

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1267

DATED 6th Mar

[Despatch Abstract.]

Copy to the Board of Revenue Letter from
the Govt. of India and requesting that a draft memorandum
on the lines indicated therein may be prepared
and forwarded to the Govt. of India at an early date

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
1003	57		10-9-96				
484	177		15-5-97				

Revenue (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 177

St 173

Shelton. Mr. J. R. C. P. R.
 Other Secy. the Governor
 (for information)

Order min No. 12674/6th Mar 1897.
 3/3/97

From

The Dy. Sec^y to the Gov^t of India,
 Rev: and agri: Dept

I cannot find that a forecast is called for in G.O. 628 16.11.96. Would it not be more correct to

communicated to say: "Draft memorandum on the lines indicated should be

the Board of Rev. ~~prepared and forwarded to Govt. 122-1~~
 "submitted at an early date" ? A. 54 5.3.97

forecast called
 for in G.O. 628⁺ should be
 16-11-96
 submitted at once

Dated 24th Feb: 1897

Received } 24th March. 97

Registered }

Enclosures 3

Spare copies

SU BJECT.

Forwarding copies of reports regard-
 ing famine and requesting that a
 forecast on the lines of these reports
 may be submitted at an early
 date.

W. B. R. S. K. (with encs).
 Dis-10-3.97

c. 2/3/97.
 R. 5/3/97.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

AGRICULTURE—No. 447Agri. (Fam.).

CALCUTTA, THE 16TH FEBRUARY 1897.

FROM M. FINUCANE, Esq.,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. ^{447-F.}₇₋₃, dated the 6th February 1897, on the subject of estimates of expenditure on famine-relief in Bengal, and in reply to submit the following forecast, in which the opportunity has been taken to show the present extent of distress and the probability of its spreading over other tracts.

2. With my letter No. 5259Agri., dated the 16th December 1896, reporting on famine-relief in the Patna Division, and on the prospects of crops and probability of distress in the other Divisions of Bengal, a Memorandum, drawn up by Mr. Bourdillon, was submitted for the information of the Government of India, showing the numbers which were then considered likely to need relief in the Patna Division, and the probable cost of relieving them. This estimate did not, however, include various items of famine-relief administration. Mr. Bourdillon, therefore, subsequently revised it on the 21st December 1896. A copy of the later Memorandum is herewith enclosed for the information of the Government of India. When it was drawn up relief operations had only recently been commenced in the Patna Division, and the situation in other Divisions was not such as to render it possible for any forecasts to be prepared of the areas and the numbers likely to be affected, and of the probable expenditure on famine-relief under different heads. Another estimate, dated the 19th January 1897, has therefore been obtained from the Commissioner of the Patna Division, and I am directed now to submit a copy of it, together with a tabular statement showing the requirements of that and other Divisions of Bengal. The figures in this statement are based on the estimates furnished by local officers which, after such modification as Government was, with the information then before it, able to make, were sent to the Accountant-General, Bengal, on the 20th January 1897. These are the figures referred to in your letter of the 6th instant above quoted. Alterations necessitated by later information are now made in them. In revising the estimates submitted by the local officers, the Lieutenant-Governor has kept in view the desire of the Government of India to be informed of only the least amounts that are probable, and not the maximum possible amounts likely to be required.

3. It has not been found possible to divide the estimates now submitted under the several heads laid down in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Finance and Commerce Department Resolution No. 5299A., dated the 16th December 1896. The three main heads of the present estimates approved by the Lieutenant-Governor are as follows:—

(a) *Relief works and gratuitous relief.*—The requirements of the Patna Division have been estimated by Mr. Bourdillon in the manner shown in his Memorandum, dated the 19th January 1897, by taking the total number of persons to be relieved for one day and multiplying it by the estimated average cost per head per diem. This estimate, therefore, represents the anticipated expenditure on gratuitous relief, and relief works to be conducted by the Public Works Department as well as by Civil Officers. In the accounts the actual expenditure incurred will be shown under respective heads, as required by the Finance and Commerce Department Resolution above quoted.

(b) *Advances for village relief-works.*—These advances are to be given without interest under the modified rules under the Land Improvement Loans

Act, XIX of 1883, a copy of which was submitted to the Government of India with my letter No. 126Fam., dated the 16th January 1897. The works on which these advances are to be spent, will consist of the excavation of tanks and other petty village works intended to give employment to labourers who would otherwise come on to the Government relief works, and it is provided in the rules that if the work is carried out to the satisfaction of the Collector, one-third of the advance will be remitted.

(c) *Bounties for digging wells.*—The amount entered under this head refers to the contribution of one rupee for each *kutch* well, sanctioned in paragraph 12 of this Government's Resolution No. 5133Agri., dated the 10th December 1896, and is now put down at one lakh of rupees for the Patna Division. Small sums have been provided under this head for certain other Divisions in the present estimates.

The estimate of the local officers include another head, viz., advances for grain and cattle, the total amounts provided under which are Rs. 97,000 for 1896-97 and Rs. 13,72,000 for 1897-98. Such advances are given under the Agriculturists Loans Act, XII of 1884, and provision for them ought to be made in the ordinary Loans Budget; but that budget, so far as the Bengal Government was concerned, having been closed, a provision of Rs. 10,00,000 (ten lakhs) made for the Patna Division under the head in question, was included in the estimates furnished to the Accountant-General on the 20th January. A reference on this subject will be made to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, and if it is found necessary to provide any amount in excess of the provisions already made in the Loans Budget to meet the requirements of distressed tracts, a further application will be made to the Government of India.

The following paragraphs deal with the estimates of each Division separately:—

4. *Patna Division.*—Mr. Bourdillon's estimate relates to the four districts of North Bihar, where failure of crops has been greatest, and the consequent distress is most widespread. In South Bihar prospects in the district of Gaya continue excellent, and distress is not at present apprehended in that district. In Patna an area of 229 square miles, with a population of 420,000 persons, is still regarded as affected by scarcity, and distress has lately been declared to exist in an area of 400 square miles, with an estimated population of 11,500 persons, in the Bhabhua subdivision of the district of Shahabad, although the recent rainfall, amounting to 35 inches, is reported to have materially improved the prospects of the *rabi* crops. In Shahabad two other areas aggregating 280 square miles, with a total population of 29,000, in the Sasaram subdivision, are likely to be affected. On the whole, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that any relief operations which may be found necessary in the districts of Patna and Shahabad will not be on such a scale as to require the provision of funds by Government other than what is provided for North Bihar. The District Boards are in a position to meet the greater part of the cost under the head of relief works in these districts.

5. As regards North Bihar, Mr. Bourdillon, in his first Memorandum, submitted to the Government of India with my letter No. 5259Agri., dated the 16th December 1897, following the principles laid down in the Famine Commission's report, estimated the numbers likely to require relief gratuitously and on relief works by taking 8 per cent. of the total population of the areas affected or likely to be affected, except in the case of Champaran, for which he reduced the percentage to 5. On this basis he estimated the numbers to be as follows:—

DISTRICT.	DECEMBER.		JANUARY.		FEBRUARY.		MARCH.		Total numbers for the four months in terms of one day.
	Daily number.	Total number for the month.	Daily number.	Total number for the month.	Daily number.	Total number for the month.	Daily number.	Total number for the month.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Saran	...	...	53,266	1,597,980	53,266	1,597,980	53,266	1,597,980	4,793,940
Champaran	13,570	407,100	53,266	1,597,980	53,266	1,597,980	53,266	1,597,980	4,793,940
Muzaffarpur	...	...	132,800	3,984,000	132,800	3,984,000	132,800	3,984,000	11,952,000
Darbhanga	...	...	137,600	4,128,000	137,600	4,128,000	137,600	4,128,000	13,602,000
Total	13,570	407,100	376,702	11,301,000	376,702	11,301,000	376,702	11,301,000	34,403,200

From April to the end of September the total numbers, given in Mr. Bourdillon's Memorandum, were as follows:—

	Daily number.	Total numbers for the six months in terms of one day.
Saran	53,266	9,587,880
Champaran	73,463	13,223,340
Muzaffarpur	161,028	28,985,040
Darbhanga	196,000*	34,836,000
Total	483,757	86,632,260

Taking one anna per head per diem as the probable cost, he estimated the total cost in round numbers from December 1896 to September 1897 at Rs. 76,90,000. His first estimate was for relief works and gratuitous relief, and, as already observed, did not include any other items.

In his second Memorandum of 21st December 1896, Mr. Bourdillon proceeded on the same principles, and estimated the total cost of relief works and gratuitous relief at Rs. 77,70,000, the difference of Rs. 80,000 between this and the previous estimate being due to the area likely to be affected in Saran having been raised from 766 to 880 square miles, and the daily numbers from 53,266 to 58,376. In his second Memorandum, Mr. Bourdillon submitted estimates under three additional heads as noted on the margin, which, added to the estimate for relief works and gratuitous relief, brought the total estimated cost of famine relief in the Patna Division up to Rs. 94,70,000.

In his third and final Memorandum, dated the 19th January 1897, the estimates of numbers have been made on the assumption that the features of the famine of 1873-74 will repeat themselves. The actual numbers on relief works during that year have been taken month by month, and the ratios which they bore to the population of the district and to the total relieved have been applied to the population of the present day. But as relief was overdone in 1873-74, an allowance based on conjecture has been made in the case of each district, and to the figures thus reduced 20 per cent. has been added as representing the numbers likely to require gratuitous relief. In the case of Champaran, Mr. Bourdillon adds that, on further consideration, he thinks that his first estimate (framed on the basis of 5 per cent. of the total population) was too low.

The following comparative statement shows the numbers relieved and the expenditure incurred in North Bihar in 1873-74, and the estimates for the present season, as previously and now submitted by the Commissioner:—

DISTRICT.	NUMBERS IN TERMS OF ONE DAY—			EXPENDITURE—				
	Relieved in 1873-74.	Previous estimate by the Commissioner.	Present estimate by the Commissioner.	In 1873-74.	Previous estimate by the Commissioner.	Present estimate by the Commissioner.		
						Financial year, 1896-97.	Financial year, 1897-98.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Saran	35,647,384	14,881,820	25,000,000	31,63,939	8,98,863	3,12,500	13,50,000	15,62,500
Champaran	17,187,600	19,183,600	25,000,000	16,30,966	11,90,287	4,90,375	11,72,125	16,62,500
Muzaffarpur	33,970,772	40,987,040	35,000,000	2,81,372	25,54,565	4,37,500	17,50,000	21,87,500
Darbhanga	78,743,304	49,628,000	60,000,000	61,64,319	30,43,000	10,37,500	28,12,500	38,50,000
Total for relief works and gratuitous relief.	171,548,960	123,035,460	145,000,000	1,36,30,896	76,89,715	22,77,875	60,84,625	92,62,500
Advances for village works	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,00,000	5,00,000	8,00,000
Advances for grain and cattle	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,00,000	10,00,000	10,00,000
Bounties for wells	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26,77,875	84,84,625	1,11,62,500
GRAND TOTAL	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
* 1,81,200 for six months from April to September						...	32,616,000	...
14,800 from May to September						...	2,220,000	...
						...	34,836,000	...

The Commissioner's present estimates, based on the assumption that relief will be required till the end of September at 1 anna per head per diem, show an increase of about 22,000,000 in the total number of persons to be relieved for one day, and of about Rs. 15,73,000 in the total estimated cost of relief works and gratuitous relief. Mr. Bourdillon, however, observes that if the outturn of the *rabi* crop is good and if the monsoon rains fall early and are seasonable, the numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief will fall rapidly from the end of June, and may not increase much after the 1st April. The figures, shown in column 4 of the table above, are therefore intended by the Commissioner as outside figures.

6. The following table shows the actuals of numbers and cost under the head of relief works and gratuitous relief for the months of December and January:—

DISTRICT.	NUMBERS IN TERMS OF ONE DAY.			COST.		
	December 1896.	January 1897.	Total.	December 1896.	January 1897.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Saran ...	27,509	303,854	331,363	Rs. 1,860	Rs. 23,903	Rs. 25,763
Champan ...	380,318	2,458,603	2,838,921	24,753	1,53,638	1,78,391
Muzaffarpur ...	3,117	200,956	204,073	650	13,954	14,604
Darbhang ...	1108,353	2,456,575	2,564,928	6,903	1,50,424	1,57,327
Total ...	619,297	5,419,988	6,039,285	34,108	3,41,919	3,76,025

It will be observed that the actual numbers in Champan are far in excess of the Commissioner's estimates given in the first table in paragraph 5 above, while in Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga they are, for January, far less. The total actual numbers for the two months, December and January, in terms of one day, amount to 5,939,290, against 11,708,160, as estimated in Mr. Bourdillon's first Memorandum, and the actual cost is Rs. 3,76,025, against Rs. 7,31,760, arrived at according to his estimate.

The following table shows approximately the daily numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief in the four northern districts of Bihar in 1873-74, month by month from December, and the corresponding numbers for the months of December, January and February of the present year:—

Number shown in thousands.

DISTRICT.	DECEMBER.		JANUARY.		FEBRUARY.		MARCH.	APRIL.	MAY.	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SEPTEMBER.	REMARKS.
	Number in 1873-74.	Average for the month in the current season.	Number in 1873-74.	Average for the month in the current season.	Number in 1873-74.	Actual number on 6th February 1897.	Number in 1873-74.	Number in 1873-74.	Number in 1873-74.	Number in 1873-74.	Number in 1873-74.	Number in 1873-74.	Number in 1873-74.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Saran ...	...	1	20	10	87	29	107	167	230	229	148	119	106	The Champan figures for 1873-74 do not include the numbers on gratuitous relief, as they are not clearly given in the records.
Champan ...	5	13	12	82	25	116	53	83	194	80	73	9	2	
Muzaffarpur ...	1	1	1	7	13	22	65	182	345	323	173	137	53	
Darbhang ...	...	4	8	62	45	139	251	676	605	440	258	256	121	
Total ...	6	19	36	181	170	356	476	10,08	13,70	10,78	652	521	282	

It will be observed that the numbers in December, January and February of the present year are far in excess of the numbers for the corresponding months of 1873-74, the actual numbers in receipt of Government relief on the 6th of February being 356,000, against 170,000 in February 1874. If the numbers should increase in the coming hot weather and rains in anything like the same proportion as they did in 1873-74, when in May they reached a maximum of 1,370,000, and were more than eight times those of February of

that year, they in May of the present year would be overwhelming, being 2,850,000, and for the subsequent months would be as follows:—

June	...	...	2,136,000
July	...	...	1,424,000
August	...	...	1,068,000
September	...	...	7,12,000

Mr. Bourdillon, in his Memorandum of 21st December 1896, estimated the maximum numbers in May and subsequent months at 489,000.

Looking to the present numbers and those of 1873-74, and having regard to the facts that the extent of crop failure in the present year closely approximates to that of 1873-74, that prices are higher, and that the *rabi* crop of 1874 was a fairly good one, though not as good as that of the present year is expected to be, and that the population has largely increased since 1873-74, the Lieutenant-Governor can feel no assurance that Mr. Bourdillon's figures will not be largely exceeded. Inasmuch as the pinch of distress was, owing to high prices, felt this year at an earlier period than in 1873-74, and as, on that account, a larger proportion of those who are likely to feel the distress will probably have come on to relief works at an earlier period than in the year 1873-74, His Honour hopes that the numbers in March and April and subsequent months will not increase in anything like the same proportion as in 1873-74. The numbers in Saran may continue to be moderate, but a large increase is inevitable in Champan and Darbhanga, and particularly in Muzaffarpur. Sir Alexander Mackenzie hopes, however, that the daily numbers on relief works and gratuitous relief in the four districts, taken together, may not exceed those shown below:—

February	...	...	400,000
March	...	...	500,000
April	...	...	600,000
May	...	...	750,000
June	...	...	600,000
July	...	...	400,000
August	...	...	300,000
September	...	...	200,000

Estimating on this basis for the coming months, taking the actuals up to the end of January, and allowing $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, the rate given in your present letter as the probable average cost per head, the estimates for the two years excluding the cost of establishments, &c., stand as follows:—

1896-97.		Rs.
Actual expenditure up to the end of January in round numbers	3,76,000	
Total numbers in terms of one day for February and March—		
2,67,00,000* at $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per head	...	22,25,000
Total	...	26,01,000

1897-98.		
Total numbers in terms of one day from April to September—		
Rs. 8,69,50,000† at $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per head, in round numbers	...	72,46,000

GRAND TOTAL ... 98,47,000

February	...	4,00,000 × 28 = 1,12,00,000
March	...	5,00,000 × 31 = 1,55,00,000
Total	...	2,67,00,000
† April	...	6,00,000 × 30 = 1,80,00,000
May	...	7,50,000 × 31 = 2,32,50,000
June	...	6,00,000 × 30 = 1,80,00,000
July	...	4,00,000 × 31 = 1,24,00,000
August	...	3,00,000 × 31 = 93,00,000
September	...	2,00,000 × 30 = 60,00,000
Total	...	8,69,50,000

As the numbers above given are the estimated total numbers likely to be on relief works or on the gratuitous relief lists, the estimated cost includes the advances to be given for village relief works undertaken by private individuals, which will employ labourers who would otherwise come on to the Government relief works. It being anticipated that a sum of Rs. 1,74,000 this year and Rs. 2,85,000 in 1897-98 will be available from the funds of the District Boards, the net expenditure to be borne by Government in the Patna Division as above estimated is—

	1896-97.	1897-98.	Total.
1	2	3	4
Relief works and gratuitous relief	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Advances for village works	21,27,000	64,61,000	85,88,000
Bounties for wells	3,00,000	5,00,000	8,00,000
	1,00,000	.....	1,00,000
Total	25,27,000	69,61,000	94,88,000

7. With regard to the Patna Division, it is observed in paragraph 3 of your letter that the numbers on gratuitous relief in Darbhanga on the 23rd January 1897 were very large in comparison with the numbers on relief works, and seem to show that the absence of a work test and inaccurate classification reported as existing in this district in my letter No. 118Fam., dated the 15th January 1897, have not yet been remedied, and that so long as such conditions exist, an increasing number of admissions does not necessarily show increasing distress. The Lieutenant-Governor does not think that the temporary disorder which was inevitable in the beginning of the operations, arising from the fact that numbers rushed to relief works far in excess of those of 1873-74, can be taken to indicate absence of distress, for the figures below, subsequently reported, do not show any great reduction in the proportion of the numbers relieved gratuitously.

	On relief works.	On gratuitous relief.	Percentage of column 3 to column 2.
1	2	3	4
30th January	...	...	...
6th February	135,644	55,283	40
	122,276	66,496	54

The numbers on gratuitous relief in Darbhanga are larger than elsewhere, because the organisation for the preparation of village lists was in a more advanced state, because children and weakly persons, who are properly entered on the gratuitous relief lists, were not allowed to be entered as workers when they were unable to do any real work, and also because the local officers, owing to the rush on relief works, were unable to scrutinise the relief lists as closely as they would wish. But the percentage on gratuitous relief in Darbhanga, although large, does not appear from the following figures, published in the *North-Western Provinces Gazette* of 30th January and 6th February,

to be larger than the proportion of gratuitous relief to relief works in those provinces:—

	Relief works.	Other heads.	Percentage of column 3 to column 2.
1	2	3	4
Week ending 27th January	618,355	333,894	54
Ditto 3rd February	729,298	407,698	56

It appears to the Lieutenant-Governor that the amount of task work exacted, and the rate of wage allowed on relief works are the real tests of distress. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has been unable to obtain information as to the tasks exacted and the rates per thousand cubic feet of earthwork allowed in other provinces; but His Honour observes that the rates in Bihar, even at the worst period when discipline was at its weakest, compare not unfavourably with those attained in Bundelkhand last year where there was no doubt of the acuteness of distress, and relief works were admittedly well managed. The comparative figures stand thus:—

Bundelkhand —

Works under the Public Works Department—

Earthwork on roads	...	Rs. 11 per 1,000 c. ft.
" tanks	...	5.40 " "

Works under District Officers—

Earthwork on roads	...	Rs. 12 per 1,000 c. ft.
" tanks and wells	...	" 3 " "

	Week ending 26th December 1896.	Week ending 9th January 1897.	Week ending 23rd January 1897.	Week ending 30th January 1897.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Bihar—				
Saran	3 1 7	2 5 6	2 15 5	2 12 4 per 1,000 c. ft.
Champaran	5 6 3	7 12 4	5 14 8½	4 14 4 " "
Muzaffarpur	1 2 1	1 0 2	1 0 10	1 1 6 " "
Darbhangha	4 3 6	3 6 3	2 9 2	2 14 7 " "

8. *Chota Nagpur Division.*—Since the date of this Government's last report on famine-relief operations, No. 118Fam., dated the 15th January 1897, paragraph 15 of which dealt

Palamau.

with the Chota Nagpur Division, further communications have been received from the local officers, which have materially altered previous anticipations. Distress has shown itself in the district of Palamau, and it is reported that the whole district, comprising 4,912 square miles, with a total population of 596,770, will be affected. It has also been reported that there are signs of failure of the local food-supply. The district is at a great distance from railways, and amongst the local traders there are no substantial men who are able or accustomed to import grain from Calcutta or elsewhere. Efforts have been made by the local officers to induce traders in adjoining districts and Calcutta to send grain to Palamau, which, however, have not yet met with much success. A separate letter on this question has been submitted for the orders of the Government of India.

The Deputy Commissioner estimates that 8 per cent. of the population may come to relief works for 7 months from February to August, and that the cost will be Rs. 1,20,000 in the present and Rs. 5,10,000 during the following year. For advances for village works he estimates that Rs. 50,000 will be required this, and one lakh next year, and Rs. 1,000 for bounties for wells—total Rs. 7,81,000. The Commissioner hesitates to reduce this estimate, but hopes that the expenditure will not amount to more than one-half, or at most, two-thirds of the Deputy Commissioner's estimates, under the head of gratuitous relief and relief-works. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Commissioner in thinking that the Deputy Commissioner's estimates are excessive. The total cash expenditure in Palamau in 1873-74 amounted to

only Rs. 2,03,000. It is impossible with the data available to form anything like an accurate estimate of expenditure. The reported crop outturns are not so bad as in 1873-74, and the numbers at present on relief works, and in receipt of gratuitous relief are, according to a recent report, only 1,700 against 5,000 in the corresponding period of 1873-74. The numbers never rose beyond 25,000 in 1873-74. Assuming that the food-supply in the district does not fail, or that any deficit there may be is supplied under the stimulus suggested in a separate letter No. 381Fau., dated the 11th February 1897, and that the numbers are not artificially swollen by difficulties in procuring grain elsewhere than on Government relief works, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the number for the present month may be taken at 2,500, for March at 5,000, and for the months of April to July at 10,000. On this basis the estimated expenditure on relief works and gratuitous relief would be about Rs. 15,000 this year and Rs. 75,000 in 1897-98; to this being added Rs. 25,000 for subsidies to stimulate importations, the total estimate will stand at Rs. 1,15,000. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the Commissioner's estimates under the head of "Advances for village works" and bounties for wells, except that he would reduce the amount provided under the former head from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 25,000 for 1896-97. The District Board will provide Rs. 15,000 in this and Rs. 10,000, next year, so that the net outlay by Government is estimated at Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 1,66,000 during the two years respectively.

As regards the other districts, except Singhbhum, which is still considered safe, much depends on the success of the *mahua* fruit crop. In Lohardaga scarcity may be felt in a tract known as the Panch Parganas, comprising an area of about 600 square miles, on the eastern edge of the district adjoining Manbhum, with a population of about 120,000. It is reported that the people of the tract are having recourse in an unusual degree to the use of jungle fruits, &c. The population is sparse, and there are extensive forests which constitute a large resource to fall back upon. The Lieutenant-Governor does not think that it will be necessary to provide for any expenditure by Government in this district.

In Hazaribagh the local officers think that if the *mahua* crop fails, one-third of the district, which has an area of 7,021 square miles and a population of 1,164,000, will at once be in a state of famine, but the present estimate for this crop is only something below the average. Apart from this, the high prices, coupled with a short winter rice crop, will probably render relief measures necessary in the thanas noted on the margin. In parts of these thanas the winter rice crop was not above 5 annas, and the Deputy Commissioner thinks that an area of 1,100 square miles, with a population of 140,000, will need relief. For similar reasons tracts in other thanas, aggregating 650 square miles, with a population of 60,000, are considered likely to require assistance, but to a slighter extent. In 1873-74 the total expenditure incurred in this district was, in round numbers, Rs. 1,41,000 in charitable relief and wages on relief works, and Rs. 1,27,000 in loans. On the present occasion the Deputy Commissioner states that the necessity for regular relief measures has not yet been fully proved, but thinks that it will be advisable to provide for the relief of an average of 10,000 persons from 15th April to 15th August, and he estimates the cost of relief works and gratuitous relief at Rs. 1,00,000 at the outside, of which Rs. 30,000 will be supplied by the District Funds. He also estimates that Rs. 50,000 will be required this year, and Rs. 50,000 next year for loans. Having regard to the high prices and the comparatively isolated position of the district, the Commissioner, Mr. Forbes, is inclined to take a more serious view of the position. The Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to think that the District Funds will suffice to meet the wants of the district for relief works, and that Rs. 25,000 this year and Rs. 25,000 next year will be enough for loans for village works.

In my letter of 15th January 1897, it was stated that there was no reason for any apprehension for Manbhum. There can be no doubt that this district is in a much better position now than in 1873-74, although in that year the *mahua* crop gave a very abundant outturn; but it is reported that one-fourth of the population

subsists on the earnings of unskilled labour, and, as these people have no stocks in hand, they will suffer from the high prices now prevailing. Moreover, the outturn of the winter rice, according to a revised estimate, averaged about five annas in thanas Gobindpur, Tundi, Nirsha, Chas and Chandil, comprising 1,280 square miles, with a population of 361,000 persons. With the exception of thana Chandil, this area includes the greater part of the tracts affected in 1873-74. In that year the total expenditure incurred by Government was 14½ lakhs. The present Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Lusson, is of opinion that if the *mahua* crop fails, two-thirds of the district, with a population of about 800,000, will be affected; and taking 8 per cent. as the proportion likely to need relief, and five months as the period of relief, he estimates the cost at 5 lakhs for relief works and gratuitous relief, two lakhs for advances for village works, and two lakhs for wells. Mr. Lusson adds that if the *mahua* crop is a thoroughly good one, these estimates may be reduced by one-half under each head. There is no reason to think that the *mahua* crop will not be a good one, and the Lieutenant-Governor does not apprehend distress on an extensive scale in Manbhum. The District Funds available will probably suffice for relief works in the present year, and His Honour is inclined to think that an allotment of one lakh for relief works and gratuitous relief next year, and of Rs. 10,000 this year and Rs. 73,000 next year for advances for village works will be sufficient for this district.

It will thus be seen that the local estimates of the money required from Government for this Division have been reduced from Rs. 19,41,000 to Rs. 4,50,000.

9. *Presidency Division*.—The districts of the Presidency Division, in which distress exists, are Khulna, Nadia and Jessore.

The worst tract in the district of Khulna comprises thanas Asasuni, Magura and Kaliganj in the Satkhira Subdivision, and a portion of thana Paikgacha in the Sadar Sub-division. The area now affected is 442 square miles, with a population of 262,000 persons, in which relief operations have been in progress since the 16th December 1896; and in an area of 60 square miles, with a population of 46,000, in thanas Satkhira and Magura, distress is apprehended from the middle of March. To these must be added an area of 201 square miles, with a population of 96,000, in thanas Mollahat and Moreganj of the Bagerhat Subdivision, where distress requiring relief measures is considered likely to appear after the close of the current financial year and to continue till September. In the Satkhira and Sadar tract there are practically no *rabi* and *bhadoi* crops, and the local officers think that relief will be required up to the middle of November 1897. Assuming that 8 per cent. of the population will have to be relieved by Government, and the average cost per head per diem will be one anna, the local officers have estimated the total cost of relief works and gratuitous relief at Rs. 5,76,000. Having regard to the fact that, although relief operations are reported to have commenced in the middle of December, the numbers hitherto on relief works and gratuitous relief have been small, and that from the commencement of the rains the numbers will probably diminish, His Honour is of opinion that, for this tract, the District Board Funds will be able to meet the requirements of the present and next year for relief works and gratuitous relief, and that Rs. 50,000 this year and Rs. 50,000 next year will be sufficient for advances for village works.

In the district of Nadia a total area of 528.5 square miles was affected in 1873-74, and the expenditure in grain and cash

		Rs.
Grain 863 tons, at Rs. 110 per ton	...	94,390
Cash	...	3,15,374
Total	...	4,09,764

During the present year the whole of the Kaliganj thana and parts of eight other thanas,* with a total area of 1,076 square miles, are likely to be affected. Allowing for the stricter system now in force, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that, as the area is more than double the distressed area in 1873-74, the expenditure on relief will probably

* Nakashipara.
Teyhatta.
Chapra.
Meherpur.

Gangoi.
Karinapur.
Daulatpur.
Nowpara.

be larger. The total cost estimated by the local officers under this head is Rs. 5,84,000. A sum of Rs. 50,000 has already been granted, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that for the present this amount will be more than sufficient, and that one lakh will suffice for relief works and gratuitous relief and half-a-lakh for advances for village works for 1897-98.

Distress has already made its appearance in a tract of about 106 square miles in thanas Mahammadpur and Magura, in the district of Jessore. Another tract of about 168 square miles in thana Bangaon will, it is reported, shortly be in a similar condition. The total estimate of the local officers under the head of Relief Works and gratuitous Relief is Rs. 1,18,000 (Rs. 48,000 in 1896-97 and Rs. 70,000 in 1897-98), out of which Rs. 19,000 will be provided by the District Board. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the District Board should be able to provide all that is needed for relief works, and that Rs. 10,000 divided equally between the two years will suffice for advances.

Of the remaining districts in the Presidency Division, the Lieutenant-Governor considers the 24-Parganas to be safe so as to require no provision of funds by Government. In the district of Murshidabad there is some probability of distress, especially in the tract which borders on the affected area in the north-west of the district of Nadia. But the estimates of the local officers, given in the statement annexed, and amounting to Rs. 3,70,000, for relief works, gratuitous relief and advances for village works seem to the Lieutenant-Governor to be out of all proportion to the probable requirements of the district. Actual relief operations are not considered likely to be required until the beginning of the next financial year. The District Board is reported to be able to provide Rs. 40,000, and a lakh of rupees will be expended through the Public Works Department on the Bhagwangola retired line of embankment. His Honour does not think it necessary to make any further provision under this head. The Collector asks Rs. 40,000 for advances for village works. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks Rs. 10,000 might be provided for this and Rs. 30,000 for next year.

10. *Orissa Division*.—The estimates as submitted by the Commissioner are shown in the accompanying tabular statement, but he states that he himself has little faith in the figures furnished. The failure of the crops and the high prices render it certain that there will be distress more or less acute in parts of the Division, but no actual distress has yet made its appearance, and there are no sufficient data for the preparation of any reliable estimates of the numbers to be relieved and the cost to be incurred. The Commissioner reports that in Angul and Balasore there will be little more than local scarcity in small isolated areas. In Cuttack distress will, it is thought, begin to manifest itself in March, and will continue till September, when the *beali* or early rice crop is reaped; but from the commencement of the rains most labourers will find employment on ordinary agricultural operations. Puri is the worst district in Orissa, and it is reported that cases of distress have already come to the notice of local officers. In the great Orissa famine of 1866, this was the district where distress first made its appearance in the neighbourhood of the Chilka Lake. The following comparative table shows the estimates communicated by this Government to the Accountant-General, and those since received from the Commissioner:—

	As communicated to the Accountant-General, Bengal.		Estimates now received from the Commissioner.	
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.
1	2	3	4	5
Relief works and gratuitous relief—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
To be met by Government	14,000	4,04,000	73,000	9,21,000
Ditto by the District Boards	78,000	13,000	80,000	82,000
Advances for village works	50,000	1,60,000	.....	1,00,000
Ditto for grain and cattle	.....	.....	.....	2,00,000
Bounties for wells	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	1,42,000	5,86,000	1,53,000	13,13,000

The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the estimates of the local officers are excessive. The District Boards have a sum of Rs. 80,000 available for relief works in the present year and Rs. 92,000 in the year 1897-98. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that it will, for the purposes of budget estimate, be sufficient to provide one lakh for relief works and gratuitous relief in 1897-98 and one lakh for advances for village works.

11. *Bhagalpur Division*.—No distress has yet made its appearance in any of the districts of the Bhagalpur Division. But prices are very high, and there can be little doubt that the poorer classes will soon feel the pinch of distress. The requirements in Purnea, Malda and Monghyr should, in His Honour's opinion, be fully met by such measures as the District Boards are able to take. In the Sonthal Parganas there is no District Board, and distress is likely to be more widespread there than in the other districts above named. The Lieutenant-Governor does not, however, think that relief operations will be necessary before the end of March when the Commissioner apprehends a sudden outbreak of distress as in 1873-74. His Honour is not inclined to accept the provision of Rs. 6,000 made by the local officers for the current year; nor does he consider it necessary to provide funds in the present estimates for the grant of advances in this district. An allotment of Rs. 1,00,000 for relief works and gratuitous relief during 1897-98 will, Lieutenant-Governor hopes be sufficient, and for advances for village works he would provide Rs. 10,000 in the present and Rs. 30,000 in the following year.

In the district of Bhagalpur the total area threatened with scarcity is 1,110 square miles with a population of about 609,500 persons. With the exception of 150 square miles in the Colgong thana south of the Ganges, the whole of the threatened area, comprised in the Madhipura and Supaul subdivisions, lies on the north of the Ganges. Taking 5 per cent. of the total population as the proportion likely to need relief, the Collector estimates 30,475 as the number to be provided for. In the Supaul subdivision a test work has recently been opened, but is not largely attended. It is generally estimated that there will be no need of real relief works until March; and assuming that relief will be required up to the end of September, the Collector (Mr. McIntosh) arrives at 3,270,000 as the total number, to be relieved in terms of one day. The total estimated cost of gratuitous relief and relief works at one anna per head per diem is Rs. 2,04,000, of which Rs. 15,000, to be provided by the District Board, are for the current year, and the remainder, Rs. 1,89,000, for 1897-98, out of which Rs. 50,000 will be available from the Board's funds. Having regard to the fact that in the threatened tracts there are several estates belonging to wealthy landholders who have expressed their willingness to undertake relief measures, the Lieutenant-Governor does not think it necessary for Government to make budget provision for more than a lakh of rupees in 1897-98. The estimates of the local officers also provide Rs. 10,000 for the current year and Rs. 60,000 for 1897-98 for advances for village works. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the local officers' estimates under this head.

12. *Rajshahi Division*.—The only two districts of the Rajshahi Division in which signs of distress have appeared are Rajshahi and Pabna, but relief measures may also be required later on in other districts. Looking to the generally prosperous condition of the people of these districts, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that it is possible that no relief works other than those paid for by District Boards may be required. He does not, therefore, propose to make any provision for such works in the present estimates. A sum of one lakh may be provided for advances for village works in the whole Division, viz. Rs. 20,000 for this and Rs. 80,000 for next year.

13. *Burdwan Division*.—It is reported that no money is required for the districts of Birbhum and Hooghly (including Howrah). In the remaining districts no distress has yet declared itself, but in consequence of the high prices prevailing everywhere in the country, and local failure of crops, it is apprehended that relief measures necessitating the provision of funds will be required

for the labouring and the poorer agricultural classes. In Burdwan certain tracts in thanas Ausgram, Budbud, Sahebganj, Monteswar, Ketugram and Purbasthali, comprising an area of 454 square miles with a population of about 228,000, is likely to be affected. No provision of funds under the head of relief works and gratuitous relief is considered necessary by the local officers for the current financial year, but their estimate for 1897-98 amounts to Rs. 2,00,000 including Rs. 25,000 to be provided by the District Board. The Lieutenant-Governor does not think that such a large allotment is called for, and has reduced the amount to be provided by Government to Rs. 1,00,000. His Honour also thinks that the estimate of the local officers under the head of "Advances for village works" may also be safely reduced from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 50,000 for each year.

In Bankura some distress is apprehended in parts of thanas Sonamukhi, Gangajalghati and Raipur, and in the independent outpost Simlapal. The total population at present considered likely to be affected is about 180,000 over an area of about 474 square miles. The Collector thinks that 5 per cent. of this population will require relief from the middle of February, and his total estimate for the current year amounts to Rs. 25,000, out of which Rs. 13,000 will be available from the funds of the District Board. As regards next year, the Collector has taken 12 per cent. of the population as the proportion likely to require relief from 1st April to 15th June, when the monsoon is expected to set in, and 4 per cent. from that time to the end of September. On this basis the cost under the head of relief works and gratuitous relief for 1897-98 has been estimated at Rs. 1,48,000, out of which Rs. 25,000 are to be furnished by the District Board. The Lieutenant-Governor considers 12 per cent. much too high, and on the whole is of opinion that Rs. 10,000 during this year and Rs. 50,000 in 1897-98, in addition to the contributions of the District Board, ought to be sufficient under this head.

In Midnapore relief is considered likely to be needed only for 2,000 people in thana Binpur, from 15th February to 15th June, and the estimated requirements, as shown in the accompanying statement, being moderate, are accepted by Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

14. *Chittagong and Dacca Divisions.*—The Lieutenant-Governor does not apprehend any acute distress requiring relief measures on a considerable scale in any parts of the Chittagong and Dacca Divisions, and no funds are required beyond what can be provided by the District Boards.

15. The following table shows in thousands of rupees the amounts now estimated, and those previously reported to the Accountant-General, Bengal, to be required from the general revenues:—

ITEMS.	1896-97.		1897-98.		TOTAL.	
	As reported to the Accountant-General, Bengal.	As now approved by the Lieutenant-Governor.	As reported to the Accountant-General, Bengal.	As now approved by the Lieutenant-Governor.	As reported to the Accountant-General, Bengal.	As now approved by the Lieutenant-Governor.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(1) Relief works and gratuitous relief ...	Rs. 22.33	Rs. 22.13	Rs. 31.69	Rs. 71.78	Rs. 1,04.07	Rs. 93.98
(2) Advances for village works ...	4.30	5.45	7.44	11.78	11.74	17.23
(3) Advances for grain and cattle ...	.....	.....	10.00	.....	10.00	.....
(4) Bounties for wells ...	1.00	1.00	.....	3	1.00	1.03
Total ...	27.68	28.57	99.13	83.57	1,26.81	1,12.14
Add—Salaries and Establishment ...	2.60	2.85	8.87	8.35	11.47	11.20
GRAND TOTAL ...	30.28	31.42	1,08.00	91.92	1,38.28	1,23.34

The estimated contributions from the District Funds amount to Rs. 450,000 for 1896-97 and Rs. 827,000 for 1897-98.

The above are the minimum amounts which are likely to be required. They are, it will be observed, far less than the local officers have estimated. Sir Alexander Mackenzie hopes that they may be found to be sufficient. No effort has been spared or will be spared by this Government to keep expenditure down to the lowest point that is consistent with the saving of life, but it is necessary to warn the Government of India that the estimate now submitted may have to be largely exceeded.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Estimate of Expenditure on Famine relief during the financial year 1896-97 and 1897-98 (in thousands of rupees).

