief-Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. F. 359, dated Pachmarhi, the 18th October 1899.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly Famine Statements A. and B., prescribed by Section 16 of the Central Provinces Famine Code, for the month of September. I am to express

the Chief Commissioner's regret that it has not been possible to submit these statements by the 15th of the month, and also that they are unaccompanied by the prescribed famine maps. The relief measures are in the stage of rapid extension, and returns must be expected to be somewhat irregular and incomplete at first. For the future strict punctuality will be insisted upon, and the maps, which will be submitted next month, will show the extent and intensity of the distress with greater accuracy than is possible at present.

2. In paragraph 48 of the memorandum on the crop prospects of the Central Provinces up to the 15th September, submitted with my letter No. F. 98, dated 21st ultimo, it was said that the rain of the 12th—14th September had probably secured a moderate *juari* crop over the greater part of the province, and had thus rendered a complete failure of the autumn harvest impossible. Since that memorandum was written a month has passed, during which not only has no rain fallen, but the crops have been further tried by excessive heat and by a deficiency, and sometimes entire absence, of the dews on which they usually depend after the cessation of the rains. There has, consequently, been general and rapid deterioration of all crops, and the memorandum for the week ending 10th October, of which a copy is appended, shows that, though the harvest cannot yet be called a complete failure for the province as a whole, there is no single district in which even half an average crop will be reaped, while in several districts the outturn cannot now be more than nominal. Moreover, now that more than half of October has passed without a sign of rain, and the hope of it has again been dispelled by the diversion to Bengal of the recent storms in the bay, the prospects of the *rabi* are but poor at the best. The unusually careful preparation which the land has received has had the effect of retaining moisture for a longer period than could have been hoped, and a good deal of sowing has been effected, but the germination is irregular and uncertain, and without early rain a good crop is out of the question.

3. The preparations to meet the impending calamity began on the 28th July, when special instructions were issued for the submission of detailed weekly crop memoranda, though before this date orders for the throwing open of certain Government forests had issued. During August, conferences were held by the Chief Commissioner at Nagpur and Raipur, and instructions were issued laying down, for use if the necessity should arise, the principles of relief and the detailed methods to be followed. It was eventually decided, that regular relief works were not in any case to be opened until the 15th October, and, in the meanwhile, reliance was placed in the complete organization of the machinery for village relief. A small measure of village relief, the legacy of previous crop failures, had been in operation since April in Saugor, Damoh, Hoshangabad, and Bilaspur. In Damoh and Hoshangabad this was discontinued during the month of August. Up to the 29th August no new measures of relief, beyond the opening in several districts of Government forests, were sanctioned, but on that date orders were issued to begin village relief among the aboriginal population of a small and inaccessible tract in Hoshangabad, and in two thickly populated circles in the Balaghat district, where the failure of the rice crop threatened to be sudden and complete, and on the 31st some small temporary relief works were sanctioned to relieve distress among the labouring population in Betul.

4. The situation in Balaghat developed rapidly, and on the 1st September the whole district was recognized as distressed. On the 5th the distribution of village relief was sanctioned for the Harsud tahsil of Nimar and for another circle in Hoshangabad; on the 8th it was extended to Betul, to certain other parts of Hoshangabad, and to parts of Narsinghpur, Jubbulpore, and Nagpur; on the 14th to the north of Bhandara; and on the 20th to the rice tract in Seoni.

Meanwhile the forest concessions were extended and proposals were sanctioned, first in Betul and afterwards in other districts, for the organization of

grass cutting on a large scale, both as a means of employing the able-bodied labourers during the interval before regular relief works could be opened, and in order to provide against the anticipated fodder famine. On the 23rd and 25th September the Chief Commissioner held conferences at the head-quarters of the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore Divisions, and satisfied himself that the organization of relief was keeping pace with the the development of distress.

5. The total number of persons on all forms of relief on the 30th September was 65,919, a figure which in the famine of 1896-97 was not reached till the middle of December, and reports received since show that the numbers are everywhere rapidly increasing. The district of Betul alone accounts for nearly half the total. The fact that in the first month of relief operations the percentage of the population of this district on relief should amount to nearly 10 seems at first sight to imply some extravagance and want of supervision. The district is, however, undoubtedly very acutely distressed, and it is in the hands of a most capable and experienced officer, Mr. B. P. Standen, who has always foretold this rapid development, and in whose judgment the Chief Commissioner has the fullest confidence. At the same time, distress has extended so rapidly that the Deputy Commissioner's first anxiety must necessarily have been to extend his measures of relief. His staff has now been greatly strengthened, and his attention has been drawn to the absolute necessity of strictly enforcing the famine tests.

6. The reports of the district and divisional officers show that up to the end of September the general condition of the people was distinctly good. The death rates were low; emaciation had only been observed in one district, Hoshangabad, and these had been checked by the relief measures, while aimless wandering, usually one of the first symptoms of distress, was entirely absent. This last feature (which is not wholly free from disadvantage, as depriving Government of a useful test of distress) is attributed by general consent to the fact that the people remember what was done for them in 1896-97, see the preparations that are now being made, and are content to wait in their villages for the help which they feel sure will be forthcoming.

7. It might possibly be argued from these facts that relief has been given before it was required. The Chief Commissioner is confident, however, that this is not the case. He has consistently kept in view the principle that, while the probability of distress is sufficient to justify precautionary measures, nothing but the actual presence of existing distress, such as to require immediate relief, can warrant its distribution being begun; he has kept in his own hands not only the inception of relief measures in each district, but also their extension from tract to tract until it was clear that further caution was unnecessary; and he has in no case sanctioned relief until either the visit of a responsible and reliable officer to the spot or other convincing evidence has satisfied him that it was necessary. Since the close of the month distress has developed so rapidly in many districts as to tax to the utmost the efforts of the district staff; and the Chief Commissioner's anxiety has been due rather to the difficulty of keeping pace with it than to any fear of being in advance of it.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Monthly Famine Statement A for the four weeks ending Saturday evening, the 30th September, 1899.

