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# Report

ON THE SETTLEMENT

OF THE DISTRICT OF GURHWAL

IN THE PROVINCE OF KUMAON.

*North-western Provinces, India, Settlement office*

COMPLETED BY

J. H. Gatten, Esquire, C. S.,

15TH AUGUST, 1842.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE  
HON'BLE THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, N. W. P.  
R. N. C. HAMILTON,—*Secretary to Government.*

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1843.



# Report.

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To G. T. LUSHINGTON, ESQUIRE,  
*Commissioner of Kumaon.*

SIR,

Introduction. I have the honor to forward two general statements for zillah Gurhwal: No. 1, exhibiting the revenue assessment according to the re-settlement made under the provisions of Regulation IX. of 1833, of every puttee and pergunnah, with the total result for the whole zillah, drawn up in comparison with the assessments of former settlements; No. 2, shewing the distribution of increase and decrease made in the Government demand throughout every division of the zillah.

General Statement. II. The mouzahwar statements of each pergunnah have previously been forwarded to your office; but as alterations of jumma in some instances, and of the number of separate leases, and of the distribution of villages included in the several pottahs in other instances, have been subsequently made, I respectfully beg leave to recommend that the two statements now forwarded be alone sent to the Sudder Board for their inspection and approval. These have been drawn up with all the changes which may have been ordered in regard to amount of Government jumma by the Commissioner, consequent on appeals and references.\*

\* These statements also include all recent Nia Abad leases, which have passed through the Settlement Office.

The only summary settlement made since the completion of the proceedings under report, (at least the only one which has been brought to my notice,) has been that of mouzah Chorkundee, puttee Sablee, pergunnah Mulla Sulan, reducing the revised jumma from rupees 96 to rupees 64; the cause of the reduction being a considerable loss of arable land by floods which occurred subsequent to the settlement. A note on this summary settlement has been made at the foot of the tabular statements; but, as the copy of the order sanctioning the change has not been communicated officially to me, I have left the alteration in the puttee and pergunnahwar columns, and in the total amount of jumma for the whole district to be made during the passage through your office.

Former statements and abstract of present settlement.

\* Vol. 16, Asiatic Researches, published in Calcutta, 1828.

III. It appears from a statement B. attached to Mr. Commissioner Traill's printed statistical sketch of Kumaon,\* that the amount of revenue fixed by the Goorkha government at the last settlement made for that part of Gurhwal which is now included in the province of Kumaon, amounted to 1,04,551 Goorkha rupees, equivalent (at the rate of 12 annas per rupee) to 78,414 Furruckabad rupees. Of this sum rupees 82,406, equal to 61,805 Furruckabad rupees, formed the land revenue; while the remainder, rupees 22,145, equal to 16,609 Furruckabad rupees, was made up from the following heads: salami or nuzzurana—mijhari or tax on domes—tunkur or tax on looms—sonya phagun or bhet on festivals—adheani dufferee or canoongoe allowances—sayer or customs—tamba khana taksal or mines and mint duties—khuersal or kuth muhals—kat bans or timbers and bamboos—sayer exclusive of customs—and asmani firmani or estimated fines and forfeitures. In another statement (D.), the last Goorkha settlement for Gurhwal is put down at rupees 91,258, apparently Furruckabad rupees, and probably being the sum actually collected; the sum named in statement B. being that fixed by the Goorkha Commissioners. The British assessments are as follow:—

1872St.	1873St.	1874St.	1875St.	1877St.	1880St.
35,990	41,781	46,174	45,548	54,996	64,900
New Settlement.					
1885St.	1890St.	1898St.	1899St.	1900St.	1901St.
67,725	69,254	68,661	68,669	68,676	68,682

The highest jumma of the revised settlement, viz. rupees 68,682, is that which I propose for the sanction of the Board and Government, less by rupees 32, the amount reduced by the summary settlement alluded to in the last paragraph. The number of separate malgoozarce pottahs in the settlement last made by Mr. Traill was 1710, exclusive of Chandee. In the present, the number of pottahs is 1894, making an addition of 184 malgoozars or pudhans. The number of villages, whether large or small, or mere names of lands, which, according to custom or the pleasure of the people, have hitherto been separately recorded as dakhlee mouzahs, though often having no separate inhabitan-  
cies, is 4,103, and the quantity of land included in their assess-  
able area is 88,674 beesees, divided as follows—63,823 cultivat-  
ed, 22,702 culturable, 2,149 huq pudhanee. The average rate of

The discrepancy between Mr. Traill's printed statements and those append-  
ed to his periodical settlement reports and the statements now forwarded, arises from  
the great imperfection of the records for the earlier years, and from the fact that in





assessment being 12 annas and 4 pie on total area, and 1 rupee 1 anna and 2 pie on cultivation per beesec. By a comparison of the abovementioned data it appears that rupees 36, is the average amount of jumma for each separate lease, a fact which at once shows how different the circumstances of this district are to those of other divisions ; but calculating one-fourth of the dakhlee mouzahs or lands included within 1894 uslee mouzahs, as having separate inhabitancies, whether large or small, (and this is not too large an allowance,) the average jumma per hamlet is so little as 28 rupees.

Remarks explanatory of the Report, IV. In the following report I shall not attempt to avoid a repetition of language formerly made use of in the numerous letters on the subject of the settlement which have preceded it ; nor shall I think it necessary to mark such repetitions as quotations ; my object being, on the present occasion, to lay before superior authorities, once for all, in a manner that will save them the trouble of reference to past correspondence, a plain account of my actual proceedings from first to last, viewed in relation to doubts, difficulties, and inopportune circumstances which have occurred to delay their completion, or render them less satisfactory than might at one time have been expected.

History of the new Settlement. V. On first taking charge of the Gurhwal pergunnahs in 1837, I had every thing to learn in regard to the peculiarities of the Hill revenue system, and every thing to teach, as far as my experience acquired in the plains would allow me, in regard to the revision of settlement required, or then supposed to be required, by the Sudder Board of Revenue. It is difficult to say whether the Gurhwal tuhsildar, the canoongoes and putwarees were more astonished at the terms "Regulation IX. of 1833," my own title of Deputy Collector, and my confident proposition of a settlement for a period of 20 or 30 years being about to take place ; than I myself was confounded at the circumstance of having to wander over more than 4,000 square miles, in order to revise 70,000 rupees of jumma, which I was told Mr. Traill had, at the last occasion, revised in less than a month, on the road between Hurdwar and Budrinath ; and that there was neither a village map to help me, nor a record of area on which the slightest reliance could be placed. Both during the year 1837, when my actual labors as Settlement Officer had hardly commenced—and

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subsequent years villages have been transferred from one puttee to another, whilst others have fallen entirely waste and been excluded from the records. My statements refer only to the past and present statistics of villages included in the present settlement.

during 1838, when I was personally at work in different camps—all my difficulties, whether real or imaginary, arose from the vision of a complete settlement, according to line and rule, constantly floating before my eyes, interfering with my view of the actual local facts with which I had to deal, and inclining me to turn a deaf ear to all the representations of those native officials, who had formerly carried into effect Mr. Traill's plans. The reports made by me at that time to Mr. Turner, Commissioner of Rohilkund, will probably be remembered by one of the Members of the Board, as propounding questions rather difficult of solution by authorities to whom only partial glimpses were given of the real nature of the difficulties which I thought surrounded me, and to whom I still wrote in the language and tone of the regular Settlement Officer of a regular surveyed district. The answers received were accordingly somewhat oracular; leaving me perhaps with a clearer view of what perfection might be reached, if insuperable obstacles did not intervene—but more despairing than ever of my own abilities to satisfy my employers, and at the same time benefit the people, in the midst of whom my tents were pitched. From the moment that I rejected the notion of forming my village settlements on comparisons of measurement rates, or rather on rates per fractions of an area guessed at, but never measured; and that I took into consideration the casual circumstances of the villages, independent of the quantity and quality of their land, the latter merely forming only one item, though an important one, of my calculations—the greater part of my doubts and difficulties vanished. Then I was enabled, more especially after the aid of a Native Deputy Collector had been afforded me, to carry on without misgivings—and I hope with real success—the actual business of settlement; that is, the fixing of a fair Government demand for 20 years for each estate, or set of estates, which required separate engagements; and the discovery and declaration of the rights, liabilities and comparative possessions, *according to their own shewing*, not according to any authoritative data, of the several communities.

Principles of Assessment. VI. *The jumwabundee now forwarded for the approval of the Board and the Government, has been founded on the past payments of each estate, or set of estates, viewed in relation to its present state of prosperity, as shewn by the state of cultivation, the number, character and health of the inhabitants, the locality of their possessions, and their general resources, whether mercantile or agricultural, as fairly proved according to the opinion of their influential neighbours, consulted in open punchayet on the subject. The new jummas have now stood the test of individual appeals made to*







yourself during the course of three years ; and have, I believe, been found to press heavily on the people in but few instances, and there a remedy has been applied. The question remains whether the decrease of rupees 701,\* in the Government demand on the whole zillah, was called for, and whether the interests of Government have been sufficiently considered. I have no hesitation in declaring, that if I had thought fit to make pergunnah-war jummandees, and had employed the Government putwarrees and the thokedars in the duty of distributing the whole amount by *dursur* (as they call such a distribution of the jumma) throughout the mouzahs of each pergunnah or puttee, I could have always made good the loss of revenue, found necessary to be incurred in one village, by an increment arbitrarily placed on another, and thus the total Government demand would have remained undiminished. But my own principles were, except in the case of the Bhote muhals (to which reference will be made in its proper place), strongly opposed to such a system of balances and adjustments, on the following grounds, viz. the physical fact that no one puttee, however small, has one natural character for all its villages ; and that, in fact, each village has a separate character, according to its height on the mountain side, vicinity to, or distance from the forests ; situation on the mountain, or in the valley ; and above all, its climate, as caused by these circumstances. Neither are there, for the most part, sets of villages forming one line at one height, and other sets forming other lines at other heights ; and though it would be easier to form a jummandee on a list of mountain top villages, upper slope, middle slope, lower slope, and valley villages respectively, still great difficulties would occur, without a regular survey, in fixing the real characters of the different lines ; and the moral obstacles, hereafter to be alluded to, would be found to separate the different mouzahs of each line more rigidly even than the intervening precipices.

VII. Vast tracts of the province are composed of bare rocks, or covered with forests ; in some parts such features are confined to the upper parts of the mountains, whose sides and base are adorned with the richest fertility ; while, in other parts, the finest slopes or the fairest valleys are succeeded by continuous miles of river glen, where precipices and woods extend to the lowest depths. Sometimes the jungle is below the cultivated tracts ; sometimes above. In one place, indivi-

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\* The sum of Rs. 701 total decrease, includes Rs. 129 belonging to excluded villages, which have fallen waste. The decrease on villages included in the present settlement amounts to Rs. 572.

dual villages or sets of villages are separated from their neighbours by almost impervious forests, or impassable crags and rivers ; in another, villages having little barren waste are mutually divided by a small copse or ravine, or by the natural boundary of a stream flowing between their fields ; so various are the features of the country through which the hamlets are interspersed : and, however notorious one puttee may be for its plenty, and another for its poverty, no opinion in either case can be formed of the natural capabilities of one village, by the view of its neighbour, in even the smallest subdivision of a tract. It may here also be mentioned that in the plains, water can always be found by digging to a greater or less depth ; and that there, the only question arising with reference to this important element, whether for drinking or for irrigation, is merely the expense of a well, and the means of drawing up and distributing the water. In a mountain tract, the springs are placed most capriciously by nature ; and though it may always be assumed that at a certain distance from the summit of a range, the level of springs will be reached (at a high level for instance on clay slate formations, and at a lower level among cavernous limestone rocks) ; still, large spaces intervene between the different outbreaks of the water. The character of the ground alone determines the practicability or otherwise of irrigation ; and the deep glens and lesser ravines, which cut the mountain sides, carry off into their barren and rocky bosoms volumes of water, which, if distributed as wanted throughout a tract, would render the whole land teeming with fertility.

Moral circumstances affecting the mode of Settlement.

VIII. Such were the physical reasons which convinced me of the propriety of settling each mouzah with its dakhlee lands on its own capabilities, and not with reference to a distribution of jumma throughout a given pergunnah or puttee. But against the latter plan there also existed the moral obstacle, that however acquiescent or perhaps indifferent to the mode of allotting jummas by the dursur arrangement the mass of the people were, when each assessment was only made for quinquennial and other still shorter periods, a different state of feeling arose, when the period of settlement was fixed at 20 years. Then each pudhan began to question the right of any one save the Settlement Officer, to fix his share of the revenue burden ; and much began to be spoken or rather clamoured about the spite and favor of the thokedars, on whom the invidious task of allotment, if they were just men—and the suspicious task, if they were partial men, or wished to relieve their own estates—would devolve. The clamours I could not





have drowned, but I could have disregarded them ; and I certainly could have succeeded in obtaining increased jummas from some estates to answer equivalent decreases in others, if I had thought it proper to keep the Government demand at the full amount on the whole zillah, and to disappoint the people, who had been taught to expect great advantages from the revision of settlement.

Consideration whether the interests of the State have been duly regarded, and remarks on Mr. Commissioner Traill's assessments.