ESTIMATES APPROVED BY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.									
ESTIMATES OF LOCAL OFFICERS.									
	(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)		Total.
	Belief works and gratuitous relief.	1897-98.	Advances for village works.	1897-98.	Advances for grain, &c.	1897-98.	Bounties for digging wells.	1897-98.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.
For the two years.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
For the two years.	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Burdwan Division—									
Burdwan	175	270	75	1,00	20	20	...	...	50
Bankura	123	1,43	25	1,00	...	...	...	...	...
Midnapore	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total from General Revenues	12	418	1,05	5,35	1,17	1,17	...	...	...
Ditto District Funds	19	60	...	79	19	19	...	...	...
Total, Burdwan Division	31	478	1,05	6,14	1,36	1,36	...	...	...
Presidency Division—									
24-Parganas	29	60	30	60	...	...	...	...	...
Khulna	20	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nadia	181	4,88	75	720	...	...	...	...	...
Jessore	41	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Murshidabad	7	67	...	177	...	...	...	...	...
Total from General Revenues	251	19,93	2,04	19,93	4,83	4,83	...	...	...
Ditto District Funds	27	99	...	1,38	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Presidency Division	278	20,92	2,04	21,31	5,15	5,15	...	...	...
Rajshahi Division	60	4,00	1,00	5,00	...	...	...	...	...
Dacca Division—									
Faridpur	17	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Backergunge	33	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total from General Revenues	17	31	...	31	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto District Funds	33	33	...	33	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Dacca Division	50	64	...	64	...	...	...	...	...
Chittagong Division—									
Chittagong	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...
Noakhali	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tippera	57	57	...	57	...	...	...	...	...
Total from General Revenues	57	57	...	57	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto District Funds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Chittagong Division	57	107	...	107	...	...	...	...	...
Patna Division	21,04	67,00	3,00	72,04	25,04	25,04	...	...	...
Total, Patna Division	21,04	67,00	3,00	72,04	25,04	25,04	...	...	...
Carried over—From General Revenues	24,17	84,53	6,54	1,08,24	31,71	31,71	...	...	...
Ditto District Funds	2,77	3,70	...	6,47	8	8	...	...	...

NOTE.—Antique figures represent District Boards' expenditure.

ESTIMATES OF LOCAL OFFICERS.

ESTIMATE PASSED BY GOVERNMENT.

	ESTIMATES OF LOCAL OFFICERS.										ESTIMATE PASSED BY GOVERNMENT.									
	(a) Relief works and gratuitous relief.					(b) Advances for village works.					(c) Advances for grain, &c.					(d) Bounties for digging wells.				
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Brought forward from General Revenues	24.17	24.17	84.53	10.04	85	11.14	1.08	1	32.74	1.08.79	1.98.53	21.87	87.11	4.65	7.80	1.00	...	27.52	75.01	1.02.63
Ditto " District Funds "	2.77	2.77	3.70	...	...	...	...	...	2.82	4.74	7.56	2.77	4.70	...	...	...	...	2.77	4.70	7.47
Bhagalpur Division—																				
Bhagalpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Monghyr	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Madda	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purnea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sonhal Parganas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total from General Revenues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto " District Funds "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Bhagalpur Division	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orissa Division—																				
Cuttack	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Balasore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Angul	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total from General Revenues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto " District Funds "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Orissa Division	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chota Nagpur Division—																				
Hazaribagh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lohardaga	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Manbhum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palamau	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sloughbhum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total from General Revenues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto " District Funds "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Chota Nagpur Division	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total of nine Divisions—From General Revenues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total of nine Divisions—From District Funds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total for nine Divisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Add salaries and establishment from General Revenues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL DIVISIONS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

NOTE.—Antique figures represent District Boards' expenditure. This represents a contribution in aid of the importation of grain.

IL P.—Reg. No. 7206C-777-16-2-97.

Memorandum on the numbers likely to need relief and the probable expenditure in each district of Bihar during 1896-97 and 1897-98.

It is clear from the reports received up to date and from the information laid before the Conference at Muzaffarpur on the 4th and 5th instant that District Officers are now in possession of materials sufficient for the formation of some sort of estimate of the numbers to be relieved, and the expense of relieving them, between the present time and the end of September when the *bhadoi* crops of 1897 will be in the market, and all relief may be expected to cease. In the following paragraphs I shall attempt to set down, as clearly as may be, the requirements of each district, but it is first necessary to state a few general principles which will apply to all districts.

2. In the first place, it is necessary to say that I proceed on the assumption that the meteorological phenomena of 1873-74 will be repeated to the end of the scarcity, as they have been repeated hitherto. I have already in my report to Government of the 11th November shown how closely the features of the two years resembled each other up to that date, and I fully believe that this correspondence will be maintained. I give below, for each district, the rainfall during the four months (December to March) in 1873-74, and the normal rainfall:—

DISTRICT.	December.		January.		February.		March.		TOTAL.	
	Normal.	1873-74.	Normal.	1873-74.	Normal.	1873-74.	Normal.	1873-74.	Normal.	1873-74.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Patna	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gaya	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shahabad	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saran	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Champanar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Muzaffarpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darbhanga	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

3. These figures show that every district may expect to receive, during the four months in question, from 1.44 to 1.80 inches of rain. They also show that in 1873-74, while the districts of South Bihar received more than their normal rainfall, those north of the Ganges suffered from some deficiency. As the experience of them all as regards the autumn rains in 1873 was about the same, the above differences go far to explain why it was that the *rabi* outturn was as follows in 1874, viz., Patna, 12 annas; Gaya and Shahabad, 16 annas; Saran, 7 annas; Champaran, 8 annas; Muzaffarpur, 10 annas; and Darbhanga, 8½ annas. If we assume that we shall everywhere receive the normal fall, we shall get crops a little better than those of 1873-74: while if we only estimate rain such as fell in that year, we shall still hardly fail to obtain a fair outturn. But the rain which fell in November has already improved the prospects of the crops in South Bihar, and therefore, in modification of the estimates given in paragraph 102 of my report of the 11th November, I propound the following forecast of the *rabi*, which is based on what has happened up to date, and on what is likely to occur during the next four months, and which is supported by the forecast of the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India:—Patna, Gaya, and Shahabad, 16 annas; Saran, Champaran and Darbhanga, 8 annas each; and Muzaffarpur, 1 annas. This estimate, added to the ascertained outturn in annas of the *bhadoi* and *aghani* crops, is the basis of the calculations which follow, and will so remain unless and until a failure of the winter rains necessitates a review of the situation.

4. Next, as to the proportion of the population to be relieved, it is stated in the Famine Commission's Report (Part I, paragraph 75) that in times of famine about 7 or 8 per cent. of the population may be expected to require relief for a long period, but that in particular places, and for a short period, the proportion may run up to 15 per cent. In the same passage it is stated that in 1873-74 the proportion of the population on relief works in Bihar was about 10 per cent. for nine months, and as high as 20 per cent. for a short time; but I do not propose to accept the administration of that famine as a perfect example, since it is well known that expenditure was very lavish, and that relief was not always judiciously given. I believe that the people started on the present scarcity in better condition than they did in 1873-74; but, on the other hand, prices have risen to famine rates at a much earlier date. After full consideration, I am disposed to think that we shall get a fair estimate of the number to be relieved if we take 8 per cent. as the general average proportion of the population to be maintained, and bear in mind that charitable relief will be wanted a little earlier than usual.

5. This conclusion leads to my next point, which is that it is important to distinguish between the two ways in which relief is given, viz., (a) by relief works, and (b) in charitable relief. Relief works are already open in Champaran; they have been tried as test works elsewhere, and they will be wanted in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga (and to a smaller extent in Saran) from the 1st January. It was the experience of 1873-74 that relief works were

needed long before charitable relief; but the high prices this year lead to the conclusion that charitable relief will have to be given much earlier, and that it will probably last longer. In 1873-74 charitable relief was first distributed in Saran at the end of February, in Gaya and Shahabad during the first week in March, and in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga from the 25th of the same month. No information is available for Champaran. I am disposed to think that in that district and Darbhanga charitable relief will be required to some extent from the 1st January, and in Saran and Muzaffarpur from the 1st February. I hope that in other districts it may not be necessary to give charitable relief on an extended scale till May.

6. All the District Officers of the northern districts have divided their districts into zones of distress the population on which will require relief in instalments or stages. This greatly facilitates the work of computation.

7. In the next place, I propose to reduce all the figures to terms of one day, and to calculate that one anna a day will cover all the expenses of relief, excluding of course the charge for ordinary establishment, which, under article 194 of the Famine Code, is not debitable to famine relief, and excluding also the cost of loans and advances. One anna per head per diem is the rate accepted for purposes of calculation in the Report of the Famine Commission, and paragraph 24 of the Resolution of the Government of the North-Western Provinces on the Bundelkhand relief operations at the beginning of the present year shows that the average cost per head per diem of the people relieved was 11½ pies. But the prices of grain are now extraordinarily high, and I think that a rate of one anna (or 12 pies) per head is most suitable. The average cost was much higher than this in 1873-74.

8. Lastly, I do not at present think that any considerable relief will be required in South Bihar.

SARAN DISTRICT.

9. The Collector estimates that the whole of his district, which measures 2,651 square miles and has a population of 2,406,065 persons, will be affected; but he considers that a tract will be at once affected, of which the area is 880 square miles and the population 779,705. I greatly doubt whether any other part of the district will require only the figures above. Eight per cent. of 779,705 gives 58,376 persons to be relieved for 9 months, i.e., $58,376 \times 270 = 15,761,520$ for one day: at one anna a day, the cost of relief would be Rs. 9,79,470.

10. In 1873-74 the number of persons employed on relief works amounted to 34,633,950 for one day, and those charitably relieved were the equivalent of 1,013,334, total 35,647,284, the cost of relieving whom at one anna a day would have been Rs. 22,27,955. As a fact, the cost was as follows for wages and charitable relief:—Cash, Rs. 17,99,075; grain (at 4 a maund), Rs. 13,54,864; total, Rs. 31,53,939. This total gives an average rate of nearly 1 anna 5 pies per head.

CHAMPARAN DISTRICT.

11. Excluding the hilly and jungly areas in his district and those tracts which are in his opinion practically safe from distress, the Collector, Mr. Macpherson, divides the affected area of his district into four grades, as follows:—

	Area. Sq. miles.	Population.	Date when relief will be required.
Class A	...	...	...
" B	...	...	...
" C	...	...	...
" D	...	...	...
	2,592	1,469,308	

12. If we take 8 per cent. of the above population, we get the following figures:—21,713 for ten months, 63,146 for nine months, 20,932 for eight months and 11,752 for six months. If these figures are reduced to terms of one day, we get the results in the margin. The cost of relieving this multitude at one anna a head comes to Rs. 19,18,997.

13. The figures are enormous in themselves, and in respect of numbers are nearly double those of 1873-74. The statistics given in the memoranda circulated by Government show that the attendance on relief works in that year comes to 14,871,030 persons for one day: adding those who received charitable relief according to Sir A. P. MacDonnell's estimate, viz., 2,316,570 for one day, we get a total of 17,187,600 persons relieved for one day, against the Collector's present estimate of 30,702,360. Turning next to cost, I find that cash was spent to the extent of Rs. 6,80,758, besides grain to the value of Rs. 9,50,208 (i.e., 8,484 tons at Rs. 4 a maund). The total expenditure thus amounted to Rs. 16,30,966, or more than 1 anna 6 pie per head per diem.

14. In paragraph 94 of my report of the 11th November, I compared the crop estimates of 1896-97 and 1873-74, and showed that so far as the *bhadoi* and *aghani* go, the aggregate outturn was exactly the same in both years, being 12 annas out of 32. I have already

assumed that the *rabi* crop this year will be what it was in 1873-74, and all the conditions therefore are identical. I am thus driven to the conclusion that in spite of the increase of population Mr. Macpherson's estimates are too gloomy, because under exactly the same conditions as existed in 1873-74 he now expects to have to assist 30 million persons instead of 17 millions. The shortest way to correct the overestimate

13,570 × 300	=	4,071,000
39,466 × 270	=	10,655,820
13,082 × 240	=	3,139,680
7,345 × 180	=	1,322,100
		19,188,600

is to reduce the percentage of persons to be relieved, and therefore, instead of 8 per cent. of the population of the affected area, I propound a percentage of 5.

15. This percentage will give the figures in the margin as the number to be relieved for one day, viz., 19,188,600, and the cost, at one anna per head, will be Rs. 11,99,287, say, 12 lakhs.

MUZAFFARPUR DISTRICT.

16. For the Muzaffarpur district the Collector has not divided his area into so many zones, as has been done in Darbhanga and Champaran. But I understand that out of the whole area and population of his district, which are respectively 3,005 square miles and 2,712,857 persons, he estimates that about 700 square miles and a population of 700,000 persons are quite safe. The remainder I believe may be divided into two classes, as far as he can at present say.

	Area. Sq. miles.	Population.	Date when relief will be required.
Class A	...	1,851	1st January.
" B	...	454	1st April.
	2,305	2,012,857	

17. Treating these figures in the usual way and taking 8 per cent. of the population as likely to require relief, we get the figures in the margin, a total of 40,937,040 persons to be relieved for one day; and taking the cost of doing so at one anna per head, the result is Rs. 25,58,565.

18. Comparing these figures with those for 1873-74, I am inclined to think that they err on the side of moderation. In that year the number of persons on relief works gives a total for one day of 33,709,050, and the number in receipt of charitable relief amounts to 5,261,722; the grand total is, therefore, 38,970,772. The actual expenditure on relief works and charitable relief appears to have been as follows:—Cash, Rs. 12,42,396; grain (at Rs. 4 the maund), Rs. 14,38,976; total, Rs. 26,81,372. These figures yield a daily rate of about 1 anna 1½ pies per head.

19. But I fear that the crops in 1896 have been a good deal worse than they were in 1873-74. I have explained in my report of the 11th November that the proportion of the various crops in Muzaffarpur is as follows, taking 100 as the full outturn of the district: *bhadoi* 24·11, *aghani* 45·65 and *rabi* 30·21. I assume that the *rabi* will be the same in both years; but whereas in 1873-74 the *bhadoi* was 12 annas, in 1896 it was only 5 annas, and the *aghani* has now been only 3 annas instead of 5 as in the earlier year. Working these figures together, we find that, instead of the figure 100 which three good crops ought to yield, the harvests of Muzaffarpur in the two years under comparison are as in the margin. In other words, whereas in 1873-74 the district after all got a little more than half a full crop, we cannot now expect much more than one-third of a full crop, and the people are by so much the worse off.

20. Looking at these facts, I am disposed to think that 8 per cent. of the population is too small a number to take, and that a safer estimate would be 12 per cent., which would give a day's total of 61,405,560 and an expenditure of Rs. 38,37,847. However, I let the Collector's estimate stand for the present.

DARBHANGA DISTRICT.

21. The Collector has divided those parts of his district which are likely to be affected into three classes, of which the area and population are as follows:—

	Area. Sq. miles.	Population.	Date when relief will be required.
Class A	...	2,044	1st January.
" B	...	674	1st March.
" C	...	203	1st May.

If we take 8 per cent. of the above population as likely to need relief, we get the following figures:—137,600 for nine months, 43,600 more for seven months, and 14,800 more for five months. In other words, by reducing them all to terms of one day, we obtain the results given in the margin. To feed 48,528,000 persons for one day at 1 anna a head will cost Rs. 30,33,000 in all.

137,600 × 270	=	37,152,000
43,600 × 210	=	9,156,000
14,800 × 150	=	2,220,000
		48,528,000

22. In Darbhanga in 1873-74, the figures reduced as before to terms of one day were as follows:—Persons on relief works 55,365,600, persons on charitable relief 23,377,704, total 78,743,304, to feed whom would, at one anna a day, cost Rs. 49,21,456. As a matter of fact, the expenditure in cash and grain (taking the latter at Rs. 4 a maund) was Rs. 33,62,079 and Rs. 23,02,240; total Rs. 61,64,319. The result is a little more than one anna three pies per head.

23. It will be observed that the estimate of persons likely to need relief is much below that of those actually relieved in 1873-74; but it is well known that in Darbhanga, as in other districts of North Bihar, relief was given on a very lavish scale and often without much discrimination.

CONCLUSION.

24. I have now to give an abstract of the foregoing paragraphs which I do in the following form:—

DISTRICT.	NUMBER TO BE RELIEVED FOR ONE DAY.		COST.		RATE PER HEAD PER DIEM.	
	1873-74.	1896-97.	1873-74.	1896-97.	1873-74.	1896-97.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Saran ...	35,647,284	15,761,520	Rs. 31,53,939	Rs. 9,79,470	A. P. 1 5	A. P. 1 0
Champaran ...	17,187,600	19,188,600	16,30,968	11,99,287	1 6	1 0
Muzaffarpur ...	38,970,772	40,937,040	26,81,372	25,58,665	1 1½	1 0
Darbhanga ...	78,743,304	48,528,000	61,64,319	30,33,000	1 3	1 0
TOTAL ...	170,548,960	1,24,415,160	1,36,30,596	77,70,322	.....	.....

25. I would add two remarks. The first is that these figures are confessedly only approximate, because they are based on estimates and suppositions. Moreover, in order to get the number of persons for one day, I have, as a matter of convenience, always multiplied by multiples of 30, although this is not strictly accurate. In the next place, with grain at the rates it has now reached, one anna a day will perhaps prove too small an allowance. However such as they are, I present the above figures as a first estimate of the magnitude of our impending operations.

26. For purposes of account it is important to calculate how much of the above estimated expenditure will have to be met before the 31st March 1897. So far as charitable relief and ordinary relief works go, I consider that we may be guided to some extent by the figures of 1873-74. Mr. MacDonnell's book shows for most districts the numbers on charitable relief in each fortnight, and those on relief works month by month. From the figures given, it is easy to calculate what percentage of the whole numbers who were relieved were assisted up to the 31st March 1874. I find that the ratios work out as follows:—In Saran, 18 per cent.; for Champaran the charitable relief figures are incomplete, but I assume the same ratio as that for relief works, which is a liberal estimate. The result is 19 per cent. for both: in Muzaffarpur 6½ per cent., and in Darbhanga 11½ per cent. I consider that it would be reasonable to assume that the same ratios will hold good this year also, because although prices are higher at a much earlier stage, and therefore charitable relief will be wanted earlier, yet on the other hand, except in Muzaffarpur, the crops are better, and we may hope that more discrimination and economy will be exercised.

27. Taking the above proportions of the sums stated above as the total cost in each district, we get the following figures for the estimated expenditure in each up to the 31st March 1897:—

Saran	...	...	...	Rs. 1,76,304
Champaran	...	...	...	2,27,864
Muzaffarpur	...	...	...	1,59,910
Darbhanga	...	...	...	3,48,795
				<u>9,12,873</u>

But in order to be on the safe side and in view of the extraordinarily low ratio in Muzaffarpur, as compared with the other districts, I raise the estimate to 10 lakhs in round numbers. At the same time it should be noted that up to date the experience of 1873-74 is being repeated in a remarkable manner, inasmuch as so far there is very little relief

in Muzaffarpur, whereas in Champaran the demand is already urgent, while Saran and Darbhanga take a middle place.

28. I have also been asked to estimate the probable expenditure in directions other than charitable relief and relief works, i.e., under the following heads:—

- Expenditure.—Major relief works to be executed by the Public Works Department.
- Advances for village works under the Land Improvement Loans Act.
- Advances for the purchase of grain and cattle under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.
- Bounties for digging *kutcha* wells.

29. As regards the first item, it seems to me that no separate estimate is required. I understand, from a perusal of the Famine Commission's Report, that the 1 anna head per diem for, say, 8 per cent. of the population for nine months is intended to be the equivalent of all expenditure on charitable relief and relief works by whatever agency expended, and it is clear that for every labourer who receives a daily wage at famine rates on a major work there is so much less to be paid on the minor works. I am inclined, therefore, to think that the cost of major works must be taken as included in the general calculation of expenditure stated above. In any case, it is impossible at this stage to offer any separate estimate of the cost of these works, because, in the first place, it has not been decided which of them will be carried out; and, secondly, even for those which have reached a comparatively advanced stage, no estimates are yet available.

30. With regard to the next head (b), we have no information, and must make a guess only: I take 5 lakhs as a possible estimate, provided that the proposal finds favour. I consider that the conditions of village life in Bihar are hardly so favourable to the success of this system as in the North-Western Provinces.

31. As regards (c), very much depends on the strictness with which the Act and rules are interpreted. In 1874 vast quantities of grain and considerable sums of money were advanced to raiyats and zamindars, especially towards the end of the operations (*vide* paragraphs 88 to 95 of the Famine Commission's Report, Part III), and in paragraph 94 of the same part it is stated that the value of the cash and grain advanced was 105½ lakhs. I take it that such liberal expenditure will not again be dreamed of, and I have in the ordinary course already estimated an expenditure of Rs. 4,19,500 for the remainder of the present year and 1897-98. On reconsideration, I place the figures at 10 lakhs.

32. Lastly, comes the estimate (d) for bounties for digging *kutcha* wells. Two lakhs have already been sanctioned for this object, and the grant is not likely to be exceeded.

33. I now place these estimates in tabular shape in round numbers in thousands of rupees:—

HEAD OF EXPENDITURE.	1896-97.	1897-98.	Total.
1	2	3	4
(a) Relief works and charitable relief ...	9,13	68,57	77,70
(b) Advances for village works ...	3,00	2,00	5,00
(c) Advances for grain and cattle ...	.....	10,00	10,00
(d) Bounties for digging wells ...	2,00	.....	2,00
Total ...	14,13	80,57	94,70

J. A. BOURDILLON,
Commissioner.

BANKIPORE,
21st December 1896.

Second Estimate of Expenditure on Famine Relief during 1896-97 and 1897-98 in the Patna Division.

I HAVE received on the 16th and to-day telegrams asking for an estimate at once, and I accordingly submit the following memorandum. It has necessarily been drawn up without reference to District Officers, but fortunately I have just seen all of the northern Collectors at Muzaffarpur, and have before me Mr. Mills' estimates of work required to be done to employ the probable number of applicants for relief in each district according to our latest information.

2. Mr. Mills, in company with the District Engineer and the Collector in each case, has drawn up for each of the four northern districts of the Patna Division an estimate of their requirements in the way of relief works. In preparing the figures for Champaran, which was the first district undertaken, he had the advantage of Mr. Glass' instructions, and all his estimates have now been prepared on the model suggested by the Chief Engineer. Each thana has been taken up separately, the extent of districts has been appraised, and a percentage taken of the total population of the distressed area for the remaining period of distress. From this the amount of work to be provided has been deduced, and arrangements have been made to provide it.

3. Incidentally in the course of these calculations a fresh estimate has been made of the number of persons who require to be relieved, which is a good deal later than my estimates which were drawn up on the 5th, and finally printed off on the 21st December 1896. My estimate was based on the Famine Commission's Report, which gives 7 or 8 per cent. of the population of the distressed area for nine months as a fair general estimate of the dimensions of relief. The numbers in each grade of distressed tract, as described by District Officers, were separately calculated, and the whole reduced to terms of one day.

4. Mr. Mills' estimates, except in Champaran and Muzaffarpur, proceed on a different principle. He has assumed that the features of the famine of 1873-74 will repeat themselves: he has taken the figures of that year month by month, ascertained the ratio which they bore to the population of the district and to the total relieved, and has applied these ratios to the population of the present day. The result is a considerable advance on my estimates, because the figures of 1873-74 were unduly high, and for this reason it is manifest that any calculation, based on the figures of that year, must be too high unless the condition of the people is much worse now than it was in 1873-74, which I do not believe.

5. In the next place, Mr. Mills' figures are for relief workers only, including dependants relieved on the works. To these must be added those in receipt of gratuitous relief. I have worked out the ratio which these bear to the relief workers in 1873-74 according to the figures given in the memorandum forwarded by Government with Circular No. 7T.R. of the 3rd November last, and the results are most extraordinarily discrepant. They are as follows:—

Saran ...	...	...	...	2.86 per cent.
Champaran ...	...	...	...	15.57 "
Muzaffarpur ...	...	...	...	15.61 "
Darbhanga ...	...	...	...	42.22 "

For the purposes of the present calculation I think 20 per cent. may be taken as a fair average, if task-work is well exacted, and the lists of those on gratuitous relief well scrutinised.

6. Lastly, I desire to note that the figures now given are based on the supposition that relief works and gratuitous relief will be required up to the end of September next; but if we have a good *rabi* crop and if the rains fall early and are seasonable, the numbers on our hands will fall rapidly from the end of June, and may not increase much after the 1st April. The figures accepted below are therefore outside figures, and in accepting them I have borne in mind the fact that, since 1873-74, there has been a considerable increase in the population in every district.

7. *Saran*.—Mr. Mills and the Collector calculate that in this district an average of 139,000 persons will be employed every day for eight months. This gives $(139,000 \times 240) = 33,360,000$ persons for one day. Adding 20 per cent. for persons on gratuitous relief, *i.e.* 6,672,000, we get a grand total of 40,032,000 for one day. In 1873-74 the number was 35,647,284 for one day, and my first estimate for the present year was 15,761,520. I know that in 1873-74 relief was greatly overdone in this district, and as the crops of the present year are no worse than those of the year just mentioned, I cannot believe that we shall have, in 1897, to relieve a number greater by more than 12 per cent. Moreover, I am well acquainted with the Saran district, and know its resources and its people, and I cannot accept a higher estimate than 25,000,000, which is equivalent to 104,166 a day for eight months. The rise in the total numbers is due to the fact that the affected area has been increased since my first estimate was prepared.

8. *Champaran*.—The detailed calculations for this district are with Mr. Glass in Calcutta, and are not now available. But as I was present for a part of the time during which they were being prepared, I am satisfied that, so far as the northern and western thanas go, *i.e.* the Bettiah subdivision, they are not excessive. As regards the other thanas, I am sensible of two elements of uncertainty—first, I do not know what percentage of the population has been taken for each thana, and secondly, I am inclined to think that distress in them has been somewhat exaggerated, and that they are not so much in need of relief as those we first saw in the Bettiah subdivision.

9. However, it appears that the present estimate is for 99,000 persons to be employed on relief works for each day of the next seven months. These figures include dependants. The result is $99,000 \times 210 = 20,790,000$ persons for one day. I add 20 per cent. to represent those on gratuitous relief, *i.e.* 4,158,000; the gross total is 24,948,000 for one day.

Now the total number in 1873-74 was only 17,187,600 for one day. Mr. Macpherson's first estimate was 30,702,360 at 8 per cent. of the population of the affected area, and by taking only 5 per cent. I reduced this to 19,188,600. On further consideration I think my first estimate too low, and would raise it to 25,000,000 for one day, which is equivalent to 119,047 a day for seven months, in addition to those employed up to the 31st January.

10. *Muzaffarpur*.—It is now calculated that 105,800 will be employed on relief works (small and great) for each day in the next eight months: this gives $105,800 \times 240 = 25,392,000$; adding 20 per cent. for gratuitous relief, i.e. 5,078,400, we get 30,470,400 for one day. In 1873-74 the number was 33,970,772. The district estimate, worked out on Mr. Hare's first reports, amounted to 40,937,040, but I considered this too low, as the crops this year appear to be worse than they were in 1873-74. On further consideration I take 35,000,000 as a safe estimate, considering that relief work has hardly begun in this district up to date and that Mr. Hare thinks it unnecessary to go any higher than $30\frac{1}{2}$ millions. This gives 145,833 a day for eight months.

11. *Darbhanga*.—The present estimate for this district is 242,000 per diem for the next eight months on relief works, great and small: this gives a total for one day of $242,000 \times 240 = 58,080,000$; adding 20 per cent. for gratuitous relief, i.e. 11,616,000, we get a grand total of 69,696,000 for one day. In 1873-74 the figure was 78,743,304, and Mr. Carlyle's first estimate worked out to 48,523,000. I think the new figure must be excessive, and I prefer to take 60,000,000, which is equivalent to 250,000 a day for eight months.

12. The estimates for the four districts thus stand as follows from the 1st February, reduced to terms of one day:—

Saran	...	...	25,000,000
Champaran	...	...	25,000,000
Muzaffarpur	...	...	35,000,000
Darbhanga	...	...	60,000,000

Taking one anna a day as the cost of relieving these people, those figures yield the following results:—Saran, Rs. 15,62,500, Champaran, Rs. 15,62,500, plus one lakh to be spent before the 1st February, say, Rs. 16,62,500; Muzaffarpur, Rs. 21,87,500; Darbhanga (including one lakh to be spent before February 1st) Rs. 38,50,000. Total Rs. 92,62,500.

13. Separating these figures into the two years 1896-97 and 1897-98, and counting all expenditure from the beginning, the figures are as follow for all probable expenditure:—

	1896-97.	1897-98.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Saran	3,12,500	12,50,000	15,62,500
Champaran	4,90,375	11,72,125	16,62,500
Muzaffarpur	4,37,500	17,50,000	21,87,500
Darbhanga	10,37,500	28,12,500	38,50,000
Total relief works and gratuitous relief	22,77,875	69,84,625	92,62,500
Advances for village works	3,00,000	5,00,000	8,00,000
Advances for grain and cattle	...	10,00,000	10,00,000
Bounties for wells	1,00,000	...	1,00,000
GRAND TOTAL	26,77,875	84,84,625	1,11,62,500

If prices rise much these figures will have to be raised, and they take no account of expenditure on establishment, &c., and tools; on the other hand, they leave out of consideration the help which may be given by the Native nobility and the great zamindars, e.g. the Maharaja of Darbhanga has promised eight lakhs, and much may be expected of Hutwa, Dumraon and Bettiah. Perhaps these may cancel each other, and the estimate stand as it is.

J. A. BOURDILION,

Offg. Commissioner.

BANKIPORE,

The 19th January 1897.

Bombay Castle, 12th January 1897.

From

THE HON'BLE MR. J. MONTEATH, M.A., I.C.S.,
Acting Chief Secretary to
the Government of Bombay;

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE
(Famine),
Calcutta.

SIR,

In accordance with No. 10 of the rules circulated with the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 5—48, dated 2nd March 1892, and Section 26 of the Bombay Famine Relief Code, I am directed to submit a report on the scarcity prevailing in parts of this Presidency. In the circumstances stated below it has been found difficult to obtain materials for a complete account of the situation at any time, and there has consequently been delay in the submission of this report, for which I am to express regret. The rain which fell towards the end of November materially altered the outlook and rendered comparatively useless the estimates before received. It was very partial and irregular, as will be shown below, and it was consequently not easy to gauge the general effect of it. There has again been rain in the last week of December in most of the affected districts, but it also has been very irregular and for the most part scanty and it cannot yet be stated with any exactness how far rabi crops will be saved by it. In some other respects the materials for a complete report are still defective, but His Excellency the Governor in Council does not consider it desirable to defer further the submission to the Government of India in a compact form of such information as is available. The summaries which have been prepared every week since relief works were opened have shown in detail all occurrences affecting the condition of the people and the extent to which it has been necessary to provide relief. Copies of these statements are appended for ready reference.

2. The area at present actually affected lies within the Deccan and Southern Marátha Country districts of this Presidency, viz., Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Poona, Sátára, Násik, Khándesh, Bijápur, Belgaum, and Dharwár. The probable extent of liability to famine and the normal economic condition of these districts are shown in the following extracts from the Bombay Statistical Atlas:—

“SHOLAPUR.

The whole district is excessively liable to famine. The area protected by canal irrigation is estimated at under 100 square miles. The cause of famine is failure or unseasonableness of the rainfall.

The population is nearly purely agricultural. Weaving is the only important industry, but it is altogether dependent on the prosperity of agriculture. Important trade centres are few. The precarious rainfall of the whole district except Bārsi places the population in an inferior condition to that of other Deccan districts, and in so far as the season is more untrustworthy the cultivators are in proportion more hindered from enterprise and regular rotation tillage than their Deccan neighbours."

"AHMEDNAGAR.

The whole district except the Dāngs is liable to famine. The central belt including Jāmkhed enjoys a greater immunity than the tālukās of the Godāvari and Bhima valleys. The causes of famine are irregular and uncertain rainfall and deficient water-supply. The large town of Ahmednagar with Bhingar contains many artizans and traders. The bulk of the population is agricultural. Weavers are numerous except in Akola, Nevāsa, and Sangamner. The industry is rather in the hands of classes who are not hereditary weavers, but agriculturists drawn from husbandry by the superior profits of the hand-loom. The husbandmen of Jāmkhed, who have unusual facilities for grazing, are considerable dairy farmers. With the exception of these and the market gardeners the cultivating classes are poor and depressed. They are ignorant and improvident and suffer greatly from scanty rainfall and from pressure of moneylenders. The poorer husbandmen go in slack seasons to Bombay to work as labourers and carriers. Others add to their profits from tillage by carting grain, cotton and oil-seeds."

"POONA.

The area liable to chronic distress from failure of rains is the eastern part, which makes up half the district. The western part of the district is practically free from danger of distress caused by drought. The transition tracts lying between the rugged hilly western belt and the open plains of the east have a partial immunity from distress. The eastern tract has a good soil but is badly supplied with water and is dependent on a capricious rainfall derived chiefly from the late or north-east monsoon. This accounts for its liability to distress. The immunity of the western belt lies in its regular rainfall, and the partial immunity of the transition tracts is due to a better water-supply in wells and water-courses from the hills and a fairly regular rainfall as compared with the eastern plains. The population of the eastern plains is almost purely agricultural, and indeed of the whole district except at trade centres like Poona and Talegaon. The bulk of the cultivating classes are Kunbis and Mālis, but numerous other castes cultivate. The rayatwāri occupants are fairly off, except in the eastern plains where they are poor and indebted."

"SATARA.

The dry eastern part of the district is the least naturally protected area and next to it comes the transition tract lying between it and the hilly west. The eastern part is liable to failure of rainfall. In

the transition tract the rainfall is uncertain but the richness of its soil and its unusual facilities for irrigation from wells and running streams enhances its measure of immunity from the effects of prolonged drought. The total area in the district liable to famine may be taken not to exceed 2,000 square miles. The population is largely agricultural, but an unusual number of people are herdsmen and shepherds. The Kunbi, who is the cultivator of the district, is more conservative and less enterprising than elsewhere in the Deccan. Some of the poorer cultivators and many field labourers and others resort yearly in slack times to Bombay for employment in the cotton mills and at the wharves. In the east the rayats are somewhat wanting in energy and industry. Their soil is poor and their seasons precarious. Few in this tract are clear of debt. The rayat of the rich Krishna Valley has better credit and less necessity for recourse to the moneylender. The number engaged in cart-traffic is particularly large."

"NĀSIK.

The Desh, which includes the tālukas of Mālegaon, Nāndgaon and Yeola, and the eastern portions of Chāndor, Niphād and Sinnar, is most liable to distress from seasons of drought, but the degree of liability is not so great as in the districts further east. The Desh tālukas receive the tail-end of the south-west and north-east monsoons, and are thus liable to the accident of the failure of both in the same season. The transition tract, which includes most of Sinnar, Niphād and Chāndor and parts of Bāglān, Kalvan, Dindori and Nāsik, enjoys the advantage of irrigation facilities to a greater extent than the western Dāngs or the eastern plains. The poorest of the population reside in tracts enjoying the most trustworthy rainfall. The poor Varlis, Kolis and Thākurs of Peint have not the contingency of drought to encounter. The Kunbis and Mālis of the Desh and the transition tracts are as a rule the most intelligent and prosperous cultivators of the Deccan. The cultivators are poor and indebted in the tracts less liable to distress. In severe distress representatives from all the manufacturing classes (weavers, Koshtis, Rangāris, &c.) will be found in the ranks of relief labourers as they are mostly in a poor condition."

"KHĀNDESH.

As regards East Khāndesh, the degree of liability to famine is very much smaller than in the Deccan. The seasonableness of the rains cannot be depended on and thus from time to time much loss is occasioned. Drought is not the only cause of famine or acute distress. The liability to serious loss from the floods of the Tāpti and its tributaries cannot be overlooked. The railway has introduced cotton presses and ginning factories, which give employment to the people over and above that necessarily made available by the Railway Company. The economic condition of the agricultural population of Jalgaon, Erandol, Sāvda and Pāchora is above the average,

even of Khándesh. The cultivators are well off and live easily in ordinary seasons, possessing fair credit. Elsewhere, except in unhealthy and thinly populated tracts, the condition of the people is decidedly good. In East and South Jámner the villages are small and the people poorer. The labouring population finds abundant employment, and field labour is both costly and difficult to obtain.

"As regards West Khándesh, except in the Tápti Valley, the liability to acute distress is very remote. In the four westernmost talukas a famine could only be caused by a total failure of rain. At the outside 2,000 square miles out of the 4 remaining talukas may be said to be practically liable to famine. The degree of liability is less than that of East Khándesh by reason of less liability to damage from floods and failure of rainfall. But it is greater on account of more cramped communications, greater distance from the railway and poorer normal condition of the population. Cultivators are as a rule poor. Without forethought or self-restraint they readily run into debt. Those in Sháháda, in East Nandurbár and to a certain extent in the plains of Taloda and along the rivers in Pimpalner are for the most part well off. The rest would in the event of distress very soon need Government assistance. Shirpur and Dhulia have some well-to-do traders. In the latter town the cotton presses and gin-factories give employment to the labouring classes who are thereby in normal years able to save. The population of Amalner is decidedly better off than that of Dhulia. The people are generally well-to-do. Dhulia, Pimpalner and in a less degree Amalner enjoy a special measure of protection by reason of the dams or bandhárás which have been built on the tributaries of the Tápti."

"BIJAPUR.

The whole of the district is liable to famine. Excepting small portions of Hungund and Mud-debihál, where the rainfall is more certain than elsewhere, it may be said that the liability to famine is nearly uniform throughout. The cause of famine is failure or unseasonableness of rainfall or both. There are no facilities for protection by large irrigation works. The population is nearly entirely dependent on agriculture. 76 per cent. are agriculturists and 23 per cent. are engaged in crafts and industries. These are almost entirely weavers, of whom four-fifths are females. The weaving industry, which is common throughout the district, is greatly dependent on agricultural prosperity. As a rule the agriculturists are a steady and orderly people, fairly housed and enjoying all the necessities of a simple life and sufficient agricultural stock for the management of their holdings."

"BELGAUM.

About one-third of the district—the south-west portion—is practically secure from great distress induced by drought, for in that portion the rainfall is certain and a bad season rarely occurs. The talukas in the north-east, which depend on the north-

east rains, are liable to chronic drought. The transition tract, which includes Chikodi and Sampgaon, enjoys a fair immunity, as its rain-supply is chiefly from the south-west monsoon, which can be more trusted than that of the north-east monsoon. The cause of distress is insufficiency of rains. The population is nearly purely agricultural. Weavers of coarse cotton and woollen cloths are fairly numerous, but they may be classed as dependent, indirectly though it be, on agriculture. The degree of indebtedness of the rayatwári occupants holds a position intermediate between that of the holders of Dhárwár and the Deccan. On the one hand the cultivators are partly Lingáyets and Jains, while in Dhárwár they chiefly belong to these industrious, self-dependent and provident classes, but on the other hand the improvident Marátha husbandmen, who form the cultivating classes of the Deccan, are nearly as numerous. The land is not so heavily burdened as in the Deccan, but it is a great deal more encumbered than in Dhárwár."

"DHARWAR.