District.	Area.	Popula- tion in Thousands	Affected Area.	Estimated Popula- tion in Thousands of Column 4.	Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.					Number on Grati- tous Relief.		Price of one or more Principal Food-grains in Seers per Rupee.			Monthly Death- rate (per mille per annum).	Deaths due to Starva- tion.
					Special Class.	Class I. Diggers.	Class II. Carriers.	Class III. Working Children.	Total.	As Depen- dents on Works.	Other- wise.	Rice.	Gram.	Wheat.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
JUBBULPORE DIVISION.																
Jubbulpore	3,948	748	200	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	183	7½	10	9	...	...
Saugor	4,007	592	1,600	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,443	...	12	10½	...	...
Damoh	2,831	325	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7¼	10½	9¼	...	...
Mandla	5,056	339	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	10½	9	...	...
Seoni	3,198	371	800	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	784	9½	11	11	...	...
TOTAL	19,040	2,375	2,600	350	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,410	...	...	...	...	...
NAGPUR DIVISION.																
Nagpur	3,832	758	76	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	474	8¼	Juar. 10½	8¼	...	...
Bhandara	3,968	742	446	103	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,855	8	...	8¼	...	...
Balaghat	3,164	383	3,164	383	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,079	6½	9	9	...	...
Chanda	10,749	697	10,000	640	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,039	...	11	8	...	...
Wardha	2,428	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7½	...	8	...	...
TOTAL	24,141	2,980	13,686	1,135	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,447	...	...	...	...	...

Monthly Famine Statement A for the four weeks ending Saturday evening, the 30th September, 1899—continued.

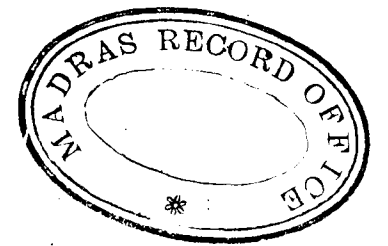
District.	Area.	Popula- tion in Thousands	Affected Area.	Estimated Popula- tion in Thousands of Column 4.	Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.				Number on Gratu- itous Relief.			Price of one or more Principal Food-grains in Seers per Rupee.			Monthly death- rate (per mille per annum)	Deaths due to Starva- tion.
					Special Class.	Class I. Diggers.	Class II. Carriers.	Class III. Working Children.	Total.	As Depen- dents on Works.	Other- wise.	Rice.	Gram.	Wheat.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
NERBUDDA DIVISION.																
Hoshangabad ...	4,024	499	4,024	421	...	...	180	45	225	56	4,392	7½	...	9½	...	...
Narsinghpur ...	1,916	367	916	101	...	...	185	51	236	...	3,468	9	9	10	...	...
Nimar ...	3,928	285	571	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000	7½	9	7½	...	...
Ohhindwara ...	4,630	407	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	12	...	...
Betul ...	3,824	323	2,309	279	282	2,725	11,214	1,997	16,218*	1,331	12,684	6	8½	8½	...	...
TOTAL ...	18,322	1,881	7,820	842	282	2,725	11,579	2,093	16,679	1,387	23,544	...	...	...	...	...
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.																
Raipur ...	11,724	1,584	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	11	...	...
Bilaspur ...	8,341	1,164	515	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,452	10½	...	10½	...	...
Sambalpur ...	4,948	796	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	25,013	3,544	515	83	282	...	...	...	...	...	3,452	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL ...	86,516	10,780	24,621	2,410	282	2,725	11,579	2,093	16,679	1,387	47,853	...	...	...	...	...

* Of these 6 668 are on grass cutting works.

Monthly Famine Statement B for the four weeks ending Saturday the 30th September 1899.

Monthly Famine Statement B for the Four weeks ending Saturday the 30th September 1899.															
District.	Maximum number for whom relief is estimated to be required in case of serious famine. (Omitting 000's.)	Number for whom relief was provided in last programme of Relief Works (i.e., average daily number for three months). (Omitting 000's.)			Number for whom relief can be provided by works remaining on programme on date of Report (i.e., average daily number for three months). (a). (Omitting 000's.)			Expenditure since April 1st 1899. (b.)			Advances since April 1st up to end of month under Report. (c.)			Revenue suspended or remitted.	
		Date of last Programme.	On large works (Public Works Department Schedule A).	Others.	On large works (Public Works Department Schedule A).	Others.	Date up to which account is made up.	Rupees (omitting 000's.)		Land Improvement Act.	Famine Loans.	Agricul. tural Loans Act.	Rupees (omitting 000's.)		
								On relief works.	On gratuitous relief.				Suspended.	Remitted.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
JUBBULPORE DIVISION.															
Jubbulpore	26½	1st April 1899.	126	—	126	—	30th Sept. 1899.	—	¼	¼	—	—	—	—	
Saugor	57	—	106	—	106	—	23rd Sept. 1899.	—	16½	¾	—	—	—	—	
Damoh	8	—	58	—	58	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Mandla	—	—	96	—	96	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Seoni	42	—	73	—	73	—	23rd Sept. 1899.	—	½	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	133½	—	459	—	459	—	—	—	17¼	1	—	—	—	—	
NAGPUR DIVISION.															
Nagpur	8	—	103	—	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Bhandara	96	—	89	—	89	—	30th Sept. 1899.	—	1¼	—	—	—	—	—	
Balaghat	173	—	122	—	122	—	30th Sept. 1899.	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	
Chanda	108½	—	91	—	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Wardha	39½	—	77	—	77	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	425	—	482	—	482	—	—	—	11½	—	—	—	—	—	