IX. In regard to the question of whether the interests of Government have been fairly considered, and whether a higher revenue than that of the last assessment ought not to have been fixed by me, I can only point to the periodical increases which

have taken place since the year 1815 ; and to state that although I fully believe Mr. Traill, with his great zeal and abilities, and vast influence over the minds of the hill people, would have been *able*, notwithstanding his own recorded doubts on this point, to present to Government his usual comparative statement shewing an increase to the revenue of the State ; I came to this province with different instructions, and had been taught that the Government demand ought to stop somewhere, and that the eighth settlement was a very good opportunity for putting a limit thereto. The late Commissioner, Mr. Traill, concluded his last revenue report, dated 24th December, 1833, with the following emphatic words : “ The total amount of revenue of the province of Kumaon, inclusive of every branch of receipt, may be now stated at rupees 2,34,410, agreeably to the undermentioned details :

“ Land Revenue,.....	Rs. 2,15,745
Abkaree and drugs,.....	„ 2,157
Farm of jungle produce,.....	„ 6,958
Stamps,.....	„ 9,650

“ The total revenue realized in 1815 from every source amounted to rupees 1,17,730 exclusive of transit duties since abolished.”

To his praise be it ! and also that he found the province (especially the Gurhwal portion of it) fast falling owing to the tyranny of its late rulers into a depopulated desert, and that he left it a paradise, with its inhabitants invoking blessings on his name, and on that of the Government which he represented. The duty of his successors was, it appeared to me, rather to consolidate the good that already had been done, than to attempt, with less ability to carry it out, an imitation of the only measure, which, if not originally of a doubtful character, had at least been pursued to its legitimate limits.

Observations on the extension of the period of Settlement to 20 years, with quotation from Mr. Traill on the subject. Opinion as to the stability of the revised arrangements.

X. The extension of the period of settlement to 20 years, as before hinted, was not quite satisfactory to some of the pudhans, and their feeling of faint-heartedness and distrust as to their future resources, would undoubtedly have operated in a measure against any general increase to the Gurhwal jumma. The late Commissioner, Mr. Traill, was indeed of opinion that such a measure would be followed by a loss of revenue, and recorded his sentiments on the subject to the following effect : “ From the facility with which new locations are here obtainable, the habits of the cultivators are extremely unstable and migratory. Vacancies arising from desertions are not readily filled by new tenants, while the general poverty of the malgoozars and tenantry renders them incapable of meeting from their own funds the additional burthens entailed by such desertions. In these cases the lease would be thrown up, and remission in the demand would be indispensable, to save the village from total desertion ; at the same time no advantage could be taken of the growing improvement in other villages. It may be doubted whether the malgoozars in these districts would willingly engage for so long a period, unless the tenants of their respective villages should be considered as parties in the engagements, and remain bound for the same term. Under the Gorkha government, when a fixed village assessment was promulgated, the above principle was fully recognised, and the claim of the malgoozar followed his tenant wheresoever he might emigrate.”

After this lugubrious prophecy of so experienced a functionary, it seems only necessary that I should here state my own opinion, as to the stability of the settlement which has been now made. When I first arrived in Gurhwal, and had heard, and in part seen, the revenue circumstances of the district, I came to the conclusion that the new assessment for the long period which I was about to make, would fall short of the former one by at least 5,000 rupees. The decrement actually incurred during the course of the settlement has been only rupees 701. In the same manner Mr. Traill, doubtless, thought that his last assessment in Kumaon Proper was only good for five years, and yet, except in the case of the terrai farms, it has already lasted nine years with hardly one balance. When, therefore, I now record my notion that between this date and 1860 A. D., by which time every lease in the pergunnahs under report will have expired, reductions and summary settlements to the extent of from 1,500 to 2,000 Rs. decrease,







not compensated by the additions to the revenue resulting from nia abad leases, may possibly be found necessary, I may be only registering my prophetic inefficiency. But there really exist some causes, the operation of which might bring about the result contemplated. Among them may be mentioned, *First*.—The sudden or gradual desertion of villages, owing to the loss of life and bodily injuries inflicted on the inhabitants by tigers, bears and leopards; to the diminution or loss of cultivation, by the constant incursion into the fields of deer and other animals from the forests; and to the effects of disease (like the Budhan fever, for instance, and the late fatal illness at Dhunpoor,) prevailing among the inhabitants. *Second*.—The falling waste of dakhlee mouzahs, from the migratory and fickle character of some of the paeekhast cultivators. *Third*.—The remissions or reductions of demand, rendered necessary by murrains among the cattle, by seasons of drought, and by loss of arable land from floods, landslips, and in the snowy range avalanches. To these may be added, *Fourth*.—Moral causes, which sometimes lead to the desertion of estates: crimes, quarrels, loss of caste, and consequent dishonor, panics, and last but not least superstition, with its train of imaginary evils, witchcraft, ghosts, fairies, curses of fukeers, and the like. Some villages will also die a natural death from the extinction of the few old people who now inhabit them, and who have little or no offspring. Barrenness is far from uncommon among the puharees. But your own observation will have proved to you, that the cause first mentioned is one, which, however little suspected by those unacquainted with the district, is a very serious evil independent of revenue considerations; and though Government have been liberal in the matter of rewards for the slaughter of wild beasts, the people of some parts of the province, even far removed from the plains, are dreadfully harassed by the animals enumerated.

Difficulty in discovering the past revenue payments of villages, especially of dakhlee mouzahs transferred from one mahal to another.

XI. Before closing my general remarks on the subject of the revision of settlement, I would beg to mention that the greatest difficulty was experienced by me in ascertaining the former jummas of mouzahs, and therefore in framing my jumma-bundee. As in the case of puttee Lohba, pergunnah Chandpoor—puttees Seela, Kourhea, Pynao, and other puttees of pergunnah Tulla Sulan; numerous separate inhabited villages were, at the past or previous settlements, included in one lease and attached to some particular uslee mouzah. As there were no village accountants, and as very few *phurd phants* or rent rolls were in ex-

istence (such documents being in *Gurhwal* almost my own creation), most particular and searching inquiries, and comparisons of accounts, oral and written, became necessary for the discovery of the past and present payments of each particular mouzah, the inhabitants of which may have demanded a separate lease. The last payments of such extricated mouzahs have been recorded in the pergunnahwar statements under the term "*gurphant*," to distinguish them from Government jummas, and to prevent confusion of the two kinds of jummas. To show also the actual comparison of data in its proper place, the alphabetical arrangement of mouzahs has in such cases been departed from, and those to which separate leases have been given, have been placed in order immediately below the uslee mouzah to which the last stood attached. Whenever I discovered that certain dakhlee estates, now requiring separate engagements, had been in the course of four or five settlements changed from one uslee mouzah to another, then the "confusion became worse confounded," the canoongoes and putwarees entirely lost their wits, and one and all connected with the work tried to persuade me that the elimination of past payments in such cases was a problem, which could only be solved by supernatural agency, or, if attempted under human means, was just possible in the course of ages. But as I was fully determined to hunt out every jumma, at least through the course of 15 years previous to the revision of settlement, at last energy succeeded to despair among even the laziest of all known amlah, and I succeeded in gathering together the facts which I actually required. Now there is not one revised mouzah, either uslee or dakhlee in Gurhwal, the fiscal history of which is not correctly figured, from the settlement of 1877 sumbut to the present time, in the Hindee statement corresponding to Form No. 2, of Board's Settlement Circular, which accompanies every misl. The roobucaree of settlement also carefully traces out and records the earliest history of each mouzah in regard to its pudhans, and its changes from dependance on some other mouzah to independence; and again from its solitary position to inclusion among a set of villages; and again to its present state, whatever it may be from first to last. There is no great merit in this work, but it may prove some excuse for the delays incurred in preparing the settlement misls for the Gurhwal Collector's office; and the representation of it may be useful in bringing to notice the uncertain and changeable nature of the village responsibilities and tenures of leases, and the scrambling manner in which the revenue has to be collected, for some years after the conquest, in a wild country recently acquired from a disorderly and arbitrary native government. I may add, however, that not-





withstanding all the external and nominal changes to which they have been subjected, in many of the well inhabited mouzahs no interference with internal arrangements has ever occurred; and the old village economy, with the single exception of the Government demand being paid to the State through the hands of a stranger, has stood as firm and steadfast as the rock on which the village is built.

XII. Recourse to farming leases properly so called, has been rarely found necessary in the course of this settlement. It would uselessly prolong and encumber the report, if I forwarded a translation of the list of such leases drawn up by the native office; for, in the scarcity of real *moostajur* malgoozars, they have recorded as such every pudhan who has been elected or appointed to the management of a mouzah in which he had hitherto no proprietary interest, consequent on the death or absence of the former pudhan, or of his resignation from choice, incapacity, want of means and influence, and similar reasons, and not in consequence of his refusal to engage for the revised jumma on the ground of its being in excess. Wherever the thokedar of a muhal has accepted the malgoozaree pottah of one or more of its mouzahs, owing to the failure in procuring a village pudhan, he has been recorded in the settlement misl as a kind of farmer, in order to distinguish him from the actual proprietors of the village lands. In some of the poorer and less populous pergunnahs the influential thokedars have, during the course of former settlements, continued to increase their proprietary possessions, and to obtain by silent usurpation a title to such acquisitions; merely because no record whatever was at the time taken as to whether they became the holders of the pudhanship because they were by right entitled to the office, or whether they became so because they had been elected or accepted as managers of the estate *merely for the period of the settlement lease*. As instances, however, of farming leases, I may casually refer you to mouzahs Poornoun and Hat Kuleanee, in puttee Pindurpar, pergunnah Budhan, the remarks concerning which will be found in Nos. 23 and 49, of the English village statements; and to the settlement misls of mouzahs Bugolee, Dhonor and Mussoor, of pergunnah Dewalguh; of mouzah Punnia, and Oodalt, puttee Khatsewn, pergunnah Barasewn; of mouzahs Seela and Bistana, puttee Lungour, pergunnah Gunga Sulan; and mouzah Hunsooree, puttee Chupra Kote, pergunnah Chandpoor. In a few cases the appointment of strangers to the management of villages has been reversed by yourself in the course of appeal from the settlement.

General rules adopted for the leasing and management of muhals.

XIII. The general rules, which guided myself and the late Deputy Collector under my directions as to malgoozaree arrangements, were as follow :

1. The consent of the majority of the shareholders in the appointment of a pudhan remained, as in Mr. Traill's time, the general law.
2. This law took absolute effect in all cases where the existing pudhan had held the appointment only during the period of the expired settlement, and his dismissal was allowed merely on his failing to acquire a majority of votes.
3. When the pudhan had held the office for more than one settlement, he was not removed without proof of fault or incapacity ; and in the event of such proof being forthcoming, his nearest heir, or at all events some member of his family most agreeable to the villagers, was held to have the first claim to the appointment.
4. In large villages the shareholders might elect two or more pudhans, each to manage his particular division of the estate, and to collect the Government revenue, and his own dues from the shareholders belonging to his own particular party or clan. In small mouzahs the election of more than one pudhan was discouraged. The above rules applied to pure bhyachara estates.
5. In villages where there were few or many hissadars, with the lands not actually divided amongst them, but cultivated by occupant assamees (khaëkur), who were divided among the proprietors, (not unfrequently according to their own selection of masters,) that hissadar malgoozar who was found in possession of the appointment, or who could show the orders of the Court upon the subject, was confirmed, and the claim of his brother shareholders to be admitted to engage with Government was not allowed. But the pudhan in such cases was strictly forbidden to interfere with the assamees of any hissa save his own, he being entitled to collect the quotas of Government revenue from the proprietary shareholders, the latter making their own arrangements for collecting their own quotas from the khaëkurs.
6. The same rule was held good in the case of hissadaree estates, where the lands were actually divided among the proprietors, and where, instead of the khaëkur or occupant, the lands might be found cultivated by paeekhast assamees or by sirtan (paying *sirtee*) renters.
7. The same rule applied to the case of whole sets of villages included in one lease, but with the villages divided among the several proprietors, except where on investigation it







might be found that among two or three malgoozars holding the pottah of a muhal, the villages placed under the management of each co-pudhan were found not to correspond with the proprietary rights. In such instances the pottahs were remodelled, and the villages distributed according to the actual possessions of the hissadars ; or in cases of doubt and pending the decision of the civil court, according to the voice of the occupant villagers. These last rules apply purely to the cases of proprietary malgoozars, with reference to their position in regard to their brother shareholders.

8. The individual who on first redeeming a mouzah from waste obtained the first pottah, was considered the sole proprietor thereof ; and if he or his heirs were still in possession of the lands, he or they could not be removed from the pudhanship on the representation of the cultivators, or of the brethren who accompanied the pudhan at the first settlement of the mouzah, but who did not obtain the pottah.

9. The claims to the property in, and management of, such nia abad mouzahs set up by persons (not unfrequently canoongoes, putwarees and their relations) who obtained the first pottah of the estate, but who, on failing to redeem the waste, or from any other reasons, abandoned the mouzah, and at subsequent settlements left the pottah to be given to others, were at once rejected ; unless under the most distinct proof of the claimant having continued uninterruptedly to receive some kind of malikana from the villagers, and of the right of the latter to the pudhanship having been always considered resumable.

