

CHAP. II, G. Tijára is in a very bad state of repair and is now impassable to wheeled traffic, and the road through the Gháta-Shamsabad Pass is also very bad. In Palwal and in the east of Firozpur and Núh the country is more naturally favourable to the construction of unmetalled roads, but in the rainy season even many of these are often impassable as they are constructed at a lower level than the surrounding fields, and are quickly converted into quagmires.

Means of
Communication.

Navigation.

The Agra Canal is navigable, but navigation is not permitted except for Government boats carrying Government timber, fuel, etc. There is no other navigable waterway, as owing to the construction of canals the Jamna does not now contain enough water for navigation.

Ferries.

There are the following 8 ferries which, with the distances between them (following the downward course of the stream), are shown below :—

River.	Station.	Distance in miles measured along the river.
Jamna	Sheikhpur ... ..	...
	Solra	6
	Bholra	2½
	Gurwári	5
	Sultánpur	4
	Bilochpur	3½
	Hasanpur	4
	Mahauli	8

These are the property of Government, but they are made over to the District Board for management on payment of an annual contribution. The lease of the ferries is auctioned annually by the District Board. The income realised in 1908-09 was Rs. 2,266 and the expenditure including contribution to Government was Rs. 2,310.

Postal arrangements.

Table 31 gives a list of the post offices of the district and table 32 shews their working. In 1883 there were only 19 post offices and no telegraph offices. Table 31 compiled in 1904 shews 5 telegraph and 76 post offices, but of the latter Guriáni, Jharli, Kosi, Pataudi and Jataóli are not in this district, and are erroneously shewn in table 31. Since 1904 a number of small offices have been abolished and one new one added (Kund R. S.) and the number at the end of 1908 stood at 59.

Section H.—Famines.

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Famines.

Owing to the precariousness of the rainfalls and the large percentage of the cultivation dependent entirely on rain the district has from time to time suffered severely from the effects of drought; beginning with the well-known *Chálisá*, the effects of which were so terrible in all this part of India. The years of drought still remembered in the district are the following:—

A. D.	Sambat.	
1783-84	1840	Severe famine.
1803-04	1860	Scarcity.
1812-13	1869	Scarcity.
1817-18	1874	Scarcity.
1824-25	1881	Scarcity.
1833-34	1890	Severe famine.
1837-38	1894	Severe famine.
1843-44	1900	Scarcity.
1850-51	1907	Scarcity.
1860-61	1917	Famine.
1868-69	1925	Scarcity.
1877-78 ... ..	.....	Famine.
1883-84 ... ..	.....	Scarcity.
1896-97 ... ..	.....	Scarcity.
1899-1900 .. ..	.....	Famine.
1905-06 ... ..	.....	Scarcity.
1907-08 ... ..	.....	Scarcity.

In the famines of 1833-34 and 1837-38 a number of estates were deserted, partly on account of high assessments and partly from too stringent collection of land revenue. The effects of the famines of 1860-61 and 1868-69 were greatly mitigated by the relief afforded by Government. The first famine for which we have full reports is that of 1868-69. Famine of 1868-69.

Distress was first felt in the month of November, and sanction was at once conveyed for the expenditure of Rs. 5,000 for the relief of the sufferers. Food was given to the infirm, but special works were not set on foot to provide work for able-bodied sufferers until a late period. In January the Commissioner of the district reported that there was very little distress in the district, and subscriptions were invited. Though about 1,000 per week

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Famines.

Famine of
1868-69.

received food, there does not appear to have been any great distress till August 1869, when prices rose to 8 and 9 seers of flour per rupee, the demand for grain for seed being very great, and the export southwards being four times as great as the import. In September the sufferings of the poor were very great, and large numbers of immigrants from Rájputána flocked into the district, nearly half of them so emaciated as to be unable to work. During the two weeks ending the 5th of September, 4,058 infirm paupers were relieved. Shortly afterwards, however, rain fell and all fears of further drought were removed. The crops and grass sprung up luxuriantly, but the rain continuing all through the month, did much injury to the *bájra*, knocking off the blossom, and turning the formed grain black. *Jowár* and *moth* sown mixed with the millet, also rotted; but where they were grown apart, they thrived well, and yielded an ample autumn harvest. Food grain, however, continued at famine rates during the whole month.