District.	Maximum number for whom relief is estimated to be required in case of serious famine. (Omitting 000's.)	Number for whom relief was provided in last programme of Relief Works (i.e., average daily number for three months). (Omitting 000's.)			Number for whom relief can be provided by works remaining on programme on date of Report (i.e., average daily number for three months). (a.) (Omitting 000's.)			Expenditure since April 1st 1899. (b.)			Advances since April 1st up to end of month under Report. (c.)			Revenue suspended or remitted.	
		Date of last Programme.	On large works (Public Works Department Schedule A).	Others.	On large works (Public Works Department Schedule A).	Others.	Date up to which account is made up.	Rupees (omitting 000's.)		Land Improvement Act.	Famine Loans.	Agricul- tural Loans Act.	Rupees (omitting 000's.)	Suspended.	Remitted.
								3	4						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
NERBUDDA DIVISION.															
Hoshangabad	79½	—	70	—	70	—	30th Sept. 1899.	—	½	—	—	9	—	—	
Narsinghpur	24	—	48	—	48	—	—	—	2	1	—	26	—	—	
Nimar	23½	—	54	—	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Chhindwara	29	—	115	—	115	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	
Betul	127	—	103	—	103	—	—	12	6	1	—	2	—	—	
TOTAL	283	—	390	—	390	—	—	12	8½	2	—	42	—	—	
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.															
Raipur	194	—	219	—	219	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Bilaspur	190	—	154	—	154	—	30th Sept. 1899.	—	5	—	—	28	—	—	
Sambalpur	—	—	62	—	62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	384	—	435	—	435	—	—	—	5	—	—	28	—	—	
GRAND TOTAL	1,225½	—	1,766	—	1,766	—	—	12	42½	3	—	113	—	—	



No. 3.

Crop Memorandum of the Central Provinces for the week ending 17th October, 1899.

GENERAL.

1. With the exception of insignificant showers in Sambalpur and Chhindwara, the week was again rainless, and deterioration continues. Juar, tur, and kodon are rapidly drying up. Rabi sowings continue, and germination has been generally good in the northern districts, but elsewhere, even where germination has been successful, the plants have begun to wither, and early rain is urgently wanted everywhere. There has been in most districts a slight fall in prices, due to imports.

JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

2. *Jubbulpore*.—In parts of the *haveli* a half rice crop is being reaped,—elsewhere nothing. Kodon is very poor and apprehension is felt that the juar also will fail. Rain can now do little good to any of the kharif crops, but is urgently wanted for the rabi sowings, which have been very short except in the *haveli* and *kanthar*, and are in a precarious condition.

3. *Saugor*.—The prospects of the juar are very doubtful, and the kharif generally is a failure. The early rabi sowings are withering, and rain is urgently wanted to save them.

4. *Damoh*.—Rice is in the same condition as in Jubbulpore; kodon and kutki may average 45; and juar may yield 90 in specially favoured localities, but will generally be much less. Cotton, til and tur still promise well. The area sown with rabi will be seriously contracted, and without early rain the sowings already made will be irreparably damaged. Prices have slightly fallen, but petty crime is increasing.

5. *Seoni*.—Kodon and juar are withering rapidly. The rabi sowings have germinated well, but are in urgent need of rain.

6. *Mandla*.—The early rice is being harvested, and is estimated at 50—60. Tilli (63—100) is almost secured. Late rice and kodon are deteriorating. Owing to the dryness of the ground such rabi as has been sown contains a larger proportion than usual of gram and masur; the germination is defective, and the area sown is expected to be short.

NERBUDDA DIVISION.

7. *Narsinghpur*.—There is nothing to add to last week's report.

8. *Hoshangabad*.—Juar is deteriorating everywhere, and it is feared that in many places the *bhuttas* will not contain grain. Rabi sowings have germinated, but early rain is necessary to save them.

9. *Chhindwara*.—The rain which fell (·18) on the 11th and 12th was not enough to be of any use. The rabi sowings have been stopped. The deficiency of the water-supply is causing anxiety.

10. *Nimar*.—The deterioration of crops continues. Rain is urgently wanted for rabi sowings.

11. *Betul*.—The condition of the kharif crops except in the north and west is hopeless. Where rabi has been sown some has come up, but has already begun to wither. In the north and west kodon and juar will probably reach 60, and possibly a little more, but late kutki and jagni will do little better than elsewhere. A good deal of the small rabi area has been sown and germination is satisfactory.

NAGPUR DIVISION.

12. *Chanda*.—The rice crop is a total failure. Juar continues to suffer, and sugarcane and tur have begun to deteriorate. Rabi sowings are being stopped. Linseed has germinated very badly, and ringni juar is being destroyed by caterpillars.

13. *Bhandara*.—Rice will be 15 at the best, and juar, unless rain falls, not more than 45. Tur and til are fair to good except in Sakoli, where they are estimated at 45. Rabi sowings have mostly germinated well, but rain is urgently wanted for them.

14. *Balaghat*.—Rice is a complete failure. Some fair kutki is being reaped, and should rain come the kodon would still yield something. Rabi sowings are in progress, and do not seem to have suffered so far.

15. *Wardha*.—Except in the south and east of the Hinganghat Tahsil, a small part of Arvi, and a few scattered villages in Wardha, where a crop of 25 may yet be hoped for, the kharif is a total failure. Rabi sowings, wherever made, have failed.