10. The claims of the thokedar to the pudhanship or proprietary right of nia abad lands recently brought under tillage, in opposition to the claim of the real clearer of the jungle, were at once dismissed, except he thoroughly proved that he himself had settled the cultivator on the lands, and had incurred expense in their redemption.

11. Such nia abad mouzahs (rarely paying more than 5 Rs. per annum) have been sometimes included as dakhlees of the mouzahs from which the original cultivator came, and in which his hereditary lands exist ; care being taken either to record the proprietor as one of the joint pudhans of the whole muhal, or, if he did not require that privilege, to register him as the sole owner of the lands. Such were the rules of nia abad villages.

12. As a general rule, all dakhlee mouzahs were kept with the uslee mouzahs to which they had stood attached uninterruptedly since the settlement of 1880 St., except where, by mutual consent, a separation was agreed upon.

13. No mouzah was allowed a separate pottah if the records shewed that, continuously from 1872 S., or from the very first trace of its history, its union with some uslee mouzah was unbroken.

14. All mouzahs having separate inhabitancies were allowed to engage separately with Government, merely on the expression of their wishes to this effect by the majority of the inhabitants, *if their inclusion in another estate took place only at the last settlement*, except a distinct decree of Court had ordered their inclusion.

15. This rule equally applied to the case of non-proprietary communities occupying the land, but acknowledging some external superior; that is, if the khaekurs proved that previous to the last settlement they had enjoyed the privilege of having their own village pudhan, they were now permitted to elect one under the same rules as those made for bhyachara mouzahs, which they often resemble in all but the name.

16. In the case of mouzahs having remained dakhlee to some other since the 1880 St. or 1885 St. settlement, their claims to a separate engagement were favorably considered, whenever inquiry proved that their original absorption was owing to some temporary cause now no longer existing, or to the prayer or consent of the inhabitants, and not to any binding decision of authority. If however, owing to the conjunction of the estates, a great commingling of rights, interests and possessions had occurred, a separate lease was not granted, but the measure of appointing an additional pudhan selected from amongst the villagers of the dakhlee mouzah was preferred. These rules were for the adjustment of cases relating to uslee and dakhlee mouzahs.

17. The remuneration of pudhans, whether in land or dues, or both, was left to the mutual agreement of the parties, and where they could not agree to a decision by punchayet. The pudhancharee, or huq pudhane, sometimes called "jetounda" lands, were given over rent-free to the malgoozar, but the quantity was fixed according to the actual facts, and not according to any arbitrary rate on the area of the whole mouzah as formerly; for such allotment, though duly recorded in the periodical settlement books, always remained a dead letter.

18. Where no huq pudhane lands were found to exist, none were newly created, except by the consent of the villagers; but if the customary dues were found to be too small, a money equivalent of about one rupee for every sixteen rupees of Government revenue, was recorded as the right of the pudhan.





19. Owing to the republican character of the communities, and the strong opposition made to all arbitrary measures, the enforcement of the last mentioned right, by compelling the shareholders to sign an agreement against their own wishes, was not effected at the time of settlement, but was left to the course of law.

20. With the exception of general rules concerning the public service, the instalments of revenue, and the management of "*unbhunta*" or undivided, and "*lawaris*" or unowned lands, and the rights of pasturage, the actual paper agreement taken from the shareholders corresponded exactly to their own system of administration and liabilities, and those discontented with the arrangements, and not signing the deed, were left to take their remedy, or to be sued at law.

21. The villagers were not allowed to vote away, or otherwise interfere with, the actual possession of their proprietor malgoozar acquired during his pudhanship, in the case of the said proprietor being now by the operation of the general rules ousted from the internal management of the mouzah by the substitution of a village pudhan in his place.

Reference to the modification and exceptions to the abovementioned rules, as known to the Commissioner.

XIV. The course of appeals, whether from myself as Settlement Officer, or in ordinary course from the judicial decisions of the Senior Assistant of Gurhwal, will have brought the working of these rules, *with all their numerous modifications and exceptions*, before you, and in some of the pergunnahs (Chound Kote and Mulla Sulan more particularly), I may truly say that the settlement has been made, or at least remodelled and improved in a great measure, by yourself, and that your opportunities for observing the system attempted to be delineated in the above rules, have been greater than my own.

Boundaries of Estates, and settlements of disputes concerning them.

XV. Boundary disputes in Gurhwal were found of far less frequent occurrence, than at an early period of the settlement I had anticipated. At least three-fourths of the boundaries have been settled without the intervention of authority. In such cases the *razeenamahs* of the parties have sometimes been separately filed; but in general the *chuknamah*, or sketch drawn up by the canoongoe for each village, uslee and dakhlee, showing its boundaries on every side, has been attested by the pudhan of the village delineated, and by the pudhans of each village lying on its borders. In the book of "great measurement," as it is called, drawn up by Mr. Traill's orders for

the whole province, the boundaries were described ; but this record in no instance showed on what grounds, and by whose attestation, the description was entered. Accordingly the native officials who prepared the work in question, and whose seals are attached to each copy thereof, are often accused of having made a false record. The present plan has this advantage over the former, that there is now forthcoming for every mouzah a document accompanied with the proper attestations, showing the actual determination of the boundaries by the people themselves at a given period. Cases of dispute were decided by punchayet, according to the spirit of the Board's instructions, chiefly under the superintendence of the canoongoes. Along the line of the Kumaon frontier, and near Sreenugur, some of the disputes being virulent and difficult of settlement, required their adjudication by myself, or by the Deputy Collector. Mr. Commissioner Traill also, during the long course of his administration, had himself decided on the spot numerous boundaries, and such decisions were notorious and final. The fyzulnamahs of the punchayet, with all the proceedings connected with them, were drawn up with proper attention to forms ; and such misls, together with the razeenamahs and chuknamahs above described, have been for some time separately forwarded to the Gurhwal record officer at Paoree. Actual demarcation of boundaries by stone *chubootras* always took place, whenever recourse to a legal settlement of disputes had been found necessary. But in the case of amicable agreements among themselves, such demarcation, though always recommended, was not insisted on. Indeed, on account of the villages being placed in such scattered situations, and being so numerous, it would have been very difficult to find officials adequate to superintend this kind of work ; and the progress of it would, undoubtedly, have excited, in many instances, the very doubts and disputes, which the measure was intended to guard against. In the Gurhwal mountains, nature herself still prescribes boundaries not difficult of discovery, and she represents, in distinct and notable characters to the eye, the limits of men's respective dominions. High peaks and ranges, forests, rivers, rocks, glens, and ravines are at present sufficient landmarks for the simple and peaceable Gurhwallees, and will be so still till the progress of population and agriculture shall bring them nearer in resemblance to their Kumaon neighbours ; who, in Pallee and other parts of the country, have partitioned among themselves every foot of land, and whose terraces of cultivation extend often uninterruptedly from the very summit of a mountain to its base. In some parts of Barasewn, Chound Kote, and the northerly puttees of Tulla Sulan, the Gurhwal hills resemble in this respect the







fertile parts of Kumaon ; and there, as a matter of course, the contentions concerning boundaries were most frequent, and their adjustment most difficult. At the time of settlement the Gurhwallees of every pergunnah were distinctly informed—that, even where no demarcation had been insisted on, the present determination of their respective boundaries was final—that no further discussions on the subject would in future be allowed—and that henceforth the presentation of petitions referring to dispossession of one village by another, would generally end by involving some party or other disagreeably with the proceedings of the Criminal Court.

**XVI.** Large portions of waste land, including whole ranges and their vast forests, have been included from olden time in the boundaries of adjacent villages, though not included in their recorded *rugba*. No interference with this nominal allotment of waste (except in the case of the terrai lands) has been attempted at the present settlement of Gurhwal. Such a division has been found useful in giving separate tracts for pasture\* for the cattle of different villages ; but the inhabitants have been strictly forbidden, and the prohibition is particularized in the *pudhan's* pottah, and also in the several *ikrarnamahs* signed by the shareholders of villages, from levying dues for the privilege of grazing within certain boundaries, unless the custom of paying and receiving them has been immemorial, the burden of the proof of which resting with those who demand such payments. Owing to the ignorance and retarded civilization of the communities, the absence of village accountants, and the great desire that I all along felt to leave the people as much as possible to themselves, and to inflict on them as little as possible the visitation of native officials, or the necessity of their own personal attendance at *tuhildarees* and *kutcherees* merely with the view to the manufacture of certain documents and statements, the record of village administration must necessarily be imperfect—and I hope that this report will be considered in a measure *declaratory*. I therefore take this opportunity of asserting, that the right of Government to all the forests and waste lands not included in the assessable area of the estates, remains utterly unaffected by the inclusion of certain tracts within the boundaries of *mouzahs*—and that no one has a right, merely on account of such inclusion, to demand payment for the use of pasture grounds, or for the permission to cut timber or firewood. Neither does such inclusion

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\* The Gurhwallees do not migrate annually to the terrai to graze their cattle ; their own hills affording sufficient pasture.

interfere necessarily with the right of Government to accept offers for nia abad leases. But as ordered in the case of the terrai forests, so in the hills (where, too, no zumeendaree claims are put forward), the inhabitants of the village most adjacent to the tract, or having it recorded within their boundary, should have the first refusal of all such leases; and no grant of the kind should be allowed within a certain distance of the cultivated and culturable waste lands of inhabited villages; the distance to be fixed by the district officer, after receiving the report of the local putwaree and canoongoe, as to the position and extent of the proposed clearing. If proper attention is paid to the subject of waste lands in Gurhwal, and every application for the privilege of redeeming them be carefully considered, and decided on with reference to the abovementioned declaration now made by the settlement officer, I am of opinion that the prosperity of Gurhwal, and the advance of its population and agriculture, and finally of its revenue, will be for the future even more satisfactory than during the years that followed the expulsion of the Goorkhas, and the return of the peasantry to their ancient homes. In every puttee there are one or two villages very thriving in character, and with surplus members who are available to become paeekhast cultivators of neighbouring estates. I have purposely, in the wilder districts, (Chandpoor, Budhan, Chupra Kote, and lower Tulla Sulan, for instance,) left such villages lowly assessed in order to increase their wealth, and render them reservoirs, whence its currents can flow and fertilize the vicinity. Let the superfluous members of such communities be distinctly told, that a good title will be given with the several patches of fine redeemable land in the forests, and that all fictitious claims to monopoly of the waste have now been repudiated as an usurpation of Government rights, and as only tending to injure the country by increasing the tigers and bears; and I am sure that the offers for new lands will increase ten-fold. The practice here pursued, of the European officer himself spending a large portion of the year in moving about the district, will enable him to make the nia abad settlements almost always himself; and I hope I shall be excused for urging on those who may henceforth be connected with the administration of Gurhwal, the immense importance of such personal investigation and arrangements on the spot.

**XVII.** It is now necessary to declare what is meant by the assessable area of estates, what actual facts are represented by the land set down in the statement as cultivated, and culturable waste. As comparison of

Assessable area of estates and measurement of lands.





revenue rates on the land formed, as alluded to in paragraphs 5 and 6, but an considerable element in the calculation of the Government demand, I shall not on the present occasion reiterate what has been often and often reported as to the nullity of the measurement (and consequently of the resulting record) according to the system of *beesees* and *nalees*. Mr. Traill's statistical report is sufficiently full on the subject of the measures which exist and existed in this province, and there it is also stated, that "the adoption of so uncertain a standard was ascribable to the nature of the arable land, the actual measurement of which would have required greater perseverance and science than the natives of this province ever possessed." The beesee is equal to 20 pathas. The *patha* of Gurhwal, corresponding to the *nalee* of Kumaon, is a measure of seed with a capacity of about two seers; and in estimating the number of pathas in any portion of land, the calculation refers to the quantity of seed (wheat being the usual grain supposed) required to sow it. "The actual extent, however, varies according to the quality of soil, as the grain is sown much wider in poor lands near the summit, than in rich lands near the base."\*

Ooperaon is the term applied to high land, and tullaon to low land; but in Gurhwal the word \*Traill. "seera" is only used to represent land actually irrigated, and not land for which the means of irrigation are available by the turning off of a stream or spring, and the formation of a water-course. In Gurhwal, as in Kumaon, there are numerous denominations of land, but the *jhoola* was and is the chief measure, differing in value according to local usage and the various classes of landholders, but in every instance exceeding in quantity one beesee, and measurable by it. In 1880 S. Mr. Traill reduced all the accounts of *ruqba* to the standard of the beesee. A survey, as it was called, of every village took place; the result of this measure is the book of great measurement before alluded to. In addition to this, at the periods of assessment in 1880, 1885, and 1890 respectively, settlement books were made, and these showed the division of the *ruqba* into "abad," "wyran," and "huq pudhanee;" by "wyran" is meant the culturable waste lands adjoining the cultivation, including fields formerly cultivated, but now abandoned. No actual measurement ever took place, but every *thoke* or local division of each estate was supposed to be examined by the Surveying Officer, and the number of *nalees* in it was guessed at. Opposite each *thoke* was placed the number of *nalees*, and the addition of the *nalees* of all the *thokes* showed the number of beesees in the estate. This loose method of measuring superficial quantity is here known by the appropriate term of "*nuzzur andazzee*."