The distress was very great, and it was not until October that prices began to decline. During September 8,336 persons were relieved at the different alms-houses in the district, the expenditure being Rs. 1,510. In spite of the fall of prices, the distribution of food had to be continued for some time, many being incapable of earning their own livelihood, and the crowds of refugees from Rájputána taking some time to disperse to their homes. The cold and damp at night were much felt by the half-starved population, who had not stamina sufficient to battle with the weather. Fever, too, the result of insufficient food, cold nights and hot days, committed considerable ravages. The total expenditure in the relief of the destitute amounted to Rs. 11,139. The total number relieved were as follows:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Number of destitute persons relieved	52,571	194,121	67,835	844,527
Number of able-bodied persons employed	7,604	4,584	3,136	15,324

Famine of
1877-78.

The treatment of the people in the famine of 1877-78 compares very unfavourably with the treatment they received in the two preceding famines. Unfortunately for the district the new assessments were introduced with effect from kharif 1877, and as the new demand in spite of the almost total failure of the crops of both harvests was rigidly collected, great distress was caused. The following description of the season and crops is taken from paragraph 3 of Sir James Wilson's Revision Report:—

Kharif,
1877.

"Meteorological phenomena were abnormal throughout the year. Heavy storms were frequent at the end of May and throughout June, 1·4 inches of rain fell on the 8th July, and drought then prevailed until the 10th of

October when 2·4 inches of rain fell. There were heavy showers (3·5 inches) on the 18th and 19th December, and after this nothing appreciable up to the end of the year. The total fall for the year was 18 inches, or about one-half of the average for the last five years. The rain which fell in June was favourable for cotton cultivation, but the subsequent drought destroyed all *bárání* crops, and even on lands irrigated from wells, the plants, though otherwise strong and healthy in appearance, threw out no blossoms and therefore produced no fruit. Except in the Palwal *tahsil* and a few villages of Núh and Fírozpur, to which *rajbahas* of the Agrá Canal extended, the kharif failed entirely. The up-lands and hill villages of course got no crops, and the Dahar lands around *jhils* and along the beds of streams like the Sáhíbí and Landohá were never flooded at all. Crops raised by well-irrigation were partly burnt up by the long continued dry heat, and the yield was very small; and deducting a field here and there which owing to exceptional circumstances bore a crop, four-fifths of the district presented the appearance of a barren desert.

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Famines.
Kharif, 1877.

The rain which fell early in October partially averted the still greater calamity which seemed impending by enabling the people to sow wheat and barley in the lighter soils, but the fall was not sufficient and a very large area was not put under crops until the 19th of December. From this time up to the end of January hopes were entertained of a magnificent rabi, the area sown being much larger than usual, and all the *jhil* lands brought under cultivation. The late crops, however, required rain in February to bring them forward, instead of which hot dry winds prevailed throughout February and March, and rapidly deprived the soil of whatever moisture was left in it. In consequence of this, very little of the grain sown in December produced any fruit, and that sown earlier yielded only small and shrunken grains, reducing the whole outturn to one-third or one-fourth of what had been estimated two months before. This occurred even in the case of crops that looked most promising.

Rabi, 1878.

The drought was dreadfully fatal to the cattle. Some 30,000 plough bullocks or about one-fourth of the total number, and 120,000 cows and young stock are estimated to have died.