16. *Nagpur*.—In Nagpur and Katol juar and cotton may amount to 25 if rain comes. In the other two tahsils the crops are slightly better, but everywhere they are daily deteriorating. Rabi has been sown early, and after poor germination is withering fast.

CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.

17. *Raipur*.—Early rain may yet give a 50 rice crop in the south-eastern Zamindaris and the south of Dhamtari. In North Dhamtari and South Drug it may be 25, but elsewhere even with rain it will not be more than 15. Without rain rabi sowings are impossible.

18. *Bilaspur*.—The rice crop is not likely to amount to more than 10 except in a few specially favoured tracts, where it may be 15—30, and in some of the Bilaspur Zamindaris, where it may be 45. Kodon may vary from 15—30 in Janjgir to 60—75 in West Mungeli. Til and urad may be 60—75, and arhar is at present in good condition. Rabi sowings have been very short and germination poor.

19. *Sambalpur*.—The rain on the 14th was not enough to be of any use. Crop experiments in the Sambalpur Tahsil giving an average of 40, and the later crops, in lowlying fields, are expected to be better. North Bargarh is in much the same condition, but in South Bargarh and in Chandarpur there has been greater deterioration, which still continues.

No. 4.

NAGPUR.

26th October, 1899.

Letter from M. W. Fox-Strangways, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department, No. F. 562, dated Nagpur, the 15th November 1899.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly Famine Statements A and B, prescribed by Section 16 of the Central Provinces Famine Code, for the month of October 1899. A map* coloured to indicate the extent and intensity of the distress is also appended.

2. In all divisions except Jubbulpore, and especially in the rice-tracts of Nagpur and Chhattisgarh, the development of distress has been very rapid.

* Not reproduced.

There has been no rain in any part of the Province since the 17th September, while the days have been characterised by excessive heat, and the nights by an absence of dew; and one crop after another has either turned out a complete failure, or has yielded at best an outturn about equal to the seed sown. Excluding the districts of Damoh, Mandla, and Sambalpur, which are not yet past hope, the two main kharif staples, rice and juar, may now be said to be entirely lost; only in a few specially favoured fields is it worth while to reap the crop save as fodder, and in many places the cattle are allowed to eat it down. The small millets are but little better, and the only crops which promise anything like a fair crop are tilli, which in the northern districts particularly is so far doing well, tur, and in some districts cotton.

3. The following table shows the numbers on each form of relief at the end of October as compared with those at the end of September :—

Division.	Kitchens.	Village Relief.	Dependants on Works.	Total gratuitous.	Relief Works.	Grand Total.
Jubbulpore :—						
30th September 1899	...	6,410	...	6,410	...	6,410
28th October "	1,935	13,215	23	15,173	1,841	17,014
Nagpur :—						
30th September "	5,883	8,564	...	14,447	...	14,447
28th October "	21,466	44,571	3,200	69,237	64,068	133,305
Nerbudda :—						
30th September "	4,207	19,337	1,387	24,931	16,679	41,610
28th October "	7,994	36,860	4,190	49,044	33,675	82,719
Chhattisgarh :—						
30th September "	...	3,452	...	3,452	...	3,452
28th October "	...	50,744	689	51,433	78,999	130,432
Total	30th September 1899	10,090	37,763	1,387	49,240	65,919
	28th October "	31,395	145,390	8,102	184,887	363,470

4. The extension of relief operations proceeded steadily throughout the month in all divisions, and at the end of the month the only districts in which relief had not yet begun were Mandla and Sambalpur. In the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions the increase in numbers on relief was very rapid, Raipur, from which the September return was blank, showing a total of 76,617, and Chanda 38,532 against 1,039. The total percentage of the whole population of the province on relief exceeds 3, a figure which was not reached in 1897 until February.

5. The increase extends to all forms of relief, but the marked feature of the month was the substitution of work-relief for gratuitous relief. As has been already explained it had been decided that no large Public Works were to be opened before the 15th October. On that date 15 works were opened in the Nagpur Division, but it had already become apparent that the provision of four works per district, which it was at first hoped might be sufficient for some time, would in many cases be quite inadequate, and since the 15th October works have been opened in all directions as fast as the Public Works Department could supply the tools and staff. By the end of October 33 works were open,

of which 17 were in the Nagpur Division, 10 in the Nerbudda Division, 5 in Jubbulpore, and 1 in Chhattisgarh. But this number was far from meeting the demand for employment, and it was necessary to resort to Village Works on a considerable scale as a means of tiding over the interval until Public Works could be provided. In the Chhattisgarh Division 361 Village Works were open at the end of the month, employing 73,399 workers. Much useful employment was also provided, especially in the Betul District, in cutting and stacking grass, partly for local consumption, and partly for export to Bombay. And on the 12th October sanction was given to the commencement of weaver relief in Nagpur, a measure which has since been extended to some other smaller towns. The proportion of relief-workers to those gratuitously relieved is still much below what it should be, but it is improving every week as fresh works are opened. The Chief Commissioner has just reiterated his orders about the supreme necessity for the most scrupulous care in the administration of gratuitous relief, and desired that the lists may at once be revised most carefully, and all those able to work struck off. The latest figures show that in some districts sufficient attention has not yet been paid to this point.