The area shewn in my village statements is only so far better than that recorded in former settlement books, that more pains were taken and more time spent in ascertaining the comparative quantity of cultivation and waste. The quality of the soil, and the kind of crops grown, were also noted previous to the formation of the present settlement.

A regular scientific survey of the province was at one time thought of by Mr. Bird, late Member of the Board. I knew that, in Gurhwal at least, there would be no increase of revenue, consequent on the knowledge obtained of the quantity and quality of land in estates ; and I shrunk from recommending so expensive ; and, owing to the nature of the country, so tedious an operation. In 1832, Mr. Commissioner Traill fixed by authority the quantity of land in horizontal measurement legally contained in one nalee ; and the result of a patient investigation into existing differences, and a careful comparison of various answers to his inquiries, was the declaration of the following official statement, viz.

*Yards. Square yards.*

1 nalee or patha in whatever land, 20 by 12 = 240.

20 nalees or one beesee, . . . . . 240 by 20 = 4800 less by 40 than an English acre.

Quotation from a note by Mr. F. Currie on the subject of the Gurhwal Settlement.

XVIII. I beg to conclude this part of the subject with the following extract from a note on the Gurhwal Settlement, kindly drawn up in 1838 by Mr. F. Currie, now a Judge of the Sudder Court

N. W. P., whom I consulted on various embarrassing points connected with my work.

“The record of measurement of the province has been accurately described by Mr. Batten, in his letters to the Sudder Board. With reference to the process pursued in forming this record, it is obviously vain in discussing it to talk about the difference between a “beesee” and a surface measurement, as if this were either one or the other. If a fair average were ascertained of how many fold a beesee or patha of seed grain of each description could yield—and then a correct statement of how many beesees of each description were actually sown in a village in a given year were formed—a new measurement would be obtained, and a fair criterion whereon to ground an assessment might be arrived at ; or if the quantity of land which a beesee would sow, and the actual quantity of beesees sown in any village were ascertained, a standard whereby to form proceedings would be found, and it would signify little whether the amount of land or quantity of grain were the nominal standard ;







but in this instance *the surface of the soil* was subjected to a nuzzur andazzee estimate, and the extent of it recorded in *an arbitrary amount of beesees*. It is evident that such a process, even supposing the "nuzzur andazzee" to have been conscientiously conducted, is no measurement at all, either of grain or of land; and that on such record alone, without further investigation and inquiry, it would be impossible to ground settlement proceedings, or under any circumstances to draw out from it a table of rules: but when it is notorious that the nuzzur andazzee record was dishonestly made by the subordinates employed—and when it appears (*I myself read the order*), that the Commissioner, on receiving the statement regarding a large tract (5 pergunnahs) in the province, declared himself dissatisfied with the result of the inquiry, and directed that *the arrears of all the villages in that tract should be doubled*, and that in the record doubled they were accordingly—it is, in my opinion, obviously necessary that in any proceedings which may now be held, the Settlement Officer should reject entirely the false estimate recorded in 1880 S., and should pursue some other course for ascertaining the extent and capabilities of the villages to be subjected to settlement arrangements."

XIX. I have not attempted to draw up a statement according to form No. 23, of the Board's Settlement Circular, shewing the tenures on which the muhals of Gurhwal are held. In Kumaon Proper there is scarcely one estate which has not become a subject of litigation in the courts, and proofs are constantly forthcoming of the state of property, both in regard to name and title, and to possessions. In Kumaon, too, many of the principal landholders are non-resident brahmins (josees and others), the descendants of those to whom the native rulers give grants of land: and although from the custom of the country the tenantry are inclined to resist all payments, either in money or kind, to the proprietors, which have not some reference to the amount of revenue to the State paid by the latter; still the existence of rent as distinct from revenue, and the appropriation of a large share of the gross produce by others than the occupant inhabitants, point to the zumeendaree tenure, both pure and imperfect, as bearing an ascertainable and definite proportion to the other classes of tenure. In Gurhwal, owing to the comparatively small value of land, the scantiness of population, and the almost entire dependance for their position and wealth, even of the most considerable landholders, (as for instance the Bhurtwal family in Nagpoor and the Usual family in Seela,) on the actual influence which they may happen individually to possess over the agricultural communities, and not on any no-

minal legal rights—the enforcement of which, even if possible, would soon leave the claimants without a tenantry, and would only enrich their neighbours—hardly one estate, with the exception of the nia abad muhals, could be correctly entered under the head of *pure zumeendaree*; while the classes of tenure which the Board call by the name of imperfect putteedaree, are found in some parts of the districts to exceed in numbers the pure bhyachara tenures, which again exclusively prevail in other parts.

Mr. Traill, in his statistical report, asserts “that a large portion of the province, not less probably than three-fourths of the villages, are wholly cultivated by the actual proprietors of the land, from whom of course nothing can be demanded beyond their respective quotas of the village assessment; and that in those cases the settlement is literally speaking ryotwara, although the lease is issued only in the name of one or at most of two shares in the estate.” In Gurhwal this statement is literally true for about three-fifths of the villages, that is, the inhabitants hold the land in severalty under a joint responsibility for the revenue, and pay nothing except their shares of the Government revenue and the customary fees to the elected village pudhan, who again pays only the fee for ministerial services due to the thokedar. The remaining two-fifths are inhabited by those who, in addition to the above named items, pay certain sums of money, certain portions of grain, ghee and other produce, and a higher rate of customary fees, such as legs of goats, &c., at marriages and other occasions, to the thokedar or seeana in his capacity of hissadar and proprietor, or to those of his family who may possess the proprietary share in their respective villages.

XX. Before coming to the subject of thokedars, Pudhans. I may here record that, as the general rule, the “pudhan is the village ministerial officer intrusted with the collection of the Government demand, and with the supervision of the police of his village. He is commonly one of the village, appointed with the approbation of the other joint sharers, and is removable for malversation, or at the requisition of the majority of sharers. He collects the Government revenue agreeably to their several quotas. He pays also the rent of his own immediate share of the estate. He is remunerated by fees on marriages, and a small portion of land set apart for the purpose. There is no hereditary claim or right to the situation of pudhan, but generally the son succeeds without opposition, unless incapable from youth and want of talent, in which case the sharers are called upon to choose another pudhan from among themselves. Uncultivated lands, which may have not been even subjected to division among the proprietors, are managed by the pudhan, and





the rents yielded from their cultivation are accounted for by him to the body of proprietors, who take credit for the same in the quota of the Government cess to which they are respectively liable.”\*

\* Traill.

Thokedars and seeanas. XXI. Referring to the abovementioned divisions of the agricultural community, the seeanas or thokedars are divisible into two kinds. *First*, there are those thokedars (sometimes called, in the time of the raja, *lesser seeanas*), who are merely intrusted with the charge of the police in a certain number of villages, who are paid by a fee of one rupee on the marriage of the daughter of each village pudhan, and a leg of every goat killed by the said pudhans ; and who, *if they can prove the receipt of such a payment from the commencement of the British rule*, are entitled by the law to receive dues through the pudhan from the village, amounting altogether to a per-centage on the Government jumma of about three per cent. *Secondly*, there are those thokedars, or greater seeanas, who are heads of the proprietary families, whose ministerial duties in reporting offences and casualties, and also the death of individuals without heirs, seizing criminals, searching for stolen property, assisting the Government putwaree at inquests, collecting coolies and supplies indented for on the public service, are the same as those of the former class ; but who, being descendants of great grantees and officers of the Goorkha time, or of the Gurhwal rajas, possess much greater influence ; who often in the course of the different settlements have engaged with Government for whole sets of villages, sometimes for a whole puttee (as in Kourhea and Seela), whose remuneration for ministerial offices has thus become mixed up with their seeancharee and hissadaree rights ; and who often possess decrees of court showing the proprietary division into hissas of certain sets of villages between them and their relations, at the same time that the villages themselves have possessed their own pudhans, holding separate malgoozaree pottahs, but together with the villagers acknowledging the right of the seeana to receive a larger sum as seeancharee dues, than those granted to ordinary thokedars. In one or more of the villages included within the thokedaree pottahs, these seeanas and their brethren possess without opposition the lands ; and the tenantry, though often hereditary and not removable at will, cultivate such portions only as may be assigned to them by the proprietor, and pay “koot,” or a share of produce commonly one-third, or a moderate money rent called *sirtee* (whence the name sirtan assamee is derived), and in some few parts of the country, chiefly towards the terrai, a certain rate per plough ; all

these payments being exclusive of bhct, dustoor, nuzzurana, saug pat, and other offerings usually made to superiors in the hills.

Classes of tenants. Instances of the operation of the thokedaree or seeancharee tenure in regard to the people.

XXII. There is a class of tenants called kynes (vassals), who by theory are subjected to personal service in cultivating the landholder's *seer* or land, which he keeps under his own hands, and in carrying his jhampan or dandee and baggage; but in

Gurhwal this class has almost merged into that of the khaëkur, necessity compelling proprietors to give the most favorable terms to all occupants of the land. *Haleeas*, or domestic servants or slaves (chiefly dooms or outcasts), though now by the silent operation of the emancipating spirit of English rule daily diminishing in number, are still found in all principal estates, and these persons perform all the labor of the fields required on the private farms of the landholders. In the remaining villages the possessions of the seeana's families are less determinate; and the khaëkur or occupant assamee, often asserting his right to be recorded in the rent roll as a hissadar of the land; and not unfrequently as *thhätwan*—that is, the holder of *thhät* or property in the soil—strenuously resisted the claim of any to the proprietorship of the village; declared that the decrees of the court, and the ancient Goorkhalee or raja's sunnuds, had merely reference to the position of the seeana as talooqdar and foujdar, or fiscal and criminal administrator for the district; and, at the time of settlement, refused voluntarily to sign any agreement for payment of any dues called bhct, dustoor, or *malikana*, which could by any possibility be construed into an acknowledgment of any *malik*. Such cases you yourself have had to deal with in Goojroo and other parts of Mulia Sulan; and have succeeded, where the proprietary rights of the thokedar were fully proved, in allowing the people their separate pottahs for their own villages, and in buying off the thokedar's claim by the substitution of a fixed annual payment in lieu of all mixed seeancharee, malgoozaree and hissadaree dues. In Kourhea, so long as the thokedar held all the villages of the puttee in one malgoozaree pottah, he derived a considerable income from collections under all these latter heads. At the present settlement, under the operation of the general rules detailed in paragraph 13, each village obtained its separate lease and its own pudhan. The son of the thokedar having quarrelled with his father, and to ingratiate himself with the people, promised that if he were elected to the headship he would greatly reduce all demands of the kind. The result of this conduct, and also of the settlement itself, being the first in which a record of rights was brought to the notice of the people, has been al-







most to oust the father from his thokedaree, and the son has probably raised a republican spirit, which he will doubtless find it himself difficult to allay, and which will seriously injure his own prospects. In Seela I found the people complaining loudly against the distribution of the villages between two brother thokedars, which had been made at the last settlement, because each thokedar had proprietary rights within the other's thokedaree ; hence, the villagers were subjected to conflicting claims and double payments, and ceased to enjoy the benefit of an existing law, to the effect, that the same person could not demand both thokedaree and huq pudhancharee in the same village ; for in this case the malgoozar and thokedar were separate individuals. At the time of revision I myself cancelled the existing pottahs, and issued new ones, in which the villages are distributed according to the actual proprietary right of the seena.

In Lohba, Mr. Traill's last settlement found the villages falling into waste, owing, in reality, to the inability of the pudhans to contend against the ravages of wild animals, and the loss of even the smallest number of assamees from the villages scattered in and about the wild forests of that tract ; but owing, in Mr. Traill's opinion, to the laziness and desire to reduce the revenue on the part of the principal landholders. These latter had originally obtained their thokedaree pottahs for managing the lands given in military assignments to the commandants at the frontier post of Lohba fort, and some of them had held commands under the Goorkha government. The Commissioner considered such pottahs resumable at pleasure, and he accordingly resumed them, and accepted one offer from a farmer (Theproo Nagee, of the neighbouring valley of Khetsaree in Kumaon,) for numerous villages, and ordered the thokedaree right (though he issued no new pottah) to be transferred to that individual ; he also made him Government putwaree. With all these advantages, however, the farmer failed in restoring the villages to a state of prosperity, the opposition to his management was found unconquerable, and he could hardly collect the Government revenue, much less any thokedaree dues. At the present settlement each village again obtained its separate lease, the farmer was sent back across the Lohba Pass to his own valley, and a fair jumma was fixed for each estate according to the general principles of the new assessment ; but the thokedaree rights remained undecided ; while every person whose pottah had been resumed, together with a host of others, the descendants of still older thokedars, sprung up to demand a consideration of their claims. These you yourself decided at a period long subsequent to my operations, and the principle of election by the people was that which principally deter-

mined your judgment. Wherever no voices were lifted in favor of the restoration of thokedaree rights, there the pottahs remained under resumption. These instances will suffice to show the nature of the thokedaree tenure in Gurhwal. As the business in that district is never very heavy, and has been rendered still lighter by the aid of the settlement records, the Civil Court will have full time for the adjudication of all disputes left undecided by me; and decisions will not be difficult, now that the course of my operations and of appeals to yourself has rendered public and notorious the principles of equity and justice, which should guide the adjustment of all cases connected with these tenures.