The distress from actual scarcity of food was slight and there was no question of any one-dying of starvation. Numbers of wanderers from Rájputána found maintenance in the villages. Some money was spent in the excavation of tanks and similar works at Gurgáon, and gratuitous relief in money, grain and, later, cooked food was given to a small number of people there and by the Municipal Committee at Rewári, the money being obtained by private subscriptions which were augmented by Government. Another relief work was the raising of the road from Gurgáon to Sohna. Between the 2nd February and 1st June 1878, 1,133 persons were on relief works or an average weekly attendance of 142. The numbers of persons who received gratuitous relief in the same period was 10,140 or a weekly average of 1,267. Remissions amounting to Rs. 755 and suspensions amounting to Rs. 122,439 were granted, while advances for purchase of seed and cattle amounting to Rs. 50,000 were also made. With the rains of kharif 1878 all fear of the continuance of famine disappeared. It is difficult to say what

CHAP. II. H. the actual effect of the famine on the population was owing
Famines. to the severe epidemic of fever which accompanied the rains
 Rabi 1878. of 1878.

The effect of both fever and famine combined was that while in 1877 the death rate was only 19 per 1,000 in 1878 and 1879, it rose to 68 and 81 respectively. The serious increase of the death rate in these years was accompanied by an equally serious fall in the birth rate and by abnormal mortality among young children.

Scarcity of
1883-84.

In 1883-84 the Gurgáon district in common with Hissár, Delhi, Karnál and Rohtak required measures of relief. The six preceding harvests, with the exception of rabi 1883 which was average, had all been poor or very poor, and consequently the people were exceptionally impoverished. The kharif crop of 1883 promised well up to the middle of July, but a break in the rains lasting from the middle of that month to the beginning of September caused the greater part of the crop to wither. Good rain in September averted complete failure, but the outturn of grain and fodder was very poor and the harvest only equalled 5 annas. The September rain enabled a considerable area to be sown for the rabi, but as the winter rains failed the unirrigated crop was almost entirely lost and the total rabi crop was only 8 annas. Fortunately grain imports from the rest of the Panjab were active, and prices, notwithstanding the failure of the crops, remained low. Thus barley in March was selling at 26 sers to the rupee. Still the scarcity was seriously felt. The parts most affected were undoubtedly the Hathin *pargana* of the Núh *tahsil*, the Punahána *pargana* of the Firozpur *tahsil*, portions of the Rewári *tahsil*, and some villages near Farukhnagar, but distress prevailed more or less throughout the whole district. No large relief works were undertaken, but 169 tanks in different parts of the district were excavated at a cost of Rs. 21,380, and Rs. 19,626 were spent on irrigation embankments. In addition Rs. 230,309 of land revenue were suspended, and *taccávi* amounting to Rs. 57,855 for wells and Rs. 36,590 for bullocks was distributed. No details of the numbers relieved are available.

Scarcity of
1896-97.

Following 1883-84 was the scarcity of 1896-97. It was very slight and only affected the village menials, who were afforded relief by being employed in digging and clearing tanks in the Rewári, Gurgáon and Núh *tahsils*, and in work on the Kasan, Bahora and Jharsa roads in the Gurgáon *tahsil* and on the Sohna-Firozpur road in the Núh *tahsil*.

The number of tanks cleared was 64, 6 in Gurgáon, 4 in Núh and 54 in Rewári. The highest average daily number of workers was 3,219 and the proportion of dependents to workers 136 per cent. The scarcity lasted for a short period only, *viz.*,

from the 23rd January to the 8th March 1897, and no necessity for opening poor-houses arose. The total expenditure was only Rs. 14,308 (Provincial Rs. 171, District Funds Rs. 12,845, Municipal Rs. 1,292). This shews how slight the distress was. In fact the Landoha stream came down the Ferozpur valley with such force as to breach the Kotla Band, and from the flood water a splendid *rabi* was reaped in the Ferozpur and Nuh Tahsils. The only tahsils which felt the scarcity at all seriously were Rewari and Gurgaon, the latter in its western area only, and the Commissioner was led to remark that "such famine as there was in Gurgaon was confined to one Tahsil and half of a second, and as in Umballa it was a *hamin* famine."