6. By the end of October the village-relief system was in full operation, over practically the whole of the rice-tracts in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions except Sambalpur, and in the districts of Wardha, Betul, considerable tracts in Nimar and Hoshangabad, and parts of Nagpur, Narsinghpur, Saugor, Seoni, and Jubbulpore. In some districts the kitchens which were originally established for the relief of able-bodied adults before the opening of relief-works have continued to be used to a considerable extent for the relief of the destitute infirm, as well as for children. They afford a valuable test of the necessity for relief; but where general distress undoubtedly exists, the Chief Commissioner is inclined to doubt whether (except perhaps in the case of aboriginal tribes) the test is not a dangerously strict one; and officers have been requested to watch the results carefully.

7. All reports concur in describing the physical condition of the people as satisfactory though in almost all of the reports upon which the inception of relief measures was sanctioned, individual cases of emaciation were reported. In Betul it is said that some of the children have run down a little, and in the Harsud Tahsil of Nimar, into which there has been extensive immigration from Berar and Central India, some of the men are said to be "thin," though not "emaciated." In Chhattisgarh the Commissioner states that signs of deterioration had begun to manifest themselves, and is convinced that, though the general physical condition of the people is distinctly good, relief was not begun a day too soon. In Nagpur it is said that what little deterioration had been observed at the beginning is now disappearing. The death-rates given in column 16 of Statement A are those for September, the rates for October not being yet available. There is no sign of any unusual mortality, nor is it expected that October's returns will show any marked increase. At the same time if proof were wanted of the absolute necessity for the extensive measures of relief now in operation it may be found in the crime returns. At the beginning of October, before relief-works had yet been organised, there were outbreaks in several districts of the "dacoities" or grain-loots which were a marked feature of the early part of the distress of 1896-97. Since the opening of works these have almost entirely ceased, but almost all districts report that petty crime is increasing and is generally largely in excess of the average.

8. In the general situation and prospects there is little change. The hope of a good, or even an average, rabi crop diminishes day by day, but the period within which rain might greatly improve prospects has not yet expired. The violent fluctuations of price which disturbed men's minds in September have ceased; grain has been attracted from outside in large quantities, and prices have generally settled down at a level which they may be expected to maintain for some time.

Enclosure in No. 4.

Monthly Famine Statement A for the four weeks ending Saturday evening, the 28th October, 1899.

District.	1	Area in square miles.	2	Popula- tion in thousands.	3	Affected area in square miles.	4	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Number on Relief Works on last day of month.					Number on Gratuitous Relief.		Price of one or more principal Food-grains in seers per rupee.			Monthly death-rate (per mille per annum) for Sep-tember 1899.	Deaths due to starva- tion.
									Special Class.	Class I.—Diggers.	Class II.—Carriers.	Class III.—Working children.	Total.	As depen- dant's on works.	Other- wise.	Rice.	Gram.	Wheat.		
JUBBULPORE DIVISION.									6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Jubbulpore	...	3,948	748	748	3,948	748	3,948	748	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,332	9	12	10½	2-45	—
Saugor	...	4,007	592	592	4,007	592	4,007	592	56	61	147	62	326	—	11,815	Juar 10½	11	9½	2-02	—
Damoh	...	2,831	325	325	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	137	8½	11½	10	2-01	—
Mandla	...	5,056	339	339	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	14	12½	2-67	—
Seoni	...	3,198	371	371	624	120	624	120	101	470	695	249	1,515	23	1,866	8½	10	11½	2-25	—
Total	...	19,040	2,375	2,375	8,579	1,460	8,579	1,460	157	531	842	311	1,841	23	15,150	—	—	—	—	—
NAGPUR DIVISION.																				
Nagpur	...	3,832	758	758	1,101	142	1,101	142	81	1,079	2,090	174	3,424	79	3,250	8½	Juar 9½	8½	2-80	—
Bhandara	...	3,968	742	742	3,968	742	3,968	742	485	5,630	6,067	2,208	14,390	710	14,280	8	—	—	1-96	—
Balaghat	...	3,164	383	383	3,164	383	3,164	383	603	3,483	12,639	2,958	19,683	545	25,463	8½	—	8	2-47	—
Chanda	...	10,749	697	697	10,000	640	10,000	640	692	6,109	14,439	2,555	23,795	1,664	13,073	7	Juar 10	7½	2-14	—
Wardha	...	2,428	400	400	2,428	400	2,428	400	73	714	1,645	344	2,776	202	9,971	—	Juar 10	—	2-77	—
Total	...	24,141	2,980	2,980	20,661	2,307	20,661	2,307	1,934	17,015	36,880	8,239	64,068	3,200	66,037	—	—	—	—	—

Monthly Famine Statement A for the four weeks ending Saturday evening, the 28th October, 1899.—continued.

District.	Area in square miles.	Popula- tion in thousands	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated popula- tion in thousands of column 4.	Number on Relief Works on last day of month.					Number on Gratuitous Relief.		Price of one or more principal Food-grains in seers per rupee.			Monthly death-rate (per mille annum) for Sep- tember 1899.	Deaths due to starva- tion.
					Special Class.	Class I.— Diggers.	Class II.— Carriers.	Class III.— Working children.	Total.	As depen- dants on works.	Other- wise.	Rice.	Gram.	Wheat.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
NERBUDDA DIVISION.																
Hoshangabad ...	4,024	499	4,024	499	169	1,454	4,312	1,002	6,937	736	9,511	7½	9½	9½	1.98	—
Narsinghpur ...	1,916	367	916	101	49	194	839	338	1,420	—	3,357	7¾	—	9	2.56	—
Nimar ...	3,928	285	3,928	285	123	479	1,124	280	2,006	801	1,908	Juar 8½	9	7½	3.23	—
Chhindwara ...	4,630	407	2,701	204	109	1,036	646	362	2,153	401	—	10	—	9	2.59	—
Betul ...	3,824	323	3,824	323	781	5,576	1,857	2,945	21,159	2,252	30,078	9½	—	8½	2.46	—
Total ...	18,322	1,881	15,393	1,412	1,231	8,739	18,778	4,927	33,675	4,190	44,854	—	—	—	—	—
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.																
Raipur ...	11,724	1,584	5,530	1,392	1,263	8,886	30,958	7,852	48,959	—	27,658	9½	—	9½	1.99	—
Bilaspur ...	8,341	1,164	4,336	846	117	10,158	17,120	2,645	30,040	689	23,086	10	—	10	1.67	—
Sambalpur ...	4,948	796	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.93	—
Total ...	25,013	3,544	9,866	2,238	1,380	19,044	48,078	10,497	78,999	689	50,744	—	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTAL ...	86,516	10,780	54,499	7,417	4,702	45,329	104,578	23,974	178,583	8,102	176,785	—	—	—	2.20	—