Instances of the kind of collections made in certain muhals in addition to the Government revenue.

XXIII. A few instances will show the actual kind of collections made by the seeanas and hissadars in different parts of Gurhwal.

1. Puttee Tulla Nagpore, mouzah Mungoo Khurnolee, jumma 118 rupees, Mungul Sing Bhurtwal and Jeebram Bhurtwal malgoozars and hissadars, Humeer Sing thokedar and hissadar, Jitar Sing hissadar. There are two beesees of land assigned to the malgoozar, and he receives one timashee (three anna piece, but five equal one Furruckabad rupee, and four one Goorkha rupee and the usual rupee of account) on the marriage of every khaëkur's daughter, and a leg of every goat killed. Owing to the relationship of the hissadars they pay no thokedaree dues. Hissadaree dues consist in the payment to his own hissadar, by the khaëkur on the marriage of his daughter, of four timashees and a leg of every goat he may kill. Humeer Sing receives annually from his khaëkurs two maunds and eight seers of rice, and two maunds and eight seers of barley—Mungul Sing, two maunds and four seers of rice, and two maunds and four seers of barley—Jeebram, one maund and thirty-two seers of rice, and one maund and thirty-two seers of barley—and Jitar Sing, two maunds of rice and two maunds of barley.

2. Puttee Seela, mouzah Barioon, jumma 17 rupees, Ruttun Sing thokedar and hissadar, Anundoo malgoozar and khaëkur. Thokedaree dues accrue from the payment of eight timashees by each khaëkur, on the marriage of his daughter, a leg of every goat he may kill, and a seer of ghee, and from the joint annual contribution of the villagers, of one rupee as nuzzurana, and sixteen seers of grain. There are no hissadaree dues distinct from these. The malgoozar has three nalees of land, receives eight timashees on the marriage of each villager's daughter, a leg of every goat killed, and a seer of ghee in the month of Sawun.





3. Puttee Buddulpoor, mouzah Sonwara Pulla, jumma 10 rupees, Doolub Sing thokedar and malgoozar. The thokedar receives from Goodroo hissadar eight timashees on the marriage of his daughter, a leg and rib of every goat he may kill, and two timashees annually as nuzzurana. The inhabitants of the village make a united contribution to the thokedar of one maund and twenty-four seers of grain. Goodroo, who acts as village pudhan for Doolub Sing, receives the malgoozar dues, viz. eight timashees on the marriage of each hissadar's daughter, and a leg and rib of every goat killed. He has also ten nalees of land.

4. Puttec Kourhea, mouzah Deodalee, jumma 22 rupees, Bulwunt Sing thokedar, Gungodoo malgoozar and hissadar. The thokedar receives from the malgoozar eight timashees on the marriage of his (the malgoozar's) daughter, a leg and rib of every goat he may kill, one seer of ghee or oil in Sawun, a basket load of Indian corn, a leg of every large deer he may kill, and four timashees as nuzzurana. The malgoozar receives from the villagers similar dues to the above, with the exception of the two last items.

5. Puttee Bijlot, mouzah Putolia, jumma 132 rupees, Kullum Sing thokedar, malgoozar and hissadar, Bhowany Sing, Bishnoo, Mungloo, &c., pudhans and khaëkurs. Thokedaree, malgoozaree and hissadaree dues received by Kullum Sing are not distinct. They accrue from the payment by the khaëkur pudhans of one rupee on the marriage of their daughters, a leg and rib of every goat slaughtered, a load of Indian corn when in season, a seer of ghee in Sawun, an annual nuzzurana of six timashees, and seven maunds and eight seers of grain. The khaëkur pudhans possess four beesees of huq pudhanee land, and receive from the khaëkur assamees the same dues as Kullum Sing, but no nuzzurana and no grain.

6. Puttee Khatlee, mouzah Seela Tulla, jumma 36 rupees, Myhomdar Sing thokedar, Moortee malgoozar and hissadar, Pudmoo and Bhowany hissadars. Thokedaree dues similar to those in No. 5, but the amount of nuzzurana is two timashees, and one maund and twenty-four seers of grain, and two seers of salt. The malgoozar has eleven nalees of huq pudhanee land. The hissadaree correspond with the thokedaree dues, except that there is no grain, no nuzzurana, and the quantity of salt is only one seer.

7. Puttee Chound Kote, mouzah Anrota, jumma 7 rupees, Doorgadut thokedar, malgoozar and hissadar. The dues are not distinct, but consist in the payment of six maunds and sixteen seers of grain by the khaëkurs.

8. Puttec Oodehpore, mouzah Oomrolec, jumma 74, Mynduroo and Juwaroo thokedars, malgoozars and hissadars. The malgoozaree and thokedaree dues are united, and are derived from the payment by the hissadars of 8 timashees on the marriage of their daughters, a leg and rib of every goat slaughtered, and 16 timashees nuzzurana.

9. Puttee Lungour, mouzah Deecoosa, jumma 90 Rs., Oochaboo thokedar, Sumsera and Mungloo malgoozars and hissadars. Thokedaree dues are paid by the pudhans, who present on the marriage of their daughters 4 timashees, also a leg of every slaughtered goat, and 3 Rs. per annum. The malgoozars receive from their brother hissadars 4 timashees on marriages, and possess 6 nalees of huq pudhane land.

10. Puttee Uswal Sewn, mouzah Siron, jumma 100 Rs., Abdul Singh thokedar, Bhoop Singh malgoozar and hissadar. The hissadars refuse all thokedaree dues whatever. The malgoozaree dues the same as in the last number.

11. Puttee Putwal Sewn, mouzah Nulye gaon, jumma 55 Rs., Siwanund thokedar, Purmodoo, Gunesa, &c., malgoozars and hissadars. Thokedaree dues arise from a contribution of 32 maunds of grain. Malgoozaree dues the same as those last mentioned.

12. Puttee Chandpoor, mouzah Bhugotee, jumma 171 Rs., Ruttun Singh thokedar, Goolaboo and Lotee malgoozars and hissadars. The thokedar receives 5 Rs. per annum from the malgoozar hissadars. The malgoozars possess 11 beesees of huq pudhane land, receive 2 Rs. from the hissadars on the marriage of their daughters, 8 annas on that of their sons, and a leg and a neck of every goat slaughtered.

13. Puttee Pindurpar, mouzah Bhetee, jumma 55 Rs., Gopal thokedar. Thokedaree dues are paid by the hissadars at the rate of 8 annas per annum, with an additional nuzzurana of 4 annas in Sawun.

14. Puttee Pindurwar, mouzah Puntee, jumma 22 Rs., Juwahir Singh thokedar. The thokedar receives one rupee on marriages, and a leg of every slaughtered goat.

XXIV. The greater part of Mr. Commissioner Traill's remarks on tenures, as found in his printed report, and in subsequent correspondence, refer to the district of Kumaon Proper; but the following extracts from his report to the Sudder Board, of the 2d January 1829, will not be out of place. Mr. Traill himself seems to wish that the observations therein recorded, should be considered his final opinion.

Para. 12. "The paramount property in the soil here rests in the sovereign. This right is not only theoretically acknowledged







by the subject, but its practical existence is also deducible from the unrestricted power of alienation, which the sovereign always possessed in the land. The occupant zumeendars hold their estates in hereditary and transferable property, but these tenures were never indefeasible; and as they were derived from royal grants, either traditional or existing, so they might be abrogated at the will of the sovereign, even without allegation of default against the holder, and without reservation in his favor.

13. "From the extreme attachment of the landholders to their estates, the frequent exercise of such a prerogative would doubtless have been highly unpopular. In the interior it appears to have been unfrequent, as may be judged from the length of time which villages have remained in the possession of the same families. But, in the neighbourhood of the capital and on the border, such arbitrary transfers were not uncommon; and where a provision in land was called for to reward military services, or to remunerate the heirs of those slain in battle, it was usually made at the expense of existing rights.

14. "The property in the soil is here termed *Thhât*, and grants in tenure of *Thhât*, and *Kote*, (the designation under which lands were given to the heirs of those killed in battle,) conveyed a free hold in the soil as well as the produce. Where the land granted was already held in property by others, these occupant proprietors, if they continued on the estate, sank into tenants of the new grantee, who, moreover, by the custom of the country, was at liberty to take one-third of the estate into his own immediate cultivation or seer. Of the remainder of the estate the right of cultivation rested with the original occupants, who were now termed *khaëkur* or occupants in distinction from *thhâtwan* or proprietor.

15. "Throughout the greater part of the province, as already noticed, landed property has been subjected to few violent changes, and by the process of the Hindoo law of inheritance it has now been reduced to the minutest degree of subdivision.

16. "In such a state of property the characters of landholder and farmer are naturally united, as the former cannot afford to part with any portion of the profit of his petty tenement; accordingly full six-tenths of the arable land are cultivated by the actual proprietors, who may be termed *thhâtwan* cultivators.

17. "Of the other four-tenths one half may be assumed for the estates which are cultivated by resident tenants, having no claim to the property in the soil.

18. "This class may be divided into the *khaëkur* and *kueenee* or *khurnee*; the *khaëkur* has been already noticed, and

enjoyed an hereditary though not transferable right of the cultivation : the khurnees were tenants, and settled on the estate by the proprietors, and by long continued occupancy might come to be considered in the light of khaëkurs, with whom indeed they differed little, except in the nature of the rent to which they are liable.

19. "In the remaining two-tenths are comprised the lands cultivated by non-resident tenants or paeekhasts.

27. "When a share in any estate may lapse from death or desertion, it is divided among the remaining proprietors, who become answerable for its assessment ; but this responsibility is, generally speaking, far from being deprecated, as the landholders are for the most part anxious to enlarge their petty tenures as a precaution to prevent such a contingency. from becoming individually burthensome, the small hamlets and paeekhast lands are now leased with the uslee village to which they properly attach.

28. "The village jumma is apportioned on the several shares, agreeably to the nominal interest possessed by each in the estate. If any sharer claims an abatement on the ground of deficiency in the portion of land actually in his possession, a measurement takes place, and a record is made of the quantity of land found in the occupation of each proprietor, agreeably to which the future cess is regulated, but without retrospective effect.

29. "From damages by mountain torrents, and from gradual encroachments on the shares of absentees, inequalities of this kind are pretty general, and applications for measurement frequent.

30. "Pleas for abatement on the grounds of inferiority in the quality of a share can very rarely arise, as each individual share comprises its due proportion of every part of the village, good and bad. This class, the thhâtwan cultivators, pay on a general average about one-fifth of the gross produce to Government.

31. "The khaëkur tenant, in addition to the public demand which he pays in money, has to pay to the proprietor as sirtee, bhett and dustoor, nearly another tenth. The khurnee pays in koot agreeably to former rates, which may be taken on an average at one-third of the gross produce.

32. "In paeekhast, no general rule exists, each tenant makes his own bargain ; and as the competition for cultivators exceeds the demand for land, the terms are always in his favor. The rent invariably in money is somewhat lower than that paid by the khaëkur.





33. "The share of the gross produce, as enjoyed by the different classes of cultivators above enumerated, may be summed up as follows :

"Thhâtwan cultivator,.....	80 per 100
Paeekhast tenant,.....	75 per 100
Khaëkur ditto,.....	70 per 100
Khurnee ditto,.....	66 per 100."

Remarks on the above-made quotation.

XXV. I have made this long quotation from the best of Mr. Traill's settlement reports, because in the first place, I wish literally to fulfil the promise made in paragraph 4, of saving superior authority the trouble of referring to past correspondence ; and in the second place, because from obvious reasons the opinions of Mr. Traill on any subject relating to this province, must be of higher importance than any which I can offer. If I were to incorporate such matter without acknowledgment in my own statements, and thereby give to the present report a higher relative value than it deserves, I should resemble the dwarf standing on the giant's shoulders, and exclaiming, "How tall I am!"

Record of Settlement.