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Scarcity of
1896-97.

The following table shows the number of persons to whom and the funds from which gratuitous relief was given:—

					Rs.	a.	p.
<i>From Indian Charitable Relief Fund</i>					=	2,474	2 3
Number of persons relieved—							
Men				37			
Women				255			
Children				2			
				294			
<i>From local subscriptions</i>					=	3,281	9 8
Number of persons relieved—							
Men				78			
Women				496			
Children				38			
				612			
<i>From District Board Funds (to blind and infirm persons)</i>					=	416	1 9
Number of persons relieved—							
Men				30			
Women				49			
Children				10			
				89			

Advances under the Land Improvements and Agricultural Loans Acts were given by Government as follows:—

	Rs.
For land improvement	3,920
For agricultural loans	12,805

Besides this Rs. 6,000 were given from the Charitable Relief Fund to provide bullocks free for poor agriculturists.

The scarcity of 1896-97 was succeeded by the famine of 1899-1900.

Famine of
1899-1900.

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The crops
and season.

Good showers of rain were received between the middle of June and the end of July, and the early setting in of the monsoon and the favourable prospects led to a nearly normal area being sown with kharif crops. Owing however to the total cessation of the rainfall after the end of July, out of 496,023 acres sown only 218,390 acres or 30 per cent. matured. The unirrigated crop was only 2 annas in Rewári and Nuh and 4 annas in the other three tahsils. As the result of the deficient rainfall of September the area sown with rabi crops only amounted to 208,894 acres against a normal area of about 336,000 acres. Nearly the whole of this was on irrigated land, the area under unirrigated crops amounting to only 29,092 acres. Out of the sown area 164,995 acres matured, nearly all on irrigated land, the matured area of unirrigated crops being 9,282 acres only.

Loss of cattle.

It is not possible to give exact figures of the loss of cattle during the year, as the system of annual enumerations was stopped in 1898-99. The loss was estimated by the District Officer at two-thirds of the total number. At the commencement of the scarcity the zamíndárs did their best to hold on to the more valuable of their cattle, and fodder was purchased from neighbouring tracts and trees were lopped to keep them alive. When however rabi ploughings and sowings had been completed, the scarcity of fodder and the rise in the price of fodder and grain compelled the people to sell their cattle freely. The results of the census of 1898-99 are given in table 22. The figures for horned cattle at the next enumeration in 1903-04 were as follows :—

Bulls and bullocks	...	...	...	...	115,198
Cows	...	...	...	...	100,420
Male buffaloes	...	...	...	...	2,527
Cow	..	...	...	...	70,898
Young stock	...	...	...	...	162,212

The decrease under the first two heads amounts to 22 and 23 per cent. respectively, which shows how serious the loss in 1899-1900 must have been.

Early mea-
sures of relief
taken.

The almost total loss of the kharif crop following previous scanty harvests made it clear at a very early stage of the scarcity that assistance in the shape of relief works would be necessary both for the zamíndárs and the kamíns. On September 15th the first test work was started in the Gurgáon tahsil, and by the end of the month test works were opened in all tahsils, the average daily attendance at the end of the month being 2,854. The rates of pay began at 2 annas for diggers and 1½ annas for carriers with no allowance for dependents and children. These rates were by September 23rd revised as follows :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Diggers	0	1	8
Carriers	0	1	7
Working children	0	1	4

A further alteration was made during the first week of October as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Diggers	0	1	7
Carriers	0	1	2
Working children	0	1	0
Adult dependents	0	0	9

Famines.