Monthly Famine Statement B for the four weeks ending Saturday, the 28th October, 1899—concluded.

District.	Maximum number for whom relief is estimated to be required in case of serious famine. (Omitting 000's).	Number for whom relief was provided in last programme of Relief Works (i.e., average daily number for three months). (Omitting 000's.)			Number for whom relief can be provided by works remaining on programme on date of report (i.e., average daily number for three months) (a). (Omitting 000's).			Expenditure since April 1st, 1899. (b.)			Advances since April 1st up to end of month under report. (c.)				Revenue suspended or remitted.
		Date of last programme.	On large works (P.W.D. Schedule A).	Others.	On large works (P.W.D. Schedule A).	Others.	Date up to which account is made up.	Rupees (omitting 000's).		Land Improvement Act.	Famine Loans.	Agricultural Loans Act.			
								On Relief Works.	On gratuitous relief.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
NERBUDDA DIVISION.															
Hoshangabad	79½	1 April 1900.	62	8	62	8	28 Oct., 1899.	5	5	—	—	14	—	—	
Narsinghpur	24	"	46	2	46	2	"	1	7	1	—	25	—	—	
Nimar	23½	"	53	1	53	1	"	2	10	—	—	3	—	—	
Chhindwara	29	"	106	9	106	9	"	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	
Betal	127	"	100	7	99	7	"	62	55	1	—	4	—	—	
Total	283	—	367	27	366	27	—	72	77	2	—	51	—	—	
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.															
Raipur	194	1 April 1900.	191	28	191	28	28 Oct., 1899.	26	27	—	—	20	—	—	
Bilaspur	190	"	114	40	114	40	"	16	36	—	—	33	—	—	
Sambalpur	56	"	53	9	53	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	440	—	358	77	358	77	—	42	63	—	—	53	—	—	
GRAND TOTAL	1,299½	—	1,579	193	1,570	193	—	173½	263½	9½	—	332½	—	—	

Summary of the remarks in the District Reports accompanying monthly Famine Statements A and B for the month of October, 1899.

JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

1. *Area under Relief.*—The whole of the Saugor and Jubbulpore Districts and a fifth of the Seoni District are now shown as affected.

2. *Private Relief.*—Private charity, if showing no expansion, does not appear to have as yet been curtailed. In the towns a number of professional beggars daily receive a dole of grain at certain houses. But this is usual at all times. The dole is only a handful, and is of course insufficient for maintenance. Steps have been taken to prevent this distribution from acting as an attraction to beggars from outside.

3. *Village Relief.*—Village relief is given on a considerable scale in the Saugor District, where there are over 10,000 recipients. It has been organized throughout the rice and kodon-growing areas of Jubbulpore and the rice area of Seoni, but numbers are as yet not considerable. It is granted on a very small scale in parts of the Mandla and Damoh Districts, being confined to local areas in which the rice crop almost wholly failed.

4. *Civil Kitchens.*—The number of kitchens as yet opened is :—

Saugor ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Damoh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Jubbulpore ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Seoni ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

The numbers resorting to them are :—

		Adults.	Children.
Saugor ...	...	208	889
Damoh ...	...	15	103
Jubbulpore ...	...	40	324
Seoni ...	...	46	310

The proportion of adults is rather high in Saugor, and may be taken as indicating that people are really hard-pressed there.

5. *Public Works Department Relief-works.*—During the last week of the month or at the commencement of the current month two Public Works Department relief works were opened in Saugor, two in Jubbulpore and one in Seoni. Up to the date of these reports numbers were considerable only on the Seoni work, which showed 1,538 workers and dependants. Attendance has since risen to over 5,000, and on one of the Jubbulpore works there are now over 3,000 persons.

6. *Civil Relief-works.*—Two village tank works have been opened in the Saugor District, on the Bundelkhand border. Grass-cutting as a relief work has been started at two places in the Saugor and at two places in the Seoni District.

7. *Poorhouse Relief.*—No poorhouses have as yet been opened.

8. *Physical Condition of the People.*—The physical condition of the people is generally good. I have just learnt that those flocking to the Public Works Department work in Seoni show no outward traces of distress. The impression I have gathered from my recent tours is that the physical condition of the poorest classes is least satisfactory in the Saugor District. Village relief reaches its largest extension there.

9. *Deaths, if any, from Starvation.*—No deaths from starvation have been reported. Nor do I believe that any has occurred.

10. *Food-stocks.*—The impression I have gathered in conversation with grain-dealers is that save, perhaps, in the Saugor and part of the Damoh District, stocks are by no means depleted. Last rabi harvest gave but a poor outturn. But hardly any of the produce was exported. The rice tract of Seoni, which exported largely, enjoyed a very good harvest. The condition of the water-supply is causing serious anxiety in some tracts.