XXVI. If circumstances had permitted me, personally and continuously, to superintend on the spot the settlement operations in all, instead of a few of the pergunnahs of Gurhwal, I think that I could have succeeded in completing the general remarks in English, accounting for the revision of settlement in each muhal. But not only has my appointment as District Officer in judicial and general charge of Kumaon Proper during the last three years, left me without time for the full discharge of settlement duties, and placed me (except during occasional hurried visits) 50 miles from the nearest part of Gurhwal ; but also the consequent circumstance of the actual assessments and settlement arrangements having been made by the late Deputy Collector, and in a few instances by the Gurhwal Assistant, though in accordance to principles and rules laid down by myself, has deprived me of the means of recording with exactness such observations as are usually made by Settlement Officers. For pergunnahs Pynkhunda, Budhan, Chandpoor, and the greater part of Tulla Sulan, remarks on the village settlements have been made by myself, and copied in the village statements which were forwarded to your office. In other pergunnahs, Nagpore, Gunga Sulan, &c., English remarks have not been recorded ; but English statements have been prepared according to forms Nos. II. and III. of the Board's Circular Orders, modified to meet local pe-

cularities. These show, in the case of every settled muhal, the past and present estimate of area; the detail of assessable land of each well known kind of soil; the occupation of the land by the pudhans, coparcenary shareholders, cultivators having right of possession, and other classes of cultivators, according to their own shewing the former assessments with the history of the dakhlee lands; the statistics of the new settlement; and finally the statements of possessions and responsibilities prepared by the people in the form of the rent roll of the estate. In Dewalpurh, Chound Kote and Mulla Sulan these English statements, owing to the delay in preparing the Hindee statements, consequent on the unfortunate death of the Deputy Collector in the midst of his unfinished work, have not been filled up; but the clerk of the Gurhwal Assistant can easily perform this task within the present year.\* The settlement misls for the last mentioned pergunnahs containing the Hindee village forms, will all be transferred to the Gurhwal office, before the close of the present rainy season; and the officer in charge of that district will then possess, for these as for the other pergunnahs: *First*,—the boundary misls as mentioned in paragraph 15. *Secondly*,—the roobucaree or record of settlement, showing the past fiscal history and management of all mouzahs, uslee and dakhlee, and all the new arrangements. *Thirdly*,—the ikrarnamah or agreement of the inhabitants in regard to the remuneration of the pudhan, and the collections of all sorts to be made under the heads of thokedaree, seancharee and hissadaree dues; and also binding themselves down to a conformity with certain rules in regard to the public service and general management. *Fourthly*,—the phurd phant showing the name of the pudhan; the distribution of the revenue payers among the several pudhans, where more than one are elected; the quotas of revenue payable by the several shareholders or occupants; the division of the non-proprietary tenantry among those recorded as proprietors; and the names and liabilities of the paeekhast and other cultivators whenever discoverable. In addition to these documents, the numerous petitions presented, depositions taken, and orders passed during the course of the settlement on miscellaneous matters, form separate files of proceedings, which have been transmitted to the Gurhwal record office. Thus questions henceforth arising, especially in regard to claims and possessions, will become easier of decision, owing to the existence of proofs showing a certain state of affairs

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\* English mouzahwar pergunnah statements have been prepared for every division, and have been forwarded to Paoree:







at a certain period ; and I should think that the Civil Courts in Gurhwal will now rarely be reduced to the necessity of pursuing their investigations in suits connected with the land, to a period anterior to that of the settlement proceedings. At first, some difficulty was experienced in inducing the people to form the revenue and rent roll just described, but soon its value became apparent ; and although, as fully reported on another occasion, the periodical correction of these rolls cannot, and ought not, in Gurhwal, to be enforced with such rigid attention to form and time as in the plains' districts, which enjoy the benefit of educated village accountants ; still the people themselves may be expected to consider this record as more and more important, the more its advantages in placing their liabilities on an exact and public basis become in the course of time well known and proved. The statement of beesees and nalees in the possession of each individual is of course fictitious, as it has reference to an account of measurement not founded on facts ; but still, as in every case it has been drawn up with the cognizance of the villagers, though, owing to their ignorance, not always by themselves and without official aid—and as this statement is to be found in every copy of the phurd phant opposite the names and revenue liabilities of the shareholders and khaëkurs, these latter have always an opportunity of offering any objection to it which they may consider necessary, and of suggesting any corrections for the better assertion of their rights. As a representation of *comparative* possessions, the non-reality of the data being the same for all concerned, the division of the beesees and nalees as shown in the rolls may still be considered as not utterly without value. On the whole, I consider the first formation of the phurd phant for every village in Gurhwal as the crowning good of the revision of settlement under report ; and I contemplate this creation with the more satisfaction, from the knowledge which my experience in Kumaon gives me of the difficulties, embarrassments and actual evils arising from the scarcity of such documents in this part of the province, and the arbitrary and unsatisfactory manner in which the few that are forthcoming have been prepared.

XXVII. I may conclude this part of the subject by stating that there are no regular village chowkeedars in Gurhwal ; though *puhrees*, corresponding somewhat to *gooraites*, are occasionally found remunerated for their services as messengers, &c., sometimes by portions of land, sometimes by fees, and sometimes by both. Had I been able to conduct the settlement myself throughout the district on the spot, I should have paid more attention to the subject of these village servants, (among whom

Chowkeedars and coolies, supplies.

may also be mentioned tailors and masons, the latter constantly employed in repairing the stone walls of terraces,) and a record concerning them would probably have been made. The subject, also, of forced labor for the repair of roads, carriage of baggage, &c., would have met with attention; and the quota of coolies and supplies demandable from each village, according to its capabilities, for the public service, would have been duly registered. As it is, I beg to commend both these points to the attention of those, who are now and may be hereafter placed in charge of the administration of the district, while I myself in the Kumaon settlement shall take care to place, if possible, these matters on a correct and fair footing.

Maafees and goonts, or lands rent free to individuals, or held by religious establishments.

XXVIII. The figures in statement No. I. representing the quantity of unassessed land in beesees, whether forming part of khalsa villages and measured within their area, or whether whole villages, are only an approximation to the truth; and Captain Huddleston is at this moment employed in ascertaining the actual facts of the rent free tenures. On this subject I beg to refer to my letter, No. 22, of the 18th December, 1837, to the address of the officiating Commissioner of Bareilly, and to the correspondence which arose therefrom, terminating in distinct instructions from the Governor General issued to the Sudder Board of Revenue, in a letter from Mr. Secretary Thomason, dated 18th July, 1838. I do not consider it necessary to include a report on this subject in my account of the revision of settlement. The maafee holdings only amounting to 163 beesees in the whole district, require no separate notice from me. The goont lands amount to 13,651 beesees, of which 943 form parts of villages which pay revenue to Government for the remainder of their lands. Of the small portions of land which make up this small total sum, perhaps nearly one-third may be considered as waste, and two-thirds are actually cultivated, and the rents assigned to the great temple of Budrinath, or to local shrines. If the lands dedicated to the latter objects were resumed by authority, I am of opinion that the people would not consent to pay any addition of revenue, at all proportionate to the nominal enlargement of their assessable area; and even if an enhanced jumma were obtained, the people would still tax themselves with the maintenance of the shrines and their priests on the ancient footing. The resumption of the entire goont villages would, of course, add somewhat to the pecuniary resources of the State; but, though under a liberal and prudent Government I contemplate no measure so harsh and impolitic, I may here record my belief that the





disgust occasioned by the resumption of religiously assigned lands in Gurhwal, would not be confined to this province, but would spread throughout all India, every quarter whereof sends forth its annual pilgrims to do homage to the sublimity of nature at the sacred sources of the Ganges.

KUMAON AND GURHWAL }  
 SETTLEMENT OFFICE: }  
*The 10th August, 1842.* }

I have the honor to be, &c.,  
 (Signed) J. H. BATTEN,  
*Settlement Officer.*

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## ABSTRACT.

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| Para. | 1st.  | Introduction.  |
| Ditto | 2nd.  | General Statements.  |
| Ditto | 3rd.  | Former Statements and Abstract of present Settlement.  |
| Ditto | 4th.  | Remarks explanatory of the Report.   |
| Ditto | 5th.  | History of the new Settlement.   |
| Ditto | 6th.  | Principles of Assessment.  |
| Ditto | 7th.  | Physical peculiarities affecting the Settlement.   |
| Ditto | 8th.  | Moral circumstances affecting the mode of Settlement.  |
| Ditto | 9th.  | Consideration whether the interests of the State have been duly regarded, and remarks on Mr. Commissioner Traill's assessments.  |
| Ditto | 10th. | Observations on the extension of the period of Settlement to 20 years, with quotation from Mr. Traill on the subject. Opinion as to the stability of the revised arrangements. |
| Ditto | 11th. | Difficulty in discovering the past revenue payments of villages, especially of dakhlee mouzals transferred from one muhal to another.  |
| Ditto | 12th. | Farming Leases.  |
| Ditto | 13th. | General rules adopted for the leasing and management of muhals.  |
| Ditto | 14th. | Reference to the modification and exceptions to the above-mentioned rules, as known to the Commissioner.   |
| Ditto | 15th. | Boundaries of estates and settlement of disputes concerning them.  |
| Ditto | 16th. | Right to waste lands, pasture grounds and forests.   |

- Para. 17th. Assessable area of estates and measurement of lands.
- Ditto 18th. Quotation from a note by Mr. F. Currie, on the subject of the Gurhwal Settlement.
- Ditto 19th. Tenures.
- Ditto 20th. Pudhans.
- Ditto 21st. Thokedars and Seeanas.
- Ditto 22nd. Classes of tenants—instances of the operation of the thokedaree, or seeancharee tenure in regard to the people.
- Ditto 23rd. Instances of the kind of collections made in certain muhals in addition to Government revenue.
- Ditto 24th. Opinions of Mr. Traill on the Hill tenures.
- Ditto 25th. Remarks on the above-made quotation.
- Ditto 26th. Records of Settlement.
- Ditto 27th. Chowkeedars and coolies, supplies.
- Ditto 28th. Maafees and goonts, or lands rent-free to individuals, or held by religious establishments.

(Signed)

J. H. BATTEN,  
*Settlement Officer.*

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# Appendix.

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1. I now proceed to describe the tract of country which has been subjected to the operations under report, and to offer such general remarks on the people and the revenue as may be suggested by the course of the description.

2. British Gurhwal\* may be roughly calculated as being 100 miles long by 50 broad, or about 5,000 square miles in extent, of which one-fifth, if not more, belongs to the snowy range. It lies between the latitudes  $29^{\circ} 30''$  and  $31^{\circ} 2''$ —and the parallels  $78^{\circ} 5''$  and  $79^{\circ} 50''$  of longitude; but as the shape of the country is nearly a rhomboidal parallelogram, of which the long sides extend from the snowy range to the plains in a south-westerly direction, only a portion of each of these longitudes is included within the district. The boundaries are as follow: on the west, the Mundakhnee branch of the Ganges, and the high range along its western bank from Kedar Nath to Roodur Preeag, and thence the Aluknunda to Deva Preeag, and thence the Ganges, properly so called, after the union of all its branches to 20 miles below Hurdwar, separate the district from the rajah of Gurhwal's reserved territory and from the British districts of Dehra Dhoon and Suharunpoor. On the north, the Himalayan peaks and passes separate it from Heeon-des.† On the east, an imaginary line drawn from the snowy peak called Trisool to the Pindur river, 20 miles below the glaciers at its source; and thence a varied line drawn in a westerly, south-westerly and southerly direction by Budhan and Lohba forts, and crossing the Ramgunga river near its numerous sources, and again re-crossing it at the upper part of the Patlee Dhoon, divides Gurhwal from Kumaon, the boundary in the terrai being the Kotee Rao torrent immediately after its exit from the hills. On the south, is the Bhabur or terrai; and there, except in the case of talooka Chandee on the Ganges, which forms a small triangular corner separated from Bijnour by the Sawasun stream, the actual base of the lowest range of hills, with only a few level gorges running up between

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\* This district is sometimes called 'Gurh,' and the name is supposed to be derived from the number of hill forts with which the country is studded.

† Heeon-des (snow country) is the local name of that part of Thibet which borders on Kumaon and Gurhwal.

some of the projecting points of the mountains, is the boundary between this district and zillah Bijour.

3. The pergunnahs are ten in number, viz. Pergunnahs. Pynkhunda, Budhan, Nagpoor, Chandpoor, Dewal-gurh, Barasewn, Chound Kote, Mulla Sulan, Tulla Sulan, and Gunga Sulan; here placed according to the position from north to south, but in the statements numbered according to the order in time of their re-settlement. An eleventh pergunnah, Dusoulee, exists between Nagpoor and Budhan, but this is held in rent-free assignment by the temple of Budrinath, the proceeds thereof defraying part of the suda-burt expenses of that establishment. There are also three puttees in pergunnah Nagpoor, by name Purkundee, Bamsoo and Mykhunda, set apart rent-free for the suda-burt expenses of the Kedar Nath temple, and situated near that shrine.

4. Pergunnah Pynkhunda is divided into Pynkhunda Tulla. two portions, sometimes called Mulla and Tulla Neetee. The latter lies along the lower course of the Doulee river, or farthest branch of the Ganges before its junction with the Vishnoo Gunga, near Joshee Muth, and also for a few miles along the united river, thenceforward called the Aluknunda. Joshee Muth is comparatively a large place for the hills, being the winter residence of the rawul and priests of Budrinath, and affording at that time, and also during the season of pilgrim resort, a market for the surplus produce of the neighbourhood: but most of the villages in this tract may be considered prosperous, owing to the circumstance of their being occupied during the winter by the Bhoteas of the upper tract; whom the rigor of the season compels to migrate to milder regions, and who are the chief purchasers of the grain grown by the villagers, and of the carrier-sheep bred by them among the magnificent pasture grounds of the ranges which crown their villages, and stretch upwards to the roots of the snowy peaks. Some of the villages in this neighbourhood are so situated as to afford to their owners great facilities as hunters, and many villagers derive a good profit from the sale of hawks, which they snare in their eyries, and of musk pods extracted from the musk deer, which they hunt down by their dogs. Baz—beena (hawks—musk) was a regular item of revenue taken in kind under the native governments. Tulla Pynkhunda is the tract which the late Mr. Moorcroft talked of renting from Government, for the purpose of establishing himself in the best position for profiting by the Thibetan trade in shawl wool after his return from Central Asia: and it was to this beautiful region, and a home among its sheltering





woods for the evening of his days, that that enterprising, but unfortunate, traveller always looked forward, with a fond hope from amidst the troubles and dangers of his trans-Himalayan journeys.