Early measures of relief taken,

Owing to the reduction of the rates paid the numbers of workers, immediately fell to 2,286, and the works were closed and remained closed during the last three weeks of October. At the end of that month the following scale of pay was fixed by the Commissioner:—

Diggers	18	chtaks.
Carriers	13	"
Working children	7	"
Adult dependents	10	"
Children	5	"

The tasks prescribed were:—

	Cubic feet.	Wage.
Stone-breaking	{ 5 to 6	18 chtaks.
	{ 3 to 4	13 "
	{ 2½	7 "
Digging in soft earth	{ 90	18 "
	{ 65	13 "
	{ 35	7 "
Digging in hard earth	{ 72	18 "
	{ 52	13 "
	{ 28	7 "

The rates for digging were those prescribed by the Famine Code, but those for stone-breaking were lower than the standard which was considered too severe.

Famines.

Test works were re-opened in November at five places, the average daily number of workers amounting at the end of the second week to 2,131. At the end of the third week this number rose to 2,492 and towards the end of the month to 3,038. During this month the Public Works Department started the construction of the Agra-Delhi Chord Railway with 142 workers. By the 11th December the number of workers on test works had risen to 4,513 and the wage was raised to—

Diggers	20	Chtaks.
Carriers	15	"
Working children	8	"

The numbers rose to 7,762 at the end of December and from January 1st, the work on the Agra-Delhi Chord Railway was changed from test to relief. The highest average attendance during January was 11,355 during the second week.

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Early measures of relief taken.

On February 10th the number of dependents and non-working children was 1,502 while the number of workers was 10,221 classed as follows :—

Outsiders.	Kamins.	Zamindárs and others.
2,231	4,638	3,352

From that date all works not under the supervision of the Public Works Department were placed under that department and the District Engineer was transferred to the Public Works Department as Sub-Divisional Officer. By March 3rd the number on the works had risen to 11,118, but thereafter it began to decline as harvest work became available, and by April 7th it had fallen to 7,516. As by this date the failure of the spring crop had become a certainty famine was officially declared. Previous to this on March 5th the wage had again been lowered to the scale imposed at the end of October, the enhanced rates having been granted only as a concession during the cold season. In the first week of May the number of workers had risen to 11,823, and in the first week of June it was 11,941. Owing to the late establishment of the monsoon these numbers were maintained up to the middle of July, but thereafter they rapidly declined, and by the end of August had fallen to 5,572. By this time a good harvest was almost assured and in the middle of September only 1,386 persons were on the works, which were finally closed on the 22nd September 1900.

List of works undertaken.

The following is a list of the works undertaken during the year with the dates on which they were opened and closed :—

	Date of commencement.	Date of completion or closing.
<i>District Board.</i>		
1. Raising and improving the Sohna-Gurgaon road.	15th September 1899	21st September 1899.
2. Improving the Gurgaon-Basant road ...	22nd September 1899	9th December 1899.
3. " " Rewári-Jhajjar road ...	18th September 1899	7th October 1899.
4. " " Sohna-Nuh road ...	20th September 1899	7th October 1899.
5. " " Bhádas-Firozpur road ...	27th September 1899	10th October 1899.
6. " " Nuh-Palwal road ...	21st September 1899	4th October 1899.
7. " " Táoru-Jatáuli road ...	6th November 1899	13th December 1899.
8. Breaking stone metal at Sikandarpur ...	1st November 1899	10th February 1900.
9. Raising " of the Delhi-Katab road ...	10th December 1899	6th January 1900.
10. Raising and improving the Gháta Band ...	21st December 1899	Transferred to Public Works Department on 10th February 1900.

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List of works undertaken.