The Mallád or the hilly portion in the west and south of the district, in which failure of the rainfall is unknown, is practically free from danger of famine. The transition tract lying between the Mallád and the Desh—plain open country in the north-east—is less liable, both in degree and in frequency, to severe distress than the Desh, which is most liable to distress from drought. Distress may be caused either by the insufficiency of the rainfall or its unseasonableness or by both. The population is nearly purely agricultural. The land is held by small rayatwári occupants. The arable land is principally free from encumbrances. The money-lenders are not, as in the Deccan, strangers, but pátils and other watandárs of the district. Well-to-do cultivators are always ready to enlarge their possessions by purchase of land and by mortgage with possession. The condition of the rayatwári occupants in the Desh is decidedly good."

3. As regards the current year the following statement shows the rainfall in these districts in the months of June to November last as compared with the average fall during those months:—

District.	June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.	
	Average.		Average.		Average.		Average.		Average.		Average.	
	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.	In. ct.
Sholápur ...	4 52	4 78	2 99	4 1	4 83	1 64	8 2	0 67	4 72	0 44	1 27	2 29
Ahmednagar ...	4 52	8 89	3 40	6 35	3 64	2 5	6 84	0 44	4 19	0 25	1 1	1 15
Poona ...	6 51	10 91	13 92	20 62	6 53	11 40	7 64	0 83	5 17	0 59	1 17	1 22
Satára ...	8 74	14 88	18 90	28 78	8 68	17 52	7 25	1 28	5 60	0 51	1 51	1 10
Násik ...	6 79	12 31	13 1	26 67	8 7	9 79	8 95	1 41	2 70	0 59	0 91	0 82
Khándesh ...	6 19	5 75	9 20	15 55	6 2	4 45	6 65	0 36	1 92	0 2	0 52	0 26
Bijapur ...	2 62	2 12	2 36	1 85	4 2	1 68	6 18	1 46	5 43	0 22	1 59	1 69
Belgaum ...	6 68	12 26	11 46	14 28	5 96	11 74	5 9	0 84	5 98	1 2	1 43	0 59
Dhárwár ...	3 41	5 53	5 38	6 99	3 76	6 20	4 57	1 66	5 38	1 93	1 72	2 32

A skeleton map of the Central Division showing the rainfall at the different stations from 19th to 30 November 1896 is also appended. The peculiarities

of the season are that the tracts dependent on kharif crops for the most part received excessive rain till about the middle of August, which proved injurious to crops and necessitated re-sowing in several places; while beyond a few scattered showers there was practically no rain during the months of September and October, when it was most wanted to bring the growing kharif crops to maturity and to enable rabi sowings to be undertaken. There was however some useful rain in the third and fourth weeks of November, which improved the condition of the rabi crops already sown and rendered further sowings possible in all the affected districts except Násik and Khándesh. Again in the last week of December there was some rain in most of the affected districts. This rain would have been most useful for the crops sown in the end of November, and in the eastern talukas of Poona it is believed to have had very beneficial results, but unfortunately it fell elsewhere for the most part in places where the November rain had not been sufficient for further sowings. The season has been altogether so abnormal, the rainfall so capricious, and the effects so diverse that an accurate idea of them can be given only by a detailed account for each of the districts in which scarcity has resulted.

SHOLAPUR.

Cultivation in this district depends mainly on the amount and seasonableness of the late rains of August, September and October. The rainfall in June and July was timely and useful for kharif sowings, but was deficient throughout the district. In August the rain was far below the average, and standing kharif crops began to wither while rabi sowing was retarded. The situation grew worse in September and October, when the fall measured only a few cents, and by the end of the latter month the kharif crops had almost completely failed and most of the rabi area was left unsown for want of moisture. In November there was rain between the 20th and 23rd and on the 27th, ranging from 58 cents at Pandharpur to 6.76 inches at Sholapur. This rain proved very beneficial to such rabi crops as had been sown, and enabled most of the remaining rabi area to be sown in the talukas of Sholapur, Bársi, Mádhá and Karmála except in places where seed and cattle were deficient. In the remaining three talukas of Sàngola, Pandharpur and Málsiras rain was smaller in quantity and partial, and further sowings in these places have therefore been more restricted. There was no rain in December except 6 cents at Bársi, and it is feared that without further rain the outturn of the crops sown in the end of November will be small if they do not entirely fail.

AHMEDNAGAR.

The rainfall in June, July and August was generally sufficient and seasonable for kharif crops and is enabled rabi lands to be prepared for sowing in some parts of the district. In September and October there was nothing beyond scanty rain in

any taluka. The kharif crops consequently withered in many places and rabi sowing was retarded. In November there was good rain in the southern talukas, viz., Ahmednagar, Párner, Shri-gonda, Karjat and Jamkhed, ranging from 1.20 inches at Párner to 4.30 inches at Karjat. The condition of such crops as had been sown was much improved by it and further sowing of wheat, gram, linseed and jowári was rendered possible over nearly the full rabi area in the talukas above mentioned. In the northern talukas, on the other hand, the rainfall of November was too scanty for further sowing, and the area there sown averaged only from 1 to 2 annas of the normal area taken at 16 annas. There was rain on the 26th of December in most of the talukas, the maximum being at Nagar 70 cents; but it was insufficient in the southern talukas where owing to the large rabi area sown at the end of November it would have been most useful.

POONA.

In June the rainfall was sufficient and seasonable. In July and the first three weeks of August it was exceptionally heavy and proved injurious especially to river-side crops and to those in the western and central talukas. In the eastern talukas, viz., Purandhar, Sirur, Indápur and Bhimthadi, the fall in August was below the average. The rainfall in September and October was scanty and crops withered in the eastern talukas and also showed signs of deterioration elsewhere. Rabi sowing was also retarded. In November good rain fell in the eastern talukas, measuring from 1.20 inches in Purandhar to 3.08 inches at Indápur. The rest of the district received only light showers. This rain has enabled 8 to 16 annas (whole) of the usual rabi area to be sown in the eastern talukas. Elsewhere the area sown is about one-fifth of the normal. In the last week of December slight rain (ranging from 8 to 95 cents) fell in these talukas and has benefited the late-sown crops, but more is needed.

SATARA.

In June the rainfall was generally sufficient and seasonable for sowing and transplantation. In July and the first half of August there was excessive rain in the western and central tracts, which injured the standing crops. In the eastern talukas, viz., Mán, Khatáv, Khánápur and Tásgaon, the fall was normal, and at the end of August the crops were in good condition. In September and October the rainfall throughout the district was much below the average, with the result that kharif crops began to wither, especially in the eastern talukas, and rabi sowing was retarded. In November showers of rain fell between the 19th and 22nd throughout the district and improved the condition of crops already sown, but were too light for any appreciable extension of sowing. There was also some rain throughout the district in the last week of December, the maximum being at Tásgaon 1 inch 12 cents and

minimum at Pátan 6 cents. The condition of the standing crops is fair but more rain is required for those last sown.

NASIK.

The rainfall in June was sufficient and seasonable. In July and the first half of August it was excessive and injurious to crops, especially báiri; there were floods in Málegaon, which destroyed the crops. In the last week of August there was a break, which proved beneficial for standing crops and for completing kharif re-sowings and commencing rabi sowings. In September and October the rainfall was very deficient, and standing kharif crops withered in many places, while rabi sowings were delayed. There were light showers (6 cents to 1 inch) in November, which improved the condition of late crops already sown but did not make further sowing possible. On the 28th of December there was rain in four talukas, ranging from 28 to 55 cents. More rain is required for the standing rabi crops.

KHANDESH.

The rainfall in June was below the average except in a few talukas. In July and the first half of August, however, it was abnormally heavy and injurious in some places to standing kharif crops, especially cotton. Some river-side crops were destroyed by floods. In the second half of August there was a complete break, which benefited the crops and enabled re-sowings to be undertaken. In September the rainfall was much below the average, and in October there was practically no rain and the kharif crops began to wither everywhere and rabi sowing was retarded. In November there was slight rain (1 cent to 1.27 inches), which was beneficial to wheat and gram already sown, but insufficient for any further sowing. About 1 inch 27 cents of rain fell at Dhulia on the 28th December, where however rabi crops are not grown.

BIJAPUR.

The rainfall of June, July and August was far below the average and insufficient for complete kharif sowings. Bijapur is however principally a rabi district, and depends mainly upon the later rains of September, October and November. During September the rainfall was very scanty, and the month of October was almost rainless. By the end of October the kharif crops had dried up, and the few rabi crops sown were withering except along the banks of the Krishna. In November rain fell in general showers, mostly between the 19th and 23rd. This rain was beneficial to such jowári crops as were before sown, but was not sufficient for further sowings except in a few places. In the last week of December there was slight rain in four talukas and one petha, varying from 9 to 48 cents, but it was insufficient to revive the few crops sown towards the end of November, which are reported to be withering.

good areas, from the end of August. But a occurred in September, in the last week only a few cents of rain fell in these talukas, whole of October also passed almost without rain. By the end of October the standing crops had already withered or were withering where they had survived were being destroyed by insects. In November light showers fell throughout the district of Belgaum between the 19th and on the 27th. The fall in the affected talukas was at Parasgad 1 inch 9 cents, at Gokák 45 and at Athni 70 cents. The fall was light useful to standing crops, and enabled some additional sowings to be undertaken. There was general rain on the 25th of December except in Athni Chikodi, varying from 14 cents at Murgod to 1 inch 57 cents at Belgaum. More rain is needed in the affected talukas, but especially in Athni.

DHARWAR.

The situation till the middle of October in the affected talukas, viz., Navalgund (including Gund petha), Ron and Gadag (including Mundargi petha), was somewhat similar to that of the Belga talukas referred to above. The kharif crops were next to worthless and were rooted out in some places, and there were practically no rabi sowings till the end of October. In November good rain fell throughout the district mostly between the 19th and 23rd, the fall in the affected parts being—

	In.	Ct.
Gadag	3	76
Mundargi	0	51
Ron	1	94
Navalgund	2	30
Nargund	2	66

This rain was beneficial to the standing crops, and most of the rabi area was sown. The condition of the affected talukas except the Mundargi petha was much improved by this rain. There was also some useful rain in the last week of December in the talukas varying from 15 cents to 1 inch 99 cents but more is still wanted in the north-east tract (Ron, Nargund, Mundargi,) where the prospects are still precarious.

4. Estimates in annas of the outturn of kharif crops and of the rabi area sown in each of the affected districts as compared with the normal (16 annas) outturn and sowings have been furnished to the Government of India with my letter No. 10601, dated 23rd December 1896. The following statement gives the information in greater detail for the affected districts as well as for other districts of this Presidency for which it is available:—

	taking the whole area sown.	rabi area sown.	which seed has germinated.	
	2	3	4	5
ad ...	...	.....	.....	.....
shale ...	8	55 per cent.	80 per cent.	All.
...	6½	95 "	Nearly all.	
...	12	53 "	81 per cent.	All.
...	7½	25 "	All.	All.
...	1	43 "	80 per cent.	All.
nagar ...	4	66 "	Generally.	Not reported.
...	3	75 "	Not	reported.
...	5½	66 "	Greater part.	75 per cent.
...	5½	46 "	86 per cent.	All alive in nine talukas and parts of two talukas.
sh ...	6½	42 "	80 "	All.
r ...	½	25 "	70 "	Not reported.
m ...	6	62 "	60 "	60 per cent.
ar ...	7*	74 "	82 "	All alive in nine talukas and about half in one taluka.
alaba ...	7	44 "	All.	All.
tanigiri ...	7	76 "	All.	All.
nara ...	...	.....	.....	.....
ráchi ...	10	Almost whole.	.....	.....
derabad ...	...	.....	.....	.....
kárpur ...	12	60 per cent.	All.	All.
ar and Pákar ...	...	.....	.....	.....
per Sind Fron- der ...	12	70 per cent.	88 per cent.	All.

* 2 annas in the affected talukas and 10 annas in the rest.
† Sowing was still in progress at the date of report.
‡ Sowing was still going on at the date of report.

These estimates are not based on any detailed inspection, for which there has not yet been time, but they indicate roughly how the probable outturn of food grains in the current year compares with the normal outturn. For a proper appreciation of the causes however it is necessary to note the proportions of kharif and rabi food crops grown in the area affected by scarcity. The cereals principally cultivated as kharif crops in these districts are bajri, wari and rice, while those cultivated as rabi crops are jowari and wheat. The following statement of the average area on which these crops are grown shows how far the several districts are dependent on their food supply on kharif or rabi crops:—

Summary ...	...	...	257,955	
Ahmednagar ...	...	...	811,922	1
Poona ...	...	...	810,627	
Sátara ...	...	...	944,805	2.
Násik ...	...	...	982,266	3.
Khándesh ...	...	...	1,166,684	26
Bijápur ...	...	...	685,626	1, 2, the
Belgaum ...	...	...	883,706	3, 4 bly
Dhárwár ...	...	...	785,068	und

It will be clear from the facts and figures given that the intensity of the distress in the Presidency depends entirely on the outturn of the rabi crops still standing. Most of these crops were sown at the end of November, long after the season at which such crops are generally sown. Should they have been benefited by rain at the end of the month, but it is feared that most of them would not have come to maturity without more rain. The Director of Agriculture and all members of the Agricultural Department have been desirous to devote their energies to the ascertainment as promptly as possible of the probable result of these late sowings and to the collection of other information regarding the food-supply.

5. There can however be little doubt that the character of the season does not of itself account adequately for the large demand for relief which has already occurred in this Presidency. In the districts most liable to scarcity the rabi crops are the most important, and as already shown it is not known what the outturn of them will be. The distress has mainly arisen from the pressure on the poorer classes of the abnormally high prices which have prevailed since October last, and the failure of the kharif crops in these districts would not have caused so great a rise in price if there had been a good harvest in other parts of India. Prices indeed rose in Northern India while yet a plentiful harvest was expected here, for although the heavy rain in the end of July and beginning of August caused some damage in various places, the outlook for the Presidency as a whole was very favourable for some time afterwards, and in many places bumper crops were expected. It is believed that these circumstances holders of stocks of grain were tempted by the higher prices resulting from the unfavourable outlook in Northern India to export to some extent. Afterwards it became evident that the prolonged absence of the later rains would in some cases entirely destroy kharif crops and render the cultivation exceedingly precarious, and prices rose rapidly. By the middle of November the stocks of grains were in most of the affected tracts selling at a higher rate than was reached in the last few months till the failure of the early rains of 1877 threatened a prolongation and intensification of the scarcity. The following statement contrasts the normal position

	Normal.	15th September 1896.	30th September 1896.	15th October 1896.	31st October 1896.	15th November 1896.	30th November 1896.	15th December 1896.	31st December 1896.	Normal.	15th September 1896.	30th September 1896.	15th October 1896.	31st October 1896.	15th November 1896.	30th November 1896.	15th December 1896.	31st December 1896.
...	45	46½	32½	25	21½	17½	23½	21½	22½	41	35½	28½	21½	17½	14½	17½	17½	18½
ar ...	42½	41½	27½	23½	20½	17½	19½	19½	20½	35½	32½	20½	20½	17½	14½	17½	17½	20½
...	38	40	35½	21½	18½	18½	21½	18½	20½	30½	30	27½	18½	16½	15	19½	16½	17½
...	33½	34½	31½	25½	20½	20½	18½	18½	18½	31½	29½	27½	22½	18	13½	16	17	17½
...	43	33½	...	...	...	20½	19½	19	19½	34	28	22½	19½	18½	17	17	17	16½
h...	44	38	23½	17½	19	18½	17½	18½	19	36½	29½	22	14½	16½	15½	14½	15½	...
...	45½	46½	36	27	23½	18	22½	21½	22½	43½	38½	35½	24½	21½	17½	...	19½	...
m ...	40½	49½	46½	29	22½	18½	27	24½	27	40½	39	31½	21½	19½	16½	21½	21½	24
ar ...	45	54½	54½	30½	24½	16	26½	26½	26½	41½	40½	39½	29½	20½	16½	18½	18½	...

District.	Wheat.									Rice.								
	Normal.	15th September 1896.	30th September 1896.	15th October 1896.	31st October 1896.	15th November 1896.	30th November 1896.	15th December 1896.	31st December 1896.	Normal.	15th September 1896.	30th September 1896.	15th October 1896.	31st October 1896.	15th November 1896.	30th November 1896.	15th December 1896.	31st December 1896.
apur ...	28½	28½	24½	16½	16½	14½	18½	18½	...	21½	23½	19½	17½	17½	15½	16½	16½	...
ednagar ...	27½	26½	20½	17½	16	14½	14½	14½	...	18½	19½	18½	18½	18½	16½	16½	16½	...
a ...	23½	24	20½	16½	16½	14	15½	15½	...	20	21½	19½	16½	14½	14½	14½	14½	...
a ...	23	26½	26½	21½	15½	14½	14½	16½	...	19½	20½	19½	17	15½	16	14½	16½	...
...	29½	24½	21½	20½	18½	16½	15½	15½	16½	22½	20½	20½	19	17½	17½	16½	15½	16½
adesh...	28½	24½	19½	15½	15½	14½	14	14½	...	19	18½	15½	15½	15½	15½	13½	15½	...
ur ...	30½	28½	21½	17½	16	14½	...	16	...	20½	23½	20½	17½	17½	15½	...	17½	...
um ...	29½	27½	25½	20½	16½	13½	15½	15½	...	23	25½	24½	22	17½	16½	18½	20	20
wár ...	30½	27½	24	18½	14½	14½	14½	15½	18½	22½	24½	24½	21	16½	15½	19½	19½	21½

It has been stated above that it is believed holders of stocks of grain were tempted to export some extent, and it has been alleged that railways carry away a large part of what would have been stored in pits if the ancient practice had been continued. There is doubtless some truth in the statement, but the Governor in Council is unable to believe that the custom of storing has been abandoned. It is known to have prevailed until a recent date in some of the affected districts, and there is no reason to suppose that the stocks would only be exhausted. The best evidence that a

... as will be seen, the prices still continue very high, and throughout the Presidency the harvest has so far been considerably below the average. It has not yet been found possible to obtain any definite information regarding the actual quantity of food-grains available within the Presidency, and it is doubtful whether any information which can be obtained will be trustworthy, for the stocks are generally underground and not easily capable of inspection and the owners have the strongest motives for withholding the truth on the subject. The Director of Agriculture has however been desired to have detailed inquiries made in each village and to frame estimates from such statistics as are available. It may be remarked that a statement often made that the railways have induced the cultivation of exportable products at the expense of food-grains does not appear to be correct. From the following table it will be seen that on the whole food is produced in the affected districts through which railways have been constructed since the last famine as largely as it was before the opening of railways and that the increase of exportable products has resulted from extension of cultivation:—

crops sown towards the end of November, which are reported to be withering.

Districts traversed by	Area sown with Bajri.						Area sown with Jowari.					
	1876-77.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1876-77.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1894-95.	1895-96.
Bijapur	...	218,352	167,810	260,566	289,385	311,731	...	1,333,807	1,610,749	1,557,676	1,382,401	1,381,955
Dharwar	...	7,143	7,411	6,098	4,637	4,219	...	619,018	639,402	678,342	633,147	647,234
Belgaum	...	...	124,130	143,707	193,640	163,163	...	...	774,061	789,375	601,168	630,580
Satara	...	...	553,214	575,084	483,563	464,449	...	...	550,419	528,678	465,789	491,406
Poona	...	...	745,979	646,911	652,670	623,071	132,223	...	683,755	826,965	703,377	729,656
Dhond and Mannad Railway.	796,625	...	...	...	870,809	829,837	422,515	...	...	...	864,171	835,771
Ahmednagar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

7. His Excellency in Council understands that Madras will now be able to spare some surplus produce and so far as he is at present able to judge is inclined to the belief that even if the outturn of the rabi crops in the affected areas in this Presidency is poor there will be found in the country sufficient food to keep the people alive until the time comes for reaping crops after next rains. This view is supported by an examination which has recently been made by the Director of Agriculture of the statistics of rail-borne traffic in food grains in the past 5 years. If it should unhappily prove incorrect, the Governor in Council feels little doubt that merchants would undertake importation from foreign countries. There is room for some apprehension, because such importation has hitherto not been needed for this Presidency and it would take considerable time to carry out after the need for it was ascertained. But the Governor in Council cannot believe that merchants will hold aloof if a profit from importation becomes probable. Communications are excellent throughout the affected area. The greater part of it is traversed by the G. I. P., Dhond-Manmád and Southern Marátha Railways, and local communications with the railway stations are fairly plentiful and good. It will be contrary to all experience if ports and large towns accessible by rail are not supplied by private enterprise more successfully than would be possible by State agency. The Governor in Council has accordingly steadily refused to accede to solicitations to undertake importation from foreign countries and this policy will not be abandoned, but any aid which can legitimately be given to private trade by the publication of information regarding local stocks and other measures will be freely granted. In other respects there will be as little interference as possible with private enterprise. It was however reported in November last that local dealers had combined not to supply people on certain relief works at reasonable rates. The District Officers have been authorized in such cases to endeavour to make arrangements with merchants in the larger towns for the supply of the labourers and persons gratuitously relieved, or if necessary to bring grain from the larger towns and pay the wages as well as give the gratuitous relief in kind.

8. The following statement shows the areas at present considered to be affected in the several districts and the daily average number of persons likely to require employment on relief works as estimated by the Collectors and Commissioners :—

District.	Total Area in Acres.	Total Population.	Portion likely to be affected.	Estimated daily average number of persons likely to come on relief works.	Remarks.
Sholapur ...	2,905,194	750,679	Whole district (tálukas of Bársi, Pandharpur and Sholapur less severely than others).	58,000	The estimate is for 9 months from December to August.
Ahmednagar ...	4,217,206	888,755	Whole district (tálukas of Akola, Sanganner, Shrigonda and Páner less severely than others).	18,000	The estimate is for 9 months from December to August.
Poona ...	3,424,059	1,067,800	Parts of all tálukas (Bhimthadi and Indápur severely affected).	12,000	The estimate is for 7 months from December to June.
Sátára...	3,057,783	1,225,989	Tálukas of Pátan, Jávli, Sátára, Khánápur, part of Karád and Shirála petha severely. Other tálukas partially.	11,000	The estimate is for 9 months from November to July.
Násik ...	3,720,295	843,582	Tálukas of Málegaon, Nándgaon, Yeola, Niphád and Sinnar severely. Other tálukas partially.	10,200	The estimate is for 11 months from November 1896 to September 1897.
Khándesh ...	5,660,900	1,460,851	All tálukas partially ...	15,000	The estimate is for 8 months from December to July.
Bijápur ...	3,627,511	796,339	Whole district ...	73,750	The estimate is for 8 months from December to July.
Belgaum ...	2,979,376	1,013,261	Tálukas of Athni, Gokák and Parasgad (including Murgod Petha).		
Dhárwár ...	2,945,832	1,051,314	Tálukas of Navalgund, Gadag and Ron, and Nargund and Mundargi Pethas.		

It will of course however be understood that the statement may require considerable modification according to the outturn of the young rabi crops now in the ground. It seems probable that in the Gokák and Parasgad tálukas of Belgaum and the Navalgund and Gadag tálukas of Dhárwár these crops will come to maturity, and in that event there will not be much distress in these areas. On the other hand it must be remembered that in places where crops are poor but have not entirely failed and where in ordinary years there would have been no need for relief, the abnormally high prices press severely on persons who have no savings. For this reason it has been necessary to open relief works in the western tracts of Poona and Sátára, which have been considered immune from famine. It is moreover feared that relief may be needed in Ratnágiri and Kolába, partly because the crops are poor and the prices high but mainly because many inhabitants of these districts who usually gain a large portion of their income from labour in Bombay have left that town owing to the plague, and programmes of works to be commenced if need arises have been prepared. The food grown in the former district is never sufficient for the whole population, which is exceedingly dense, and the imports are ordinarily paid for in some part by the earnings of members of the families outside the district.

9. The estimates of the numbers likely to require employment on relief works given above compare as follows with the average numbers of persons employed in 1876-77:—

	Present Estimate.	1876-77.
Sholapur ...	58,000	43,410
Ahmednagar ...	18,000	22,997
Poona ...	12,000	31,767
Sátára ...	11,000	22,542
Násik ...	10,200	8,625
Khándesh ...	15,000	3,893
Bijápur, Belgaum and Dhárwár ...	73,750	95,382

The Governor in Council regrets to be forced to the conclusion that unless the rabi crops now in the ground yield a good harvest the estimates are likely to be largely exceeded. The average numbers of persons actually employed in the several districts in the week ending 2nd instant were as follows:—

Sholapur ...	40,257
Ahmednagar ...	27,547
Poona ...	13,064
Sátára ...	19,042
Násik ...	14,553
Khándesh ...	6,827
Bijápur ...	44,542
Belgaum ...	1,999

Total ... 167,831

It will be observed that these numbers are already above the estimates in Ahmednagar, Poona, Sátára and Násik, and that the total number now employed falls short of the maximum number estimated to require employment by some 30,000 only. The Director of Agriculture has been desired to revise the estimates after detailed inquiries regarding the probable outturn of the rabi crops and the condition of the people.

10. When there were indications of distress the Collectors were instructed to open test works, making use for the purpose as far as possible of Local Fund works in progress or in contemplation. It was particularly impressed upon them that the provisions regarding tasks and wages should be strictly applied, and these instructions have been twice repeated. It has been pointed out that without strict enforcement of these conditions the test would be of no value and that it was on that account even of more importance to exact full tasks on test works than on ordinary relief works. Regular relief works have not been opened until there was shown to be a keen demand for labour at famine wages. In Dhárwár the tests have not hitherto shown such a demand and were discontinued, but in the week ending 2nd instant were resumed. In Belgaum it has so far been necessary to open relief works only in the Athni táluka, but there are test works in progress also in Parasgad and Gokák. In some other places the persons employed on relief works refused to accept famine wages after the rain fell at the end of November, but since that time there has been a continuous increase in the number of people requiring employment as shown below:—

Week ending 5th December.	Week ending 12th December.	Week ending 19th December.	Week ending 26th December.	Week ending 2nd January.
54,913	72,571	114,614	142,848	167,831

The payment of famine wages and exaction of proper tasks have undoubtedly been effectual in affording a proper indication of the intensity of the distress.

11. In all districts the bulk of the people employed are Mhárs and Mángs and members of other low castes who are in the highest degree improvident. There are however other agricultural labourers on the relief works, but not yet so far as can be ascertained a large proportion of holders of land. Amongst the first however to feel the

pressure of very high prices were weavers and some other artisans and in some places at the earliest stage of the distress they were the only people for whom relief was needed. Owing to the enormous numbers of weavers requiring employment throughout the affected areas the possibility of providing work for them in their own craft presented difficulties which do not appear to have been contemplated when Section 151 (a) of the Bombay Famine Relief Code was framed, and an amendment of that provision has been proposed. It has been found practicable without an organization which it would take a long time to carry out and without the risk of dislocating for years the trade in cloth to employ in their own craft only such weavers as cannot gain a livelihood on the ordinary relief works. Earthwork is however provided as far as possible for such of them as are not fitted for the breaking of metal. The situation in respect of the weavers is complicated by the fact that the present is the Sinhast year during which no marriages take place in the Hindu community and consequently the demand for the articles ordinarily manufactured by the weavers is immensely reduced.

12. It is found that in all districts except Sátára there are more women employed than men and in some districts the disproportion is marked as shown by the following figures:—

Districts.	For week ending 26th December 1896.			For week ending 2nd January 1897.		
	Men.	Women.	Proportion of men to women.	Men.	Women.	Proportion of men to women.
Sholapur ...	102,393	118,854	46 : 54	86,582	105,902	45 : 55
Ahmednagar ...	33,562	47,494	41 : 59	56,507	79,789	41 : 59
Poona ...	22,685	33,300	43 : 57	28,802	36,565	44 : 56
Sátára ...	34,240	19,775	63 : 37	56,576	34,575	62 : 38
Násik ...	26,546	33,642	44 : 56	31,807	39,693	45 : 55
Khándesh...	7,833	21,528	27 : 73	7,763	23,903	24 : 76
Bijapur ...	67,993	106,219	39 : 61	78,107	121,850	39 : 61
Belgaum ...	3,378	4,810	41 : 59	3,560	5,277	40 : 60

The cause is probably to be found in the fact that some men continue to find employment in agriculture and in agricultural improvements for which takavi advances have been made but owing to the abnormally high prices are unable to support their wives and families, and others have probably migrated with cattle, leaving their families behind. It is perhaps to some extent on account of this disproportion that the number of children under 7 years of age at the relief works is found to be very large. The percentage of them to workers in the several districts is shown below:—

Sholapur ...	47 per cent.
Ahmednagar ...	39 "
Poona ...	52 "
Sátára ...	13 "
Násik ...	50 "
Khándesh ...	42 "
Bijapur ...	31 "
Belgaum ...	34 "

Explanations have been called for on the point, and if there is found to be an abuse it will be stopped. But it has been already reported in some cases that able-bodied women of the lower castes

are very prolific and generally have several children under 7 years of age, and that no children of people other than workers had been found on the works. Kitchens for these children have been opened under Chapter IX of the Famine Relief Code in the district of Bijapur and parts of Poona and Sátára.

13. I am to append a copy of the Resolution of this Government in the Public Works Department No. 2-F.—1569, dated 12th November 1896, laying down the principles to be observed in the selection of works for the relief of distress. The annual programmes of relief works have hitherto been found to be generally sufficient. But as the demand for relief is steadily extending and is likely to be very keen in the hot season, new works are being added to the programmes and the feasibility of several tank projects is being considered. It has also been arranged that earthworks on the portions of the Tápti Valley Railway, of which the final alignment has been determined, and on the proposed Bársi-Pandharpur Railway, which is now being surveyed, shall be put in hand as relief works in case of need, and it is hoped that the Hyderabad-Godavari Valley Railway will also be commenced. While no distance test is applied, labour is concentrated as far as possible on large works, the recommendation of the Famine Commission that there should, when practicable, be at least one work in each sub-division being at the same time borne in mind. But if the number of labourers greatly increases, adequate supervision cannot be provided unless they are employed on larger works than are at present in the programmes, and the commencement of earth-work for the railways above specified will be essential. There are however classes of people who for various reasons cannot leave their homes, and instructions have been issued to employ them on small works near their homes if they need relief. The rush on the works on some occasions has been so great that difficulty has been experienced in punctually providing adequate supervision, but this defect has been remedied with little delay. The Sanitary Commissioner and his Deputies are making regular tours of inspection in the affected districts, and the condition of the labourers employed on relief works, including weavers, whose health is generally improved by outdoor labour, is reported to be satisfactory. This result is due to the fact that owing to the preparation beforehand of programmes of works relief has been provided as soon as it was required.

14. There is a very keen demand for takavi advances in the affected districts and from the first this Government have urged the great importance of adopting this form of relief as far as is practicable. The money is for the most part expended on improvements which will alleviate distress in future and it is expended in the most economical manner under the supervision of those directly interested in using it to the best advantage. Experience in the Southern Marátha Country in 1891-92 indicates that the great bulk of the advances will be recovered with interest but even if a proportion of the amount is

not recovered, there will be much less loss than in expenditure on inefficient famine labour. In addition to the amount of Rs. 6,27,350 allotted to the affected districts out of the original assignment of Rs. 10,03,450, the whole additional assignment of Rs. 15,00,000 has been applied for in these districts and there is a demand for more, with regard to which the Government of India will be separately addressed. It is estimated that in the districts of Sholapur and Bijapur and the affected tracts of Belgaum and Dhárwár an aggregate of 140,000 persons will find employment until next rains on works executed with the aid of these advances.

15. Attention is also being given as far as possible to the maintenance and improvement of the water-supply. The aid of the Municipalities and Local Boards for this purpose where they have funds available has been enlisted, while the works are carried out entirely at Government expense where, as in Bijapur, the local bodies cannot give assistance.

16. The provisions of Chapter V of the Famine Code regarding gratuitous relief in villages have been applied wherever necessary in the affected districts but it is satisfactory to observe that there has not yet been disclosed any extensive need for such relief. According to the latest information the numbers receiving it in the different districts were:—

Sholapur	...	...	...	...	1,722
Poona...	...	...	...	...	2,811
Bijapur	...	...	...	...	2,274
Belgaum	...	...	...	...	103
Sátára	...	...	...	...	1
Ahmednagar	...	...	...	...	4
Násik...	...	...	...	...	2

It has however been represented that poor-houses will soon be necessary, especially in the districts of Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Poona and Bijapur, and steps are being taken to construct them in these places. The application of Chapter VIII of the Famine Code to the districts of Sholapur and Ahmednagar and parts of Poona has already been authorized. I am to quote below the orders issued by this Government for the working of Chapters V and VIII of the Famine Code:—

"The Commissioner will doubtless take steps to see that the provisions with regard to gratuitous relief are strictly applied. The distinction between the classes to be relieved in their villages under Chapter V and those to be received in poor houses under Chapter VIII should be carefully borne in mind, and great caution is needed that the poor-houses shall be managed in such a way that relief will not involve any offence to religious sentiment. The poor-house at Pandharpur seems intended for its proper purpose, and the municipal commissioners are entitled to credit for their recognition* of their responsibilities in this matter. Relief of persons entitled to it in their villages under Chapter V is not likely to offend caste scruples, but it is very liable to abuse, and very constant and close supervision is necessary. There should be a chain of checks applied through Circle Inspectors, Relief Mamlatdars, Sub-divisional officers and higher authorities to

* The reference here is to a contribution of Rs. 2,500 by the Pandharpur Municipality for the maintenance of a poor-house.

prevent the entry on the dole register of persons who are not eligible and the demoralization which would ensue from any laxity in this respect."

"The Collector refers to the private charity dispensed in the villages. An effort should be made to have it brought under direction and control so that it may not run in the same line with State relief. The appointment of committees who will be guided by the officers engaged on famine duty will help to the attainment of this object. If persons on the dole register or in poor-houses are also assisted by private charity, difficult complications may ensue, but private charity may appropriately be used for the provision of comforts which could not be legitimately supplied at the cost of the State for persons in hospitals attached to poor-houses and for assistance to persons who are not eligible for State relief."

17. The administration of famine relief in each of the affected districts is placed under the control of the Collector, and in order to assist him the Revenue and Police establishments of those districts have been strengthened, and Relief Mamlatdars, Special Civil officers for relief works and District Medical officers have been appointed wherever necessary. The provisions of the Famine Code besides those mentioned in the preceding paragraph have been applied to the extent considered to be necessary in existing circumstances in all places in which relief has to be given.

18. As the failure of the later rains has also resulted in a very serious scarcity of fodder, the question of the preservation of agricultural cattle in the affected districts has engaged the special attention of Government. Large numbers of cattle have already died or been sold for slaughter, especially in the Bijapur and Sholapur districts, and the condition of cattle throughout the affected area is reported to be rapidly deteriorating. I am to forward for the information of the Government of India copies of the resolutions of this Government noted on the margin containing the general orders issued on the subject. All subsidiary measures taken in this matter have been summarised in the weekly statements appended to this letter. Every possible facility has been given to the cultivators to take their useful cattle to places where forage is available, takavi advances being authorized for the purpose of taking them either by road or rail, and the arrangements for the importation of fodder are intended only for such of them as must be kept in the affected districts for the carriage of grain and other necessary purposes. I am to state that while this Government recognize that for the supply of fodder in the affected districts private enterprise must be almost entirely depended upon, the situation demanded some immediate action on the part of Government. It was found that there was much grass, especially in the Khándesh forests, which was likely to be burned if not promptly secured. It is also to a large extent in somewhat inaccessible places where contractors would be reluctant to go. It was therefore determined to get as much as possible of this grass cut, pressed and sent down to railway stations. The special officer appointed on this duty has however been instructed to endeavour as far as possible to sell the grass to traders for distribution at the earliest

No. 8939, dated 11th November 1896.
No. 9158, dated 18th November 1896.
No. 10201, dated 12th December 1896.

stage of the transit at which they appear to offer a reasonable price for it. As the whole quantity which can be imported will suffice for but a fraction of the cattle required to be kept in the districts, any attempt to distribute it by State agency to cultivators must fail, and there is no alternative to the disposal of it by competition. It has however been directed that advances may be made in kind instead of cash to cultivators who wish to have the grass for the preservation of their agricultural cattle. I am to state that the Agents of the Railway Companies have agreed to carry fodder for cattle by rail to the affected districts at low rates. These rates are not restricted to grass carried at the cost of Government, but will apply to fodder imported into the affected districts by private enterprise. This Government are desirous of leaving the importation as far as possible to private trade and will refrain from any competition which is calculated to render that trade less effective.

19. The financial position of this Government, so far as it can be gauged at present, is explained in my letter to the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 23, dated 4th instant. The following statement shows the estimates of the expenditure likely to be incurred on famine relief as furnished by the Collectors of the Central Division and the Commissioner, Southern Division :—

	Sholapur.	Ahmednagar.	Poona.	Sátára.	Násik.	Khándesh.	Total C.D.	Total S.D.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Relief works...	18,20,000	5,57,500	3,44,425	3,75,000	4,21,875	4,80,000	39,98,800	21,00,000	(1) The items against gratuitous relief for Ahmednagar, Khándesh, Násik and the Southern Division include Rs. 1,00,000, Rs. 15,000, Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 1,00,000, respectively, on account of dole or allowances to village servants which are separately shown in the district returns. (2) Rs. 2,75,000 have already been granted. (3) Rs. 5,00,000 are for the Wasali Water scheme, and Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 25,000 to the Yeola and Málegaon Municipalities for relief to weavers. (4) Rs. 52,000 have already been granted. (5) These include Rs. 5,00,000 required next year. (6) Municipal expenditure on water-works.
Gratuitous relief ...	3,64,500	1,82,500	2,33,219	50,250	73,231	45,000	9,54,750	4,15,000	
Contingencies ...	2,18,400	60,000	41,331	45,000	50,625	60,000	4,81,350	2,52,000	
Water-supply ...	25,000	10,000	...	10,000	...	...	45,000	30,000	
Establishments under Collectors (including travelling allowances)...	24,518	60,706	11,289	5,000	25,864	7,400	1,34,777	87,408	
Total ...	24,52,418	8,76,706	6,30,264	4,91,250	5,71,645	5,92,400	56,14,633	28,84,408	
Takávi advances ...	2,28,350	4,00,000	1,00,000	1,50,000	40,000	77,000	9,95,350	12,00,000	
Local resources ...	...	50,000	...	30,000	5,75,000	...	6,55,000	3,75,000	

For reasons already given these estimates are likely to be below rather than above the mark, unless the rabi crops yield a good harvest. As already explained in my letter referred to above, there will also be other indirect charges due to famine, such as those on account of grain compensation to Government servants, supply of fodder to the affected districts, extra police and medical establishments, &c., and Provincial resources are approaching exhaustion. It will be seen that the local resources available to meet expenditure on famine relief are very small. The Dhárwár and Belgaum District

Local Boards are already carrying on relief works at their expense, the former with the aid of a loan from Government, and the Municipalities of Yeola and Málegaon in the Násik district have applied to Government for loans of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 25,000, respectively, to enable them to assist weavers in distress. The Municipality of Pandharpur in the Sholapur District has contributed Rs. 2,500 for the maintenance of a poor-house at that place. The other Local Boards and Municipalities concerned have not so far been able to take any substantial measures towards supplementing the efforts of Government to relieve distress.