5. The mulla or upper puttee commences at the junction of the Reenee river with the Doulee, and is purely Bhoteea in its character. In no village of this tract is more than one harvest (of wheat, barley, buck wheat, phaphur—a species of polygonum—and turnips) possible, and in some years that is not reaped owing to too early falls of snow in October; but the Bhoteeas of the Neetee Pass, though not as wealthy as those of the Jowahir Pass, (owing to their distance from such good markets as Bageswur and Almora,) are on the whole very thriving: and the trade with Thibet, except when, as lately, interrupted by political troubles, will continue to supply the sources of prosperity to the inhabitants of Neetee, Mullara, and the other villages at the sources of the Doulee. The capabilities of a real Bhoteea village may be estimated as great or small in nearly exact proportion to its vicinity to or distance from the snow—in other words, to the rigor of the climate, the barrenness of the soil, and the impracticability of cultivation; for the more daringly these latter evils are encountered, that is, the nearer the village is to the Thibet frontier, the greater are its trading advantages.

The Bhoteeas. Remarks on the assessment of the Bhotee mehals.

6. The Bhoteeas are not only the monopolizers of the carrying traffic between Thibet and the cis-Himalayan districts, but also of the export and import trade; and merchants from the plains and hills have never hitherto succeeded in establishing their own correspondence with Thibetan dealers. In the time of the Gurhwal rajas and the Goorkhas, the Bhoteeas paid revenue to an unwarrantable extent, because their profits as merchants were over estimated. In our rule their taxation has been greatly reduced: and I considered that Mr. Commissioner Traill had made an excessive sacrifice of revenue, when he introduced his nominal land tax and calculations of beesees into the upper villages of the Bhoteea ghats; because there being no surplus produce from which rent or revenue could be derived, a land tax appeared to me absurd. I thought that the form of lease should be a settlement per village according to its present trading prosperity, viewed with reference to the Government demand paid previous to the abolition of the custom duties, and to the consolidation of all demands into the so called land revenue. I referred this matter for the decision of superior authority; and in reply I was instructed by the Sudder Board, not to attempt any fictitious mode of settlement ac-

ording to rates of assessment on the land, but to make as fair an arrangement as I could between the Government and the Bhooteas with reference to the general capabilities of their respective villages. On receipt of these orders, and remembering the duties levied on the Bhooteas by the Thibet government for the privilege of trading, I did not consider myself authorized to make any greater account under the head of profits of trade, than the late Commissioner had already, in fact, though not nominally, thrown into his calculations of the respective jummas demandable from the villages; and I accordingly, with some slight reductions in the case of two broken down mouzahs, kept the existing Government demand for Mulla Pynkhunda unaltered. For a complete description of the Bhoote muhals of Kumaon and Gurhwal, I beg to refer to Mr. Commissioner Traill's report, published in vol. 17, *Researches Asiatic Society*.\*

7. Budhan. The Pindur river forms the distinguishing feature of this pergunnah, and separates its two principal puttees from each other. Puttee Pindur reaches to the very base of the snowy range, and has some fine villages within a short horizontal distance of some of the highest peaks near the sources of the Khylgunga and Mundakhee rivers. The best villages are not found in the valley of the Pindur; and considering the facilities for irrigation afforded by nature, it is remarkable how very little tullaon or low lands occur under the head of seera or irrigated. The finest villages are those either situated, like "Kob," on high upland near the forests, but possessing a large share of flat or easily sloping land—or placed, like "Wun," very near the regions of eternal snow, but surrounded by good pastures enjoying a bracing climate, and inhabited by an enterprising and Bhootea-like race of trafficking people. No part, however, whether lofty or low, of this pergunnah, has been exempted from the visitations of that fatal, and indeed extraordinary, pestilence called by the natives "mah murree" (a malignant typhus fever accompanied with glandular swellings); which, in the character of its movements to and from, and periodical returns to, particular spots, somewhat resembles the cholera. The depression of the people, and indeed actual depopulation caused by this disease; the paucity of inhabitants in proportion to the vast extent of yet culturable ground, and

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\* Granite, gneiss mica slate and occasional primary limestone, are the chief formations of Pynkhunda; but at the passes into Thibet, and in their neighbourhood, the European secondary series with marine fossils are found to succeed to the primary system of the Himalaya. At Ghertee, in the heart of the snowy range, between Nectee and Milum, are lead mines, which have for some time been deserted.







in some cases considerable over-assessment ; combined with a plan of misrepresentation as to actual circumstances attempted by some of the principal landholders, some of whom were also Government officials—rendered the revision of settlement in Budhan rather difficult ; and it was not without some appearance of vacillation and some real embarrassments that, being at that time very inexperienced in Hill affairs, I placed the revenue arrangements in what I hope may prove to be a sound basis for the long period of the new leases—a period to which some of the pudhans, from its entire novelty and their entire ignorance, looked forward not without doubt and timidity. There are not many thokedars in Budhan, but those that exist are chiefly descendants of persons to whom military assignments of land were given under the former governments. The occupant zumeendars\* are generally the descendants of those whom the thokedars induced to settle on their grants of land : on this account the latter are sometimes found recorded by the villagers themselves as proprietors of the soil, even where not the slightest possession, or *seer* cultivation on the part of the thokedars, exists ; but in most instances the occupants claim the nominal proprietorship, although they are willing to pay the customary dues called by them sometimes malikana, sometimes nuzzurana, sometimes huq zumeendaree, and sometimes, indeed generally, huq thokedaree, to the seeana or thokedar. As, however, these dues are very small, and as no rent in addition to their quotas of revenue is taken from the occupants, it is really a matter of little consequence whether from ignorance, or fear, or from a hope of throwing the responsibility of revenue payment on the more powerful members of the community in case of any future hardship, the people have recorded the thokedars and their brethren as shareholders ; or whether under a suspicion of probable usurpation or exaction, or a knowledge of their own rights, the people have insisted on their own proprietary tenure.

8. The Budhan rajpoot, or khussia, is, in general, a plain, simple minded character : and though in this pergunnah there have been two or three instances of excessive litigation among the brethren of the thokedaree families, and on the subject of some of the larger pudhanships, still the people on the whole are more acquainted with the barter price of salt at Neetee and of the money

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\* Except when expressly mentioned in connection with the so called zumeendaree tenure, the word zumeendar is used to represent the actual occupant, however humble, of the lands. European gentlemen coming up from the plains, sometimes express their astonishment at their baggage coolies being called and calling themselves by this name.

price of wheat and rice at Almora, to both of which places they laboriously carry the produce of the fields on their backs, than with the theoretical tenures of their land—on which subject they, as well as the Bhoteeas, not unfrequently referred me to their wives for information.

9. Rice—wet and dry, though chiefly the latter—mundooa,\* jungora, kodoo, ogul,† juwar, bajra, chooa or marsa,‡ form the chief grains of the khurreef crop here as elsewhere in the hills; but the produce of each village, of course, varies according to its height and climate, and the nature of its soil. Hemp of the best quality is also grown in some of the upland villages, from which bhungela or hempen cloth for wear and for sacks is manufactured. Various kinds of pulse, bhut, gahut, &c., are common at this season, and the oil seeds surson and til. Wheat and barley form the chief rubbee crops, besides ulsee (linseed) and the pulse called musoor.

10. Great numbers of sheep and goats are bred and pastured on the high mountains near the snow, for sale to the Bhoteeas, or kept for the carriage of their goods and for the sake of wool (which the people of this tract largely use in their apparel) by the Budhanees.§

11. Nagpoor occupies the Doab' between the Mundakhnee and Aluknunda branches of the Ganges uniting at Roodur Preeag. From Tirjooke Narain near Kedar Nath, however, there stretches down from north to south a high range of mountains lying a few miles to the west of the Mundakhnee, and the intervening space is occupied by two or three khalsa villages of Nagpoor, but chiefly by the three sudaburt puttees mentioned in paragraph 3, of this Appendix. In the former years of British rule there arose some doubt as to whether this tract of country, being west of the river, did not properly belong to the rajah of Gurhwal's reserved territory; but, as it was proved always to have formed a constituent part of pergunnah Nagpoor, the claim of the raja was disallowed.

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\* Mundooa (eleusine coracana) forms the chief food of the laboring classes in the Hills, and is a very abundant crop.

† Ogul is buck wheat, and is sold with profit at the mundees in the terrai.

‡ Chooa-marsa (amaranthus oleraceus?) is called battoo in the western hills. The small grain from it is largely consumed for food. The fine red flowers of this plant when ripe are very beautiful, and in October quite color the landscape;

“ and with one scarlet gleam

“ Cover a hundred miles, and seem

“ To set the hills on fire.”

WORDSWORTH.

§ The rocks in Budhan are similar to those in Pynkhunda, except that there is a greater proportion of limestone, which formation characterizes some of the high peaked mountains south of the Pindur river. Iron ore is not unfrequent in this pergunnah, and is here and there worked.





The celebrated temples of Kedar Nath and Budrinath are both in Nagpoor, and also the Panch Kedar, or five intermediate holy spots along the edge of the snowy range (Mudh Mehswur, Roodurnath, &c.). The winter residence of the rawul of the first mentioned establishment is at Okeemuth. The concourse of pilgrims during the season of resort from May to October, enables the zumeendars to sell their rice, wheat, ghee, &c., with advantage, along the different points of the pilgrim road nearest to their homes. They also breed large flocks of sheep and goats on the excellent pasture tracts which lie at the base of the snowy peaks. A great part of these they sell to the Bhoteas of the Mana\* and Neetee passes, using the remainder for the conveyance of their own produce, and of the salt which they obtain in exchange. The Nagpoorees are almost all dressed in woollens, even where their residence is situated in temperate or warm valleys. As they do not change their clothes with the seasons, are dirty in their habits, and allow their habitations to be entirely surrounded in the rainy season by jungles of nettles, wild hemp, and similar rank vegetation, they are subject to much illness; and the fatal epidemic alluded to in the description of Budhan, commits some havoc in Nagpoor. In regard to temperature, the climate of some parts of Nagpoor is quite European, and the scenery of the whole tract is highly beautiful, while the vicinity of the eternal snows is characterized by the grandest sublimity. Nagpoor will never be forgotten by those who have pursued the torrents of the Mundakhnee to their source, who have wandered among the magnificent forests of the Toongnath range, or who have spent a day on the banks of the Deoree Thal.

In this pergunnah are the copper mines of Pokhree, &c., which, in the time of the Gurhwal rajas, are said to have yielded a large revenue. Since the British occupation of the province they have never been very profitable, and the produce had become so scanty, owing to the difficulty of working the ground, rather than to the absence of ores, that in 1837 the farmer could not even pay one hundred rupees per annum; subsequently an experimental mine was opened by Government at Pokhree, under the superintendence of Mr. Wilkin, a Cornish miner; and the results of the undertaking, now closed, have been fully repre-

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\* The Mana pass into Thibet is at the source of the Suraswatee river, which joins the Vishnoo Gunga at Budrinath. The chief village is Mana, a very large and prosperous place, close to the temple, to which the Bhoteas of this tract are bound to pay their rents, and to do service.

sented by the Commissioner in his recent report on the mines of this province.\*

12. Chandpoor forms the centre of British Gurhwal, and is characterized by very lofty ranges of mountains covered with forests, separating the Pindur river from the Ramgunga, and again the different branches of the latter river (all rising in this tract) from each other. The puttee of Chandpoor itself possesses some very fine villages, situated on high slopes surrounding the fort which gives its name to the pergunnah. Here the dynasty of rajas, now represented by their lineal descendant, Sheodursun Sah, the protected raja of Gurhwal, had their origin, and ruled, previous to their founding a capital (about 400 years ago) at Sreenugur. Many of the villages consequently belong to brahmins of the Kundooree tribe, who held the principal offices under the native rulers. Puttee Lohba, as mentioned in the body of the report, was remarkable for its fortress at the frontier, between Gurhwal and Kumaon, and this was continually the scene of conflicts between the forces and inhabitants of the two rival districts; and owing to this, and similar posts along the whole line of frontier, the Goorkhas were kept out of Gurhwal for twelve years after they had obtained possession of Kumaon. The people of Lohba are consequently a fine manly race, and at present make very good soldiers. Puttee Chupra Kote extends from east to west over a large space of wild country, and in some parts the villages are but scantily interspersed along the high wooded ranges. The people are for the most part poor, except at the south-east extremity which borders on Pallee in Kumaon, and approaches in fertility and population to the prosperous state of its neighbourhood. Owing to the situation of some of the villages near the forest, and the difficulty experienced by the few inhabitants in preserving themselves and their crops from the ravages of wild beasts, a decrease of the Government demand, to the extent of nearly 300 rupees, was found necessary in the three puttees of Chandpoor; and the system of keeping villages together under influential thokedars (none however rich or powerful), was preferred in many instances by the villagers. The good effects of the settlement have already become apparent, especially in Chupra Kote; and some villages in the neighbourhood of Kunour, which I remember almost waste, have now become well cultivated. There was formerly a tuhsildaree establishment at Kunour, and its abolition some years ago,