	Date of commencement.	Date of completion or closing.
<i>Rewári Municipality.</i>		
1. Improving the Solarai road, Rewári ...	17th July 1899 ...	30th July 1899.
2. " " Circular " " ...	2nd October 1899 ..	15th December 1899.
3. " " Rewári-Jhajjar road ...	3rd November 1899	25th November 1899.
4. " " Rewári-Bháráwás road ...	17th September 1899	30th September 1899.
5. Filling up Báori at Rewári ...	12th December 1899	31st January 1900.
<i>Public Works Department.</i>		
1. Raising and improving the Gháta Band ...	10th February 1900	24th June 1900.
2. Constructing the Rewári-Phulera Railway	22nd December 1899	11th August 1900.
3. Raising and improving the Raisina Band ...	20th February 1900	28th August 1900.
4. Excavating the Játusána Tank ...	29th March 1900 ...	31st August 1900.
5. Constructing the Alipur-Ghamrauj Band ...	4th July 1900 ...	31st August 1900.
6. Remodelling the Khol Band ...	22nd July 1900 ...	22nd September 1900.
7. Constructing the Agra-Delhi Chord Railway	6th November 1899	31st August 1900.

The following table shows the percentage of dependents to workers at the different camps :—

Relief of dependents.

Gháta Band ...	11.32
Raisina Band ...	10.07
Rewári-Phulera Railway ...	20.6?
Játusána Tank ...	39.07
Ghamrauj Band ...	8.48
Khol Band ...	57.10

At the commencement of the famine it was noticed that some of the children were badly nourished and emaciated. As it was feared that their parents were not supplying them with sufficient food, kitchens were opened and dependents and children were fed directly by the camp officials. The following scale was adopted for these kitchens :—

	Raw.		Cooked.	
	Atá.	Dál.	Atá.	Dál.
	Ch.	Ch.	Ch.	Ch.
Children under 7 years ...	4	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Do. from 8—12 years ...	6	$\frac{1}{4}$	9	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Adults ...	9	1	$13\frac{1}{2}$	5

Emaciated and debilitated children received a special diet of milk, arrowroot, sago, etc.

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Famines.

Gratuitous relief.

Gratuitous relief was started from the week ending 13th January 1900, and lists of persons entitled under the Famine Code to receive such relief were made out. The greatest number of persons thus relieved was 7,835 in the week ending 25th August 1900. Relief ceased on the 31st October 1900, having lasted for 41 weeks during which the average number relieved daily was 1,614. The total expenditure was Rs. 27,236-4-11, and the total number relieved was 65,539, making an average of Rs. 0-6-7 per head. One hundred and fourteen deaths occurred amongst the recipients of relief, but none were due to starvation.

Charitable relief.

Money was expended from the Famine Relief Fund, Punjab, and from private subscriptions on the following objects:—

1. Provision of food or clothing to the weak.
2. Maintenance of orphans.
3. Relief of the respectable poor.
4. Restoration of the destitute.

The rate of relief was fixed at Rs. 3 per head per mensem. Rupees. 2,212-14-0 was subscribed locally, out of which Rs. 1,185-9-0 was spent.

The sums expended from the Charitable Relief Fund, Punjab, were as follows:—

	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.	
		Rs.	s. p.
Food and clothing to the weak	768	1,443	8 9
Maintenance of orphans	21	48	0 0
Relief of the respectable poor	74	134	9 3
Total	863	1,626	2 0

Poor-houses.

Two poor-houses, one at Gurgáon and the other at Rewári, were opened in the middle of January 1900.

In the Gurgáon poor-house the number of admissions from 13th January to 29th September 1900, when the poor-house closed, totalled 2,025, the highest number of inmates on any one day being 415. 53,192 meals were issued at a cost of Rs. 4,384-10-0. In addition 97 maunds of flour were distributed to travellers not admitted to the poor-house, and when it was closed, a month's maintenance was given to all inmates. The total expenditure by Government was Rs. 8,769-6-1. In addition subscriptions were received from the Charitable Relief Fund and from the public, out of which 757 persons were given warm clothing. The Rewári poor-house was opened on January 15th and closed on September 29th, 1900, during which period the total admissions were 1,461.

Section H.—Famines.