11. *Importation of Grain.*—The grain trade of Jubbulpore has changed in current and is now an import trade. There was a net import of 45,000 maunds during the month. Grain is being imported into Saugor, but in small quantities. It is still being exported from Seoni.

12. *General Condition and Prospects.*—The rice crop is practically a total failure save in parts of Damoh and Mandla. In Jubbulpore and part of Seoni the small millets have also failed. Juar has grown high in Damoh and Saugor, but is only expected to yield a small return, as few grains are forming in the heads. Cotton and *til* are yielding well. The rabi sowings cover a larger area than was anticipated, though they are very short in Jubbulpore. Germination has been on the whole satisfactory. But the wheat is reported to be withering.

13. *Rates of Wages.*—The rates in force are :—

	Seers per rupee.	
	For Village Relief.	For Public Works, Department works.
Saugor	11	11
Jubbulpore	12½	12½
Seoni	16	10½

I have ordered the raising of the rate for village relief in Seoni.

14. *State of Crime.*—In Saugor and Damoh petty crime has not increased since the month preceding. Elsewhere it has increased considerably. It is everywhere greatly in excess of the average, the excess being 60 per cent. in Saugor and Jubbulpore and over 100 per cent. in the other three districts.

J. B. FULLER,
Commissioner.

NAGPUR DIVISION.

1. *Area Affected.*—The whole of the Balaghat, Bhandara and Wardha Districts, and practically the whole of Chanda, is affected. No figures were reported by the Deputy Commissioner, Wardha, last month because "no measures for the relief of distress were either sanctioned or undertaken in this district." The area shown by the Deputy Commissioner, Chanda, last month as affected has been repeated, but relief was found necessary in the Zamindaris during October. In Nagpur the area affected has increased from 76 to 1,101 square miles: Village Works and relief have been started in the Umrer in addition to the Ramtek Tahsil, under relief last month. The Deputy Commissioner has also asked for the extension of village relief to the Nagpur Tahsil. He has been called on for further information.

2. *Private Relief.*—In Chanda the well-to-do have ceased to feed the poor, apparently because Government relief is being effectively extended. In Balaghat no schemes of private relief have ever been attempted. In the remaining districts some little relief is afforded in the way of kitchens, and tank and other works undertaken by private individuals.

3. *Village Relief.*—Village relief is being given throughout the Balaghat, Bhandara and Wardha Districts, while in Chanda it was given in Chanda, Warora and Brahmapuri Tahsils and in many of the Zamindaris, and in Nagpur it was extended to the Umrer Tahsil, having been started in the Ramtek Tahsil in the preceding month. A comparison of columns 11 and 12 of Statement A for September and October will convey the best idea of the relief given in this form. There has been a considerable expansion as compared with the preceding month, and this concurrently with the opening of relief works under the Public Works Department. But the latter were not started till about the middle of October and thereafter, and there may possibly be a fall in November in the numbers gratuitously relieved.

The Deputy Commissioner, Chanda, writes :—

"I am inclined to think that relief in Brahmapuri may be too lavish, but I will soon reach the tahsil and be in a better position to judge. People may be worse off than I think, and so I have only written a warning letter to the Charge Officers and not a positive order."

4. *Kitchens.*—The number of kitchens has increased from 7* to 9 in Nagpur, from (not stated) to 125 in Bhandara, from 4 to 24 in Chanda, from (not stated) to 21 in Wardha, from 30 to 51 in Balaghat. While the Deputy Commissioner, Chanda, states that they were resorted to "by low-caste people," the Deputy Commissioner, Bhandara, reports that they are largely patronised and that it is found difficult to secure a cook at whose hands all castes resorting to the kitchens would eat. The Deputy Commissioner, Nagpur, states that there was an influx of people at kitchens from about the middle of the month, and the Deputy Commissioner, Wardha, reports that they are gradually becoming popular. Although in Balaghat the number increased from 30 to 51, the number fed rose from 4,823 to 5,577 only.

5. *Relief Works.*—(a) Under the Public Works Department.—Relief works under the Public Works Departments were started in all the districts of the Division during the month. The localities at, and the dates, from which they were opened are given below :—

Locality.	Date.
Nagpur—	
1. Deolapur	15th October.
Bhandara—	
1. Khairlanji	15th October.
2. Dongri	do.
3. Sakoli	do.
4. Saongi	do.
Chanda—	
1. Chimur	15th October.
2. Mul	do.
3. Talodhi	do.
4. Garchiroli	do.
Wardha—	
1. Selu	21st October
2. Talaigaon	28th do.
Balaghat—	
1. Jhangal	15th October.
2. Kirnapur	do.
3. Katangi	do.
4. Lamtha	do.
5. Waraseoni	do.
6. Bansuli	do.

* Of these one was closed owing to the opening of a Public Works Department relief works, so that 3 more kitchens (in the Umrer Tahsil) were opened in October.

In all, 17 works have been started in the Division from the middle of the month and thereafter. These works consist mainly of stone-breaking, with some earthwork in Balaghat. With the exception of two works in the Behir Tahsil of the Balaghat District, which entirely failed to attract labour, all the others have drawn a large or fairly large number of labourers. In the more thickly-populated parts of Chanda and Bhandara the camps have been so rushed that overflow camps have been or will be formed in the current month. The Deputy Commissioners, Bhandara and Balaghat, report that the "Intermediate" system is working well.