20. The probable extent to which suspensions of collections of the land revenue may be necessary within the current financial year is stated in my letter to the Finance Department mentioned in the preceding paragraph. It is impossible however to make any accurate forecast until the probable outturn of the standing rabi crops can be ascertained. A recommendation has been made with regard to one district that in the current year the dates of instalments for collections in the rabi areas should be fixed a month later than usual owing to the lateness of the crops, and this measure may be found necessary in all the affected districts. The following are the estimates of suspensions and remissions for the revenue year ending 31st July already furnished by the Collectors. A further report will be made on this subject when the data for a forecast are more definite:

District.	Suspensions.	Remissions.	Remarks.
NORTHERN DIVISION—			
Ahmedabad	Rs.	Rs.	In 2 talukas. Report for the other talukas not received.
Kaira	30,000	.....	
Panch Maháls ... ..	.....	.....	
Broach	62,500	2,000	
Surat ... ..	.....	.....	
Thána	1,44,060	.....	
Total for Northern Division...	2,38,560	2,000	
CENTRAL DIVISION—			
Sholápur			Report not received.
Ahmednagar	3,47,750	.....	
Poona	6,26,700		Rough estimate. Detailed report not received.
Sátára	5,35,300	.....	
Násik	2,00,000	.....	
Khándesh	8,50,000	.....	
Total for Central Division ...	25,59,750	.....	
SOUTHERN DIVISION—			
Bijápur	5,69,906		Nil in two talukas. Report for the rest of the district not received.
Belgaum	35,000	6,500	
Dhárwár	1,15,000	.....	
Kolába	2,00,000	.....	
Ratnágiri ... ..	.....	.....	
Kánara	1,00,000	.....	
Total for Southern Division...	10,19,906	6,500	
Grand Total ...	38,16,216	8,500	

21. In the Native States within or adjoining the affected area of British territory distress is reported to be acute only in Jath, Rámdurg and Akalkot. The following extracts from letters from the Political Agents show the relief measures being taken by the several Chiefs, to whom the Political Agents have been requested to convey the acknowledgment of the Governor in Council that they are recognizing their responsibilities in this matter:—

KOLHAPUR AND SOUTHERN MARATHA COUNTRY STATES.

(Extracts from a Memorandum, dated 3rd December 1896, from the Political Agent, Kolhapur and Southern Maráthá Country.)

I.—KOLHAPUR.

As yet there is no great distress; labourers are still employed in harvesting operations in parts of the State, and there is no demand yet for large relief works. About 1 inch of rain fell 10 days ago, and this has improved prospects and lowered prices. Present price of jowári is 22 lbs. per rupee. The scarcity is most severe in the Katkol and Panhála maháls. All arrangements are ready for opening relief works. The Dewán has been appointed Famine Commissioner.

II.—SANGLI.

There is no real distress except in the Mangalvedha and Kuchi talukas. These two talukas have an area of 462 square miles and population 62,975, and relief works are about to be commenced there. In the meantime *Tagái* is being freely given. In Shirhatti taluka the crops are good. Recent rains have slightly improved prospects everywhere. Fodder supply still fair except in Mangalvedha, where there is great scarcity. Prices vary from 3½ lbs. in Shirhatti to 20 lbs. in Kuchi.

III.—MIRAJ (SENIOR).

Scarcity is greatest in the Modnimb taluka. Elsewhere the recent rains have so improved prospects that there is no danger for the present. *Tagái* advances are being freely given. The Chief imports grain from Mysore and sells it at cost price in Miraj market without interfering with other traders. The result is to prevent a "corner" in grain. Prices vary from 32 lbs. at Miraj to 21 at Modnimb. No special relief works opened yet.

IV.—MIRAJ (JUNIOR).

Real distress only in Kuroli petha, where relief works have been opened. In the other two pethas, especially Gudgeri, crops are fair, and there is no danger at present. Prices vary from 32 lbs. in Gudgeri to 19 lbs. in Kuroli.

V.—JAMKHANDI.

In Kundgol taluka the crops are good. In Jamkhandi and Bidri talukas there is distress. Relief works have been opened and support about 300 persons. Recent rains have slightly improved prospects. Price of jowári 22 lbs. at Jamkhandi.

VI.—MUDHOL.

Rabi crops much benefited by recent rain of 2½ inches, and cold weather jowári has been sown, which will serve for fodder for cattle if it does not ripen to grain. No actual distress at present. Price of jowári 24 lbs. at Mudhol.

VII.—KURUNDVA'D STATES.

No real distress except in Tikota Mahál near Bijápur, where relief works have been opened. Price of jowári 24 lbs. Some lands have been sown since recent rains.

VIII.—RÁMDURG.

There is much scarcity in this State, and recent fall of 2½ inches of rain has only effected slight improvement. Relief works have been opened and give employment to 1,200 persons. Jowári 22 lbs. per rupee.

IX.—JATH.

The distress here is greater than elsewhere in the Agency, and prices higher owing to long distance from railway. In Jath Mahál recent rain has done some good, but in Karajgi Mahál the condition is serious. Relief works have been opened and support 600 persons at present and *tagái* advances are being widely given. Jowári 20 lbs. per rupee.

(Extracts from reports of other Political Agents)

AUNDH (SA'TA'RA AGENCY).

Severe scarcity is expected in the Atpadi Mahál, which is mixed up with the eastern talukas of Sātara. A relief work has been opened there, and 318 persons are employed on it according to the latest information. The numbers are not expected to exceed 1,000 at any time. The situation has been much improved by the rainfall of November.

In the mahál of Gundal on the borders of the Bijápur district, the rabi crops are good, and stocks of grain are reported to be large. Relief works have however been kept ready, and *tagái* advances amounting to Rs. 4,000 have been made.

Grain compensation is being given to low paid public servants, and suspensions of land revenue have been ordered on a sufficiently liberal scale.

PHALTAN (SA'TA'RA AGENCY).

This State is better off than Aundh. In the western portion the rainfall was not quite seasonable, and some distress is expected there. Relief works sufficient to employ 1,000 persons have been provided. There are no relief works at present.

SA'VANTVA'DI STATE.

There is no famine at present in this State, but prices of food grains range very high, and some distress may be caused among the poorer classes as the hot season approaches. Provision has therefore been made for relief works to be started in case of necessity. Inquiry is being made to ascertain if any remissions or postponements of land revenue collections will be necessary. Measures have been taken to guard against failure of water-supply in the hot season.

AKALKOT (SHOLA'PUR AGENCY).

The rainfall of November last improved the condition of crops in the northern portion of the State, and no relief measures are necessary there. In the southern parts of the State crops are in poor condition, and there is a demand for relief. Works sufficient to meet this demand have been started. A grant of Rs. 4,000 for *takávi* advances has been sanctioned, and cultivators are freely taking advantage of them. A large area of the State forests has been opened to free grazing of cattle and arrangements have been made for the sale of grass at a cheap rate to cultivators.

BHOR STATE (POONA AGENCY).

The population of the State is 155,669. There is no reason to suppose that any excessive proportion will require relief.

Relief works have been started, and according to the latest information 446 persons were employed on them, and 56 were receiving gratuitous relief. The Chief has arranged to open grain shops at each taluka to sell grain to poor persons at cost price and is inducing respectable merchants and grain dealers to import grain. Reserved forests have been opened for free pasturage, and the collection of forest fruits and fire-wood has been allowed this year free of charge.

SAVANUR (DHARWAR AGENCY.)

There is no immediate prospect of distress in this State. Since the recent rainfall the condition of the rabi crops has greatly improved. There is ample provision for relief works in case necessity for starting them arises.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. MONTEATH,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

*Distress in the Deccan—Principles to be
observed in the selection and carrying
out of works for the relief of.*

No. 2 F.—1569 of 1896.

*EXTRACT from the Proceedings of Government in the Public Works
Department, dated 12th November 1896.*

RESOLUTION.—In selecting works for the Famine programmes, or for any revision of these programmes which may be necessary under the conditions now existing, the following general principles should be observed, subject to latitude where Local Officers are able to show that the circumstances require it.

2. The works should, as far as practicable, be so located as to give labour within a reasonable distance of the homes of labourers, but with proper hutting the distances to be travelled may be increased for able-bodied labourers, provided this will secure works more suitable and more likely to prove permanently useful. The provision of water and food will be points for consideration in fixing the works to be undertaken, but these matters are dealt with in the Famine Code.

3. One of the most useful classes of work is a supply of stone metal (a) for existing stone-metalled roads, (b) for roads now coated with murum on which it is desired to add a stone metal layer, and (c) for new roads which it is proposed to construct. Under (a) material will only be required for repairs, but under (b) and (c) the supply may be for the original coating *plus* a provision for repairs, the repair metal not to exceed the probable requirements for ten years.

4. Metal should either be brought to the roads for which it is required, or should be stacked in large heaps near the quarries, which should be at the shortest distances practicable from the roads so as to reduce the lead. The stone should be carried by manual labour when the distances are suitable, and where wheeled traction is necessary it will be a question how far to postpone the carting and to arrange for it in future years, and how far it is desirable to use light carts hauled by famine labourers, and this matter should receive careful consideration.

5. Blindage may be provided, if it is of a suitable description and is not likely to suffer from weather, but it is unlikely that it will be desirable to provide this for more than one or two years owing to wastage. In stone metal the wastage element is small.

6. New roads, which are required and the traffic on which will materially assist by Toll revenue towards the maintenance charges, may be very desirable works, but, as a rule, every rupee expended on famine labour for new roads requires to be supplemented by at least one to three additional rupees, in order that the roads may be completed, and after that there is the cost of maintenance. If 10 years' metal for repairs is stacked, it will reduce the future cost of road repairs until the traffic has had a chance of developing, and will consequently do something towards lessening the objections to such works. In many cases it may be necessary to include roads in the programmes, even though they are not works which would be selected in ordinary times for the expenditure of public funds.

7. It may in places be practicable, when a Railway runs through a Famine district, to provide metal for ballast at suitable spots, and afterwards to dispose of it to the Railway Company. Enquiries in regard to this should be instituted.

8. But, although metal breaking is a work which gives a fair amount of useful results, it should not be relied on too exclusively, for it is not suitable for all labourers, and earthwork is also required. Some of this will be supplied by the new roads referred to, and some by clearances of existing tanks and by the construction of new tanks, and not improbably of new railways. Where there are existing tanks which are silting up, the work of excavating silt in them may be undertaken in a famine season, if the conditions justify the expenditure.

9. The construction of village wells requires a good deal of skilled labour, and they are therefore not as a rule suitable as Government works for famine labour, but whenever the conditions are favourable, works of this class are most desirable, and should be aided and encouraged, as they may do much permanent good.

10. Wells for irrigation are also most useful when the conditions are favourable, and it is understood that these will be arranged for, as far as practicable, by Revenue Officers by means of Takavi advances.

11. Like roads, new tanks for irrigation require, as a rule, that every rupee expended on famine labour should be supplemented by one to three other rupees, in order that they may be made useful, and unfortunately in many cases when completed they barely pay working expenses and the capital sunk remains unproductive. It may, however, be sound policy to encourage them in some cases, even though they are not likely to prove directly remunerative. Government therefore desire that Public Works Officers should take again into consideration those projects, which appeared in former famine programmes but which have been condemned as unproductive, in order to ascertain whether they may not be so modified as to become at least equal in utility to the only alternative works available. It may be desirable to construct embankments and to omit all masonry works for the present, and also to avoid closing the bunds, so that it may not be necessary to take up much land beyond that actually required for the bunds themselves. This would, it is true, give a number of incomplete bunds about the country, but they would cost little to maintain, and it would rest with Government in the future to decide how far it would be worthwhile to complete and utilize any particular work of the class referred to.

G. O. W. DUNN,
Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Revenue Department, Secretariat.

The Public Works Department (Railway.)

The Commissioner N. D.

The Commissioner C. D.

The Commissioner S. D.

The Superintending Engineer C. D. } (Issued as Government Resolution No. M.—106, dated 10th November 1896.)

The Superintending Engineer S. D. }

The Superintending Engineer N. D.

All Collectors in the three Divisions.

The Accountant General, Bombay.

The Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

Exd. J. D. K.

No. of 1896.

Copy forwarded for information and guidance to

Engineer,

Division.

Famine: Adoption of measures for the preservation of agricultural cattle in the affected districts.

No. 8939.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 11th November 1896.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, C. D., No. R.—4296, dated 2nd November 1896—
Submitting a letter No. D.—41, dated 29th October 1896, from the Collector of Ahmednagar, who enquires whether Government intend to take any steps to import grass to alleviate the absolute want of fodder in the southern talukás of the Ahmednagar District: the Commissioner making remarks.

RESOLUTION.—His Excellency the Governor in Council recognizes the extreme importance of preserving as many as possible of the agricultural cattle, as the recovery of the affected districts from the effects of famine depends mainly on the existence of adequate means of cultivation. All practicable measures towards this end should therefore be adopted with the least possible delay.

2. The question arises whether it is preferable to take cattle to places where forage is available or to import fodder to the places where the cattle are. In the opinion of Government the former course must be adopted in the great majority of cases. Authority has been given to the Collectors of affected districts to take action under the provisions of Chapter XI of the Famine Code, but these provisions affect only the power of each Collector within his own district and with regard to the cattle belonging to his district. But the exigencies of the case demand a wider liberality. The Commissioner, S. D., has in consultation with the Conservator of Forests, S. C., issued a proclamation that the Kánara forests are open to free grazing to cattle from the affected districts to the extent contemplated in Section 155 of the Famine Code, and his proceeding in this matter is entirely approved subject to the reservation made below. A similar measure will be taken in regard to other forests where grazing is available. The Collectors of Thána, Kolába and Panch Maháls have been asked whether the forest and waste lands in their districts will supply grazing for a large number of cattle from the Deccan and the information supplied by them will be communicated to the Collectors of affected districts. Doubtless in Khándesh also particularly in the Sátputra Range there will be found a considerable area suitable for grazing. Of course where there is any grass land in affected districts as it is presumed that there is in the ghát talukás of Poona, Ahmednagar and Násik, the cattle of these districts severally will have a prior claim to it.

3. The reservation to be made in this matter is that the concession is to be allowed only for cattle really valuable for agriculture and for milch cattle, and it must be strictly carried out. The grazing available will in all probability be found insufficient to fully meet the requirements for even these useful and valuable cattle, and Government cannot permit the supply to be curtailed by useless animals. The cattle which are sent from affected districts to other districts for the purpose of free grazing must therefore be accompanied by certificates signed by officers not below the grade of Mahálkari that the cattle are agricultural or milch cattle belonging to those districts, and no such certificates are to be granted for cattle which are not useful for cultivation or breeding.

4. Difficulty is likely to be experienced in keeping cattle alive during a long march to places where grazing is available. It appears that in 1876-77 passes were given for the free transport by rail of some cattle. This is a concession which is liable to be abused and cannot be allowed except in extreme cases and for special reasons, and only (1) for cattle of actual cultivators, (2) for plough oxen and milch cattle actually in use, and (3) for such number as the in-

dividual cultivator requires for the cultivation of the land actually occupied by him and for the supply of milk to his family. But the case is one in which advances may be given under Act XII of 1884, and Government considers that this will be the most suitable method of assisting transport where conveyance by rail is required. Care must of course be taken that sums in excess of the amount needed are not granted and that they are devoted to the purpose for which they are given. There must be some security for repayment, but this course will be more economical than absolute gifts of the money even if a proportion of the amount advanced cannot be recovered. The Railway Companies should be asked through the Railway Department what provision they can make for the conveyance of cattle and what rates would be charged on the assumption that carriage was required for considerable numbers.

5. Turning to the question of importing fodder into the affected districts it is to be observed that it is quite impossible for Government to provide a supply for all the cattle which remain in the districts. The supply through the agency of the State of grain in sufficient quantities to prevent any loss of human life is a task which is practically beyond its power and the supply of the much more bulky article of fodder in quantities sufficient to preserve the lives of even a considerable proportion of agricultural cattle would be still more difficult. No attempt was made in this direction in 1876-77. All that was tried was to provide a stock of fodder on the main lines of road along which grain had to be carried, and even this comparatively modest endeavour failed, the greater part of the grass supplied never being utilized. There is not the same reason which existed in 1876-77 for attempting to supply fodder on the lines of grain traffic, for all the districts affected have now communication by rail, and grain will not have to be carried very long distances by road. All that Government can undertake is to facilitate as far as lies in its power the supply of fodder by private agency. For this purpose inquiries should be made where surplus stocks of fodder of any kind are available, and the information on the subject should be disseminated, together with statements of the prices likely to be demanded in the districts of supply, and to be offered in the districts where the supply is needed and of the rates which the Railway Companies will charge for carriage. It is not improbable that it may be profitable to send the more valuable kinds of fodder even from Sind to affected districts, and inquiries should be made on this point. If there is any grass fit for cutting in forest or waste lands, it may be offered free to contractors provided arrangements can be made to secure that it will be supplied at a moderate profit in the affected districts.

6. Attention should be called to the Resolutions quoted in the margin regarding the use of prickly-pear for feeding cattle. It is possible that advantage can be taken of this method of supplying a useful food for animals to a larger extent than has hitherto been contemplated. If the people can be induced to use the leaves of the plant for their cattle to a material extent, persons who require employment near their homes and for whom the eradication of prickly-pear is a suitable employment may also be engaged in preparing the leaves for fodder, which at first should be supplied free, but for which a charge should be made if there arises a demand for it.

7. It is understood that the irrigation works are being used as far as is practicable for the production of fodder crops, but inquiry will be made whether any further utilization of them for this purpose is possible.

8. The facilitation of the supply of forage is a matter of such grave importance that His Excellency, the Governor in Council considers it expedient to appoint an officer to the special duty of directing it and is pleased to appoint accordingly the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth whose knowledge of the resources of the forests and experience in the famine of 1876-77 make

* Printed as an accompaniment to the Resolution.

him particularly fitted for the work. His task will be mainly to carry out the instructions above given. He will ascertain where grazing is available and will take measures for the distribution of the animals entitled to admission to the forests in the manner most suitable in consideration of comparative convenience and the supply available. He will arrange with the Railway Companies for the conveyance of such cattle as may be carried by rail in accordance with the orders above given. He will also keep the Companies informed of the quantities of fodder likely to be available for transport to the affected districts, so that arrangements may be made as cheaply and expeditiously as possible for its conveyance. And he will also afford assistance in regard to another matter for which the Governor in Council considers that provision should be made. The difficulty of procuring fodder for the horses or other animals of officers who have to move about in the affected area, referred to by the Collector of Ahmednagar, is likely to interfere very materially with their efficiency and is one which Government may very properly help to remove. Many of those employed on relief duty have small pay and few servants and could not without serious interference with their duties arrange to procure fodder for the animals on which they are dependent for moving actively about. The Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth should therefore arrange so far as he can to aid those officers on famine duty who apply for his assistance in procuring fodder for their own animals employed for the purpose of their travelling. Where necessary grass can be cut on forest and waste lands or it may be purchased where it is available and sent to the places where it is needed. The charge made for what is supplied should be sufficient to cover all costs.

9. In regard to all the matters above specified the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth should communicate direct with any officers from whom information is needed.

G. S. CURTIS,
Under Secretary to Government.

To
The Commissioner in Sind,
The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Commissioner, S. D.,
The Commissioner, N. D.,
The Collector of Ahmednagar,
All other Collectors in the Presidency proper,
The Survey Commissioner and Director of Land Records and Agriculture,
The Conservator of Forests, N. C.,
The Conservator of Forests, C. C.,
The Conservator of Forests, S. C.,
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat,
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat (Railway),
The Judicial Department of the Secretariat,
The Political Department of the Secretariat,
The General Department of the Secretariat,
The Educational Department of the Secretariat,
The Honourable Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth,
The Editors' Table, Bombay,
The Editors' Table, Poona, care of the City Magistrate, Poona,
The Editor and Proprietor, *Dhárwár Vritt*, Dhárwár (for his own use and for circulation to other Editors of newspapers in Dhárwár).

No. of 1896.

Copy forwarded for information and guidance to

Accompaniments to Government Resolution No. 8939, dated 11th November 1896.

Fodder : Substitution of prickly-pear with a small addition of grass for feeding cattle during the scarcity of —.

No. 1241.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 18th February 1892.

Letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department (*Famine*), No. 112—14, dated 25th January 1892:—

"I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the accompanying extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Madras, No. 836, dated the 30th December last, regarding the feeding of cattle on prickly-pear with a small addition of grass. The information may be useful to district officers in the affected tracts of the Bombay Presidency."

Letter from Mr. A. Sabhāpathi Moodeliar of Bellary, dated 24th January 1892:—

"I have the honour to forward herewith 25 copies of printed instructions about the preparation of prickly-pear as cattle-fodder in districts where fodder is scarce. I trust these instructions will be of some service in places where the cattle are said to be dying of starvation in some districts of the Bombay Presidency."

"One set of the instruments is herewith sent as a sample."

RESOLUTION.—The letter from Mr. Sabhāpathi may be acknowledged with thanks, and copies of the letter and of its accompaniment should be forwarded to all Commissioners and Collectors and the Director of Land Records and Agriculture for information.

2. The set of instruments received with Mr. Sabhāpathi's letter should be forwarded to the Commissioner, S. D.

3. The Collectors in the affected districts should be requested to make widely known the fact that these instruments are procurable, and the instructions for use should be translated into Marāthi and Kānarese, and distributed generally in the Deccan and Southern Marātha Country.

W. DODERET,

Special Under Secretary to Government.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Madras, No. 836, dated the 30th December 1891.

The Collector states that he is trying to introduce the system of feeding cattle on prickly-pear with a small addition of grass. The Commissioner relies on the Collectors and Divisional Officers giving their most earnest attention to this matter. Fifty head of valuable cattle, the property of M. R. Ry. Sabhāpathi Moodeliar Avargal, the Chairman of the Municipal Commission, and one hundred head of municipal cattle in hard daily work have for months past been fed on a daily ration of 20 lbs. of prickly-pear and 8 lbs. of hill grass, supplemented in the case of Mr. Sabhāpathi's cattle by 9 seers of cotton refuse, and in the case of the municipal cattle by 9 seers of cotton refuse and 3 seers of oil-cake. Mr. Sabhāpathi Moodeliar believes that cattle might be fed entirely on prickly-pear, provided they are not required to do hard work, and states that in 1878 the experiment was tried on a calf in Bellary which was found to have gained 3 lbs. in weight at the end of one month. A complete set of instruments

for preparing the prickly-pear, consisting of one pair of pincers, one pair of tongs, and one knife can be purchased for two annas, and the taste for prickly-pear in cattle may be cultivated by sprinkling the leaf for the first two or three days with salt and gram-powder.

Ráo Bahádur A. Sabhápáthi Moodeliar's Prickly-pear Instruments.

How to use Prickly-pear as Fodder for Cattle.

Ráo Bahádur A. Sabhápáthi Moodeliar's prickly-pear instrument consists of a set of tongs, a knife, and a pair of pincers. Hold the prickly-pear leaf with the tongs and pluck off the thorns with the pincers; after the leaves are divested of all the thorns, it is better they are washed in water to remove any stray thorns sticking to the gummy matter and mud over them. Then cut the leaves with the knife into one-inch square pieces.

To make the cattle relish them, a handful of horse-gram flour, or the flour of some other pulse, mixed with a little of common salt, should be sprinkled over these pieces. If the cattle would not eat them of their own accord, a few slices may be put into their mouths, and they may be made to chew those pieces. If accustomed to in this manner for a day or two, the cattle will begin to eat the stuff greedily, even without the addition of gram-flour and salt. It is however advisable to use a handful of gram-powder with a tola of common salt to every ten pounds of prickly-pear slices, so that they may be agreeable to the cattle.

10 or 15 pounds of this prickly-pear in the morning and about the same quantity in the evening with an addition of 5 or 6 pounds of kurbi or grass in the night is enough for the maintenance of ordinary working cattle.

In Bellary a cooly of two annas is paid for 125 lbs. of prickly-pear cut in pieces, which together with kurbi, as stated above, is enough to support 5 cattle. At first, the cooly-women will not be able to prepare such a large quantity, but when they are accustomed to the work, they will be able to prepare the leaves very quickly.

Thousands of cattle were saved by these instruments during the famine of 1877-78.

Price per set of instruments, annas two and pies six only.

Note.—The sale-proceeds, after deducting the cost of annas two, go to the Bellary Sanmarga Samáj Fund.

The instruments can be had on application to Messrs. A. Sabhápáthi Moodeliar & Co., Bellary, Madras Presidency.

Fodder: Substitution of prickly-pear with a small addition of grass for feeding cattle during the scarcity of—.

No. 4351.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 20th May 1892.

Letter from the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, No. 989, dated 3rd May 1892:—

"With reference to Government Resolution No. 1535, dated 2nd March last, I have the honour to forward a report made by the Superintendent of Farms on the feeding of cattle with prickly-pear. The experiments were carefully watched by me and were thoroughly carried out.

"2. The experiment of feeding pampered milch cattle on the pear was practically a failure. Their milking qualities could not be kept up, and the experiment involved so much cruelty to the animals that, after ascertaining that it could not be

persisted in without serious damage to them, it was given up. The animals, however, ate enough of the pear to prove that they could be kept alive on it.

"3. As regards ordinary cattle, it has been shown that with a little trouble they can be got to eat it freely and thrive on the diet. Three young animals were kept on 15 lbs. of pear each, mixed with a little salt and bran, and with 4 lbs. of hay per diem, for one month. At the end of that time they were in good condition and had gained in weight. The pear consumed by these three animals could have been easily prepared by a woman or even by a child; the value of the hay would be about one rupee per month for each, and 8 to 10 annas would cover the value of the rest of the food. The Chief of Ichalkaranji has also tried feeding cattle on prickly-pear with success; his animals ate 18 lbs. per day. He found that buffaloes were less difficult to feed with it than oxen, and this was noticed here also.

"4. I would suggest that the report should be printed for circulation."

RESOLUTION.—The results of the experiments are interesting and valuable.

2. Copies of the letter from the Director of Land Records and Agriculture and of its accompaniment may be forwarded to all Commissioners and Collectors for information with reference to Government Resolution No. 1241, dated 18th February 1892. Copies may be laid on the Editors' Tables.

3. Copies of the papers together with copies of Government Resolution No. 1241, dated 18th February 1892, and its accompaniment, may also be forwarded to the Political Department for communication to Political officers.

W. L. HARVEY,

Under Secretary to Government.

Letter from the Superintendent of Farms, Bombay, to the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Bombay, No. 199, dated 1st April 1892.

I have the honour to report that the experiment directed by you to test the value of prickly-pear as a cattle food has been completed. I am glad to be able to report favourably as to its undoubted value as an *auxiliary* cattle food in famine times.

An experiment was begun on the 19th February at the Poona Farm which did not prove satisfactory. An attempt was made to feed a cow and buffalo both in milk on it. These cattle, although not yielding much milk at the time, were previously liberally rationed, and naturally did not take kindly to the change. They had literally to be starved before either the one or the other would taste the pear. The pear was chopped very fine, mixed with dāl husk, bran, and a little salt. The buffalo took the food first, but only after 30 hours' stinting. Neither the cow nor buffalo ate it greedily. The experiment was continued four days. Meantime the cow gave milk regularly, but only about one-fourth of her usual quantity. The buffalo got irritable, then savage, and refused to give any milk at all. The cow, when allowed her ordinary food, soon gave her usual quantity of milk. The buffalo has since given less than her normal yield and is now nearly dry. However, it is proved that milch cattle in high condition can, by severe stinting, be made to eat prickly-pear.

On the 26th February an experiment was begun at the old Botanical Gardens, Ganesh Khind, with three cattle ranging in age from 18 months to 2 years. The condition and feeding of these cattle did not differ from ordinary rayats' stock. They had previously been allowed a fair allowance of hay at night and were grazed on rather bare pasture during the day. They were all in fair thriving condition. Two were buffalo heifers, the third was a young bull out of a small Deccani cow. Their aggregate weights were 942 lbs. The experiment was continued 32 days.

The implements used in preparing the pear were identical with those sold in Bellary at 2 annas per set. The set consists of a rude hoop iron knife, a hoop iron tongs, and a pair of pinchers, fashioned like a sugar tongs. Each limb of the latter terminates in a spoon. This implement is the most serviceable of the three. The two spoons, when closed over a bunch of prickles, readily remove the bunch along with a small portion of the pulpy part of the leaf. It requires very little practice to get into the knack of removing the prickles quickly. It is waste of time to attempt to pull the prickles. The best way is to scoop out sufficient of the leaf to remove with it one bunch of prickles at a time. I question whether women, however active, can prepare 125 lbs. in a day (as in the recent Madras experiment) of the pear which grows on the poor land of the Deccan. Three prepared leaves average about 1 pound in weight. I offered 2 annas per 50 lbs., but there is no great want of other work here, and although several women of the Dápodí village attempted the work, none would continue it. The thorns stick in their clothes, and until the worker gets expert the work is disagreeable.

A garden hand at Rs. 8 per month removed the prickles from 45 lbs. of pear per day, chopped up the prepared leaf fine and gave it to the three cattle at two meals—the first meal at 7 o'clock in the morning, second at 5 o'clock in the evening—7½ lbs. to each animal each time. A pinch of salt, and during the first part of the experiment, 1½ lbs. of mixed dāl husk and bran was allowed daily to each animal. This was mixed well through the pear. When the pear prepared in this manner was all eaten the cattle were each allowed 4 lbs. of hay, given at about 7 o'clock in the evening. They were kept tied up out of sight of the other cattle. Water was offered in a bucket three times a day. One buffalo took to the food at once. All ate it greedily after two days, and thereafter up to the end of the experiment. During the first four days no hay was given. Afterwards 4 lbs. per day was allowed to each animal. Not a scrap of hay or prepared food was wasted. Everything was eaten up clean. Every second day the cattle were taken out for a little exercise. During the last fortnight they drank a good deal of water owing to the heat of the weather.

The attendant had to walk about a mile to get the pear. He prepared it where it grew, taking from 6 to 7 hours to get the 45 lbs.

During the last week of the experiment the allowance of bran and chuni was discontinued, only a pinch of salt being added to the prepared pear; the cattle still continued to eat it greedily. On the 28th March the cattle were weighed. There was an aggregate increase of 41 lbs., two increasing little in weight, while the third had thriven considerably. I do not attach much importance to the increase in weight, because the cattle were drinking a good deal more water latterly than they did to begin with; but as one intimately acquainted with the appearance of Farm stock, I can without any hesitation say that the three animals had the appearance of thriving throughout the experiment.

Regarding the rate at which prickly-pear can be prepared as cattle food, I have made careful experiment, and with leaves weighing 3 to the lb., 1 lb. in 7½ minutes is good practice and 70 lbs. per day very good work.

During the first few days of the experiment, while the cattle were fed on prickly-pear without hay, it was noticeable that all three animals were inclined to scour. The inference is that prickly-pear alone is a too laxative food.

Two days after the experiment was completed, the same cattle were offered a feed each of prickly-pear at the same time as the evening allowance of hay was given. They ate the pear but preferred the hay.

Famine: The Honourable Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth on special duty.

No. 9158.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

(Famine.)

Bombay Castle, 18th November 1896.

Letter dated 14th November 1896 from the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth on the subject of the special duty to which he has been appointed.

RESOLUTION.—The Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth has by this time received a copy of Government Resolution No. 9006, dated 13th instant. He should arrange to deliver over charge to Mr. Betham of the office of Conservator of Forests, C. C., as soon as possible.

2. In accordance with the request now made he may engage at once a clerk on Rs. 80 per mensem and a karkun on Rs. 60 per mensem, and may take them from the Conservator's office, where they can be replaced by temporary employes. He is also authorized to employ a náik on Rs. 9 per mensem and 4 peons at Rs. 8 per mensem each.

3. The Accountant General should be requested to issue to the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth a letter of credit for Rs. 20,000. Unless there is any objection on the ground of Civil Account Code Rules, the disbursements and receipts should be dealt with in the first instance according to the rules of the Forest Code, and any expenditure which is not recouped can be eventually debited as a Famine Relief charge.

4. As already directed, the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth should report separately what sum he requires for contingent expenditure, and should prefer an indent on the Superintendent of Stationery for the stationery he needs.

5. The Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth has already been informed that he is empowered to issue orders direct on the subject of grass and grazing to Forest subordinates, and all Forest officers should be desired to co-operate with him as far as lies in their power.

6. His attention should however be invited to paragraph 5 of Government Resolution No. 8939, dated 11th instant, and to Government Resolution No. 9007, dated 13th idem. In the circumstances which have been reported it is necessary to cut and stack by departmental arrangements as much of the grass in the Khándesh forests as possible, and it will probably be desirable in the first instance to arrange departmentally, after consultation with the Collectors and Commissioners, for the conveyance of what is pressed to large centres such as Poona, Sholápur, Ahmednagar and possibly Bijápur. But every endeavour should be made to get private trade to take the place of departmental arrangements at as early a stage as possible. When an estimate can be framed of the quantity of grass available and of the cost of cutting, collecting, conveying, pressing, &c., it will be well to advertise for tenders for the purchase of it either where stacked or where pressed or at the nearest railway station or at large railway centres, and the earlier the stage at which it can be disposed of the better. In no case will it be possible to arrange for the retail sale of the grass. Simultaneously with these departmental arrangements every effort should be made to induce contractors to take grass on the terms suggested at the close of paragraph 5 of Government Resolution No. 8939, dated 11th instant.

7. The Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth should be requested to consider the question of obtaining and pressing grass in the Haliyál Táluka and Supa Petha of the Kánara District and in the Khánápur and Belgaum Tálukas of the

Belgaum District for consumption in the Dhárwár and Bijápur Collectorates, after ascertaining from the officials in the Southern Division whether Dhárwár and Bijápur cattle will eat the grass grown in the tracts mentioned. Government believe that in the famine of 1876-77 the Deccan cattle even when dying of starvation refused to eat grass from Kánara.

G. S. CURTIS,
Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Commissioner, S. D.,
All Collectors in the Central and Southern Divisions,
The Deputy Conservator of Forests, C. C.,
The Conservator of Forests, S. C.,
The Superintendent of Stationery,
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat,
The Financial Department of the Secretariat,
The Honourable Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth,
The Editors' Table, Bombay,
The Editors' Table, Poona, care of the City Magistrate, Poona,
The Editor and Proprietor, *Dhárwár Vritt*, Dhárwár (for his own use
and for circulation to other Editors of newspapers in Dhárwár).

No. of 1896.

Copy forwarded for information and guidance to

Grass and Grazing: Proposals regarding the supply of grass for the cattle of the affected districts.

No. 10201.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
(Famine.)

Bombay Castle, 12th December 1896.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth, Conservator of Forests, First Grade, on Special Duty, No. FAM.—146, dated 9th December 1896—Reporting for the information of Government the result of the advertisement for tenders for the supply of grass at certain places in the Ahmednagar District; making the following remarks:—

"8. I am of opinion that Government may at once dispossess themselves of the expectation or hope that private enterprise will undertake the conveyance of grass in any appreciable quantities from parts of the country where there may be a superabundance of grass to the famine-affected areas for sale there at any price which will be within the reach of the village cattle-owner. If by any fortuitous chance private enterprise were to move in the grass business, its efforts would be restricted to one or two of the more promising stations, and would leave practically untouched and unsatisfied the nine hundred and ninety out of a thousand mouths of hungering demand spread over a wide extent of country afflicted by a lack of grass and a dearth of fodder.

"9. Further I may suggest that Government should divest themselves of the belief that private enterprise will be allured by 'the hope of profit' to undertake a speculation in grass in the famine-affected areas without being guaranteed payment by Government at a rate to be previously agreed upon. I have no hesitation in advising that no dealer will buy grass of Government or from other sources, in, say, Khándesh or the Thána Collectorate, or elsewhere, in order to trade with it in Bijápur or Sholápur, or in the eastern parts of the Ahmednagar and Poona Districts, unless he has secured a purchaser beforehand—a very improbable chance—if the transaction is to be any way approaching in magnitude the actual want and demand, or unless, as said before, Government will be the purchaser of the grass at its destination and very little, if any, grass that Government may sell in a part of the country where there may be a superabundance of grass will find its way into the stomachs of the peasants' cattle or of the cattle maintaining road traffic in the famine-affected country, the preservation of which in life and bodily vigour is an aim and object of Government.

"10. It seems to me that Government must undertake the retail sale of grass at railway stations within the famine-affected areas: and I do not think there would be much difficulty in carrying out this work. I would offer pressed hay for sale at Re. 0-12-0 per railway maund of 80 lbs. at the outset with the probability of decreasing price later on as bales begin to pour in at the railway stations of their destination. Care would have to be taken that dealers and middlemen did not get hold of the hay and deprive the rayat cattle-owner of the liberality of Government, which is being directed chiefly in his interest and behalf."

and soliciting sanction to the following proposals regarding the supply of grass to the cattle of the famine-affected areas:—

(1) that grass baled by me in the Khándesh and other districts where there is superabundance of grass may be railed to the famine-affected districts and not sold at the railway stations to which the bales may be brought for despatch;

(2) that bales of grass may be stored at the railway stations in the famine-affected areas and there sold by retail to village cattle-owners under such arrangement as I may be able to make with due care for the grass reaching the peasants' cattle and not passing into the possession of sávkárs and dealers at a fixed rate of annas 12 per 80 lbs.

RESOLUTION.—The Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth should be referred to paragraph 6 of Government Resolution No. 9158 dated 18th ultimo. He has full authority to despatch the grass by rail to the larger railway stations in the affected districts if suitable offers are not made to buy it at an earlier stage. He should make the best arrangements he can to dispose of grass sent to these

places at a fair price, such as if possible will cover all charges. If the grass is sold there, there will be little risk of the greater part of it not being used for the purpose for which it is intended. There should be no attempt to exclude dealers, who on the contrary should be encouraged to take part as far as possible in the distribution of the grass. The Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth may be correct in abandoning all hope that private enterprise will undertake any speculation in grass in the famine-affected areas, but if he is right, then there must also be abandoned the hope that a material proportion of the agricultural cattle can be saved by importation of grass. No arrangements which can be made by State agency could be effectual for supplying fodder for more than a small fraction of the cattle in the affected districts. The Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth should therefore not relax his efforts to obtain all possible aid from private enterprise. He should recognize that the assistance and direction into the proper channels of private trade in this matter are of much more importance than any measures which he single-handed can take for the supply of grass. At the same time, as already directed, he should do all in his power to secure all grass fit for fodder which is available in the forests or waste lands and dispose of it in the best manner which in the circumstances is practicable, preferably where it is stacked or pressed, otherwise at railway stations from which it can be despatched, and in the last resort at railway stations in the affected districts. All that he can do in this matter will be of advantage, although of little advantage as compared with what can be done by private trade.

2. As before pointed out however the great bulk of the cattle can be saved only by being taken to the grazing grounds, and to this point special attention should be paid. Importation of grass is intended only for those which must be kept in the district.

J. MONTEATH,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Honourable Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth,
The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Commissioner, S. D.,
All Collectors in the Central and Southern Divisions,
The Deputy Conservator of Forests in charge C. C.,
The Conservator of Forests, S. C.,
The Conservator of Forests, N. C.

No. of 1896.

Copy forwarded for information and guidance to

Notification.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FAMINE).

Bombay Castle, 19th November 1896.

No. 37—FAM. OF 1896.