Owing to the precariousness of the rainfalls and the large percentage of the cultivation dependent entirely on rain the district has from time to time suffered severely from the effects of drought; beginning with the well-known *Chálisá*, the effects of which were so terrible in all this part of India. The years of drought still remembered in the district are the following:—

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Famine of
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Distress was first felt in the month of November, and sanction was at once conveyed for the expenditure of Rs. 5,000 for the relief of the sufferers. Food was given to the infirm, but special works were not set on foot to provide work for able-bodied sufferers until a late period. In January the Commissioner of the district reported that there was very little distress in the district, and subscriptions were invited. Though about 1,000 per week

The district received a grant of the Rs. 75,000 from the Charitable Relief Fund for the aid of the agricultural community. Of this sum Rs. 5,000 was for the purchase of fodder and Rs. 70,000 for hire and purchase of bullocks and purchase of seed. As Government had already advanced Rs. 9,000 for purchase of fodder the Rs. 5,000 received from the Punjab Charitable Relief Fund was credited to Government, and the most needy of the borrowers were exempted from repayment up to this amount.

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Famines.

Advances
to cultivators.

The total expenditure on the famine was as follows:—

Expenditure.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Provincial Funds	2,90,852	0	0
District	71,572	11	4
Municipal	18,633	13	8
Total	3,81,058	9	0

The incidence per head of persons relieved was Rs. 39-0-11.

There were no deaths from starvation, and there was no abnormal mortality until 1900, when the lowered vitality of the people rendered them an easy prey to disease, and cholera, small-pox, diarrhoea and dysentery broke out.

Mortality.

In 1905 the rains almost completely failed, and as distress was reported in the Rewári tahsil the improving of the Rewári-Jhajjar road was started as an ordinary District Board work paying daily labour with the object of ascertaining whether a test work was needed. The opening of the work was fully advertised, but only a few chamáris from the neighbouring villages came forward and it was closed after having been kept open for a fortnight. The absence of labourers was partly due to the liberal distribution of *tuccávi* advances, and partly to the fact that work giving employment to about 550 persons was opened at Rewári station by the Rájputána-Malwa Railway.

Scarcity of
1905-06.

In 1907 the rains began a month late and ended three weeks early with the result that the unirrigated crops were everywhere an almost total failure as regards grain, though they yielded more fodder than in 1905. Rupees 4,71,218 or about 80 per cent. of the Kharif instalment were suspended, Rs. 2,26,468 were advanced in *tuccávi*, and preparations were made for opening test works.

Scarcity of
1907-08.

Palwal is protected by canal irrigation, in Nuh and Firozpur the Nuh-Firozpur road was being raised as a preliminary to being metalled, and so the only tahsils where preparations were necessary were Rewári and Gurgaon. In December preparations were made to open two test works, one at Ghamrauj in the Gurgaon tahsil and another at Nanda in the Rewári tahsil. The latter, however, was not required and was never opened. The

CHAP. II. H. Ghamrauj work consisting of remodelling and improving the
Famines. Ghamrauj *band* was opened on the 15th January and closed on
 the 20th July 1908. The number of workers never exceeded
 Scarcity of 2,000, and so famine was never declared. The total number of
 1907-08. units relieved was 2,13,893.

A poor-house was started at the Gurgaon Civil Station where
 the number of units relieved was 3,174.

Gratuitous relief was also given through the Police Depart-
 ment to 377 units.

Expendi-
 ture.

The total expenditure on relief was as follows :—

				Rs.	a.	p.
Ghamrauj test work	...	...	...	52,692	3	10
Nanda test work	...	...	...	7,016	11	11
Poor-house	...	...	...	4,199	1	6
Gratuitous relief	...	...	...	86	1	3
Total	...	...	...	63,994	2	6

Effects of
 the scarcity.

As has happened so frequently the scarcity of 1907-08 was
 followed by abundant rainfall in 1908. The effect of this on
 the reduced vitality of the people is described in Chapter I.