(b) Village Works.—It is only in the Nagpur and Chanda Districts that Village Works have been started—in a town (Kalmeshwar) and four villages in the Nagpur District and in seven villages in the Chanda District. As the relief works started in the Chanda District are at some distance from the greater portion of those living in the Ghot pargana and in the neighbouring Zamindaris, some Village Works have been started in the above areas also, and as many of the tanks in this part were repaired last famine, the Deputy Commissioner experiences a difficulty in finding suitable work. The Deputy Commissioner, Bhandara, writes :—

"Although several Village Works have been started since the 29th October, only five had been begun on that date."

Four works have been sanctioned for the Wardha District, and these will be started in the second week of November. A scheme of Village Works for the Balaghat District is under preparation, while a couple of private works have been undertaken by malguzars.

6. *Poorhouse Relief*.—No poorhouses have been opened in any of the districts, as there appears to be no need for them as yet.

7. *Physical Condition of the People*.—What little deterioration in the physical condition of the people might have been noticed here and there at the beginning of the distress, is disappearing since the timely dispensing of famine relief.

8. *Deaths from Starvation*.—No deaths from starvation are reported from any of the districts.

9. *Food-stocks*.—All District Officers report that up to the present food-stocks are ample or fairly sufficient. The only difficulty complained of, is that malguzars and dealers will not sell, and the Deputy Commissioner, Chanda, thinks it will be necessary to purchase Rangoon rice from Nagpur or Warora for his Village Works and for paupers in the Zamindaris and the Brahmapuri Tahsil.

10. *Importation of Grain*.—Large quantities of rice have been imported into all the districts from Bengal, Burma and the Chhattisgarh Division. In addition, wheat has been imported into Nagpur, Bhandara and Chanda, as also juar into the two last-named districts. Some mahua has been imported into the Umrer Tahsil into the Nagpur District from Chanda. The result has been to bring down prices.

11. *General Condition and Prospects of Affected Areas*.—Prospects which were described last month as far from satisfactory may be said to be looking gloomier. In Nagpur the juar and in Bhandara both the rice and juar crops are practically complete failures. In Chanda the juar has been considerably damaged by the drought, and the continued absence of rain in Balaghat throughout the month has caused considerable deterioration to all standing kharif crops. Fears are entertained in all districts as regards the fate of the rabi crops also. The Deputy Commissioner, Wardha, states that the condition of the tenants is at present worse than that of labourers, and the former will soon, like the latter, have to resort to relief works. Added to the above, there is a scarcity of water generally and of fodder in some districts, and the cutting of grass, either for home consumption or to meet requirements elsewhere, is affording another means of relief to the people. The following quotation from the Deputy Commissioner,

Balaghat, gives a fairly accurate description of the general outlook of the famine :—

"Even under the most favourable conditions, scarcity must last for a full twelve months until the next kharif crop is harvested with only a slight and temporary lull, if next year's rains be favourable for agricultural operations during July and August. The cultivators will be too poor to employ outside labour where it can possibly be avoided, and except during the transplanting seasons it seems improbable that any large number of agricultural labourers will be employed. As regards the extent of the famine, it is certainly likely to increase, and more rapidly than was the case in 1896-97, when the kharif did not fail so completely, so that the period of maximum intensity is likely to be reached sooner than in 1897 (when it was in May) and to last longer."

12. *Changes in the Rates of Wages*.—District Officers have differently understood this heading. While the Deputy Commissioners, Bhandara and Wardha, understand it as referring to the grain rates at which wages are paid at relief camps, the others are under the impression that it refers to the wages that can be earned by the labouring classes in the market of private labour. It is understood that the latter is meant, but clear instructions are required.

13. *Other Matters, e.g., State of Crime, &c.*—An increase in offences against property is reported from Balaghat and Wardha, and from Nagpur petty grain thefts in the Ramtek and Umrer Tahsils, the affected area of the district. Most of the Balaghat cases are of a trivial nature. On the other hand the Deputy Commissioners, Chanda and Bhandara, report that grain-looting cases, which were numerous in September and at the beginning of October respectively, decreased considerably by the end of October, apparently due to the opening of relief works. The Deputy Commissioner, Wardha, also reports organized dacoities from the Berar side, regarding which he has addressed the Berar authorities. Report about this has been called for.

14. *General Remarks for the Division*.—Of the situation generally it may be said that the harvest prospects, both kharif and rabi, grow steadily worse with the continued absence of rain. In answer no doubt to the sudden rise of prices to famine point at the beginning of the month, grain has poured in from the East, and this has markedly relieved the situation. Relief in its three principal forms—public works, kitchens, and village relief—has been rapidly developed, and that the distress has been met in time is shown by the fact that the four principal indications of suffering, *viz.*, wandering, general emaciation, increase of crime, and a rise in mortality, are almost entirely absent.

W. A. NEDHAM,
Officiating Commissioner.

NERBUDDA DIVISION.

1. *Expansion of Area under Relief*.—During October it became necessary to give relief through a much more extended area than at the end of the previous month, and by the end of October the whole of the districts of Hoshadgabad, Nimar, and Betul may be said to have become affected. In Betul only a small portion of the district remained unaffected at the end of September. This has now been brought under relief. In Hoshangabad distress is severe in the western half of the district, and slight on the eastern half. In Nimar the Harsud Tahsil is badly affected. The two other tahsils are at present but slightly affected, but distress has made its appearance here and there throughout them. In Narsinghpur the affected area now comprises a strip along the western border which in the previous month was unaffected. In Chhindwara, where no relief was given in September the necessity for commencing relief measures has arisen, though the affected area is at present confined to two circles of the Chhindwara Tahsil and to two small isolated tracts in the Sausar Tahsil.

2. *Private Relief*.—The only measure of organized private relief, which has been reported, is the establishment of a cheap grain shop at Burhanpur in the Nimar District, which is naturally much appreciated by the poorer inhabitants.