The following memorandum describing the measures hitherto taken by Government to deal with the scarcity now prevailing in parts of the Bombay Presidency is published for general information:—

Towards the end of September last, owing to the excessive rainfall of July and the first half of August and the almost total failure of the later rains followed by an abnormal rise in the prices of food-grains, apprehensions began to be felt regarding the state of the crops and the condition of the people, especially in the Deccan and Southern Marátha Country and parts of the Konkan. Government accordingly, in order to keep themselves informed of the progress of affairs, ordered on the 10th October that special weekly reports supplementary to those published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* should be submitted to them

from the districts* noted in the margin, stating the rainfall of the previous seven days, the progress, if any, made in sowing operations, the condition of the crops, if any, the tendency of prices of the cereals ordinarily used for food, the state of the cattle, and the condition of the cultivators, the agricultural labourers who work for wages, and the town population such as weavers, artisans, &c. The Commissioners, C. D. and S. D., were

*Khândesh:	Belgaum.
Násik.	Bijápúr.
Poona.	Dhárwár.
Ahmednagar.	Kolába.
Sholápur.	Ratnágiri.
Sátára.	

at the same time asked to ascertain what relief works out of the annual famine programme were ready to be started, should unfortunately the necessity for doing so arise. The situation as disclosed by the latest weekly reports (for the week ending 14th November) submitted to Government in accordance with these orders, is summarised in the following statement:—

AHMEDNAGAR.

There has been no rain. The kharif crops, where there were any, have been reaped, but they have been entirely withered in southern talukas. The rabi jowari already sown is green, but is reported to be withering in some places. There is no further sowing except in bagayat (garden) lands. Price of jowari is stationary, being 16½ lbs. per rupee at Nagar. At other stations the prices have risen to the same level, except in Sanganner and Akola, where they remain stationary. Distress among cattle is increasing owing to scarcity of fodder, especially in the southern talukas, and many of them are relinquished by the owners. There is no suffering yet among the cultivating population. Labourers and weavers are in distress, and demand for labour at famine rates is rapidly increasing, especially in Jamkhed. Relief works have been opened. There has been considerable emigration from many talukas.

SHOLA'PUR.

There has been no rain. Dry crops have been reaped in some parts, but are burnt in most places. Well-irrigated crops have in some places been damaged by grasshoppers. Canal crops are fair. The price of jowari has somewhat improved in the city of Sholapur owing to the late riot. In the district it is stationary, and ranges from 18½ to 22 lbs. per rupee. The price of wheat ranges from 15½ to 22, of bajri from 20½ to 22, of nagli from 14 to 28½, and of rice from 14 to 28 lbs. per rupee. The cattle are in poor condition and are being sold at nominal prices. The distress among agricultural labourers is everywhere increasing. Relief works already sanctioned are being opened. Emigration continues from all parts. Weavers are clamouring for work, which will be given on the semi-gratuitous system where necessary.

KHANDESH.

There has been no rain. The kharif crops are much the same as before. Cotton is expected to yield on average about 1½, bajri about 1½, and jowari about ¾ of an ordinary crop. No further progress has been made in rabi sowings. Much of the seed already sown has not germinated properly. Price of jowari, which was stationary for some time, has risen during the week under report to about 18 or 19 lbs. per rupee. Cattle are in fair condition. Weavers' trade is slack, but not to such extent as to drive them to works. In parts of Edalabad, Jalgaon, Sindheda, Pimpalner and Nandurbar talukas labourers and poor agriculturists require artificial employment. Test works are in progress. There has been no emigration.

NASIK.

There has been no rain. Kharif crops are getting worse except in Igatpur, parts of Nasik and Sinnar. Reaping of rice and other kharif crops is in progress; their probable average output is estimated at from two to four-sixteenths of an ordinary crop. Standing rabi crops are in need of rain. Prices are high everywhere, but there is a slight improvement in some talukas owing to this year's produce coming on the market. Stocks of grain are generally sufficient for the present. Wheat and jowari are imported into Malsegaon in large quantities. Fodder is scarce in most talukas, but the cattle are generally healthy. The condition of cultivators is normal and of town population, excepting weavers in Yeola and Malsegaon, fair. Field labourers and others, chiefly in Malsegaon, Nandgaon and Yeola, are in want of work which is being provided. About 2,500 Mominis from Malsegaon have left the place for Bombay and other places in search of employment in the weaving trade.

POONA.

There has been no rain. Jowari sowing is nearly completed wherever there is irrigation or subsoil percolation of water. The crops are generally bad. Prices are rising in Indapur and Dhond where they are stationary, jowari ranging from 14 to 20 lbs., bajri from 12 to 17½ lbs., wheat from 11 to 20½ lbs., rice from 9 to 21 lbs., and tur from 11 to 16½ lbs. per rupee. Fodder is scarce everywhere except in Maval. The cattle are in poor condition. Water-supply is sufficient. There is suffering among labourers and agriculturists in the south-east of the district. One relief work has been opened, and measures are being taken for starting others. Migration of labourers has diminished in the east of the district and has increased to a slight extent in Haveli, Maval and Ambegaon. Distress is reported among Mhars and other lower classes in Dhond Petla, and measures are being taken to relieve them. The condition of the town population in Poona is unsatisfactory.

SATARA.

There has been no rain, and no dew save along the rivers. Crops are reported to be thriving in many parts of Karad, Valva and along railway line from Kundal to Sangli. Rain is however generally much wanted for standing rabi crops. Price of bajri is stationary in Koregaon and fallen in Malcolmpeth and Tasgaon, that of jowari is fallen in Khan-dala and Tasgaon. Prices are rising elsewhere. Fodder is everywhere dearer and in some places scarce, but the cattle are in a satisfactory condition. Water is plentiful. The condition of the cultivators and labourers is satisfactory. Artizans are beginning to lose custom. Emigration is increasing. The town of Karad is quiet after the riot. Test works have been opened.

BELGAUM.

There has been no rain and no emigration, but people are moving in from Bijapur and Native States. Cattle are being sold at nominal prices. Prices of food-grains continue to rise. Test works are about to be started.

BIJAPUR.

There has been no rain. Kharif crops are lost almost everywhere. Rabi crops are also withering for want of rain. Prices of food-grains have risen very high. Exportation of food-grains continues. The condition of the cattle is pitiable; they are dying for want of fodder and are sold to butchers for low prices. Labourers have no work and find it hard to maintain themselves. Weavers and artizans have not sufficient work. Good jowari is sold at 15 pounds and 6 chataks and common jowari at 17 pounds and 4 chataks. There is very little import of grain. Water-supply is failing. Relief test works are in progress in Bagalkot, Sindgi, Indi, Bagevadi and Muddebihal talukas. Relief work has been opened in Bijapur Taluka.

DHARWAR.

There has been no rain. In Dhawar, Hubli, Bankapur and Karaigi rabi crops are withering. Kharif jowari is fair to good, but rooted out in Ron, Nargund and parts of Navalgund and Gadga. Paddy is being reaped in Dhawar, Bankapur, Kalghatgi, Hargal and Kod. The condition of agriculturists is moderate in affected parts, elsewhere it is good so far; that of labourers is indifferent and getting serious in affected parts. Townartizans are suffering from want of employment and high prices. Cattle are poor in affected parts and they are being removed to Mallad (hilly tracts of Southern Maratha Country). Supply of food-grains is sufficient so far; that of fodder is insufficient in affected parts. Water is generally sufficient. Prices continue to rise. There has been no emigration to Bombay.

KOLABA.

Harvesting of kharif crops is almost finished. The situation is otherwise practically unchanged. Relief works are still unnecessary. The Plague in Bombay prevents emigration to that city. 200 immigrants arrived at Karjat.

RATNAGIRI.

There has been no rain. Prices are stationary except at Vengurda, Malvan, Devgad and Dapoli, where they have slightly risen. Late crops are very poor. There is no demand for work and no emigration or immigration of men and cattle as result of distress. Cultivators are engaged in harvesting. Cattle are healthy except in Khed, Rajapur, Ratnagiri and Devgad.

2. As October advanced, and the rains still held off, and the weekly reports submitted to Government gave indications of distress among the poorer labouring classes in certain districts, orders were passed on the 23rd of that month for the opening of test works under Section 18 of the Bombay Famine Relief Code, the District Officers being advised to take care that the labour was paid for at task work rates, and that the wage given did not exceed the famine wage prescribed in the Code. These test works are now in progress in several districts, and wherever the result of the test has shown that there is a demand for labour at famine rates, regular relief works have been opened. According to the latest information before Government, the numbers of persons employed on the works are as shown below :—

	Relief Works	Test Works.
Sholapur ...	(Not started.)	1,756
Ahmednagar ...	1,400	None.
Poona ...	858	None.
Nasik ...	1,722	643
Khandesh ...	(Not started.)	989
Satara ...	(Not started.)	
Bijapur ...	(Not started.)	2,069
Belgaum ...	(Not started.)	
Dharwar ...	Do.	do.

3. Though the figures given above show that the demand for labour at famine wages is still nowhere very keen, it is expected that the numbers on relief works will soon increase. Programmes of relief works for the several districts mentioned have therefore been kept ready and the Commissioners have been authorized to commence, subject to the provisions of the Famine Code, such of these works as they and the Superintending Engineers consider most desirable to meet immediate requirements. Instructions have also been given, as contemplated in Section 100 of the Famine Code, for the starting of small relief works, such as the removal of prickly-pear, for the employment of persons whom it may be deemed inexpedient to draft to works at a distance from their homes. In order to facilitate relief on a large scale being given it has been laid down that subject to the provision of Section 100, famine labour should be concentrated on the smallest possible number—compatible with the exigencies of the situation—of really large and important works and with a preference for works likely to be of value to the State. No distance test is however enforced as the Code prescribes none. Chapters VI and VII of the Code are applied wherever relief works are open, and the Collectors have been authorized to avail themselves of the provision of Section 162 for the supply of hutting materials, &c., required for the works. Steps are being taken for the employment of special Relief Officers and the other special staff referred to in Section 19, wherever necessary. In order to provide for the exigencies of the situation, all ordinary Public Works operations have been stopped wherever this could be done without causing serious loss on, or damage to, existing works, the changes required being effected so as not to throw people out of employ by the sudden stoppage of works in cases in which this would be likely to cause distress. Any of the ordinary Public Works within the area of scarcity are however, if suitable, to be carried on as Famine works. Instructions have been given to keep the Circle Inspectors and village officers acquainted with the works opened for relief, so that they may urge those in need to proceed to them. The District and Municipal Boards have been consulted in the matter of using their agency for purposes of relief, as far as is practicable, as contemplated in Section 31 of the Famine Code, an offer of assistance in the shape of loans on favourable terms or grants-in-aid in carrying out under the rules of the Famine Code any works suitable for the purpose of relief being made to them by Government.

4. The Konkan Districts have been hitherto held to be free from the risk of famine, but it is probable that as the season advances relief works will be required in Kolaba and Ratnagiri and the requisite programmes have been ordered to be prepared.

5. Provision has been made for such gratuitous relief as is at present urgently needed. While the premature application of the provisions regarding such relief is deprecated; discretion is allowed to the Collectors of affected districts to give it to any persons unable to work and found to be suffering from lack of food, the principles laid down in Chapter V of the Code and in the note to clause (f) of Section 49 being strictly followed. According to the latest information the numbers gratuitously relieved are in Sholapur 13 and in Poona 2. Authority has also been given to the Collectors of certain districts to apply Section 151 of the Code regarding semi-gratuitous relief to weavers and their families where it is urgently needed. Grain compensation has been directed to be given to Government servants on low pay to the extent admissible under the Civil Account Code.

6. The weekly returns prescribed in Section 34 of the Famine Code, showing the progress of relief measures, have been ordered to be submitted, and will be regularly published.

7. Tagdi advances for making wells and effecting other useful improvements likely to aid in producing much-needed crops at the time they are most wanted are being made as freely as is practicable. The Commissioners have been instructed to redistribute the allotments before made so as to make as much as possible available in the affected tracts, and extra assignments have been sanctioned for the districts in which there is the greatest demand for such loans. These loans provide the most suitable method of relief in the earlier stages of scarcity and the best and most economical means of employing labour, for the land-

holders can make arrangements with labourers, which Government cannot, to ensure the most profitable employment of the money. Similar advances have also been ordered to be given to cultivators willing to carry their useful cattle by rail to places where grazing is available.

8. As there is every probability of a great scarcity of drinking water before the next rains, the attention of the district officers has been drawn to Section 152 of the Famine Code, so that provision may be made to meet any such scarcity as far as is practicable. Works devised with this object constitute a suitable form of employment for needy labourers, and Government have ordered that wherever it is possible the works should be carried out at the joint cost of Government and Local Funds, with such aid from private persons either in money or in labour as is forthcoming. But in cases in which measures for providing water are urgent and no aid from Local Boards or private persons can be given, Government will make grants for the purpose on the application of District Officers.

9. The question of the preservation of agricultural cattle has engaged the attention of Government, and the measures adopted have already been made public. As much grass is available in the Khandesh forests, presses—steam and bullock power—have been sent to that district and energetic measures are being taken to have as much grass as possible cut, pressed and conveyed to railway stations. Similar measures will be adopted in other districts where grass fit for fodder is procurable, as there is risk of the grass being destroyed by fire if not secured without delay; but every effort will be made to induce private enterprise to take the place of departmental operations. All possible measures are being taken to preserve the grass from fire. The provisions of Chapter XI of the Code have been applied to the affected districts, and the Collectors of other districts to which cattle are sent have been given the same power of opening forests as is given by Section 155 of the Code to Collectors of affected districts. Inquiries have also been made to ascertain if cattle from British territory could be admitted to the forests of Native States, and if so, on what terms. Section 162 of the Code regarding the supply of hutting materials, fuel, &c., for relief works from forests has been applied to the districts affected by drought, and the Collectors have been authorized to apply the other provisions of Chapter XII regarding the utilisation of forests for the supply of food for human beings in any places where the removal of the restrictions seems desirable.

10. Grain-riots have recently occurred at Hubli, Karad and Sholapur, and some other minor towns, being in all cases due to the high prices demanded by grain-dealers and to attempts to export grain. Interference on the part of Government with the action of private trade in the supply of food to the affected tracts has been suggested, and the views of Government on the subject have already been published. The following instructions have been given for the supply of grain for persons employed on relief works and persons gratuitously relieved in places where it cannot be obtained in sufficient quantities at any price or where the local dealers demand unreasonable prices :—

“The existing difficulty however arises mainly from the action of local dealers. If they continue to keep back their stocks, as they are at present doing, it will be quite legitimate and in accordance with the conclusions recorded by the Famine Commission for the officers in charge of relief camps to obtain supplies from a distance. Wherever therefore there is a difficulty in obtaining locally a sufficient supply at any price for persons employed on relief works or entitled to gratuitous relief or where the local price is such that it would be less expensive to buy grain in distant markets and convey it to the relief works, Collectors are authorized to adopt the latter course. By distant markets are of course meant markets in India and not those in foreign countries, and it will not generally be necessary or expedient to go beyond the nearest large towns accessible by rail, so that much time will not be needed to obtain the necessary supply. Where this course is adopted, it will be desirable to have always in hand sufficient grain for two weeks' consumption on the relief works, and in accordance with Section 112 of the Famine Relief Code the ration should in such cases be paid in kind. But interference with private trade, even to the extent above shown to be legitimate, should be adopted only if traders cannot be induced to supply the labourers on reasonable terms. If local traders will not do so, an endeavour should be made to arrange with the larger traders in market towns to undertake the supply, and in such case a reasonable price may be guaranteed for a sufficient period. The inducement of this guarantee to prevent the larger traders being at once undersold by the local traders will be necessary, but it should be given only for such period as is necessary, after which the local traders will in all probability accept the proper market price.”

The rulers of Native States have been informed that their subjects who apply for relief in British India will not be refused it, and they have at the same time been advised to take measures for the relief of their own needy subjects and to co-operate with the British Government by adopting the same general system in the matter of leaving trade free and in other respects.

By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Notification.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FAMINE).

Bombay Castle, 26th November 1896.

No. 60-FAM. OF 1896.

In continuation of Government Notification No. 37-Fam., dated 19th instant, the following memorandum in connection with the prevailing scarcity is published for general information:—

Owing to the fall of rain the situation has somewhat improved in parts of the affected districts, as will be seen from the following statement containing the latest weekly reports (for the week ending 21st November) submitted to Government:

AIIMEDNAGAR.

Good rain fell on the 19th in the south of the district, at Karjat 4½ inches, Jámkhed 1 inch 99 cents, at Shirigonda 2 inches 47 cents, at Párner 1 inch 20 cents, and at Nagar 1 inch 5 cents. There was less rain in the north, the minimum fall being 1 cent at Kopargaoon. Sowing of wheat and gram has been rendered possible, where more than one inch has fallen. Standing jowári has improved where rain fell as above have also slightly improved. Prices after the 20th instant have been slightly lower, jowári and bájri in Nagar town being 23 and 20 pounds per rupee respectively. Distress among cattle is increasing. The condition of the cultivators has improved in places where good rain has fallen, elsewhere it remains unchanged. Distress among weavers is increasing. The numbers on relief works are rapidly increasing, except at Karjat, where half the number has left for field work.

SHOLAPUR.

The rainfall at Sholapur is 5 inches, in other talukas from 2 to 1 inch, except at Pandharpur where only 10 cents were registered. Crops are improved in proportion to the rain. Sowing of wheat and gram has commenced in Sholapur, but not in other talukas. The price of jowári has improved in about three-fourths of the district, being 24 lbs. per rupee. The supply of grain is plentiful. Six relief works have been opened in five talukas. The removal of prickly pear has commenced. Emigration is somewhat checked, but not entirely yet.

SATARA.

There has been rain during the week, at Man 2 inches 70 cents, at Tásgaon 1 inch 93 cents, at Jávi 1 inch 42 cents, at Wái 1 inch 39 cents, at Khatáv 1 inch 4 cents, at Shirála 99 cents, at Koregaon 90 cents, at Malcoimpeth 85 cents, at Khandála 75 cents, at Khatápur 72 cents, at Sátara 39 cents, at Válva 16 cents, and at Karád 14 cents. Prices have fallen at Sátara and Man, but risen at Jávi, Válva, Karád, Khatáv and Khatápur; elsewhere they are steady. Rabi crops have been much benefited by rain. In some places more gram, wheat and jowári will be sown. The state of cultivators and cattle is satisfactory. Artizans are doing less business. The people at Karád are quiet.

KHANDESH.

There has been no useful rain. Crops, agriculturists, labourers, town population and cattle are in the same condition as before. The price of jowári is about 18 lbs. for a rupee. There has been no emigration.

NÁSÍK.

There has been slight rain during the week, 3 cents in Násik, 9 cents in Sinnar, 38 cents in Igatpur, and 2 cents in Yeola Talukas. Reaping of kharif crops and early rice has been nearly completed. Standing rabi crops are in need of more rain. Prices are high everywhere. The stock of grain is generally sufficient for the present. Fodder is scarce in most talukas, but the cattle are generally healthy. The condition of cultivators is normal, and of town population fair, except that of weavers in Yeola and Malegaon. Some 250 Momins from Malegaon have left the place in search of employment. The price of wheat ranged during the week from 13½ lbs. in Malegaon to 22 lbs. in Dindori, of bájri from 16½ lbs. in Násik to 22 lbs. in Sinnar, of nágh from 20½ lbs. in Dindori, of nágh from 20½ lbs. in Sinnar to 34 lbs. in Peint, of rice from 13 lbs. in Malegaon to 24 lbs. in Peint, and of jowári from 17½ lbs. in Malegaon to 22 lbs. in Sinnar.

POONA.

There was rain on the 19th instant all over the district, from 75 cents in the north to 3 inches in the south-east of the district. There have been further showers and the weather does not yet look altogether settled. The rain will save such rabi crops as have been sown, and in parts of the district people will yet sow jowári. In Purandhar wheat and gram will now be sown. The price of jowári has risen again in Junnar, and also in Poona; elsewhere prices are steady to lower. The same is the case with bájri. Wheat is steady to dearer; so is rice, except in Indápur, where there is a fall. Tur is also cheaper in Indápur, but dearer in Mulshi. Gram, where there is any, is cheaper except in Poona City. Nágh is stationary and still fairly cheap. The supply of grain is sufficient. The state of the cattle is much the same as last week. All closed forest areas in the west have been opened to grazing excepting plantations and areas leased to contractors. Water-supply is sufficient so far, and the recent rain will improve it. The recent outburst of crime in the way of robbery and dacoity appears to have subsided. Some disquiet is apparent among the Kolis of Ambegaon, and they are being induced to come down to work on the Poona-Násik road. Work has been opened at Pátas on the Poona-Sholapur road.

DISTRICTS OF THE SOUTHERN DIVISION.

There has been widespread rain during the week, particulars regarding which are given in the subjoined table—

District.	Taluka.	Quantity of rain-fall during week.	
		In.	Cts.
Bijápúr ...	Indi	...	0 27
	Sindgi	...	0 8
	Bijápúr	...	0 92
	Bágevádi	...	0 1
	Muddebihal	...	0 3
	Bágalkot	...	.....
	Bádami	...	0 64
Dhárwár ...	Hungund	...	0 62
	Nargund Petha	...	0 50
	Gadag...	...	2 95
	Mundargi Petha	...	0 28
	Ron ...	...	0 18
Ratnágiri ...	Málvan	...	1 48
	Devgad	...	Slight.
	Vengorla	...	Slight.

The rainfall in Dhárwár is reported to be good for all crops, especially for rabi sowings everywhere, one of the immediate effects of which is a heavy fall in prices. In Belgaum also there has been general rain and a marked improvement in prospects. In Kolába there has been moderate useful rain. In the Bijápúr District there has been rain subsequent to the end of the week under report as shown below—

Taluka.	Date of fall.	Quantity.	
		In	cts.
Bádami ...	22	2	5
Bágalkot ...	.....	1	50
Bijápúr ...	.....	0	29
Indi... ..	23	0	30
Bágevádi ...	23	0	28
Bágevádi ...	22	1	33
Bágevádi ...	23	0	21

Probably the rainfall in Bágevádi, Bádami and Bágalkot has been useful for the rabi crops and for partial sowing here and there. Since this rain jowári has fallen to 28 lbs. per rupee.

The general situation is described below—

Belgaum.—The situation is found worse than was expected owing to the difficulty the poor find in procuring grain. The recent rain has however improved prospects. No outflow of people has yet begun, but immigrants have commenced to come in from other districts and Native States.

Dhárwár.—The immigration of distressed people from Bijápúr and from Mysore territory and Madras continues and is increasing. Kharif harvest is in full progress and employs a large number of persons at good wages varying in value from annas 6 to annas 8 for agricultural labourers in the western and southern talukas, but in the north and east talukas labour is obtainable at from annas 2 to annas 1½. The supply of food-grains is sufficient. The condition of agriculturists is good, and of labourers and artizans improving. In the Háveri and Ranebenur talukas the prospect is becoming distinctly unfavourable. The state of cattle is growing worse. Water-supply is sufficient.

Bijápúr.—The demand for labour is daily increasing though prices have fallen in parts on account of rainfall. Fodder is becoming scarcer and dearer.

The health of the people is generally good throughout the three districts. In parts of Bijápúr crime is increasing as a consequence of the scarcity. In the Bijápúr District the demand for labour is daily increasing and more relief works are being opened.

2. Relief works proper as well as test works are in progress in several districts. The numbers employed on the works according to the latest information are shown below :

District.	Relief Works.	Test Works.
Sholapur	10,932	2,500 (on Local Fund and Municipal Works).
Ahmednagar	4,273	None.
Poona	6,247	None.
Násik	1,573	929
Khándesh	None.	147
Sátára	None.	231
Bijápur	12,717	4,179
Dhárwár	None.	1,780
Belgaum	None.	None.

The relief works already sanctioned consist mainly of breaking and collection of metal for roads. Although metal-breaking is a work which gives a fair amount of useful results, it cannot be relied on too exclusively, for it is not suitable for certain classes of labourers for whom earth-work is better adapted. Provision has therefore been made for the construction of new roads and clearances of existing tanks, and the feasibility of several new tank projects as relief works is being inquired into. It has been ruled that the works should, as far as practicable, be so located as to give labour within a reasonable distance of the homes of labourers, but that with proper hutting the distances to be travelled may be increased for able-bodied labourers, provided this will secure works more suitable and more likely to prove permanently useful. Inquiries have been instituted to ascertain whether it would be practicable, when a railway runs through a famine district, to provide metal for ballast at suitable spots, and afterwards to dispose of it to the Railway Company. It has also been arranged that, if necessary, earth-works on the portion from Nandurbár to Amalner (60 miles) of the Tápti Valley Railway and on the portion from Amalner to Dharangaon (14 miles) of the Amalner-Jalgaon Railway, of which the final alignment has been determined, shall be put in hand as relief works. If the alignment of the proposed railway from Bársi to Pandharpur is settled, it is intended to proceed with the earth-work of that railway as a relief work in case of need. Wherever relief works have been opened, arrangements are being made in communication with the Sanitary Department for the erection of camps for labourers, and the attention of the officers concerned has been drawn to the provision in para. 3 of Appendix IV to the Famine Code that the making of the earthen walls and raised floors is the work on which the relief workers should generally be employed on first arrival. Where matting is considered to be the most suitable material for the camps, Collectors have been authorised to have it made and kept in stock. Authority has been given to apply the provisions of Chapter IX of the Famine Code regarding the treatment of non-working children to the extent found necessary in the Bijápur district, where it is reported that the number of such children on one relief work has exceeded 10 per cent. of the total number of labourers.

3. Discretionary allowances have been granted to several Collectors to meet urgently necessary expenditure on small works and gratuitous or semi-gratuitous relief. The attention of the Collectors has been called to the provision of Section 60 of the Famine Code regarding the entry on the village dole register of such of the inferior village servants as it is necessary to retain in their villages for the performance of their duties, and it has been ordered that of the others those whose services are likely to be required in future should be employed on small works in the vicinity of their villages, while those who are not needed or likely to be needed for the performance of duties in their villages must be employed on the large works. The numbers gratuitously relieved during the last week were 2,845 in Sholapur, 94 in Poona and 23 in Sátára. These figures do not include the numbers of non-working children whose parents are employed on relief works. These were in Poona 2,674, in Sholapur 1,598, in Bijápur 2,282 and in Násik 625.

4. An allotment of Rs. 20,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Collector of Bijápur under Section 152 of the Famine Code for improvement of the water-supply; but as the recent rain will presumably lessen the need for such expenditure, the Collector has been instructed not to spend more than is reasonably necessary. The Collector of Kolába has been authorized to utilize the unspent balance of the current year's Government grant to that district for village water-supply for the erection of temporary dams at convenient places in order to store up what water remains in the rivers and nálas. A sum of Rs. 5,000 has also been placed at the disposal of the Collector of Ahmednagar for deepening wells and increasing the water-supply.

5. The amounts hitherto allotted to the affected districts for tagái advances for agricultural improvements over and above the ordinary assignments are mentioned below :—

	Rs.
Bijápur	4,00,000
Belgaum	2,00,000
Dhárwár	1,00,000
Ahmednagar	75,000
Sátára	70,000
Sholapur	64,650
Khándesh	40,000
Total	9,49,650

It has been ordered that care should be taken that the amounts thus made available are distributed in those places only where scarcity is apprehended and to persons who are likely to turn the money to good account. Where the applications for such advances are numerous, special officers have been appointed to make the necessary inquiries so that the disposal of the applications may not be delayed.

6. Relief Mámlatdárs have been appointed in the districts of Bijápur, Sholapur and Ahmednagar. Personal Assistants have been given to the Collectors of those districts, and the superior and subordinate revenue staff has been otherwise strengthened. The other affected districts will also be provided with additional establishments as necessity arises. It is under consideration to invest the Subordinate Judges in affected districts with magisterial powers to relieve the strain on the revenue staff. The Public Works Department staff in the Famine districts has also been strengthened.

7. The further detailed instructions issued and measures taken in regard to the supply of grazing and fodder for the cattle of the affected tracts have already been published.

By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Notification.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FAMINE).

Bombay Castle, 4th December 1896.

No. 9815 of 1896.

In continuation of Government Notification No. 60-Fam., dated 26th ultimo, the following Memorandum in connection with the prevailing scarcity is published for general information :—

The reports for the week ending 28th November, which are summarised below, show that the recent rainfall has enabled rabi sowings to be carried out over a wider portion of the affected area than was at first supposed, especially in the districts of Poona, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Sátára and Dhárwár.

Shola'pur.

The rainfall and prices of the staple grain (jowári) during the week are shown below—

Táluka.	Rainfall.	Prices.	
		In. cts.	Lbs. Tolas.
Sholapur...	...	1 73	25 1
Bársi ...	...	0 79	21 0
Mádha ...	...	0 80	20 14
Karmála ...	...		25 15
Pandharpur	...	0 48	22 0
Sangola ...	...	0 6	19 10
Málsiras ...	...	0 60	21 0

Standing crops have been much improved all over the district. Sowing of gram and wheat has commenced in Sholapur and parts of Madha, Málsiras, Bársi and Karmála. The rain that has fallen will enable four-sevenths of the rabi area to be sown. The sowing of the remainder depends on more rain. The grain supply is sufficient in Sholapur, Bársi and Mádha, but insufficient in Sangola. Further emigration has been stopped by rain and relief works, and those who had emigrated are returning. No more cattle are being sold, and those which were sold for lower prices are being repurchased. Land is being covered with young shoots of grass, which cattle are seen to devour greedily.

Nasik.

The rainfall and prices during the week are shown below—

Taluka.	Rainfall.		Prices.			
	In.	Cts.		Lbs.	Tolas.	
Nasik ...	0	19	Bajri	17	28	
			Jowari	...	...	
Sinnar ...	...	...	Nagli	21	34	
			Bajri	17	0	
Igatpuri ...	0	47	Jowari	22	0	
			Nagli	...	...	
Dindori ...	0	20	Bajri	16	14	
			Jowari	19	31	
			Nagli	21	24	
Niphad ...	...	...	Bajri	...	...	
			Jowari	...	...	
Chandore ...	0	55	Nagli	22	20	
			Bajri	15	10½	
			Jowari	20	17½	
Yeola ...	0	4	Nagli	21	15	
			Bajri	16	4½	
			Jowari	18	4	
			Nagli	24	0	
			Bajri	18	2½	
			Jowari	21	0	
Malegaon ...	0	10	Nagli	...	...	
			Bajri	16	36	
			Jowari	17	18	
Nandgaon ...	0	7	Nagli	...	...	
			Bajri	17½	0	
			Jowari	20½	0	
Baglan ...	0	13	Nagli	...	...	
			Bajri	18½	0	
			Jowari	17½	0	
Kalwan ...	0	5	Nagli	...	...	
			Bajri	18	5	
			Jowari	17	25	
Peint ...	0	30	Nagli	20	12	
			Bajri	...	...	
			Jowari	...	...	
			Nagli	26	0	

The rainfall is insufficient and prospects remain unchanged. Standing rabi crops are in need of more rain. The stock of grain is generally sufficient. Fodder is scarce in most talukas, but the cattle are healthy. The condition of cultivators is normal and of town-population (excepting weavers in Yeola and Malegaon) fair. 100 more Mominis from Malegaon have left the place in search of employment.

Ahmednagar.

The rainfall during the week was 25, 5 and 2 cents at Nagar, Shrigonda and Kopargaon respectively. The showers were only local. In southern talukas sowing of wheat, gram and fodder jowari is in progress. In northern talukas no sowing is possible. Crops sown in the south have been much improved by the rainfall of the 19th November. In the six northern talukas crops are deteriorating for want of rain. Prices are slightly lower in Nagar and Karjat, being 22 and 24 pounds respectively. Cattle are in the same condition as before. The condition of cultivators is improved in the south; elsewhere it is worse. Labourers in the south have left the works in large numbers, and many hundred weavers have left the works in Nagar owing to the task work being beyond their strength. 300 persons have emigrated from Akola and 1,000 from Karjat. One thousand emigrants have returned.

Khandesh.

The rainfall was about 33 cents in Nandurbár and Shaháda; otherwise there has been no useful rain. Kharif crops, agriculturists, labourers and town population are in the same condition as before. Gram where sown is doing well, wheat is in bad condition, while linseed is a failure. Prices are stationary or slightly fallen. The price of jowari is 18 lbs. a rupee at Bhusaval. There has been no emigration worth mentioning.

In a later report some useful rain is stated to have fallen, being about 45 cents in east and north Amáher, and about 95 cents in Nandurbár Taluka. There were also good showers in west Shaháda. This rain will benefit existing rabi crops, but will not enable more to be sown except possibly in parts of Nandurbár.

Satara.

The rainfall was 44 cents in Mán and 48 cents in Málcolmpeth; none elsewhere. Prices are generally falling or steady. That of jowari was from 25 lbs. at Tásgaon to 16½ lbs. at Patán; of bajri from 22½ lbs. at Tásgaon and Mán to 16½ lbs. at Jávli. Standing rabi crops have been much improved by last week's rain in Mán and Wál, where nearly full rabi area will be sown. The condition of cultivators and cattle is satisfactory. The demand for tagai advances is increasing. Reaping of kharif crops is nearly finished.

Poona.

There has been no rainfall during the week except 2 cents at Mulshi, 1 cent at Dhond and 8 cents at Indapur. The price of jowari is 17½, and of bajri 14½ lbs. per rupee. The general prospects have been decidedly improved by the late rain. The rabi crops sown in the west of the district as well as in the east and south have been saved, and in the latter parts ploughing and sowing of jowari, wheat and gram have been resumed. The water-supply has also much improved. There will be rabi crops yet except where occupants have migrated. Ploughs and drills are seen at work everywhere, and they are dragged by men where cattle are not available. The rain has also induced a certain growth of green grass on waste lands, but fodder is scarce and several of the Revenue officers have been showing the people how to prepare prickly-pear for fodder. The cattle are in fair condition. The water-supply is plentiful. There is no increase of crime and the health of the district continues good. Prices of grain in the Eastern Division as compared with those of the last week have fallen in almost all talukas except Sirúr, where they have slightly risen.

Bijapur.

The rainfall and prices of jowari during the week are shown below—

Taluka.	Rainfall.		Prices.	
	In.	Cts.	Lbs.	
Bagalkot ...	2	32	24	
Badami ...	2	17	21½	
Hungund ...	0	63	24	
Muddebihal ...	1	79	20½	
Indi ...	0	90	22½	
Bagewadi ...	1	55	20½	
Bijapur ...	0	68	24	
Sindgi ...	1	88	22½	
Bilgi ...	...	...	...	

Bijapur—continued.

In the Sindgi Taluka the rainfall has improved the standing crops in 12 villages on the banks of the Bhima and enabled about 25,000 acres of rabi land to be sown. The fall is, however, believed to be insufficient to ensure the success of sowings which have been undertaken in the whole district more or less where possible. The fall in prices has, however, temporarily mitigated the situation. The health of the people is good except in one village of Bagalkot Taluka. Crime is on the increase. Emigration has stopped. The supply of grain is sufficient, and large quantities have been imported into Bagalkot and Bijapur.

Dharwar.

The rainfall and prices are given below—

Taluka.	Rainfall.		Prices.			
	In.	Cts.		Lbs.	Tolas.	
Dharwar ...	0	64	Jowari	26	7½	
			Rice	18	22½	
			Wheat	16	10	
Hubli ...	0	78	Jowari	29	0	
			Rice	16	35	
			Wheat	16	17	
Bankapur ...	0	55	Jowari	40	0	
			Rice	19	0	
			Wheat	20	0	
Kalghatgi ...	0	26	Jowari	48	0	
Karajgi ...	0	98	Rice	22	0	
			Wheat	14	0	
Ranebennur ...	2	33	Jowari	32	50	
			Rice	16	35	
			Wheat	...	...	
Hangal ...	0	65	Jowari	28	32	
			Rice	19	0	
			Wheat	16	0	
Kod ...	0	90	Jowari	43	30	
			Rice	26	34	
			Wheat	12	24	
Navalgund ...	0	92	Jowari	33	20	
			Rice	19	0	
			Wheat	18	20	
Gadag ...	0	75	Jowari	28	0	
			Rice	15	30	
			Wheat	14	35	
Ron ...	1	85	Jowari	40	0	
			Rice	16	0	
			Wheat	16	0	
Nargund ...	2	13	Jowari	29	5	
			Rice	17	30	
			Wheat	18	35	
Mundargi ...	0	18	Jowari	36	0	
			Rice	15	20	
			Wheat	14	32	

The recent rain has been most beneficial. Navalgund and Gadag talukas are saved from the prospect of scarcity. Ron

Dharwar—continued.

has had enough rain to enable sowings to be generally made; but the moisture in the soil is not enough to produce good crops: something however will be got, and the provision of grain, however small, of fodder, and of labour will greatly alleviate the situation in this taluka. Petha Nargund has had good rain and 8-anna rabi crops may be expected under favourable conditions, where before the rain came not a blade of anything would have been seen. The area and produce of rabi in Karajgi and Ranebennur, where the pinch was less felt, will be fully up to average now, if not above it. The Mallad talukas are all right. Only in Mundargi Petha has there been no rainfall of any value, and here the situation is unchanged except so far as it is relieved by the brighter prospects of surrounding parts. Prices unfortunately show a tendency to rise owing to the action of exporters generally and of speculative traders more particularly. The stock of food-grains and water-supply are sufficient. Fodder is sufficient and cattle are in good condition except in Navalgund, Gadag, Ron, Nargund and Mundargi. The condition of cultivators and of the labouring and manufacturing classes is good. There has been no emigration except from Ron and Mundargi. Many of the immigrants have returned to their houses with their cattle. Immigration from up-country into Mallad continues.

Belgaum.

There has been rain in four talukas ranging from 2 to 40 cents. The prices of jowari, bajri and rice during the week are shown below—

Taluka.	Jowari.		Bajri.		Rice.	
	Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.	
Belgaum ...	28		24		20	
Chikodi ...	23		32		19	
Athni ...	24		20		...	
Gokak ...	26		26		17	
Parasgad ...	28		...		18	
Sampgaon ...	24		...		17	
Khanapur ...	23		24		20	

Arrangements are being made for starting relief work in the Athni Taluka.

Kola'ba.

There has been rain everywhere, maximum 78 cents at Pen and minimum 4 cents at Panwel. Rabi crops have been benefited. Twenty-seven labourers from Alibag Kharapat have gone to Bombay and 150 immigrants from Poona arrived at Karjat on their way to Bombay. The general situation is unchanged.

Ratnagiri.

There has been good rain in Chiplun, Mandangad and Khed, and slight elsewhere except in Devgad. The price of rice has fallen in Dapoli, Rajapur and Vengoria, and risen in Mandangad, Ratnagiri and Malwan; that of nachni has risen in Khed and Malwan and of vari in Chiplun; in the rest of the district prices are stationary. The recent rain promises well for summer crops. There is no demand for work, but people are going in large numbers to Bombay from Chiplun, Ratnagiri and Khed for work as usual. Cattle are healthy except in some talukas.

		Numbers.		Cost, Rs.
Sholápur	...	10,153	...	1,439
Násik	...	3,993	...	435
Sátára	...	1,102	...	99
Bijápur	...	8,743	...	*801
Ahmednagar	...	2,382	...	(Not given).
Poona	...	10,117	...	1,160
Khándesh	...	193	...	(Not given).
		(on test works)		
Belgaum	...	743	...	Do.
		(on test works)		
Dhárwár	...	550	...	41
		(on test works).		