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\* Granite, gneiss and mica slate prevail in Nagpoor. But clay slate and talcose limestone are also very plentiful. The rocks in which copper ores are found are talcose slate and dolomite.







as a measure of economy, removed one market for the sale of produce. The people of Chupra Kote also have not the benefit enjoyed by those of Lohba and Chandpoor, of the pilgrim road running through their district. Recently however, good paths have been made over the high ranges on every side ; and communication with Sreenugur, Kumaon, and the northern pergunnahs, from which the zumeendars have to procure their salt and wool, has become comparatively easy. A good road along the line of the Nyar river and over the southern mountains, now connects this tract with the principal routes leading to the mundees of Chilkea and Kotedwara, and other marts for hill produce at the foot of the hills. Large quantities of hemp of the very best quality, in addition to the grain and other crops enumerated in paragraph 9, are grown in this pergunnah. The laboring population in the villages where this useful plant is cultivated, and where hempen cloth is manufactured, are chiefly khussias ; and though others of similar origin elsewhere assume the name and thread of the rajpoot, here many are found who appear as soodras, and allow themselves to be included in that caste.\*

13. Dewalgurh is named from a great temple and religious establishment which possess rent-free lands, both in the raja of Gurhwal's territory and in the British district, and also receive a handsome money allowance from Government. This pergunnah lies along the left or southern bank of the Aluknunda, extending for some distance into the interior of the mountains, and is remarkable from the situation in it of the capital, Sreenugur, and the Dhunpoor copper mines. Sreenugur fell into decay from the great earthquake in 1803, and from the removal of the Gurhwal raja's residence to Teerhee on the Bhagiruttee, on the restoration to him by the British of half the territory conquered from him by the Goorkhas, and the inclusion of the old capital within the British half of the district. Some trade, however, always continued to be carried on between Sreenugur and Nujeeabad. The formation of the pilgrim road on the eastern bank of the Aluknunda, has also made this town the resort of numerous pilgrims during one season of the year ; and latterly the location of a separate European Officer in charge

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\* The grey wacke formation is very abundant in Chandpoor, and clay slate bears a fair proportion to the mica slate rocks. Limestone forms some of the high-peaked ranges, and in Lohba is metalliferous, yielding both iron and copper, the latter however scantily and partially. There is a great out-burst of granite in the Kunour district and on the high Doodoo ke Tolu range. This is remarkable, from being the first occurrence of this rock in the central hills (that is in the line of about 40 or 50 miles north of the plains), between the great Chor mountain in the west and Kumaon, where granite is quite as common in the heart of the country as in the snowy range.

of Gurhwal at Paoree in the neighbourhood, and the establishment of a Sudder Ameen and Moonsiff's court in the place itself, have thrown a little life into Sreenugur. Captain Huddleston has also paved and otherwise improved the town, and a good direct road has been made from it to Nujeehabad, in addition to the former one down the Ganges to Hurdwar. The Dhunpoor copper mines are the best in the province, and have been described by the Commissioner, and previously by Captain Herbert and others; but there is one peculiarity concerning them which deserves notice, viz. that 21 villages, large and small, have always been attached to them; and it has been found impracticable to separate the lease of the villages from that of the mines, old custom having made the labor and supplies derived from the former essential to the mine lessee. Out of a total revenue of 1,901 rupees paid by the farmer to Government, I found that he only collected rupees 269 from the villages. A slight increase of the Government demand for the whole pergunnah accrued in the course of the present settlement. The valleys of Punae and Sreenugur in this pergunnah are eminently rich and beautiful, and the Dhunpoor range is noted for its magnificent scenery.\*

14. The 14 puttees of Barasewn are bounded by the Nyar on the east and south, and the Aluknunda on the west. The hills are for the most part bare of wood; but the whole tract, with the exception of some portions of the river glens, is eminently fertile, and bears a resemblance rather to Kumaon than Gurhwal. The villages are large, and the population plentiful and industrious. Each puttee generally has its own separate valley, and the surplus produce is sold at Sreenugur, on the pilgrim road, and in the plains; tobacco of a good quality is produced in low situations, and sugar cane is sometimes seen.† Hemp is but rarely grown; neither do the people use sheep and goats for the purposes of traffic. Their dress also is more frequently made of cotton than of hempen cloth, and woollen apparel is quite unknown. Land being here valuable gives rise to considerable litigation, and the vicinity of the courts (perhaps the cheapest to suitors in all India) enables many of the inhabitants of Barasewn, who are fond of law, to gratify their inclination. This part of the country was very much injured by the oppressive rule of the Goorkhas; but, even in the time of the

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\* Grey wacke, trap, and quartz rock, clay slate, talcose slate and limestone, alpine and dolomitic (the latter containing the copper ores), are the prevailing geological formations of Dewalguh.

† I may here mention that, throughout the hills, *oord* takes the place of the *chunna* or gram crops of the plains, and that *til* (sesamum orientale) in the rains, and *rai* (mustard) in the spring, are largely grown as oil seeds.





rajas, near the close of last century, General Hardwicke, who visited Sreenugur from Nujeebabad, describes this tract as wretchedly waste. Those now traversing the same tract would not recognise his description ; and I know of no part of the hills where the benefits of our rule are more conspicuous to the eye, or more often recited to the ear.\*

15. Chound Kote and Mulla Sulan, also, in a great measure, resemble the Kumaon hills, on which the latter pergunnah borders. The Sanee and Nyar rivers, and their small tributaries, traverse this district. Chound Kote is remarkable for the almost entire absence of all forests, except towards the fort, which gives name to the pergunnah. The grain crops are remarkably abundant ; but, except in the cold weather, when the people can carry their produce to the plains, there is no near market for its sale. The observations made on Barasewn apply to these pergunnahs, and no further report on them seems necessary, save that the inhabitants, though in my opinion a far from contemptible race, are eminently litigious ; and bear the character, among the more simple Gurhwallies, of being almost as deceitful and cunning as desees or lowlanders. Some of the disputes which occurred have been alluded to in the report. I hope that the settlement has succeeded in putting matters connected with the land and its tenures on a better footing than formerly, and will tend somewhat to keep the people out of court.†

16. Tulla Sulan. Puttees Buddulpoor and Kourhea are situated close to the last described pergunnahs, but nearer to the plains, though chiefly lying on the north or hill side of the last high range. Some circumstances connected with Kourhea have been elsewhere mentioned. The revenue was kept unaltered from its former amount. Puttee Buddulpoor possesses some very large, fertile and populous villages, some of which were thought to be under-assessed. A total increase in the Government demand on the whole puttee, of 64 rupees, arose from the different village settlements, and was imposed with the greatest facility. The hills on which the hamlets of this puttee are scattered, strongly resemble Almora and its neighbourhood. The settlement of Bijlote, Boongee and Pynao on the south of the range facing the plains, and the Patlee and Kotree Dhoons, gave me considerable trouble, and required much care. A decrease of revenue and a total re-

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\* Clay slate (often Magnesian) and quartz rock almost exclusively prevail in Barasewn.

† Clay slate, mica slate and limestone, with occasional granite rocks, occur in these pergunnahs.

modelling of the village leases were found necessary. Pynao is situated in the valley of the Mundal river, the climate of which is almost as bad as that of the terrai. Wild elephants abound and commit great depredations on the crops in the rainy season. Tigers also are numerous, and kill both men and cattle. Seela is situated on both sides of the Koh river, and some account of its circumstances has been included in the report. Large portions of it are waste, and some of the villages are unfavorably placed on the border of the saul forests, which here, as in Buddulpoor, begin to take the place of oaks and pines and other alpine vegetation. The Patlee Dhoon is traversed by the Ramgunga, as that river approaches the plains, from which the Dhoon is separated by a steep sandstone range, resembling in almost every respect, save in the fewness and difficulties of its passes, the Sewalick range between the Ganges and the Jumna. A separate report on this Dhoon was made by me on the 28th September, 1838. It may suffice here to repeat, that the quantity of flat land is very small indeed, in comparison with the hills and ravines, and that the forests of saul and bamboo (the timber of which is floated down the Ramgunga in rafts) are plentiful and valuable. The climate is of course insalubrious, and a difficulty is found in procuring cultivators for the different clearings. The settlement was made with Pudum Singh Negee at 275 rupees (a reduction of 100 Rs. having been allowed). He had an hereditary claim to the lease of this tract; and though his right to the zumeendaree had not been previously admitted, he will now possess all lands which he may redeem under a proprietary tenure. He is also the lessee of the kat-bans and churaee (timber and pasturage dues) farms. Four of the villages included in his lease are situated outside the lower range in the gorges of the passes. The Kotree Dhoon, properly so called, is merely a small uncultivated valley, with very rich pastures, situated in the midst of the lower hills near Kotedwara. In the lower parts of Tulla Sulan, ginger, turmeric, tobacco, and chillies (capsicum) are grown in great abundance, and are most profitable articles of produce when sold by the puharees at Chilkea, Kotedwara, Ufzulgurh, and other marts in the plains.\*

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\* With the exception of granite, the rocks named in the last note prevail in Tulla Sulan, but all are succeeded by sandstone in the Dhoons and lower ranges. The Sona stream rises in these latter, and joins the Ramgunga in the Patlee Dhoon. The sands of this stream, as the name implies, yield gold, and the bed of the Ramgunga, also after its junction, is auriferous. The gold washers who resort hither, earn however but a scanty subsistence, and Puddum Singh, the farmer of the Dhoon above mentioned, only pays Government 25 Rs. per annum for the privilege of collecting the dues from these people.







17. Gunga Sulan has for its boundaries the Ganges below the junction of the Nyar river on the west, the Koh river on the east, the Nyar river on the north, and talooka Chandee and other parts of the Bhabur on the south. Dhangoo, as its name in the hill language implies, is rocky and rugged, especially in the neighbourhood of the Ganges, which here forces its way through steep precipices; some of the villages are small and poor, and a slight reduction of the revenue was thought expedient. Kuroundoo and Lungour are chiefly in the vicinity of the Koh, but these puttees are of very irregular shape and are not compact, but have their villages capriciously scattered among the other divisions of the pergunnah. Lungour is remarkable for its two fortresses of that name on the crest of a high precipitous ridge, which separates the Koh from the Nyar river. Here the last Gurhwal raja, before retreating to Hurdwar, where he was killed, made the last vigorous defence of his country against the invading Goorkhas, who were before Lungour Gurh for some years. Ajmere and Oodehpoor, though in their lower parts very jungly, contain in the heart of the pergunnah some very fine villages, and the country is not unlike the fertile tract near Bheemtal in lower Kumaon. The Oodehpoor hills, covered with saul forests, stretch into the Chandee Dhoon, and are separated from the Dehra Dhoon by only a strip of level ground and the Ganges: the produce is similar to that described in Tulla Sulan, and the inhabitants also derive a profit from cutting and selling the sauls and bamboos which grow on the lower ranges. The munde of Bedasnee is situated in Oodehpoor, and the zumeendars find also a near market for their grain, turmeric, &c., at Hurdwar.\*

18. The revision of settlement in talooka Talooka Chandee. Chandee will form the subject of a separate communication, and its revenue statistics have not been included in the present report. Some of the villages have fallen entirely waste, and the land revenue has in consequence sunk from rupees 809 to rupees 719. As the forest lands at the disposal of Government have now been separated from the area of villages, the former will gradually be partitioned off into *grants*, under the Rules for the redemption of waste, introduced by the Sudder Board of Revenue into Goruckpoor, Suharunpoor and the Dehra Dhoon, and a gradual increase of revenue will take place in this ilaqua. Already offers for tracts under the regulated terms have been made, and in the ensuing cold season, I hope to

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\* The geological formations of Gunga Sulan are the same as in lower Tulla Sulan.

survey the required portions, and give possession to the capitalists, who wish to occupy them. At present the farms of jungle produce, and pasturage dues in Chandee, which, under orders of superior authority, have been re-let for a period of three years, yield a profitable amount of revenue to the State. This ilaqua is the only portion of Gurhwal Bhabur, which stretches much beyond the base of the lowest range into the plains, its extent below Chandee ferry (opposite Hurdwar) being nearly 20 miles. None of the pudhans or cultivators in this tract are puharees. Boksas are the chief agriculturists. Elephants abound in Chandee, and a few are caught in pits every year. The sands of the Ganges here are auriferous, but the amount of revenue derivable from the gold washing is not greater than in the Patlee Dhoon.\*

Conclusion. 19. I may here conclude this Appendix by stating, that Captain Huddleston has favored me with the following results of a late rough census, made under his orders, of the population in British Gurhwal.

*Population return of the District of Gurhwal taken during the year 1840-41.*

Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Brahmins.	Rajpoots.	Khussias.	Low Castes.	Slaves and Haleeas.	Mussulmans.	Total.
43,112	43,815	28,552	17,295	1,32,774	29,422	44,798	34,502	22,328	1,358	366	1,32,774

*Kumaon and Gurhwal }  
Settlement Office,  
15th August, 1842. }*

(Signed)

J. H. BATTEN,

*Settlement Officer.*

\* Sandstone and conglomerate rocks exclusively prevail in Chandee. Traces of lignite coal are frequent in the beds and banks of the small streams. Fossil remains of animals have also been discovered.