These figures are exclusive of the numbers of non-working children, including the women in charge, and the cost of relieving them, which are shown below—

			Numbers.			Cost, Rs.
Sholápur ...	...	...	2,184	...	...	73
Násik ...	...	...	1,641	...	...	72
Sátára ...	...	...	177	...	...	6
Bijápur ...	...	...	867	...	...	23
Poona ...	...	...	3,346	...	...	105

4. Small relief works under Civil officers and measures for the improvement of water-supply are in progress in several districts, and further allotments of funds for these purposes have been made wherever necessary. Out of the special assignment of Rs. 2,00,000 made for *tokávi* advances in the Belgaum district, Rs. 50,000 have been advanced to the Sir Desái of Shirsangi on the ordinary terms for constructing a tank for irrigational purposes at Shirsangi, which is expected to improve his *inám* estate and to supply labour to about 2,000 people.

6. Steps are being taken to apply the provisions of Chapter XIII of the Famine Code and to strengthen the Police wherever increase of crime is reported in the affected tracts.

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

FORM No. 15.

Progress of Relief Works under Public Works Agency for the week ending 28th November 1896.

Name of Work.	Sanctioned allotment.	Already expended.	Balance available.	TOTAL NUMBER EMPLOYED DURING THIS WEEK.				RATE OF WAGES.				Expenditure of the week.	REMARKS.		
				Men.		Women.		Working children.	Total.	Men.	Women.			Working children.	
				Men.	Women.	Maximum. 1	Minimum. 2								
Nasik District.															
Collecting metal for Malegaon-Satana Road, Improving Khândesh-Nizam's Frontier Road, Section B, at Vinchar. Improving Nandgaon-Malegaon Road. Improving Khândesh-Nizam's Frontier Road, Section C, at Anjungan. Improving road surface of Khândesh-Nizam's Frontier Road, Section A, Andarsul.	Rs. Not known.	Rs. Not known.	Rs. Not known.	2,097	2,956	2,813	7,866	A 2 6 B 2 3 C 1 1 D 1 9	2 3 2 2 1 9 1 6	A. P. 1 11 1 11 1 9 1 3	A. P. 1 8 1 8 1 8 ...	943	Bajri 16 lbs. per rupee.		
	Do.	135	Do.	286	691	467	1,444					135	Not given.		
	Do.	970	Do.	1,001	994	217	2,212			1 3	...	294	Bajri 16½ lbs. per rupee. Sunday wages Rs. 37-9-3.		
	Do.	703	Do.	2,020	2,582	1,762	6,364			1 3	...	616	Not given.		
	Do.	79	Do.	1,985	2,669	1,427	6,081	B 2 0 C 1 9	1 9 1 6	Male 1 9 Female 1 3	Female 1 6	620	Bajri 18 lbs. 27½ tolas per rupee.		
	Daily	1,887 average.		7,989	9,892	6,686	23,967	.....	.....	...	...	2,608	Note—As these works have been carried on up till the present at the expense of the District Local Board, entries in columns 2 and 4 are not filled as no regular estimates have been framed.		
Sholapur District.															
Removing prickly-pear in the District.															
1. Taluka Madha*	27,800	2	...	2,880	...	194	3,074	2 4	.....	1 9	...	1,869	* The wages have been calculated on the price of jawari sold at Madha at 18 lbs. per rupee.		
2. Do. Sangola	...	40	...	1,464	...	...	146½	2 0	.....	...	...	24	Information from the other two talukas not received.		
3. Do. Maisiras	...	...	...	370	...	12	382	2 0	.....	...	1 0	40			
	27,800	42	27,758	3,306½	...	206	3,602½	.....	.....	...	...	1,933			

Name of Work.	Sanctioned allotment.	Already expended.	Balance available.	TOTAL NUMBER EMPLOYED DURING THE WEEK.				RATE OF WAGES.				Expenditure of the week.	REMARKS.
				Men.	Women.	Working children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Working children.			
										Maximum. 1	Minimum. 2		
Sholapur District—continued.													
Roads repairs in taluka Sangola.	...	Rs. ...	...	1,010	1,241	624	2,875	A. P. 2 0	A. P. 1 6	A. P. 1 0	A. P. 1 0	282	The wages have been calculated on the price of jowari, which was sold at Sholapur at 26½ lbs. per rupee on Sunday the 22nd November 1896.
Improving and metalling Poona-Hydrabad Road, Section III, and stacking metal for 10 years' repairs to the same.	...	280	...	1,095	1,408	731	3,234	Class B. 1 6	Class B. 1 4	1 2	...	286	
Improving Sholapur-Pandharpur Road.	...	421	...	1,156	1,452	585	3,193	Class B. 1 6	Class B. 1 4	1 2	...	277	Do. do.
Improving and metalling Pandharpur-Juweri Road and stacking metal for 10 years' repairs to the same.	...	497	...	8,527	8,512	3,472	20,511	Class A. 2 3	Class B. 2 0	1 7	...	2,194	Do. do. which was sold at Sangola at 19½ lbs. on do.
Improving and metalling Pandharpur-Juweri Road and stacking metal for 10 years' repairs to the same.	...	64	...	6,828	5,892	12,967	15,627	Class A. 2 5	Class B. 2 2	1 9	1 2	2,130	Do. do. which was sold at Akhij at 17½ lbs. per rupee on do.
Metalling Kuslani-Yernala Road and stacking metal for 10 years' repairs to the same.	...	110	...	5,834	3,587	1,067	9,888	Class A. 2 3	Class B. 2 0	1 7	1 1	1,336	Do. do. which was sold at Bārsi at 19 lbs. per rupee on do.
Improving and metalling Karmala-Boragan Road and stacking metal for 10 years' repairs to the same.	...	...	...	705	949	303	11,958	Class B. 1 9	Class B. 1 7	1 4	...	198	Do. do. which was sold at Karmala at 22½ lbs. per rupee on do. The Sunday wages amount to Rs. 36-8-8.

Satara District.

Providing metal on Poona-Sholapur Bangalore Road.	Estimated 79,992	103	79,889	Class A. 2,848	Class A. 774	Class B. 550	Class B. 637	Class C. 452	Class C. 313	1,021	2 0	1 10	1 7	...	594 0 0	Wages calculated on jowari. Rate of grain was 17 lbs. per rupee on 22nd and 21 lbs. per rupee on 28th. The work was commenced on 15th November as a test work and connected to a relief work on 22nd November. The amount in column 3 refers to the test work. Nursing mothers are included in Class A males.
Total ...				3,850	1,744	1,021	6,615									

Sholapur Road Sub-division in the Poona District.

Improvements to Poona-Sholapur Road.	...	(a) 176	...	1,810	3,826	1,279	6,915	2 0	1 10	1 5	...	(b) 778 0 0	Amount of Sunday wages Rs. 87. (a) Inclusive of amount of Sunday wages and wages of children under 7 years. (b) Exclusive of amount of Sunday wages and wages of children under 7 years. Amount of Sunday wages Rs. 684.
Improvements to Indipur-Batamati Road.	...	(a) 6,122	...	16,683	30,872	6,933	53,788	2 0	1 10	1 5	...	(b) 6,175 0 0	

Bijapur District.

Bijapur-Honwad Road	30,405	2,763	27,642	6,520	8,601	3,487	18,608	A 1 6	B 1 0	C 1 2	D 1 0	1 4	1 10	1 3	...	0 9	1,661 ex-clusive of expenditure in Form No. 16.	Wages are calculated for the first bi-weekly payment on jowari 28 lbs. per rupee and for second bi-weekly payment on jowari 21 lbs. per rupee. Fine of Rs. 108 inflicted on 1,947 work-people. Amount of Sunday wages Rs. 233. Wages are calculated on jowari 24 lbs. per rupee. Amount of Sunday wages Rs. 61. Work commenced on 24th November 1896; wages are calculated on jowari, 20 lbs. per rupee. Amount of Sunday wages not stated.
Sholapur-Hubli Road	1,70,848	1,367	1,68,981	1,406	3,269	2,070	6,745	A 1 4	B 1 0	C 1 2	D 1 0	1 4	1 10	1 3	...	0 10	561	
Road from Huvin-Hippargi to Telgi via Bagevadi (1st and 2nd Sections).	82,328	Information not given	4,161	5,359	1,907	11,517	Information not supplied.	A 1 1	B 1 7	C 1 6	D 1 4	1 4	1 10	1 3	...	...	1,074	
Muddebihal-Chimalgi Road	26,351	19	26,332	20	106	50	176	A 2 1	B 1 7	C 1 6	D 1 4	1 4	1 10	1 3	...	...	19 inclusive of expenditure in Form No. 16.	

Name of Work.	TOTAL NUMBER MUSTERED DURING THE WEEK.				RATE OF WAGES.				REMARKS.
	Men.	Women.	Working children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Working children.		Expenditure of the week.
							Maximum.	Minimum.	
							1	2	
Bija'pur—continued.									
UNDER THE PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY RELIEF WORKS—continued.									
	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	Rs.
Indi-Almel Road ...	938	732	180	1,850	A 2 0 B 1 9*	1 9* 1 8*	1 6*	1 5*	211
Bija'pur-Sindgi Road ...	2,372	3,308	703	6,383	A 2 5 B 2 2 C 1 10	B 2 1* C 1 9 D 1 6	...	1 2	785
Hippargi-Talikot Road ...	591	1,265	587	2,443	Correct information not given.				225
Sholapur-Bellari Road ...	439	387	273	1,099					147
Indi-Horti Road ...	215	100	46	361					Not given.
Atharga-Minchinal Road ...	541	350	179	1,070					21
Chikindgi-Singhthar Road ...	112	65	23	200					101
Nalatvad-Talikot Road ...	318	606	110	1,034					Not given.
Bagalgot-Bennur Road ...	19	33	7	59					
Kaladgi-Mudhol Road ...	24		12	69					
Total ...	17,706	23,029	9,724	52,459					4,805

Wages are calculated on jowari, 21 lbs. per rupee.
* Orders have been issued to officer in charge of the work to pay the wages strictly in accordance with the table contained in Appendix 5. Sunday wages not stated.

Wages are calculated on jowari, 17½ lbs. per rupee.
* Do. as above.

WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY LOCAL BOARDS UNDER CIVIL AGENCY.

Return of Expenditure upon children under seven years of age whose parents are upon the relief works under the Public Works Agency for the week ending 28th November 1896.

under the Public Works Agency for the

Name of Work.	TOTAL NUMBER MUSTERED DURING THE WEEK.			Expenditure, &c., during the week.	Previous Expenditure.	Total, Expenditure.	REMARKS.
	Children.	Women in charge.	Total.				
Na'sik District.							
Collecting metal for Malegaon-Sattana Road.	3,101	66	3,167	122	...	122	As it has not been found practicable as yet to give cooked food on the works as no regular camps have been formed, payment has been made at the rate laid down in the Code. Condition of children good.
Improving Khândesh-Nizam's Frontier Road, Section B, at Vinchur.	638	...	668	21	...	21	
Improving Nândgaon-Malegaon Road.	1,229	66	1,295	47	75	122	
Improving Khândesh-Nizam's Frontier Road, Section O, at Angangaon.	2,474	3	2,477	77	11	88	
Improving road surface of Khândesh-Nizam's Frontier Road, Section A, Andersul.	2,212	28	2,240	71	7	78	
Total ...	9,684	163	9,847	338	93	431	
Daily Average ...	1,614	27	1,641		...	...	
Sa'ta'ra District.							
Providing metal on Poona-Bangalore Road.	1,052	10	1,062	17 lbs. per rupee on 22nd, and 21 lbs. per rupee on 28th.	Nil	33	Owing to the rapid increase in the number of people on the work, it was impossible to provide kitchen and the allowance 6 pies per head was given to the parents who were working. Arrangements have now been made for kitchens.
Shola'pur District.							
Repairs to roads in Sângola Taluka.	653	...	653		...	...	Grain was not distributed, but cash payments were made.
Improving and Metalling Roads and Stacking Metal for 10 years							
Repairs to—							
1. Poona-Hyderabad ...	718	...	718	18 11 2	14 6 5	33 1 7	
2. Sholapur-Pandharpur ...	958	...	958	24 4 11½	20 6 1	44 11 0½	
3. Pandharpur-Junori ...	5,581	212	5,793	229 4 6	31 3 6	260 8 0	
4. Pandharpur Phaltan ...	3,297	...	3,297	120 3 3	0 11 6	120 14 9	Rs. 2-11-0 entered in the statement of the last week should be altered to Rs. 3-9-6.
5. Kusalam-Yermal ...	931	...	931	29 1 6	8 9 6	37 11 0	
6. Karimāla-Boregaon ...	722	...	722	18 12 10	...	18 12 10	
Shola'pur Road Sub-division in the Poona District.							
Improvements to Poona-Sholapur Road	3,136	...	3,136	98 0 0	14 0 0	112 0 0	
Do. to Indapur-Bāramati Road.	16,942	...	16,942	529 0 0	540 0 0	1,069 0 0	
Bija'pur District.							
Bijapur-Honvad Road...	5,160	...	5,160	138 0 0*	76 0 0	214 0 0	* Cash payments were made. Women in charge are not appointed for the present.
Mudebihāl-Chimalgi Road ...	41	...	41	1 4 6	...	1 4 6	
Indi-Almel Road ...	4	...	4	0 1 4	...	0 1 4	
Total ...	5,205	...	5,205	139 5 10	76 0 0	215 5 10	

IN POOR-HOUSES.										IN VILLAGES.							REMARKS.	
Taluka.	No. of Poor-houses.		Number relieved.			Expenditure.		No. of Villages in Taluka.	No. of Inspection Circles.	No. of Villages in which relief is given.	Number relieved.			No. of Deaths.				
	Central.	Branch.	Men.	Women.	Child- ren.	Total.	In the week, Rupees.				To the end of the week, Rupees.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Shola'pur District.																		
Sholapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152	4	1	243	222	147	612	TEN	
Barsi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Madha ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89	3	10	256	509	559	1,324		
Karnala ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123	3	Unknown.	56	111	111	278		
Pandharpur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Sangola ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75	2	3	209	311	83	603		
Malsiras ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	5	5	170	355	277	802		
Poona District.																		
Bhimthadi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79	2	1	94	206	96	396	...	Relief has been given to some 10 villages, but bills have not been received yet.
Petha Dhond ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	4	83	109	92	284	...	No relief is reported to have been given in any other talukas of this district.
Indapur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86	...	17	530	636	637	1,803	...	
Bijapur District.																		
Sindgi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	Not yet formed.	1	...	2	...	2	...	
Bagevadi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121	Do.	6	6	15	...	21	...	

Notification.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FAMINE).

Bombay Castle, 11th December 1896.

No. 10120 of 1896.

In continuation of Government Notification No. 9815, dated 4th instant, the following Memorandum is published for general information:—

During the week ending the 5th instant there has been no rain in the affected districts except a few scattered showers. The reports on weather, crops and prices from the several districts are summarised below:

Sholapur.

There has been no rain. Standing crops have been improved by the late rain. Sowing of gram and wheat is still going on in a few places in all the talukas except Sangola. The price of jowari has risen to the level reached before the late rain, that is, 21½ lbs. the rupee. Large quantities of grain were exported from Sholapur to Malsiras and Sangola when prices were higher in Sholapur: now they are assimilated. Work in their own craft is being given to about 50 needy weavers at Sholapur. The detailed prices are given below—

Taluka.	Jowari.		Bajri.	
	Lbs.	Tolas.	Lbs.	Tolas.
Sholapur...	21	24	19	6½
Barsi ...	23	25	20	5
Madha ...	20	17	20	17
Karmala ...	21	30	18	0
Pandharpur ...	21	0	22	30
Sangola ...	20	5	17	20
Malsiras ...	21	0	19	10

Ahmednagar.

Partial rain has fallen in Jambhed, Karjat and Sangamner, being below ten cents at each place. Sowing is in progress in the four southern talukas, partially so elsewhere in irrigated lands. Crops in the south are doing well; elsewhere they are indifferent and in parts withering. The price of jowari has risen in Nagar from 24 to 21 lbs. and fallen in Parner from 21 to 24 lbs.; elsewhere it is about 21 lbs. on the average. Cattle are getting thinner everywhere gradually. The condition of cultivators is unchanged. 435 people have emigrated from Akola. Labourers are coming on works in increasing numbers.

Poona.

There has been no rain during the week. The situation now depends entirely on more rain. The lately sown jowari appears to have germinated everywhere even in the most unpromising looking soils. Water-supply is sufficient, and the growth of grass on waste lands in consequence of the rain has somewhat checked migration of cattle, though rayats are reported to be leaving Maval and Khed. The stock of grain is sufficient. Prices are generally

Poona—continued.

steady or fallen, that of jowári being 19½ lbs. and of bájri 17 lbs. The details are given below—

Táluka or Mahál.	Jowári.	Bájri.
Junnar	16½	16½
Ambeagaon	17	15½
Khed	19½	16½
Mával	19½	17½
Haveli	18	16
Mulshi	18½	14½
Indápur	23	20½
Bhimthadi	22	18
Dhond	25	19
Sirur	22½	17½
Purandhar	17	14
Poona City	18	16

Sa'tara.

There has been no rain. Prices are falling. Standing rabi crops are in good condition. The condition of cultivators and cattle is fair, and of town population satisfactory. There is a rush of low-caste people on relief works.

Nasik.

The rainfall during the week was at Sinnar 1 cent, Dindori 1 cent, Kalvan 1 cent, and Peint 2 cents. The prospects remain unchanged. Standing rabi crops are in need of rain and prices are high everywhere. The stock of grain is generally sufficient for the present. Fodder is scarce in most talukas. There is no starvation and no disease worth notice among cattle. The condition of cultivators is normal and that of town population (except weavers in Yeola and Málegaon) fair. In addition to the numbers employed on regular relief works, 1,835 labourers are employed by the Táluka Local Boards and 80 by the District Local Board. The prices of food-grains in lbs. per rupee are given below—

Táluka.	Bájri.	Náglí.	Jowári.
	Lbs. Tolas.	Lbs. Tolas.	Lbs. Tolas.
Násik	19 7	21 34	19 10
Sinnar	17½ 0	...	22 0
Igatpuri	16 14	18 0	19 31
Dindori	16 0	25 0	...
Niphád	16 5½	21 7	19 37
Chándor	16 4½	21 0	18 5½
Yeola	18 27½	...	21 0
Málegaon	16 36	...	17 18
Nándgaon	17 6½	...	20 ½
Báglán	15½ 0	...	17 ½
Kalvan	15 15	17 22	17 25
Peint	...	26 0	...

Kha'ndesh.

There has been no rain during past week. The condition of crops, agriculturists, and labourers is unchanged. The position of weavers is slightly improved by the recent fall of prices consequent on

Kha'ndesh—continued.

rain elsewhere. Prices are now stationary, jowári selling at 13 lbs. a rupee. There has been no emigration worth mentioning. Figures for five ordinary works used as tests have come; the total number on them is 137.

Bija'pur.

There has been no rain. The supply of grain is sufficient. The prices of jowári at the several taluka stations are given below; they have risen everywhere except in Bágevádi and Sindgi—

Táluka.	Jowári.
	Lbs.
Bágalkot	20½
Bádami	21½
Hungund	21
Muddebihál	17
Indi	21
Bágevádi	20½
Bijápur	21
Sindgi	22½

Belgaum.

There has been no rain except 1 cent at Belgaum, and no emigration. Immigration is decreasing. The late rain has been beneficial especially in Gokák and Parasgad. Prices are tending to rise again. The details are given below. There are three test works in progress. A large relief work will be opened shortly in Athni—

Táluka.	Jowári.	Bájri.	Rice.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Belgaum	22	22	18
Chikodi	22	26	17
Athni	18	20	...
Gokák	21	23	14
Parasgad	22	...	17
Sampgaon	26	...	20
Khánpur	26	20	19

Dharwar.

The rainfall during the week has been only a few cents in six talukas. Harvesting of kharif jowári and rice is in progress. Standing rabi crops are improving. Fresh rabi sowings in affected parts are nearly completed. In the north-east tracts the prospects of the season are still precarious and more rain is wanted. The condition of agriculturists in affected parts is fair and that of labourers and artizans is improved owing to change in prospects. Cattle are indifferent in eastern talukas. The supply of food-grains and water is generally sufficient, but that of fodder is insufficient in north-east tracts. Prices are still much above normal and rising. The prevailing rates for jowári in different talukas are given below. There has been no emigration to Bombay. Seven ordinary works under civil agency are in progress in

Dharwar—continued.

the affected talukas, the average daily number employed being 753—

Táluka.	Jowári.
	Lbs. Tolas.
Dharwar	26 7½
Hubli	23 22
Bankápur	24 0
Kalghatgi	24 0
Karajgi	32 0
Ránebennur	27 0
Hángal	25 8
Kod	36 30
Navalgund	26 0
Gadag	25 15
Ron	32 0
Nargund	24 0
Mundarji	25 0

Kola'ba.

The rainfall during the week has been 19 cents in Uran, 31 cents in Roha and none elsewhere. The average outturn of kharif crops in Alibág is five annas only. The prospects of rabi crops

Kola'ba—continued.

have been much improved by the late rain, especially in Roha, Mángaon, Mahád and Nágothna. The condition of cultivators, labouring and other classes, and of cattle is good or fair. The supply of food-grains, fodder and water is sufficient. The rivers and nálas are being dammed. The rain in the above-ghát country has much lessened the export, both by land and sea, of food-grains. The price of rice has fallen in Mahád, and is stationary or rising elsewhere, the average being 18½ lbs. per rupee. 66 labourers from Pen and Nágothna have gone to Bombay. About 100 immigrants have come from Poona. 50 cattle from Poona have arrived at Pen for grazing. The opening of test works in Karjat, Uran and Nágothna is under contemplation.

Ratna'giri.

There has been no rain. The price of rice has fallen in Vengurla and risen in Khed, that of náchni has risen in Khed and fallen considerably in Málvan, Rájápur, Sangameshvar and Chiplún; elsewhere prices are stationary. The recent rain promises well for summer crops. There is no demand for work, but people are going in large numbers from several talukas to Bombay for work. Cattle are healthy except in some talukas. Prices of cattle are falling in Khed.

2. The appended statement shows the progress of relief measures during the last week. The demand for work at famine wages is increasing except in Belgaum and Dharwar, and several new relief works have been ordered to be started in the districts of Poona, Násik, Sholápur, Sátára and Ahmednagar, including one (repairs to the Nagar-Shevgaoon road) in the latter district, which consists mainly of earthwork and is specially intended to provide employment for weavers in that part of the country. The attention of the district officers has been drawn to Section 79 (c) of the Famine Code, which, it has been directed, should be worked with very great discretion. The provision, regarding the regulation of wages by the amount of work performed, is not to be strictly enforced until people get accustomed to the work on which they are put, while at the same time care must be taken to see that labour is exacted to the extent of the labourer's powers as otherwise works are likely to be crowded with people who are not really in need of relief, and there will be general demoralization amongst the persons employed. Relief camps with hospitals attached have been established or are in course of establishment in the vicinity of the larger works under the supervision of the Sanitary authorities. The health of the labourers on relief works and of the people generally in the affected districts is reported to be good. The Sanitary Commissioner has been asked to report specially on the condition of the weavers in Násik and Ahmednagar.

3. The number of persons in need of gratuitous relief has increased in parts of the Sholápur district and the Municipality of Pandharpur has offered a contribution of Rs. 2,500 towards the maintenance of a poor-house at that place. The application of Chapter VIII of the Famine Code about poor-houses to the Sholápur district in addition to Chapter V already applied has therefore been authorised. The general instructions issued for the working of the provisions of these chapters have already been made public. The provisions regarding gratuitous relief (Chapter V of the Famine Code) have also been ordered to be applied to the Bijápur district. Mr. Chhabildas Lallubhai, a leading citizen of Bombay, having offered (1) to maintain at his own expense for a period of one year 100 destitute Hindu children above the age of seven years from the famine-stricken districts, and (2) to permit outside cattle to graze in his forest at Mágáthan in the Thána district, Government have issued the following orders:—

RESOLUTION.—Copies of the letter from Mr. Chhabildas Lallubhai should be forwarded to the Collectors of the affected districts with a request that they will be good enough to make known among the people concerned the contents of paragraph 1 of the letter and to instruct the Sub-divisional officers in their respective charges to place themselves in communication with Mr. Chhabildas in case any persons are ready to avail themselves of his generous offer, and to give such other assistance as may be in their power. The offer made by Mr. Chhabildas in paragraph 2 of his letter to permit outside cattle to graze in his forests at Mágáthan should be communicated to the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth, Conservator of Forests, on Special Duty. Mr. Chhabildas should be informed of the action taken and of Government's appreciation of his benevolence and generous and public-spirited action.

4. A further assignment of Rs. 1,50,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Collector of Ahmednagar for tagái advances in that district. It is intended to make these advances even in the southern talukas of the district where rain has recently fallen because the crops sown so late in the season are not expected to come to full maturity except in very favourable situations, unless assisted by water from wells.

5. A special staff of Hospital Assistants has been provided for service in the famine districts and arrangements are being made for the appointment of Special District Medical Officers wherever necessary. Special civil officers have also been appointed for some of the larger relief works.

By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,

J. MONTEATH,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

District.	Number and class of relief works.	Numbers of persons employed on relief works and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of non-working children whose parents are employed on relief works, including women in charge, and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of other persons relieved gratuitously in villages.	
		Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week, Rs.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week, Rs.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.
Sholapur	6 works under Civil Agency	27,699	4,616	409 (excluding one work.)	5,741	957	Figures not available.	.....	.....
	7 works under Public Works Agency.	91,351	15,230	10,212	18,661 (excluding one work.)	3,110	907	3,290 (in 19 villages.)	470
Bijapur	7 works under Civil Agency	7,913	1,319	559	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	10 works under Public Works Agency.	67,927	11,321	6,832	14,031	2,338	437	94 (in 6 villages.)	13
Ahmednagar	9 works under Public Works Agency (returns for other works not received).	23,478	3,913	1,554 (for three works only.)	2,804	467	97	.....	.....
Nasik	6 works under Public Works Agency.	27,773	4,629	2,571 (excluding one work.)	10,918	1,820	298 (excluding one work.)	.....	.....
Satara	1 work under Public Works Agency	23,719	3,786	2,520	3,688	615	129	2 (in one village.)	.....
Poona	2 works under Public Works Agency.	56,146	9,358	4,577	23,569	3,928	1,070	4,252	607
Belgaum	3 test works	2,093	349	162	515	86	18		
Dhule	1 test work	2,352	392	193					

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Notification.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FAMINE).

Bombay Castle, 19th December 1896.

No. 10415 of 1896.

In continuation of Government Notification No. 10120, dated 11th instant, the following Memorandum is published for general information:—

The situation is generally unchanged in the affected districts, but more rain is now wanted for the rabi crops sown after the fall in November. The reports from district officers for the week ending 12th instant are summarised below.

Sholapur.

There has been no rain. The average price of jowari during the week was 20½ lbs. and of bajri 18½ lbs. per rupee. Grain-supply is sufficient in all talukas except Sangola. Kabi crops sown in September and October are in good condition; the crops sown after the recent rain are likely to wither without more rain, but not everywhere. Semi-gratuitous relief has been given to about 144 weavers during the week. The details of prices of jowari are given below:—

Taluka.	During Week.	
	Lbs.	Tolas.
Sholapur...	21	28
Barsi ...	21	35
Madha ...	20	14
Karmala ...	19	37
Pandharpur	21	35
Sangola ...	19	10
Malsiras ...	19	10

Ahmednagar.

There has been no rain. Sowing is nearly finished everywhere. Some of the newly sown crops in Jamkhed are already withering. The state of the crops is otherwise unchanged. The average price of jowari in the district during the week was 21½ lbs. and of bajri 19½ lbs. per rupee. Prices at Nagar are unchanged. Cattle are deteriorating slowly, many being killed for their hides. Cultivators with no crops are feeling the pressure in central and northern talukas. Labourers are apparently feeling want of work more acutely. There has been great increase of numbers on works in Nagar and Rahuri talukas. 408 persons have emigrated from Akola. The details of prices are as shown below:—

Taluka	Jowari.	Bajri.
	Lbs. per Re.	Lbs. per Re.
Akola ...	25	21
Nagar ...	19½	17½
Parnar...	24	22½

Ahmednagar—continued.

Taluka.	Jowari.	Bajri.
	Lbs. per Re.	Lbs. per Re.
Shrigonda	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Karjat... ..	21 $\frac{1}{4}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jambhed	25 $\frac{5}{8}$	20 $\frac{9}{16}$
Shevgaon	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Nevasa	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	18
Rahuri	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kopargaon	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sangamner	...	24

Poona.

There has been no rain. The outlook for the latest sown jowari crop will be but a poor one if more rain does not fall. The average price of jowari during the week was 19 $\frac{1}{8}$ lbs. and of bajri 16 $\frac{3}{8}$ lbs. per rupee. Small-pox has appeared in one village. Arrangements have been made for vaccination operations in the famine camps. Grain-supply is sufficient. Water-supply is also sufficient. The work of gratuitous relief is steadily extending. The detailed prices are given below:—

Taluka or Mahal.	Jowari.	Bajri.
	Lbs. Tolas.	Lbs. Tolas.
Junnar	16 20	15 0
Khed	19 24	15 11
Maval	19 31	17 20
Haveli	18 30	16 5
Mulshi	18 30	14 16
Indapur	20 24	18 8
Bhimthadi	19 7	17 3
Dhond	22 0	18 0
Sirur	19 24	16 38
Purandhar	20 0	16 10
Poona City... ..	18 32	16 4

Nasik.

There has been no rain. The average price of bajri during the week was 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ lbs., of jowari 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and of nagli 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Prices of jowari and bajri have risen, while that of nagli has fallen. The prospects have remained unchanged. Standing rabi crops are in need of rain. The stock of grain is generally sufficient for the present. Fodder is scarce in most talukas. There has been no starvation and no disease worth noticing among cattle. The condition of cultivators is normal and that of town population (except weavers in Yeola and Malegaon) fair. 2,075 labourers are employed by the Taluka and District Local Boards. The details of prices are given below:—

Taluka.	During Week.
	Lbs. Tolas.
Nasik	Bajri ... 16 38
	Nagli ... 21 34
	Jowari

Nasik—continued.

Taluka.	During Week.
	Lbs. Tolas.
Sinnar	Bajri ... 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0
	Nagli ... 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0
	Jowari
Igatpuri	Bajri ... 16 14
	Nagli ... 18 0
	Jowari ... 19 31
Dindori	Bajri ... 16 0
	Nagli ... 25 0
	Jowari
Niphad	Bajri ... 17 13 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Nagli ... 21 15
	Jowari ... 19 3
Chandor	Bajri ... 17 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Nagli ... 21 6
	Jowari ... 19 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Yeola	Bajri ... 17 10
	Nagli ... 22 16
	Jowari
Malegaon	Bajri ... 16 36
	Nagli ... 17 18
	Jowari
Nandgaon	Bajri ... 16 24
	Nagli ... 18 2
	Jowari
Baglan	Bajri ... 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0
	Nagli ... 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0
	Jowari
Peint	Bajri ... 30 0
	Nagli
	Jowari

Sa'tara.

There has been no rain. Standing rabi crops and cattle are in fair condition. Fodder supply is scanty. Water is sufficient. Prices are rising; the details are given below:—

Taluka.	During Week.
	Lbs. Tolas.
Wai	Jowari ... 16 0
	Bajri ... 18 0
Koregaon	Jowari ... 20 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Bajri ... 19 20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Man	Jowari ... 23 4
	Bajri ... 22 12
Joshi	Jowari ... 17 2
	Bajri ... 19 10
Sa'tara	Jowari ... 18 14 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Bajri ... 15 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Khatav	Jowari ... 21 22
	Bajri ... 22 12
Patan	Jowari ... 18 36
	Bajri
Karad	Jowari ... 18 23
	Bajri ... 15 21

Khandesh.

There has been no rain. Prices are almost stationary. Grain-supply is sufficient. Crops and agriculturists are in the same condition as before. Harvesting operations are almost completed and labourers and town population are beginning to come on works. There has been no emigration worth mentioning.

Bijapur.

There has been no rain. The average price of jowari during the week was 21 $\frac{3}{8}$ lbs. per rupee. There is slight cholera in Hungund Taluka. The grain-supply is sufficient. The demand for labour is rapidly rising. The state of cattle is unchanged. The detailed prices of jowari are given below:—

Taluka.	During Week.
	Lbs.
Bagalkot	24
Badami... ..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hungund	22
Muddebihal	17
Indi	21
Bagevadi	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bijapur	21
Sindgi	22 $\frac{1}{2}$

Belgaum.

There has been no rain. Prices are almost stationary, the average price of jowari in the affected talukas being 21 lbs., of bajri 22 lbs., and of rice 16 lbs. per rupee. Grain supply is sufficient. There has been no immigration. About 1,000 people from Athni Taluka left for Kolhapur territory with their cattle. Cultivators and agricultural labourers are still employed in field work, which will not, however, last long. Rabi crops sown after recent rains are not expected to thrive if more rain does not fall.

Dharwar.

The position is virtually unaltered since last report. Prospects in Gadag and Navalgund are fair. The crops sown before the rainfall are assured; of those sown since, the greater part will come to maturity. These two talukas are now removed from all risk of scarcity. In Petha Nargund, Ron and Petha Mundargi the outlook is not so good. In parts of Nargund and Ron the late-sown seed is not likely to come to maturity, and a large area has not been sown at all. However, there is no present distress, though the labour market is somewhat overcrowded owing to the absence of all kharif harvest operations, the kharif having been an entire failure. The rabi crops results now depend largely upon favourable weather; in the absence of rain, cool, moist winds and heavy dews are of service to prevent the drying up of the soil; and so far conditions have been fairly good.

Dharwar—continued.

Petha Mundargi is now definitely ascertained to have had practically no rain where most wanted, i.e., in the black soil villages. These only grow rabi crops, and not more than $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the crop area has been sown. The seed has germinated, but a good deal of it will die off. The rain has not contracted the area of the fodder scarcity to any great extent, though sensible relief has been caused. Most of the rabi sowings are wheat, the rainfall not having been sufficient for jowari, and the wheat in these parts produces but little straw. There has been no emigration except from Ron and Mundargi to Mallad. Prices show a steady tendency to rise. The prices of jowari are given below:—

Talukas.	Jowari.
	Lbs. Tolas.
Dharwar	23 23
Hubli	23 22
Bankapur	32 30
Karajgi... ..	32 0
Ranebennur	28 36
Kod	31 20
Navalgund	30 22
Gadag	22 30
Ron	23 0
Nargund	24 25
Mundargi	25 0

Kolaba.

The general situation is unchanged. There has been no rain. Prices are stationary in Alibag, Pen, Nagothna and Uran, fallen in Panvel and Mangaon, and risen in Mahad, Roha, Khalapur and Karjat. Twenty-eight labourers have gone to Bombay from Nagothna. The rabi area sown is only three per cent. of the total cultivable area of the district. The crops are doing well. 350 immigrants have come from above ghats on their way to Bombay; 150 persons from Poona and Ratnagiri have arrived at Uran for work and 100 more have arrived at the same place from Bombay. Fodder and water-supply is generally sufficient and cattle are in fair condition. The outturn of kharif crops is 5 annas in Alibag, 6 annas in Panvel and Karjat, including Uran and Khalapur Pethas, and 8 annas in the remaining talukas.

Ratnagiri.

There has been no rain. The rabi crops where sown are doing well. Prices of paddy have slightly risen in Vengurla and fallen in Khed, and those of nagli have risen in Malvan and Vengurla. The prices of nagli and vari have slightly fallen in Dapoli; elsewhere they are stationary. There has been no demand for work anywhere except in Malvan, where 34 persons have come to work on test relief works under the Taluka Local Board. People are going as usual to Bombay for work, but some have returned owing to plague. Cattle are healthy except in some talukas. Prices of cattle are falling in Khed.

2. The progress of relief measures during the last week is shown in the appended statement. The returns of relief works are not complete, but the daily average number (72,571) given in the returns received shows an increase of 17,658 as compared with the preceding week. A relief work has been opened in the Athni Taluka of the Belgaum District, where the test-work hitherto in progress showed an increase in the demand for labour at famine wages, and a Special Relief Mamlatdar with an establishment has been appointed for cultivators inhabiting the Ambegaon and Mulshi Pethas and other forest tracts in the west of the Poona District. The works have been provided as near the homes of these people as possible, because the system of re-cultivation followed by them necessitates their constant presence near their fields from January to March, during which months the fields are being prepared for the monsoon crops. Two Special Civil officers have been appointed for large relief works in Poona. Arrangements have been made for the survey and alignment of the contemplated Bārsi-Pandharpur Railway, so that its earth-work can be utilised as a relief work if necessity arises. Several small works have been started in different talukas of the Bijapur District, and the attention of the Commissioners has been again invited to Section 100 of the Famine Code, and they have been asked to report in what way people whom it is inexpedient to draft to works at a distance from their homes can be suitably employed; on the other hand, it appears that in Sholapur persons to whom that provision does not apply are employed on small works.

3. A further allotment of Rs. 10,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Collector of Bijapur for expenditure on gratuitous relief. As the numbers of wandering paupers and of non-working children are reported to have largely increased in the Indapur and Bhimthadi talukas of the Poona District, the application to those talukas of Chapters VIII and IX of the Famine Code about poor-houses and kitchens respectively has been authorised. It has been directed that relief under Chapter IX should be confined to the children of persons employed on relief works, as others are sufficiently provided for by Section 57 of the Code, and that when cash payments are substituted for distribution of cooked food, the precautions laid down in Section 133 (b) should be strictly enforced. The attention of District officers has been drawn to Section 52 (f) of the Famine Code regarding the relief of Pātils and Village Accountants whose emoluments and private means are not sufficient for their support, and they have been directed to enforce the provision of Section 60 for the relief of inferior village officers, substituting a weekly dole where the grant of a daily dole is found to be inconvenient. It has also been ordered that the wives and children above seven years of the inferior village servants who are relieved under Section 60 should work for their living on the nearest relief works or in other ways.

4. The demand for tagāi advances for agricultural improvement is increasing, and the following additional assignments, which have been applied for, have been sanctioned:—

	Rs.
Sholapur	...
Poona	...
Nāsik...	...
Sātara	...
Khāndesh	...
	Rs.
	1,36,000
	1,00,000
	40,000
	30,000
	12,000

The employment of special karkūns to deal with the applications for such advances has been authorised where necessary.

5. Arrangements are in progress for the supply of grass to the affected areas. Hay-presses have been working at several stations in the Sātpudas and the hilly tracts of Poona and in the Thāna District, and grass is being collected at several depôts in the districts of Sātara, Belgaum, Dhārwar and Kānara. While the dealers are to be encouraged to take part, as far possible, in the distribution of the grass, authority has been given to the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth to despatch the grass by rail to the larger railway stations in the affected districts if suitable offers are not made to buy it at an earlier stage, and to make the best arrangements he can to dispose of grass sent to these places at a fair price, such as if possible will cover all charges. It has however been again pointed out that the great bulk of the cattle can be saved only by being taken to the grazing grounds and importation of grass is intended only for those which must be kept in the district.

6. The application of Chapter XIII of the Famine Code to the Bijapur District has been authorised, and the question of strengthening the Police in that district is under consideration. The recruitment of 50 extra men for the Khāndesh Police has been sanctioned.

By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,

J. MONTEATH,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Statement showing the progress of relief measures during the week ending 12th December 1896 in the several districts of the Bombay Presidency affected by scarcity.

District.	Number and class of relief works.	Numbers of persons employed on relief works and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of non-working children whose parents are employed on relief works, including women in charge, and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of other persons relieved gratuitously in villages.	
		Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.
Bijapur	13 works under Public Works Agency. (Return for one work not received).	116,894	19,482	Rs. 10,970 (excluding two works). 560	28,799	4,800	Rs. 846	612 (in 27 villages).	87
Sholapur	8 works under Civil Agency (including 4 Local Board works).	7,952	1,325	560 (excluding three works). 14,588	1,228 (for three works). 46,365	204	38	6,157 (in 39 villages).	879
Ahmednagar	9 works under Public Works Agency.	126,378	21,063	4,185	12,901	2,150	316	.....	.....
Poona	7 works under Civil Agency	53,370	8,898	4,327 (excluding one work). 46	13,820	2,303	652	.....	.....
Sātara	10 works under Public Works Agency.	44,689	7,448	4,434	61	20	2	6,617 (in 44 villages and 1 poor-house).	545
Nāsik	1 work under Public Works Agency. (Returns for other works not received).	477 (Total for 3 days).	159	2,678 (excluding two works). 372	3,378	563	115	.....	.....
Belgaum	3 works under Public Works Agency.	28,951	4,825	460	16,745	2,791	592 (excluding one work). 43	.....	.....
Dhārwar	8 works under Public Works Agency.	38,655	6,442	313	1,371	228	.....	.....	.....
	2 test works under Public Works Agency.	3,807	634	460	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	2 Local Board and Municipal Works...	4,613	769	313	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1 test work under Public Works Agency.	3,726	621	153 (excluding one work).	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	7 Local Board and Municipal works ...	5,430	905		.....	.....		.....	.....

REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FAMINE).

Bombay Castle, 24th December 1896.

No. 10607 of 1896.

In continuation of Government Notification No. 10415, dated 19th instant, the following Memorandum is published for general information:—

Want of rain is now generally felt in the affected districts for the late sown crops, which have begun to wither in places. The reports for the week ending 19th instant are summarised below.

Ahmednagar.

There has been no rain. Sowing is generally finished. Most of the newly sown crops are withering and will die unless rain falls within ten days. Cattle in some places are still in good condition, in others beginning to suffer. Labourers in northern and central talukas are flocking to works in very large numbers. Grain supply is generally sufficient, but there are complaints that Banias do not sell at published bazár rates. The average price of jowári is $19\frac{1}{2}$ and of bájri $19\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. per rupee. There has been some emigration. The detailed prices are given below—

Taluka.	Jowári.	Bájri.
	Lbs. per Re.	Lbs. per Re.
Nagar...	$19\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$
Párner...	$19\frac{1}{4}$	19
Shrigonda...	$19\frac{1}{4}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$
Karjat...	22	$17\frac{1}{2}$
Jámkhed...	20	21
Shevgaon...	$19\frac{1}{4}$	$18\frac{1}{2}$
Nevása...	$17\frac{1}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$
Ráhuri...	$17\frac{1}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$
Kopargao...	$19\frac{1}{4}$	$19\frac{1}{2}$
Sangamner...	25	24
Akola...	27	21

Shola'pur.

There has been no rain. The average price of jowári is $20\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and of bájri $18\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Grain supply is sufficient in all talukas except Sàngola and Málsiras. Rabi sowing is practically completed. Rain is wanted for crops recently sown. The seedlings are showing signs of withering. The rabi crops sown in September and October are doing well and do not require more rain. Emigration of 7,200 persons from four talukas is reported. Emigration from other talukas is also going on. Fodder is insufficient all over the district. Cattle are being sold or sent away. Semi-gratuitous relief is being given to 151 weavers in Sholápur, also on a small scale in Pandharpur. The taluka prices of jowári are given below—

Táluka.	Lbs. per Re.
Sholápur...	$21\frac{1}{2}$
Bársi...	$24\frac{1}{2}$
Mádha...	21
Karmála...	$19\frac{1}{2}$
Pandharpur...	$21\frac{1}{2}$
Sàngola...	$19\frac{1}{4}$
Málsiras...	$19\frac{1}{4}$

Poona.

There has been no rain. The average price of jowári is 19½ lbs. and of bájri 16½ lbs. per rupee. Grain supply is sufficient. The detailed prices are given below—

Táluka.	During Week.			
		Lbs.	Tolas.	
Junnár ...	Jowári ...	17	0	
	Bájri ...	15	30	
	Rice ...	13	10	
Ambegaon ...	Jowári ...	15	27	
	Bájri ...	...	...	
	Rice ...	14	24	
Khed ...	Jowári ...	20	0	
	Bájri ...	15	11	
	Rice ...	14	34	
Mával ...	Jowári ...	19	32	
	Bájri ...	17	10	
	Rice ...	17	6	
Haveli ...	Jowári ...	18	32	
	Bájri ...	16	4	
	Rice ...	15	4	
Mulshi ...	Jowári ...	20	0	
	Rice ...	17	35	
Purandhar ...	Jowári ...	18	30	
	Bájri ...	16	10	
	Rice ...	13	30	
Sirúr ...	Jowári ...	19	24	
	Bájri ...	16	38	
	Rice ...	14	25	
Dhond ...	Jowári ...	22	16	
	Bájri ...	18	36	
	Rice ...	15	0	
Bhimthadi ...	Jowári ...	19	23	
	Bájri ...	17	14	
	Rice ...	14	0	
Indápur ...	Jowári ...	20	24	
	Bájri ...	18	8	
	Rice ...	13	35	
Poona City ...	Jowári ...	18	32	
	Bájri ...	16	4	
	Rice ...	15	4	

Sa'ta'ra.

There has been rain in two tálukas, at Tásgaon 4 cents and Khánápur 5 cents. The average price of jowári is 18½ lbs. and of bájri 15½ lbs. per rupee. Grain supply is fair. Water is sufficient. Standing crops and cattle are in fair condition. Fodder supply is scanty. The detailed prices are—

Sa'tara—continued.

Táluka.	During Week.			
		Lbs.	Tolas.	
Karád ...	Jowári ...	19	38	
	Bájri ...	15	21	
Pátan ...	Jowári ...	18	36	
	Bájri ...	...	...	
Khatáv ...	Jowári ...	23	4	
	Bájri ...	19	2	
Tásgaon ...	Jowári ...	20	9	
	Bájri ...	19	20	
Sátara ...	Jowári ...	18	28	
	Bájri ...	15	25	
Mán... ..	Jowári ...	20	8½	
	Bájri ...	19	20½	
Jávli ...	Jowári ...	16	30	
	Bájri ...	16	20	
Koregaon ...	Jowári ...	18	31	
	Bájri ...	18	5	
Wái ...	Jowári ...	18	20	
	Bájri ...	11	30	
Válva ...	Jowári ...	20	8½	
	Bájri ...	19	20	

Na'sik.

There has been no rain. The average price of bájri is 17½, of jowári 18½ and of nágli 22½ lbs. per rupee. The general prospects are unchanged. Standing rabi crops are in need of rain. The stock of grain is generally sufficient for the present. Fodder is scarce in most tálukas. There has been no starvation and no disease worth notice among cattle. The condition of cultivators is normal and of town population fair. 2,161 labourers are employed by the Táluka and District Local Boards. Detailed prices are given below—

Táluka.	During Week.			
		Lbs.	Tolas.	
Násik ...	Bájri ...	16	38	
	Jowári ...	19	10	
	Nágli ...	21	34	
Sinnar ...	Bájri ...	17	10	
	Jowári ...	19	10	
	Nágli ...	...	...	
Igatpuri ...	Bájri ...	16	14	
	Jowári ...	...	...	
	Nágli ...	18	0	
Dindori ...	Bájri ...	16	0	
	Jowári ...	...	...	
	Nágli ...	25	0	
Niphád ...	Bájri ...	17	13½	
	Jowári ...	20	17½	
	Nágli ...	21	15	

Na'sik—continued.

Táluka.	During Week.			
		Lbs.	Tolas.	
Chándor ...	Bájri ...	17	7½	
	Jowári ...	19	1½	
	Nágli ...	20	5½	
Yeola ...	Bájri ...	18	27½	
	Jowári ...	21	0	
	Nágli ...	...	...	
Málegaon ...	Bájri ...	16	36	
	Jowári ...	17	18	
	Nágli ...	...	...	
Nándgaon ...	Bájri ...	17	36	
	Jowári ...	18	2	
	Nágli ...	...	...	
Báglán ...	Bájri ...	16	12	
	Jowári ...	17	15	
	Nágli ...	...	...	
Kalwan ...	Bájri ...	18	6	
	Jowári ...	18	35	
	Nágli ...	20	12	
Peint ...	Bájri ...	...	...	
	Jowári ...	...	...	
	Nágli ...	30	0	

Kha'ndesh.

There has been no rain. Prices are almost stationary. The average price of jowári is 18 lbs. per rupee. Grain supply is sufficient. Crops and agriculturists are in the same state as before. Harvest operations being over, labourers are coming on to works in increased numbers. There has been no emigration worth mentioning.

Bija'pur.

There has been no rain during the week and no progress in sowing operations. Standing crops are withering. Prices of jowári have risen in three tálukas; they vary from 24 lbs. in Bágalkot to 17½ lbs. in Indi. The condition of cattle is deplorable owing to want of fodder and they are sold at nominal rates. The condition of cultivators is unsatisfactory. Agricultural labourers have no field work and all are flocking to relief works. Weavers and artisans have no sufficient work. The former have commenced joining relief works. There is slight cholera in Hungund Táluka. Grain supply is generally fair. Water-supply is failing. The táluka prices of jowári are given below—

Táluka.	Lbs. per Re.	
	Lbs.	
Bágalkot ...	24	
Bádami ...	20½	
Hungund ...	22	
Muddebiñál ...	18½	
Indi ...	17½	
Bágevádi ...	21½	
Bija'pur ...	20½	
Sindgi ...	22½	
Bilgi ...	22	

Belgaum.

There has been no rain. Prices have slightly fallen. The average price of jowári is 23 lbs., of bájri 23 lbs., and of rice 16 lbs. per rupee. Grain supply is sufficient. Emigration from Athni and parts of Parasgad to adjacent tálukas and States continues. There has been no immigration. Fodder is scarce and dear. Cattle are being sold at cheap rates. Agricultural work is diminishing. Artizans in Parasgad do not get sufficient work. The detailed prices are given below—

Táluka.	Lbs. per Re.			
		Lbs.		
Belgaum ...	Jowári ...	24		
	Bájri ...	22		
	Rice ...	19		
Chikodi ...	Jowári ...	22		
	Bájri ...	24		
	Rice ...	15		
Athni ...	Jowári ...	20		
	Bájri ...	20		
	Rice ...	14		
Gokák ...	Jowári ...	24		
	Bájri ...	26		
	Rice ...	15		
Parasgad ...	Jowári ...	24		
	Bájri ...	...		
	Rice ...	16		
Sampgaon ...	Jowári ...	22		
	Bájri ...	...		
	Rice ...	15		
Khánápur ...	Jowári ...	23		
	Bájri ...	...		
	Rice ...	17½		

Dha'rwa'r.

There has been no rain. Kharif jowári and rice harvest is in progress. Standing rabi crops are good so far, but in Ron, Mundargi and Nargund more rain is wanted for them. Some rabi sowings are still going on. The condition of agriculturists in affected parts is fair, and that of labourers and artisans improved. Cattle are indifferent in affected tálukas. Food-grains and water are generally sufficient. Fodder is insufficient in affected parts. There has been no emigration to Bombay. Prices are much above normal. The price of jowári in the affected tracts is—Navalgund 26½, Ron 28, Nargund 25½ and Mundargi 27 lbs. per rupee.

Kola'ba.

There has been no rain. The price of rice at Alibág is 18½ lbs. per rupee. Prices are generally stationary or falling. 45 labourers from Pen have gone to Bombay, and 225 labourers have arrived in Uran from Ratnágiri and Poona. The general situation is unchanged. People are not yet willing to work for famine wages.

Ratna'giri.

There has been no rain. Prices of paddy and rice have fallen slightly in Málvan and Khed and of rice only in Mandangad; that of nágli has fallen slightly in Vengurla and Khed and risen slightly in Rájápur; that of vari has fallen considerably at Ratnágiri; elsewhere prices are sta-

2. The progress of relief measures during the last week is shown in the appended statement. Excluding the district of Khándesh, for which no returns have been submitted, the daily average number of labourers on relief works was 114,614 as compared with 72,571 in the preceding week. Harvesting and sowing operations are now generally completed; the demand for labour at famine wages is increasing, and several new works have been ordered to be started.

One earth-work (strengthening and improving banks of Ekruk Tank Canals) has been specially provided for weavers in Sholápur who are in need of relief, and it has been ordered that weavers alone should as far as possible be employed on it, other applicants being sent to road works. Estimates for new metal-collecting works have been sanctioned and the works have been brought on the famine relief programme. The survey of five tank projects in Sholápur has been ordered, and Rs. 4,000 have been allotted for the survey of the Bársi-Pandharpur Railway. Allotments have also been sanctioned for several small works in Khándesh. Programmes of suitable relief works to be utilised in case of necessity have been prepared for the districts of Kolába and Ratnágiri.

3. The Yeola Municipality have proposed a scheme for relieving the distressed weavers in that town by employing them in their own craft, and have asked for the assistance of Government to enable them to carry out the scheme. Government have approved of the proposal, and it has been suggested that the project should be started at once. Under the existing law a loan cannot be granted for this purpose, but a loan on favourable terms has been offered for the water-works now under construction, and the sum of Rs. 50,000, which will thus be set free out of the balance at the credit of the Municipality, can be utilized for the relief project. It has been ordered that such of the relief workers as are temporarily unfitted for work by illness should, for the time being, be put on gratuitous relief in accordance with the intention of Section 176 (1) of the Famine Code. In order to afford relief to District and Village Hereditary Officers it has been directed that the annual cash allowances of the former should be paid in two, and those of the latter in four, instalments.

4. The Police force in the Poona District, where increase of crime is reported, has been strengthened. It has been ordered that the Village Police employed for guarding relief works, stores of grain, &c., should receive the wage of labourers of A Class.

By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,

J. MONTEATH,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Ratna'giri—continued.

tionary. There has been no demand for work anywhere except in Málvan, where 51 persons are on test relief works. There are fewer people going to Bombay for work than returning owing to the plague in that city. Cattle are healthy except in some talukas. Late crops are in fair condition.

Statement showing the progress of relief measures during the week ending 19th December 1896 in the several districts of the Bombay Presidency.

District.	Number and class of relief works.	Numbers of persons employed on relief works and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of non-working children whose parents are employed on relief works, including women in charge, and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of other persons relieved gratuitously in villages.	
		Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.
Bijápur	13 works under Public Works Agency.	167,454	27,909	Rs. 18,148	49,175	8,196	Rs. 1,635	1,269	181
	8 works under Civil Agency (including 4 Local Board works).	11,146	1,858	1,155	2,121	353	70	(in 55 vil- lages).	
Sholápur	9 works under Public Works Agency.	145,376	24,229	16,173	57,851	9,612	1,908	9,669	1,381
	8 works under Civil Agency	94,516	15,752	10,067 (excluding one work).	21,028	3,505	667 (excluding two works).	(in 82 vil- lages).	
Ahmednagar	12 works under Public Works Agency.	87,642	14,607	8,405 (excluding one work).	33,757	5,623	1,142 (excluding two works).	.....	.....
Poona	3 works under Public Works Agency.	74,270	12,378	9,336	35,120	5,853	30,993	9,621	1,374
Násik	9 works under Public Works Agency.	53,691	8,948	4,071 (excluding two works).	23,967	3,994	1,164	(in 64 villages and 1 poor-house).	.....
Sátára	3 works under Public Works Agency.	42,365	7,061	5,326	7,980	1,330	258	9	1
Belgaum	2 works under Public Works Agency.	3,136	522	264	1,381	230	35	(in 3 vil- lages).	10
	2 Local Board works under Civil Agency.	4,006	667	400	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dhárvar	Ordinary works under Public Works Agency.	2,076	346	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Ordinary Local Board Works...	2,202	367	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Notification.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FAMINE).

Bombay Castle, 31st December 1896.

No. 10776 of 1896.

In continuation of Government Notification No. 10607, dated 24th December 1896, the following Memorandum is published for general information:—

During the week under report rain has fallen in most of the affected districts, and has benefitted the rabi crops in many places, but in most places more rain is needed to save the crops sown last month. The substance of the district reports is given below, together with information received with regard to Native States in the affected area.

Shola'pur.

There has been no rain except 6 cents at Bársi. Grain supply is sufficient in all talukas except Sângola and Mâlsiras. Rabi sowing has been completed. More rain is wanted for crops recently sown. Crops sown in September and October are doing well. 6,420 persons are reported to have emigrated from four talukas. Emigration from the other talukas is also going on. Fodder is insufficient and water for cattle scarce in some places. Cattle are deteriorating and many are being sold or removed from the district. There are 338 weavers on semi-gratuitous relief. The prices of jowâri in the several talukas are given below, the average being 21½ lbs—

Taluka.	In lbs. per Re.
Sholâpur...	23½
Bârsi ...	26½
Mâdha ...	21
Karmâla ...	19½
Pandharpur ...	22½
Sângola ...	20½
Mâlsiras ...	21

Ahmednagar.

There was rain on the 26th, at Nagar 70 cents, at Râhûri 60 cents, at Karjat 11 cents; slight elsewhere. Sowing has been completed. The newly sown crops are still alive and will do well if copious rain falls soon. The condition of cattle in some places continues good; in others they are losing flesh and are being sold at nominal prices; a few have died. Tagâi demand still continues. Labourers are flocking to works everywhere except in Pârner and Jâmkhed. There has been some emigration from Kopargaon, Nevâsa and Akola. Grain supply is generally sufficient for the present. The average price of bājri is 18·8, and of jowâri 20·8 lbs. The detailed prices are given below—

Taluka.	During Week.			
				Lbs.
Nagar ...	Jowâri ..	...	...	19½
	Bājri ...	...	...	17½
Pârner ...	Jowâri ...	...	...	17½
	Bājri ...	...	...	17½

Ahmednagar—continued.

Taluka.	During Week.		
			Lbs.
Shrigonda ...	Jowári ...	...	19½
	Bájri ...	...	16½
Karjat ...	Jowári ...	...	22
	Bájri ...	...	17½
Jámkhed ...	Jowári ...	...	20½
	Bájri ...	...	21
Shevgaon ...	Jowári ...	...	19½
	Bájri ...	...	16½
Kopargaon ...	Jowári ...	...	19½
	Bájri ...	...	18½
Sangamner ...	Jowári ...	...	25
	Bájri ...	...	24
Akola ...	Jowári ...	...	24
	Bájri ...	...	21

Poona.

There was rain on the 26th at Pandara near Baramati 95 cents, at Baramati 32 cents, at Dhond 16 cents, at Sirur 8 cents and at Indapur 28 cents. Grain and water-supply is sufficient. More rain would be invaluable to the rabi crops. There is small-pox in one village in Bhimthadi Taluka. The average price of jowári is 20½ lbs. and of bájri 17½ lbs. per rupee. The details are given below:—

Taluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.		
			Lbs.
Junnar ...	Jowári ...	...	18
	Bájri ...	...	16
	Rice ...	...	15½
Ambegaon ...	Jowári ...	...	16½
	Bájri ...	...	...
	Rice ...	...	14½
Khed ...	Jowári ...	...	20
	Bájri ...	...	15½
	Rice ...	...	13½
Maval ...	Jowári ...	...	19½
	Bájri ...	...	17½
	Rice ...	...	17½
Haveli ...	Jowári ...	...	18½
	Bájri ...	...	16½
	Rice ...	...	14½
Mulshi ...	Jowári ...	...	20
	Bájri ...	...	...
	Rice ...	...	17½
Parandhar ...	Jowári ...	...	18½
	Bájri ...	...	16½
	Rice ...	...	13½
Dhond ...	Jowári ...	...	22½
	Bájri ...	...	18½
	Rice ...	...	15

Poona—continued.

Taluka.	Lbs. per Rupee.		
			Lbs.
Bhimthadi ...	Jowári ...	...	19
	Bájri ...	...	17½
	Rice ...	...	14
Indapur ...	Jowári ...	...	21½
	Bájri ...	...	18½
	Rice ...	...	...
Poona City ...	Jowári ...	...	18½
	Bájri ...	...	16½
	Rice ...	...	15½

Násik.

There has been no rain* during the week under report. Prospects are unchanged. Standing rabi crops in need of rain. Prices are fairly stationary, bájri being cheaper by 9 tolas and jowári by 22 tolas. The stock of grain is generally sufficient for the present. Fodder is scarce in most talukas. There has been no starvation and no disease worth notice among cattle. The condition of cultivators is normal and of town population fair. 2,503 labourers are employed by the Taluka and District Local Boards. The average price of bájri is 17½ lbs., of jowári 19½ lbs., and of nágli 22½ lbs. per rupee. The details are given below:—

Taluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.		
			Lbs.
Násik ...	Bájri ...	...	17½
	Jowári ...	...	20½
Sinnar ...	Bájri ...	...	17½
	Jowári ...	...	19½
Igatpuri ...	Bájri ...	...	16½
	Jowári ...	...	...
Dindori ...	Bájri ...	...	16
	Jowári ...	...	...
Niphád ...	Bájri ...	...	17½
	Jowári ...	...	20½
Chándor ...	Bájri ...	...	17½
	Jowári ...	...	19½
Yeola ...	Bájri ...	...	17
	Jowári ...	...	21
Málegaon ...	Bájri ...	...	18½
	Jowári ...	...	18½
Nándgaon ...	Bájri ...	...	17½
	Jowári ...	...	20½
Báglán ...	Bájri ...	...	17½
	Jowári ...	...	19
Káivan ...	Bájri ...	...	18½
	Jowári ...	...	18½

* Note.—Rain fell since the date of the report, being at Niphád 41, at Chándor 37, at Nándgaon 53, and at Báglán 25 cent.

Sa'ta'ra.

There has been rain during the week,—at Karád 9 cents, at Válva 25 cents, at Wái 73 cents, at Khatáv Khánapur 22 cents, at Pátan 6 cents, at Khatáv 10 cents, at Tásgaon 1 inch 12 cents, at Shirála 1 inch and at Khandála 4 cents. Grain supply is fair. Standing crops are in fair condition. Fodder is scarce. Cattle are in fair condition. The average price of jowári is 19½ lbs. and of bájri 18 lbs. The details are given below—

Taluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.		
Karád ...	Jowári ...	...	19½
	Bájri ...	...	15½
Wái ...	Jowári ...	...	19
	Bájri ...	...	17
Jávli ...	Jowári ...	...	15½
	Bájri ...	...	16½
Koregaon ...	Jowári ...	...	18½
	Bájri ...	...	19½
Mán ...	Jowári ...	...	...
	Bájri ...	...	18½
Pátan ...	Jowári ...	...	18½
	Bájri ...	...	...
Khatáv ...	Jowári ...	...	20½
	Bájri ...	...	16½
Sátára ...	Jowári ...	...	18½
	Bájri ...	...	15½
Válva ...	Jowári ...	...	18½
	Bájri ...	...	19½
Khánapur ...	Jowári ...	...	21½
	Bájri ...	...	19½
Tásgaon ...	Jowári ...	...	23½
	Bájri ...	...	20½

Khandesh.

There has been no* rain during the week under report. Prices are steady. That of jowári is about 18 and of bájri about 16 lbs. per rupee. There is very little bájri on sale. Grain supply is sufficient. Kharif crops have been all reaped now. Rabi gram is good and wheat fair. Linseed has not germinated properly. The condition of cultivators is good. Cattle are not affected yet. A great deal of grass is brought down from the Sátapudas by cattle-owners and some cattle have been driven up there. Some labourers are still getting employment in grass-cutting, cleaning out wells, cotton-ginning, &c.; but as such employment is diminishing, demand for employment at famine rates is getting pretty strong in the extreme east of the district; it is slight in Amalner, Dhula, Sindkheda, Nandurbár and Pimpalner Talukas, and has not arisen elsewhere yet. The condition of weavers is better than it was six weeks ago. There has been no emigration worth mentioning.

* Note.—About 1 inch 27 cents of rain fell at Dhula on the evening of the 28th December, but Dhula is not a rabi taluka.

Bija'pur.

There has been slight rain in four talukas and Bilgi Petha, varying from 9 cents in Bagevadi to 48 cents in Muddebihal. Crops on alluvial lands and on banks of rivers are doing well, elsewhere they are withering. Prices are stationary in Muddebihal and Hungund, have risen in three other talukas and Bilgi Petha, and fallen elsewhere. The average price of jowári is 21 lbs. per rupee. The state of cattle is deplorable. The condition of cultivators is not satisfactory. There is no field work for agricultural labourers, and weavers and artisans have no work in their own craft. Grain supply is sufficient except in Indi and Bádami Talukas. Water-supply is failing except in villages on the banks of rivers. The detailed prices of jowari are given below—

Taluka.	Lbs. per Rupee.		
Bágalkot ...	...	...	22½
Bádami ...	...	...	22½
Hungund ...	...	...	18½
Muddebihal ...	...	...	21
Indi ...	...	...	20½
Bagevadi ...	...	...	21
Bija'pur ...	...	...	21
Sindgi ...	...	...	20
Bilgi ...	...	...	20

Belgaum.

There was general rain on 25th except in Chikodi and Athni, maximum at Belgaum 1 inch 57 cents, minimum at Murgod 14 cents. The rainfall in Belgaum has been beneficial to cold weather crops; elsewhere it is of no use unless supplemented by more within a week or two. In other respects the situation is unchanged. The average price of jowári and bájri is 23 lbs. and of rice 17 lbs. per rupee. The details are given below—

Taluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.		
Belgaum ...	Jowári ...	...	25
	Bájri ...	...	24
	Rice ...	...	19
Chikodi ...	Jowári ...	...	21
	Bájri ...	...	24
	Rice ...	...	16
Athni ...	Jowári ...	...	22
	Bájri ...	...	20
	Rice ...	...	14
Gokák ...	Jowári ...	...	24
	Bájri ...	...	23
	Rice ...	...	18
Parasgad ...	Jowári ...	...	24
	Bájri ...	...	...
	Rice ...	...	16
Sampgaon ...	Jowári ...	...	24
	Bájri ...	...	...
	Rice ...	...	16
Khánapur ...	Jowári ...	...	22
	Bájri ...	...	...
	Rice ...	...	19

Dhārwa'r.

There has been rain during the week, the fall being 1 inch 99 cents in Navalgund, 42 cents in Nargund, 23 cents in Ron, 15 cents in Gadag, 49 cents in Dhārwa'r, 37 cents in Hubli, 26 cents in Bankāpur, and 2 cents in Rānebennur. The rain has been beneficial to rabi crops. Kharif jowāri and rice harvest is in progress. Standing rabi crops are in fair condition in Ron, Mundargi and Nargund, but rain is urgently wanted for them. Some rabi sowings are still going on. The condition of agriculturists in affected parts is fair, and of labourers and artizans middling. Cattle are indifferent in the affected talukas. Food grains and water are generally sufficient. Fodder is insufficient in affected parts. Prices are falling. There has been no emigration to Bombay. The taluka prices are given below—

Taluka.	Jowari.	Rice.
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Dhārwa'r	25½	21½
Hubli	...	...
Bankāpur	35	20
Kalghatgi	...	...
Karajgi	36	19
Rānebennur	28½	14½
Hāngal	25½	19
Kod	36	20½
Navalgund	30½	23½
Gadag	24½	15½
Ron	26½	17½
Nargund	25½	18½
Mundargi	27	21½

Kola'ba.

There has been no rain. The price of rice is 18½ lbs. at Alibāg. Prices are generally stationary. 300 persons from Ratnāgiri have come to Uran for work. Conditions are otherwise unchanged. In Nāgothna people are willing to take famine wages, and test works will shortly be opened.

2. The progress of relief measures during the last week is summarised in the appended statement. The returns submitted show the daily average number of labourers on relief works to be 138,772 as compared with 114,614 during the preceding week. Several new relief works have been opened to meet the increased demand for labour at famine wages, and steps are being taken to acquire the land required for the Shetphal Tank project in Poona, which is to be started as a famine relief work. Camps for relief workers with dispensaries and hospitals attached have been constructed at several places, and others are in course of preparation. The Sanitary Commissioner and other officers of his Department have inspected the sites of camps in the districts of Sholāpur, Nāsik and Sātāra, and satisfactory arrangements have been made for keeping the sites clean, safeguarding the water-supply and isolating cases of infectious diseases. The condition of the adult labourers and of children on all the works visited by the Sanitary Officers is reported to be good. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Western Registration District, has specially inspected the weavers employed on the different works in the Nāsik District and reports their condition to be satisfactory. The condition of certain weavers (53 males and 48 females) who had just arrived on a road work in Sātāra was, however, not found by the Sanitary Commissioner to be so good as that of the other workers, but it is expected that out-door work will soon improve their health.

Ratnāgiri.

There has been slight rain in Sangameshvar and Devgad. The price of rice has fallen slightly at Rājāpur and Ratnāgiri and of paddy at Vengurla; that of nāgli has risen slightly at Vengurla and Ratnāgiri and of wari at Ratnāgiri. Elsewhere prices are stationary. There has been no demand for work anywhere. The labourers on the test work at Mālvān left as soon as the proper task was exacted from them. Cattle are healthy except in some talukas. Hot weather crops are in fair condition; the slight rain which fell in Devgad and Sangameshvar will improve them. The rush of workmen from Bombay still continues.

Native States.

Kolhāpur and Southern Marātha Country.

The price of jowāri is from 17 to 26 lbs. per rupee. The total muster on works during week was 12,304, exclusive of 1,470 non-working children. 38 persons were relieved in poorhouses in Jath and Jamkhāndi. Grain supply is plentiful. Cattle in Jath are dying for want of fodder. There is slight cholera in 2 villages.

Bhor.

One inch of rain fell at Ambavdi and crops have been improved by it. Grain supply is sufficient. People and cattle are in tolerably good condition. The price of jowāri is 20½ lbs. and of bajri 17½ lbs. per rupee. There are 320 persons on relief works and 34 on village relief.

Akalkot.

Slight rain fell in the southern and northern portions. More is wanted for crops in the southern portion. Grain supply is plentiful and the state of population good. The price of jowāri is 24½ and of bajri 20½ lbs. per rupee. There were 1,640 persons on works.

Phaltan.

Grain supply is plentiful. The price of jowāri is 22 and of bajri 20 lbs.

Janjira.

Grain supply is moderate. Relief works are in contemplation. The price of rice is Rs. 35 per khandi.

3. Allotments of Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 5,000 have been placed at the disposal of the Collectors of Nāsik and Ahmednagar respectively for expenditure on gratuitous relief and for improvement of water-supply. A further assignment of Rs. 50,000 has been made to each of the districts of Ahmednagar and Sātāra for tagāi advances for agricultural improvement. The Collectors of affected districts have been authorised to make tagāi advances to cultivators to assist them in carrying their cattle to grazing grounds by road as well as by rail.

4. A further sum of Rs. 20,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth for grass operations in the Southern Circle. Authority has been given to make advances to cultivators of affected districts in grass in lieu of cash, subject to the general rules for tagāi advances; and it has been directed that the amount of the loan should be calculated on the price of the grass at the Railway stations where it is carried if there is competition for it; otherwise on the actual cost of the grass delivered at the Railway stations. Arrangements have been made with the Railway Companies for the conveyance of cattle from affected districts and of pressed grass to those districts at moderate rates. The Forest Department in the Southern Circle has provided employment for Waddars and stone-masons in making forest boundary marks in the Bādāmi and Bāgalkot talukas and for a considerable number of other people in collecting the bark of the Cassia in the Bāgalkot and Ilungund forests.

5. The application of Chapter XIII of the Famine Code (relating to the duties of the Police) to the Sholāpur and Ahmednagar districts has been authorised, and the Police force in the Nāsik and Bījāpur districts has been strengthened. An allotment of Rs. 200 has been placed at the disposal of each of the Superintendents of Police in the affected districts to enable them to pay subsistence allowance to the village Police and villagers whose assistance and presence are required by the Police in connection with enquiries into crime.

By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,

J. MONTEATH,

Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Statement showing the progress of relief measures during the week ending 26th December 1896 in the several districts of the Bombay Presidency affected by scarcity.

District.	Number and class of relief works.	Numbers of persons employed on relief works and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of non-working children whose parents are employed on relief works, including women in charge, and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of other persons relieved gratuitously in villages.	
		Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.
Bijapur	13 works under Public Works Agency. 8 works under Civil Agency (including 4 Local Board and Municipal works).	216,740	36,123	Rs. 24,455	67,947	11,324	Rs. 2,381	4,329 (in 99 vil- lages).	618
Sholapur	13 works under Public Works Agency.	160,693	26,782	17,601	66,718	11,119	2,226	13,642 (in 103 vil- lages).	1,949
Ahmednagar	9 works under Civil Agency	117,278	19,546	11,663	27,396	4,566	567		
Poona	11 works under Public Works Agency.	97,333	16,222	11,108 (excluding one work).	39,506	6,651	1,261 (excluding one work).	4 (in 1 village).	.....
Nasik	3 works under Public Works Agency.	61,512	10,252	7,455	32,132	5,355	1,010	8,704 (in 60 villages and 1 poor- house).	1,215
Satara	9 works under Public Works Agency.	74,449	12,408	6,200 (excluding two works).	34,962	5,827	1,750	.....	.....
Belgaum	4 works under Public Works Agency.	67,731	11,288	9,672	15,429	2,571	511	9 (in 3 villages.)	1
Dhárwar	2 works under Public Works Agency.	7,656	1,276	644	.....	.....	.....	196 (in 4 vil- lages).	28
Khândesh	3 Local Board and Municipal works under Civil Agency.	3,157	526	361	3,469	578	90	.....	.....
	Ordinary works under Public Works Agency.	4,242	707	Not reported.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Ordinary works under Civil Agency.	3,432	572	381	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	3 works under Civil Agency (Infor- mation for others not received).	5,271	878		2,205	367			

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Notification.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FAMINE).

Bombay Castle, 7th January 1897.

No. 53-FAM. OF 1897.

In continuation of Government Notification No. 10776, dated 31st December 1896, the following Memorandum is published for general information:—

During the week ending 2nd January 1897, there was slight rain in some of the affected districts, which was of some benefit but has not materially altered the situation. More rain is now urgently required for the late-sown rabi crops. The reports from the affected districts and the adjoining Native States are summarised below—

Sholapur.

There has been rain in three talukas : at Karmála 27 cents, at Sângola 2 cents, and at Malsiras 18 cents. More rain is urgently wanted for the rabi crops sown in November and December, which have begun to wither in parts of all talukas except Malsiras. Grain supply is sufficient in all talukas except Sângola and Malsiras. 6,050 people with or without cattle have emigrated from three talukas. Semi-gratuitous relief is being given to 322 weavers. Fodder is insufficient, and there is a scarcity of water for cattle in parts. Cattle are deteriorating in Sângola; 100 died and 340 have been sold and 395 sent away to other districts for grazing. Cholera has appeared in one village of Pandharpur Taluka. Prices have maintained or more than maintained the improvement reported last week. The average price of jowári is 22½ lbs. and of bájri 18½ lbs. per rupee. The taluka prices of jowári are—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Sholapur...	23½
Mádha ...	21
Karmála ...	24½
Pandharpur	22½
Sângola ...	21½
Malsiras ...	20

Ahmednagar.

The rain reported last week fell in some talukas only: it was neither general nor heavy. Grain supply is generally sufficient for the present. There has been some emigration from Akola and Jámkhed. The situation otherwise remains unchanged. The average price of jowári is 20½ lbs. and of bájri 18½ lbs. per rupee. The taluka prices are—

Ahmednagar—continued.

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Nagar	Jowári ... 20 Báji ... 20½
Páner	Jowári ... 17½ Báji ... 17½
Shrigonda	Jowári ... 22 Báji ... 16½
Karjat	Jowári ... 22 Báji ... 17½
Jámkhed	Jowári ... 22 Báji ... 21
Shevgaon	Jowári ... 19½ Báji ... 16½
Kopargaon	Jowári ... 19½ Báji ... 18½
Akola	Jowári ... 24 Báji ... 21
Nevása	Jowári ... 19½ Báji ... 17½
Ráhuri	Jowári ... 19½ Báji ... 20½

Poona.

There has been no rain during the week under report. The rainfall reported last week was generally beneficial to late-sown rabi crops, but not enough to make any marked change in the situation. Grain and water-supply is sufficient. The average price of jowári is 20½ lbs. and of báji 17½ lbs. per rupee. Public health continues good. Cattle are poor and fodder very scarce especially in Indápur and Bhimthadi. The condition of cattle in Purandhar is very bad. The táluka prices are given below—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Junnar	Jowári ... 18 Báji ... 16 Rice ... 15½
A'mbegaon	Jowári ... 19½ Báji ... 16½ Rice
Khed	Jowári ... 20 Báji ... 14½ Rice
Mával	Jowári ... 19½ Báji ... 17½ Rice ... 15½
Háveli	Jowári ... 21½ Báji ... 18½ Rice ... 16½

Poona—continued.

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Malshi	Jowári ... 17½ Báji ... 15½ Rice ... 17½
Purandhar	Jowári ... 20 Báji ... 16½ Rice ... 13½
Dhond	Jowári ... 22½ Báji ... 18½ Rice ... 15½
Bhimthadi	Jowári ... 21 Báji ... 18½ Rice ... 14
Indápur	Jowári ... 21½ Báji ... 20½ Rice ... 13½
Poona City	Jowári ... 21½ Báji ... 18½ Rice ... 16½
Sirur	Jowári ... 19½ Báji ... 16½ Rice ... 14½

Nasik.

The rainfall during the week was 9 cents at Sinnar, 14 cents at Dindori, 44 cents at Niphád, 37 cents at Chándor, 4 cents at Yeola, 55 cents at Nándgaon, 2 cents at Málegaon, 93 cents at Bágán and 70 cents at Kalvan. Prospects remain unchanged. Standing rabi crops are in need of rain and prices are almost stationary: báji being cheaper by 1 tola and jowári by 5 tolas, and nágli being dearer by 15 tolas. The stock of grain is generally sufficient for the present. Fodder is scarce in most tálukas. There has been no starvation and no disease worth notice among cattle. The condition of cultivators is normal and of town population fair. 1,066 labourers are employed by the Táluka and District Local Boards. The average price of báji is 17½ lbs., of jowári 19½ lbs., and of nágli 22 lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are given below—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Násik	Báji ... 16½ Jowári ... 19½
Sinnar	Báji ... 17½ Jowári ... 19½
Igatpuri	Báji ... 17½ Jowári
Dindori	Báji ... 18 Jowári
Niphád	Báji ... 16½ Jowári ... 21½

Nasik—continued.

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Chándor	Báji ... 17½ Jowári ... 19½
Yeola	Báji ... 17½ Jowári ... 21
Málegaon	Báji ... 18½ Jowári ... 19½
Nándgaon	Báji ... 19½ Jowári ... 20½
Bágán	Báji ... 17½ Jowári ... 18
Kalvan	Báji ... 18½ Jowári ... 18½
Peint	Báji ... 15 Jowári

Sa'tara.

There has been rain in three tálukas: at Válva 3 cents, at Wái 31 cents, and at Mán 14 cents. Standing rabi crops are in fair condition. Water is generally sufficient. Fodder supply is fair. Cattle are in fair condition. The average price of jowári is 18½ lbs. and of báji 18 lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are given below—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Karád	Jowári ... 19½ Báji ... 15½
Wái	Jowári ... 18½ Báji ... 18½
Jáli	Jowári ... 15½ Báji ... 15½
Koregaon	Jowári ... 18½ Báji ... 18½
Mán	Jowári ... 18½ Báji ... 18½
Pátan	Jowári ... 16½ Báji
Khatáv	Jowári ... 18½ Báji ... 15½
Sátara	Jowári ... 18½ Báji ... 16½
Válva	Jowári ... 20½ Báji ... 19½
Khánápur	Jowári ... 21½ Báji ... 19½
Tásgaon	Jowári ... 21½ Báji ... 18½

Kha'ndesh.

The rainfall during the week was at Dhulia 1 inch 33 cents, at Amalner 57 cents, at Párola 34 cents, at Erandol 30 cents, at Bhadgaon 69 cents, at Shirpur 44 cents, at Sánda 61 cents, at Bhusával 62 cents, at Jalgaon 38 cents and at Jámner 56 cents. Grain supply is sufficient. Prices are steady. The kharif crops are all reaped. Rabi gram is good, wheat fair and linseed a failure. The week's rain will benefit wheat in fields, but has done harm by washing away wheat raised in beds of streams. The condition of cultivators and cattle is good. The condition of the weavers is better than it was two months ago, and they do not go to the relief works. The demand for labour at famine rates is increasing amongst low castes and labourers in the eastern part of the district. There has been no emigration worth noticing. The average price of jowári is 19 lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are given below—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Dhulia	18½
Amalner	17
Párola	18
Erandol	19
Bhadgaon	19½
Nandurbár	18
Sháhada	17½
Sindkheda	18½
Shirpur	17½
Sánda	19½
Ráver	23½
Bhusával	18½
Jalgaon	18½
Jámner	19

Bijapur.

There has been no rain during the week and no sowing operations are in progress. Crops are withering except those on the banks of rivers. The state of the cattle is very bad. The condition of cultivators and of agricultural labourers is not satisfactory. The condition of weavers is bad, as there is no demand for their labour; two-thirds of the looms in Bádámi Táluka have ceased working. Grain supply is sufficient except in Indi and Bádámi Tálukas. Water-supply is decreasing. Prices have risen in Bádámi and fallen in Bijapur Táluka and are stationary in other tálukas; the average price of jowári is 21 lbs. per rupee. The táluka prices are given below—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Bágalkot	22½
Bádámi	21½
Hungund	22
Muddebihal	18½
Indi	21
Bágevádi	20½
Bijapur	22½
Sindgi	21
Bilgi	20

Belgaum.

There has been rain in two talukas: 21 cents. at Gokák and 4 cents. at Parasgad. Prices are slightly lower. There has been no emigration from any taluka. Otherwise the situation remains unchanged. The average price of jowári is 24 lbs., of bájri 22 lbs., and of rice 17 lbs. per rupee. The taluka prices are given below—

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Belgaum ...	Jowári ... 27 Bájri ... 24 Rice ... 20
Chikodi ...	Jowári ... 21 Bájri ... 24 Rice ... 16
Athni ...	Jowári ... 22 Bájri ... 20 Rice ... 14
Gokák ...	Jowári ... 27 Bájri ... 22 Rice ... 18
Parasgad ...	Jowári ... 24 Bájri ... 16 Rice ... 16
Samsgaon ...	Jowári ... 26 Bájri ... 18 Rice ... 18
Khánápur ...	Jowári ... 24 Bájri ... 18 Rice ... 18

Dharwar.

There has been no rain. Kharif, jowári and rice harvest is in progress. Rabi crops are in fair condition. In Ron, Mundargi and Nargund more rain is urgently wanted. The condition of agriculturists in affected parts is fair, and of labourers and artisans middling. The state of the cattle in the affected talukas is indifferent. Food-grains and water are generally sufficient. Fodder is insufficient in affected parts. Prices have slightly fallen. There has been no emigration to Bombay. The taluka prices are given below—

Tálukas.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Dharwar ...	Jowári ... 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rice ... 21 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hubli ...	Jowári ... 30 Rice ... 18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bankápur ...	Jowári ... 36 Rice ... 20
Kalghatgi ...	Jowári ... 31 Rice ... 23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Karajgi ...	Jowári ... 34 Rice ... 22
Hángal ...	Jowári ... 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rice ... 22 $\frac{1}{2}$

Dharwar—continued.

Táluka.	In lbs. per Rupee.
Kod ...	Jowári ... 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rice ... 23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Navalgund ...	Jowári ... 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rice ... 19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gadag ...	Jowári ... 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rice ... 15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ron ...	Jowári ... 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rice ... 18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Nargund ...	Jowári ... 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ Rice ... 20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mundargi ...	Jowári ... 27 Rice ... 21 $\frac{1}{2}$

Kola'ba.

The rainfall during the week was 15 cents. in Alibág and none elsewhere. The situation generally remains unchanged. The price of rice has risen by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. in Khálápur. Prices elsewhere are stationary. About 300 persons have arrived at Uran from Ratnágiri, Poona and Sátára for labour, and about 700 from Bombay to escape the plague.

Ratnágiri.

The rainfall during the week was 5 cents. at Chiplún and none elsewhere. The prices of rice have risen slightly at Chiplún and Khed and fallen slightly at Málvan and Sangameshvar; that of paddy has risen slightly at Vengurla and fallen slightly at Sangameshvar; that of nágli has risen slightly at Vengurla and Ratnágiri and considerably in Dápoli and fallen slightly in Málvan; that of wari has risen slightly at Ratnágiri and considerably at Dápoli; elsewhere prices are stationary. There has been no demand for work anywhere. Fewer people are going to Bombay for work than are returning thence owing to the plague. Cattle are healthy except in some talukas. Hot weather crops are fair. There is a steady import of grain into all ports.

Native States.**Kollápur and Southern Marátha Country.**

There was slight rain during the week in Miraj, Modnimb and Mudhol. Grain supply is sufficient. Cattle are dying in Jath and Jamkhandi, and diseased in Gudgeri under Miraj. Scarcity is severest in Jath, Mangalvedha, Jamkhandi and Tikota. The price of jowári ranges from 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 26 lbs. per rupee. The total muster on relief works during the week was 13,277, exclusive of 2,487 non-working children, and 92 persons were relieved in poor-houses.

Bhor.

The rainfall during the week was 63 cents at Bhor. The condition of people and cattle is good. Grain supply is sufficient. The price of jowári is 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and of bájri 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per rupee. The total muster on relief works during the week was 2,677 and the number on gratuitous relief 393.

Akalkot.

There has been no rain. Grain supply is sufficient. Crops are good in the northern portion, but more rain is wanted in the southern portion. The state of the population is good. Cattle in some villages are in a miserable condition. The price of jowári is 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. and of bájri 20 lbs. per rupee. The total weekly muster on works was 2,781.

Phaltan.

The rainfall at head-quarters was 18 cents. Grain supply is plentiful. Crops are doing well. The condition of people and cattle is fair. The price of jowári is 22 and of bájri 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per rupee.

Surgána.

There has been no rain. No relief works have been started. The Deshmukh provides gratuitous relief from his private purse. Grain is supplied to the State bazárs partly from British and partly from State villages. The price of nágli is 35 lbs. per rupee.

2. The appended statement shows the progress of relief measures during the last week. There is an increase of 24,982 in the daily average number of labourers on relief works as compared with the preceding week. Several new works have been opened to meet the increased demand for employment, and steps are being taken to provide more road and tank projects to be started as relief works in case of need. Where the rush on works in progress is great, small works are temporarily provided for such of the applicants as cannot be taken on large works at once. Allotments of Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively have been made to the Collectors of Khándesh and Ahmednagar for small works. Twelve special Civil officers with establishments have been appointed for large works in Ahmednagar and Sholápur, and the staff of Circle Inspectors in the latter district has been strengthened. The appointment of Relief Mám-latdárs in the Ahmednagar district has also been authorised. District Medical Officers under Section 48 of the Famine Code have been appointed to the districts of Sholápur and Ahmednagar.

3. The daily average number of persons receiving gratuitous relief has increased from 3,811 in the preceding week to 6,916 in the week under report. The application to the Ahmednagar district of Chapters IV (Circle Organization) and VIII (Poor-houses) has been directed; and Rs. 10,000 for gratuitous relief in villages and an equal amount for expenditure on poor-houses have been placed at the disposal of the Collector of that district. Steps are being taken to provide poor-houses for the Bijápur District. Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 7,500 have been allotted to the Collectors of Násik and Poona respectively for takávi advances and for improvement of water-supply.

4. The Agents of the Railway Companies have agreed to carry fodder for cattle by rail to the affected districts at low rates, which it is understood they will advertise. These rates are not restricted to grass carried at the cost of Government but will apply to fodder imported into the affected districts by private enterprise. Government are desirous of leaving the importation as far as possible to private trade and will refrain from any competition which is calculated to render that trade less effective.

By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,

J. MONTEATH,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

Statement showing the progress of relief measures during the week ending 2nd January 1897 in the several districts of the Bombay Presidency affected by scarcity.

District.	Number and class of relief works.	Numbers of persons employed on relief works and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of non-working children whose parents are employed on relief works, including women in charge, and expenditure on their account.			Numbers of other persons relieved gratuitously in villages.	
		Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.	Total expenditure of the week.	Weekly total number.	Daily average number.
Bijapur	13 works under Public Works Agency. 6 works under Civil Agency (including 4 Local Board and Municipal works).	253,020	42,170	Rs. 26,614	82,893	13,815	Rs. 2,799	15,920	2,274
		14,237	2,372	1,203 (excluding one work).	1,708	284	22 (excluding one work).	(in 195 vil- lages).	
Sholapur	14 works under Public Works Agency. 6 works under Civil Agency	192,500	32,133	19,824	99,055	16,509	3,212	12,053	1,721
		48,744	8,124	12,527 (excluding one work).	15,747	2,624	908	(in 123 vil- lages).	
Ahmednagar	12 works under Public Works Agency (return for 2 works not received).	165,279	27,546	16,019 (excluding one work).	66,050	11,008	2,215	.....	4
		78,060	13,010	8,952	41,194	6,865	1,476	19,650	2,811
Poona	4 works under Public Works Agency. 1 work under Civil Agency	328	54	.....	43,908	7,318	1,765	(in 96 vil- lages). 14	2
		87,322	14,553	6,965 (excluding three works).	15,448	2,574	594	(in 2 villages).	1
Nasik	10 works under Public Works Agency.	114,257	19,042	15,085	17,002	2,933	494	.....	.....
		40,962	6,827	3,906	15,448	2,574	594	(in 3 villages).	.....
Satara	5 works under Public Works Agency.	8,784	1,464	732	4,981	650	107	721	103
		3,210½	535	325	4,981	650	107	(in 13 vil- lages).	
Khandesh	8 works under Public Works Agency (return for one work not received).	40,962	6,827	3,906	17,002	2,933	494	.....	.....
		114,257	19,042	15,085	15,448	2,574	594	(in 3 villages).	.....
Belgaum	2 test works under Public Works Agency. 5 Local Boards and Municipal works under Civil Agency.	8,784	1,464	732	4,981	650	107	721	103
		3,210½	535	325	4,981	650	107	(in 13 vil- lages).	

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No. 91 of 1897.

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated Allahabad, the 9th January 1897.

SIR,

SCARCITY DEPT.

IN this Government's letter No. 196, dated the 23rd November 1896, the Government of India was informed of the agricultural situation and prospects of these provinces as then ascertained, and an estimate was given of the area and population affected by the failure of the *kharif* harvest, the anticipated deficiency in the area of the forthcoming *rabi* crop, and the number of people for whom it would be necessary to provide relief. That letter had scarcely been despatched when reports of rainfall in varying amounts were received from many parts of the Province, and the Lieutenant-Governor thought it advisable to call for reports from his District Officers as to the alteration which the rain had made in the situation. The Government of India was informed of this in the end of November, and in my official letter No. 417, of the 15th December, it was stated, on the strength of provisional information received from Commissioners of divisions, that the Lieutenant-Governor had reason to hope that with fair winter rains the numbers who might be expected to come on relief would be less by about 25 per cent. than the 100,000,000 units for one day which His Honor had previously estimated. The reports of District Officers and the revised estimates of the Divisional Commissioners have now come in, and they have been supplemented by a special return of the *rabi* area sown in each district up to the 15th December, obtained by field-to-field inspections of the village *patwaris*. The Lieutenant-Governor has further informed himself, in the course of a recent tour through the Bundelkhand districts and in the west of Oudh, of the state of those portions of the Province in which the failure of the crops has been greatest and distress is most general and pronounced. The present report, though it has been delayed beyond the date which His Honor had originally fixed for its submission, has gained thereby in fulness and accuracy, and may be regarded as a final survey of the situation as determined by the present condition of the people and the prospects of the *rabi* crop now on the ground.

2. All officers are agreed that the rainfall of the last week of November was too late to materially benefit such *kharif* crops as were still on the ground, except *arhar* (a species of pulse) and sugarcane,

and also too late to enable *rabi* sowings to be completed under ordinary conditions. They are equally agreed that in whatever locality the fall exceeded one-quarter of an inch the *rabi* already sown was greatly benefited, and further *rabi* sowings effected over an additional area. The peculiarity of the rainfall was its uneven and capricious distribution. In the Meerut Division, which, owing to the canals and the good *kharif* harvest, was already beyond the risks of scarcity, the fall was generally good, varying in most districts from one-quarter to four-fifths of an inch. In this division consequently the *rabi* area will be little short of the normal, varying from 69 per cent. in the Saharanpur district to 94 per cent. in Bulandshahr. In the Rohilkhand Division the average fall exceeded two-fifths of an inch, and was highly beneficial to the sandy tracts which characterize parts of the Budaun, Pilibhit, Moradabad, and Bareilly districts. In the Agra Division rain was heaviest in the tracts which already were best off and lightest in the worst tracts. But its general effect was to change the situation in this division from one of very considerable gravity to one of distinct hope. Passing over into Oudh, the submontane districts are found to have received the heaviest rainfalls, the district of Bahraich, in particular, having so benefited thereby as to have brought 86 per cent. of the normal *rabi* area under sowings. In Southern Oudh, comprising portions of both divisions (Fyzabad and Lucknow), the rainfall was slight, but the natural moisture of the soil and the humidity of the climate have done even more than was anticipated, and these advantages were supplemented by extraordinary resort on the part of the peasantry to the construction of temporary wells and to every form of irrigation. In the Gorakhpur Division fairly good rain fell in the Basti district, placing it beyond the reach of crop failure, and in the northern part of the Gorakhpur district. The southern and part of the central portion of the latter district and the district of Azamgarh were practically untouched by the rain, and this tract had all along been regarded with considerable apprehension. But here also the natural qualities of the soil and climate have helped the cultivator, and two-thirds of the normal *rabi* area have been sown. In the Benares Division serious difficulties were not apprehended even in the absence of rain in November. Most of the districts received a fair amount of rain, and in the division as a whole nearly four-fifths of the normal area have been sown. There remains the Allahabad Division, which from the first has been regarded by the Lieutenant-Governor as the weakest area in the Province. In these districts good rain fell in the greater part of Hamirpur and in part of Fatehpur, Cawnpore, and Jhansi. Elsewhere it was too slight to materially improve the *rabi* prospects. Banda and Allahabad, in particular, were practically unaffected by the very light showers which they received. The result is seen in a *rabi* which in the whole division is only 44 per cent. of the normal area, and falls to only 25 per cent. in Banda against the November estimate of about 50 per cent. It may be doubted whether in Banda more than 20 per cent. will yield a crop.

3. The prospects of the *rabi* according to the forecast given in paragraph 7 of the letter of the 23rd November and as now ascertained compare as follows:—

Division.	Normal <i>rabi</i> area in acres.	<i>Rabi</i> area for 1896-97 according to November estimate.	Percentage on normal area.	<i>Rabi</i> area for 1896-97 as now ascertained.	Percentage on normal area.
Meerut	2,918,714	2,177,247	71	2,374,651	81.3
Rohilkhand	2,443,802	1,823,556	75	1,846,495	75.5
Gorakhpur	2,411,686	1,460,855	60	1,606,035	66.5
Benares	1,793,390	1,055,168	59	1,444,755	80.5
Allahabad	3,012,173	1,263,078	42	1,342,104	44.5
Agra	2,194,587	1,273,910	58	1,476,170	67.2
Lucknow	2,472,714	1,002,832	41	1,546,949	62.5
Fyzabad	2,804,092	1,511,848	54	2,040,784	72.7
Total	20,051,158	11,568,498	58	13,677,943	68.2

The area actually sown is thus more than two million acres greater than what was anticipated, and as sowings were still going on in some districts at the date the *patwaris* made their field inspection, the return represents somewhat less than the real facts.

4. As regards the condition of the crops, they may be said to be generally promising. They are backward as compared with ordinary years, and it is now uncertain what effect this noticeable backwardness may have on the outturn. The cultivators, however, are hopeful, and seem to expect in most districts an average crop over the irrigated area, and, with favourable rain within a month, a moderate crop on unirrigated and on late sown lands. This expectation the Lieutenant-Governor himself shares. During the last week in December rain fell in most districts in good amounts, varying from one-half to one and a half inches, and wherever the fall amounted to half an inch the *rabi* is, at all events for the present month, secure. The Lieutenant-Governor believes that with ordinary good fortune, by which he means a further fall of rain within a month and immunity from severe frosts and hailstorms, the *rabi* harvest will make such addition to the existing stocks in the Province as to carry us over to the next *kharif* harvest. High prices must be expected, and if a great drain were made on these provinces, the situation might be altered; but the general opinion of grain dealers appears to be that, unless the *rabi* falls altogether short of anticipations, prices will not rise higher than they now are. The Lieutenant-Governor believes that, with a fairly good *rabi*, prices should decline after March.

5. Passing now to the question how far the ascertained prospects of the *rabi* affect the estimate which in paragraph 10 of its

letter of the 23rd November this Government made of the number of persons likely to require relief under the provisions of the Famine Code, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor has now ascertained beyond all doubt that the necessities of Bundelkhand, of the portion of the Allahabad district lying south of the Jumna, and of the Hardoi district in the Lucknow Division, are greater than he had hoped would be the case. In all these regions, except Hardoi, large tracts had little or no rain to speak of either in November or December. As regards the Bundelkhand districts, the situation, as it presented itself to the Lieutenant-Governor in the course of his recent tour through them, is described in this Government's Resolution No. 551, dated 30th December 1896, of which a copy has already been submitted to the Government of India. Briefly, in none of these districts do the *rabi* sowings represent 50 per cent. of the normal area. In Hamirpur the percentage is 46, in Jhānsi 37, in Jalaun 27, and in Banda only 25. On much of the land which has been sown the crops will be poor. This, following a succession of bad harvests, has quite broken the Banda and Jalaun districts, and very seriously crippled the other two. The state of southern Allahabad is no better than the state of Banda. The pressure on the relief works has begun at least two months earlier than last year, and there are at the present time on the relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief as many persons (166,000) as in the middle of April last. In the Banda district 14 per cent. of the entire population are already in receipt of relief, and the Lieutenant-Governor considers the Collector's estimate, that in the time of maximum pressure before the rains 25 or even 30 per cent. of the population will require relief, is not excessive. The total number relieved (reduced to units relieved for one day) in the relief operations in these Bundelkhand districts, which closed in September last, was 18½ millions. It will not be safe to count on less than 40 millions of units (for one day) as likely to require relief in these districts during the present scarcity. The most recent information as to the southern portion of the Allahabad district which the Lieutenant-Governor has received shows that its state is as bad as that of Banda, and large relief measures are found to be necessary. For the Allahabad Division as a whole the Commissioner, following the District Officers, estimates the numbers that will require relief at 57 millions of units for one day. Precision in such a matter is unattainable; but, having regard to the rapidity with which the numbers on relief are increasing in this division, the Lieutenant-Governor does not think that the estimate can be reduced under 50 millions.

6. In the Lucknow Division the most seriously distressed district is Hardoi. The Lieutenant-Governor has recently passed through it on tour, and is satisfied that as regards the labouring and the low caste population famine exists in all parts in an acute form; that relief works must be kept open till the rains on a large scale; and that gratuitous relief will have to be afforded to large numbers in villages who are unable to work. The Deputy Commissioner estimates

that from 10 millions to 15 millions of persons (reduced to units of one day) will require to be relieved, and the Lieutenant-Governor would not place the figure at less than 10 millions of units. Of the remaining five districts of the Lucknow Division, four have been formally recognised as distressed, and relief measures under the Code are in progress. For the Lucknow Division, as a whole, the Commissioner's revised estimate is 22½ million units, while the estimates of the District Officers reach 27 millions. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that 25 million units for one day may be taken as the approximate limit to which relief in this division may run.

7. As regards the rest of the Province, the reports received from local officers give for each division the following revised estimates of the number of persons (reduced to units for one day) expected to come on relief up to the harvesting of the *kharif* crop next September:—

Agra Division	...	...	5,000,000
Rohilkhand Division	...	...	4,000,000
Benares	..	...	5,000,000
Gorakhpur	..	...	10,000,000 *
Fyzabad	..	...	5,000,000
Total	...	...	29,000,000

This gives a total of 113,000,000 units for one day for the entire Province according to the revised estimates of the local officers. And as these estimates are based on a far more precise knowledge of facts and probabilities than was obtainable last November, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that they may be accepted. The estimate does not differ widely from the estimate of 100,000,000 units for one day, which, with the knowledge possessed in November, seemed to Sir Antony MacDonnell to be a probable measure of the difficulty to be met. If since the circumstances have been improved by the rain of November in certain of the affected divisions, they have become much worse in Bundelkhand and Allahabad, which have had no rain to speak of in November, and parts of which have fared badly in respect of the December rain. Here the low estimate of *rabi* sowings made in November has not even been verified, and the prospects have accordingly become more gloomy.

It is hardly necessary to observe that these numerical estimates are not put forward with the object of restricting relief within definite limits. The only limitation to the relief to be given will be the necessities of the people.

8. In paragraph 17 of this Government's letter No. 196, of 23rd November, mention was made of the heads under which the relief system falls. I am now to say that the arrangements in force under these heads have hitherto been generally sufficient. Plain indications,

* The information from Gorakhpur is numerically indefinite.

(6)

however, appearing that distress would rapidly grow, the organization of relief, both by means of public works and by village relief, has been largely expanded, and it is believed that the system is now capable of meeting the strain to which it will be subjected. There will be need in the near future for reinforcement of the provincial Public Works establishment, and, as pointed out in paragraph 23 of the letter of the 23rd November, the services of some young military officers for inspection purposes would be very useful. On these points the Government of India is being separately addressed.

9. The condition of the people in the affected tracts is, with the exception of a few districts, fair, and the same may be said in regard to the condition of labourers on relief works. In the worst districts the people now coming on works exhibit signs of privation, but, so far as has been ascertained, there is no evidence of any exceptional mortality from want of food. The system of village relief in the distressed districts is now being so extended as to take account of every individual resident in a village, and by winnowing the indigent from those who have means, to save the former from distress either by providing them, if able to work, with work, or, if unable to work, with gratuitous relief. I am to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of instructions recently issued in this connection. It will be an object with the relief administration later on to obtain suitable work from those gratuitously relieved at their homes.

10. The vast majority of the persons receiving relief come from the labouring classes and the poorer cultivators, mostly of low caste. But latterly people of the better cultivating classes who have sown their *rabi* are coming for employment on relief works. There may be here and there persons who could do without Government help, but they are comparatively very few. From enquiries which the Lieutenant-Governor during his present tour has made on several relief works, he is satisfied that these people, though in good condition, are in need of relief. They generally state that if the *rabi* harvest is fair, they will leave the works in March and not return again. And it may be assumed that men of their class would not undergo the privations and hardships incident to labour on relief works at a famine wage without being compelled by necessity. On the whole, it may be said that distress is now touching a higher stratum of the cultivating classes.

11. In addition to what has been already said in paragraph 3 above regarding a sufficiency of food supplies, it may be added that on relief works supplies are everywhere adequate, the grain sellers following the works with their grain stalls without any official inducements.

12. I am to attach to this letter a statement showing, under various heads of the Famine Code, the numbers on relief in each district in these provinces on the 2nd instant. The statement is divided

(7)

into two parts: (1) districts declared to be distressed, and (2) districts under observation. Since the date of the statement some of the districts have been transferred from the latter to the former list.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

T. W. HOLDERNESS,

Secy. to Govt., N.-W. P. and Oudh.

ENCLOSURES.

1. Statement showing the *rabi* sowings for the year 1896-97.
2. G. O. No. $\frac{75}{8}$, dated 9th January 1897, to Commissioners and District Officers, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and enclosure.
3. Weekly crop report tabulation sheet for Saturday, the 2nd January 1897.

Statement showing the rabi sowings for the year 1896-97.

District.	Rabi area for 1896-97 (in acres).			Average rabi area (in acres).			Percentage of rabi area for 1896-97 to average rabi area.
	Under food crops.	Under non-food crops.	Total.	Under food crops.	Under non-food crops.	Total.	
Dehra Dún ...	36,859	4,519	41,378	44,323	5,836	50,159	82.49
Sahāranpur ...	382,459	7,964	390,423	554,502	11,457	565,959	68.98
Muzaffarnagar ...	346,470	3,160	349,630	433,991	4,462	438,453	79.74
Meerut ...	517,830	11,995	529,825	673,894	15,065	688,959	76.90
Bulandshahr ...	542,328	10,239	552,567	561,933	23,791	585,724	94.33
Aligarh ...	501,812	9,016	510,828	577,614	11,846	589,460	86.66
Total, Meerut Division ...	2,327,758	46,893	2,374,651	2,846,257	72,457	2,918,714	81.35
Muttra ...	254,060	17,353	271,413	373,676	9,897	383,573	70.75
Agra ...	206,040	1,428	207,468	400,102	12,484	412,586	50.28
Farukhabad ...	207,501	13,093	220,594	357,933	19,419	377,352	58.45
Mainpuri ...	239,628	12,719	252,347	359,624	14,867	374,491	67.38
Etāwah ...	238,613	10,486	249,099	313,320	8,450	321,770	77.41
Etah ...	268,138	7,111	275,249	386,220	7,616	393,836	69.88
Total, Agra Division ...	1,413,980	62,190	1,476,170	2,190,875	72,733	2,263,608	65.21
Bareilly ...	335,167	21,974	357,141	435,983	26,239	462,222	77.26
Bijnor ...	234,631	6,178	240,809	288,543	17,855	306,398	78.59
Budaun ...	434,642	15,283	449,925	489,887	19,594	509,481	88.31
Moradabad ...	375,027	6,177	381,204	543,844	13,570	557,414	68.38
Shāhjahānpur ...	263,473	15,588	279,061	439,703	16,408	456,111	61.18
Pilibhūt ...	135,209	3,146	138,355	215,842	12,896	228,738	60.48
Total, Rohilkhand Division ...	1,778,149	68,346	1,846,495	2,413,802	106,562	2,520,364	73.26
Cawnpore ...	359,437	9,474	368,911	469,126	4,795	473,921	77.84
Fatehpur ...	179,134	4,545	183,679	323,520	9,028	332,548	55.23
Bānda ...	125,445	2,307	127,752	475,749	28,131	503,880	25.35
Hamīrpur ...	176,313	5,576	181,889	347,742	49,342	397,084	45.80
Allahabad ...	251,698	8,250	259,948	648,252	39,900	688,152	37.77
Jhānsi ...	116,967	756	117,723	297,169	21,406	318,575	36.95
Jalaun ...	98,272	3,930	102,202	301,625	76,388	378,013	27.03
Total, Allahabad Division ...	1,307,266	34,838	1,342,104	2,863,183	228,990	3,092,173	43.40
Benares ...	206,137	6,434	212,571	249,442	10,793	260,235	81.68
Mirzapur ...	325,230	24,520	349,750	450,964	58,744	509,708	68.61
Jaunpur ...	287,415	3,354	290,769	366,300	6,755	373,145	77.92
Ghāzipur ...	281,649	19,077	300,726	366,335	20,893	387,228	77.66
Dallia ...	283,939	7,000	290,939	325,266	11,055	336,321	86.50
Total, Benares Division ...	1,384,370	60,385	1,444,755	1,758,397	108,240	1,866,637	77.39
Gorakhpur ...	676,172	65,381	741,553	1,026,327	176,710	1,203,037	61.64
Basti ...	506,243	55,765	562,008	636,754	80,572	717,326	78.34
Azamgarh ...	298,140	4,534	302,674	443,300	14,809	458,109	66.02
Total, Gorakhpur Division ...	1,480,555	125,480	1,606,035	2,106,381	272,091	2,378,472	67.52
Lucknow ...	120,146	5,970	126,116	192,333	10,292	202,625	62.24
Unao ...	221,502	6,183	227,685	379,417	7,863	387,280	58.79
Rae Bareilly ...	196,255	17,701	213,956	316,980	22,981	339,961	62.93
Sitapur ...	368,146	24,987	393,133	540,994	33,232	574,226	68.46
Hardoi ...	294,449	15,446	309,895	577,417	15,487	592,904	52.26
Kheri ...	254,626	21,538	276,164	386,341	31,362	417,703	66.11
Total, Lucknow Division ...	1,455,124	91,825	1,546,949	2,393,482	121,217	2,514,699	61.51
Fyzabad ...	270,605	9,838	280,443	399,754	18,809	418,563	67.00
Gonda ...	416,630	67,446	484,076	634,930	100,690	735,620	65.80
Bahraich ...	443,765	64,012	507,777	507,844	82,835	590,679	85.96
Sultānpur ...	266,272	4,684	270,956	352,644	8,381	361,025	75.05
Partābgarh ...	164,512	4,726	169,238	296,922	16,385	313,307	54.01
Bara Banki ...	316,544	11,750	328,294	452,120	22,723	474,843	69.13
Total, Fyzabad Division ...	1,878,328	162,456	2,040,784	2,644,214	249,823	2,894,037	70.51
GRAND TOTAL ...	13,025,530	652,413	13,677,943	19,216,591	1,232,113	20,448,704	66.88

NOTE.—The normal area shown in this statement is the average of the three years ending 1894-95. It is slightly in excess of the normal area given in paragraph 7 of this Government's No. 196, dated 23rd November 1896, which was based on a ten years' average.

No. $\frac{75}{S.}$ OF 1897.

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH,

To

ALL COMMISSIONERS AND DISTRICT OFFICERS,

N.-W. PROVINCES AND OUDH.

(EXCEPTING MEERUT AND KUMAUN).

Dated Allahabad, the 9th January 1897.

SIR,

CITY DEPT.

I AM directed to enclose, for your guidance and for the guidance of District Officers in your division, a copy of rules which the Lieutenant-Governor has found it advisable to issue regarding the organization of the village relief system under article 54 and Chapter X of the Famine Code. The object of these rules is to ensure that in districts declared to be distressed every village should be treated with the view of accounting for every individual resident therein, and that no case which ought to be relieved in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions of the Code escapes notice. The rules apply to those districts only which have been officially recognised as distressed. In districts which are still under observation the systematic and careful inquiry which the rules require is presumed to be unnecessary. But, in accordance with the provisions of article 54 of the Code, even in these districts indigent people may have been brought on the *paturaris*' lists, and some of these lists, from the number of entries on them, may suggest to the District Officer the necessity of following the procedure laid down by the rules in exceptional cases. Should such cases present themselves, he should not hesitate to deal with them in the spirit of the rules. As stated above, these rules require that the case of every individual resident of the village must be separately considered in the framing and revising of these lists. This procedure is possible for rural villages with the organization now established in the distressed districts, as the inhabitants are usually of the labouring and cultivating class who make no objection to meet the relief officers on these terms. But it is not possible for the district relief agency to pass in review the entire population of cities or towns. This must be done, where serious distress prevails in a city or town, in a less obtrusive way by the municipal or town authorities working in conjunction with unofficial committees. The number of such towns and cities is not great. For practical purposes they are enumerated in Table V, Part II of the Census Report. This is the procedure successfully adopted in Lucknow, Allahabad, and other large cities, and there seems to be no necessity for disturbing their arrangements.

2. The enforcement of the village relief system in accordance with these rules will have an important bearing on the population of the poorhouses, and possibly on the numbers of dependants attending relief works. During his tours the Lieutenant-Governor has observed that many persons have been received into poorhouses and were relieved as dependants on works who, under the full working of the village system as now explained, ought, so long as they are unable to work, to be relieved at their own homes. It will therefore be the business of every Collector of a distressed district to sort out the inmates of his poorhouses and the dependants on relief works and, subject to proper provision for protection and food during the transit, to send them to their homes and bring their names on the village lists for relief. In treating dependants in this way care must be taken that children are not separated from their parents, and that families are not broken up.

3. In this way it is to be expected that the population of poorhouses and the number of people who seek relief as dependants on roads will diminish, and that the relief system will consist of two great forms,—*first*, relief on works for all in need of relief who are able to labour, and *second*, relief at their homes for all unable to labour, but in need of relief.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

T. W. HOLDERNESS,

Secy. to Govt., N.-W. P. and Oudh.

Procedure for establishing Village Relief under Chapters V and X of the Famine Code.

PRELIMINARY.

It is presumed that in all districts in which the existence of distress is formally recognised the village lists mentioned in article 54 have been prepared by the *patwāris*, and that relief is being given by circle officers on the basis of these lists. But inquiry has shown that the lists have not always been prepared in a satisfactory manner. The following instructions are accordingly issued with a view of securing the amplification and verification of the lists, and of determining the mode of payment and the amount of the relief:—

RULES.

1. The circle officer, before visiting a village, shall intimate to the landlord, or his local agent, his intention of visiting the village on a certain date, and request him either to be present in person or to depute his *kārinda*. He should also request that people living in outlying hamlets may be assembled in the main village on the day fixed.

2. On arriving at the village, the circle officer will assemble the *patwāri*, the village headman, the landlord's local agent, the *chaukidār*, and the respectable inhabitants, and will call for the *patwāri's* list prepared under article 54 of the Code. These lists will form the basis of the subsequent procedure.

3. The circle officer will then proceed to ascertain the population of the village, with details of the numbers present and absent, with such information as he can get as to the causes of absence of individuals.

4. The portion of the population present may be divided into two classes:—

- (a) *parda nashīns*;
- (b) all other persons.

5. The circle officer will carefully consult the persons mentioned in rule 2 as to whether any *parda nashīns* are in need of relief and should be brought upon the list under Chapter X. He will also bring upon that list any old or infirm men of the higher castes who are unable to work and are in want.

6. The circle officer will then muster and examine all the persons of the village who are not *parda nashīns*. They will fall into three classes:—

- (a) well-to-do people not needing relief;
- (b) people needing relief, but able to work;
- (c) people needing relief and unable to work, either from physical weakness or having young children or sick people to look after.

Class (c) will be mostly women and children.

7. The circle officer will direct persons of class (b) in the preceding rule to the nearest relief work. He will bring class (c) persons on his list.

Persons who, in the circle officer's opinion, are temporarily incapacitated for labour by sickness or privation will be granted relief for such time only as the incapacity exists. Such cases must be inquired into whenever the village is visited by the circle officer.

8. The lists so framed under Chapters V and X will be made over to the *patwāri* of the village, who shall be bound to produce them for the inspection of any circle officer subsequently visiting the village.

9. The relief distributed will be in money. The distributing agency will be, as determined by the Collector, either—

- (a) the landlord;
- (b) the headman or other respectable resident of the village or of an adjoining village;
- (c) the *patwāri*.

10. A sufficient sum to afford the prescribed relief for twenty days shall be made over to the distributor by the circle officer. The distributor is authorized to give relief to all persons on the list prepared by the circle officer, and, in urgent cases in which starvation is imminent, to persons not on the list pending the next visit of the circle officer.

11. The circle officer's list shall be tested and revised as often as may be possible by the *naib tashildār*, the *tashildār*, and the sub-divisional officer.

(2)

12. Each village should be visited, as far as possible, once in ten days by the circle officer or other superior relief officer, whose duty it will be to scrutinize the lists, muster the recipients (not being *parda nashins*), remove from the lists persons who have become fit for work, and bring on the lists the names of other persons eligible under the preceding rules.

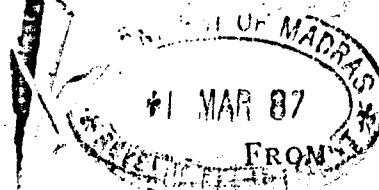
13. A dated ticket, bearing a serial number corresponding to that in the nominal list, should be given to each person entered on the list, showing the relief to which he or she is entitled, and the name of the person from whom such relief is to be received.

14. The relief to be distributed will be that prescribed for "dependants" by the ready reckoner appended to the rules for Public Works Department works circulated with Public Works Resolution No. 18, dated the 5th December 1896, with the following additions:—

- (1) for children between 12 and 16, } The rate shown for labouring children of these ages in the ready reckoner according to the price of grain prevailing at the time.

(2) for children between 7 and 12, }

15. While no limit is prescribed for the exclusion of necessitous cases, it is only in a very distressed tract, and for a limited period, that the numbers on these relief lists should exceed 3 per cent. of the population. In tracts which are not very distressed 3 per cent. of the population may be ordinarily regarded as a maximum limit.



No. 6657
122-1

T. W. HOLDERNESS, ESQ., C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine),

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Calcutta, the 24th February 1897.

Department of Revenue
and Agriculture.
(Famine.)

SIR,

In letter No. 629, dated 16th November 1896, to the Government of India furnishing information on the prospects of the season in the Madras Presidency it was stated that the time was yet too early to make a very detailed or accurate forecast, and a further report was promised, when full information became available.

2. Since that date the Government of India have received in due course copies of the monthly Reports of the Madras Board, prepared in accordance with the Madras Famine Code, (the latest received being for the period ending 30th January,) and have thereby been made acquainted with the situation as at present developed in the affected districts and with the character and extent of the relief measures which have so far been undertaken. But these reports necessarily do not supply the detailed forecast which was mentioned in your letter of the 16th November, and this forecast is now urgently required by the Government of India to enable them to complete their information as to the extent of the affected areas throughout India, the probable magnitude and duration of relief operations in each province, and the expenditure likely to be incurred in connection with them.

11-630/87

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3. I am accordingly to request that a forecast on data as are ~~supplied~~ immediately available may be supplied at the earliest opportunity. I am to forward for the in-

Letter from the Govt of the N.W.P. & Oudh, No. 91, dated 9.1.97.
Letter from the Govt of Bombay No. 122, dated 12.1.97.
Letter from the Govt of Bengal No. 447, dated 18.2.97.

formation of His
Excellency the
Governor in Council
copies of reports

on the subject received from other Governments which will serve to explain to the Government of Madras the character of the information which is required.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. Holderness

Deputy Secretary.

for copying
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mined
igned

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G.O., No.
59

DATED

ENC. No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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