

CHAPTER V.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE.

Section A.—General and Military.

The Ambála district is under the control of the Commissioner of the Delhi division. The ordinary head-quarters staff of the district consists of a Deputy Commissioner, a District Judge, one European Extra Assistant Commissioner and two native Extra Assistant Commissioners. An Assistant Commissioner is posted in charge of the subdivision of Rúpar. Each tahsíl is in charge of a Tahsildár assisted by a Náib.

Chapter V. A.

General and Military.

Executive and Judicial.

TAHSIL.	Kánungos and Náibs.	Patwáris and Assistants.
Ambála	4	72
Jagádhrí	4	67
Kharar	4	78
Rúpar	4	71
Naráingarh	4	64
Pípli	4	75
Total	24	427

The village Revenue staff is shown in the margin. There are four Munsiffs in the district, stationed at Ambála, Jagádhrí and Rúpar, with jurisdiction as follows:—

Munsiff, Ambála. } Pargannás Ambála, Mullána, Naráin-
Additional Munsiff, } garh, Kotáha, Thánesar and Shaha-
Ambála. } bad.

Munsiff Jagádhrí.—Jagádhrí, Mustafabad, Kbizrabad, Sadhaura and Ládwa.

Munsiff, Rúpar.—Rúpar, Morinda, Kharar and Mubárikpur.

The executive staff of the district is supplemented by a Criminal Police and Cantonment Magistrate, stationed at the Ambála cantonment, Jails, situated at a distance of four miles from the civil lines of Ambála. There are also nine Honorary Magistrates in the district exercising magisterial powers within the limits of their jágirs. The Honorary Magistrates of Shahzádpur and Bhareli exercise powers in some of the Government villages in addition to their jágir villages.

Ambála is also the head-quarters of the Ambála judicial division. The Divisional and Sessions Judge holds his Court in the Ambála cantonments.

Chapter V. A.

General and
Military.Criminal, Police
and Jails.

The police force is controlled by a District Superintendent and two Assistants. The strength of the police force as given

CLASS OF POLICE.	Total strength.	DISTRIBUTION.	
		Standing guards.	Protective and detective.
District (Imperial) ...	689	121	568
Cantonment ...	144	14	130
Municipal ...	88	...	88
Ferry police ...	9	...	9
Total ...	930	135	795

in the Police Report for 1892 is shown in the margin. In addition to this force, 2,242 village watchmen are entertained and paid by a cess upon the revenue of the villages. The

thánas or principal police jurisdictions and the chaukís or police outposts are distributed as follows:—

Tahsíl Ambála.—Thánas Ambála city and Mullána.

Tahsíl Kharar.—Thánas Kharar, Chandigarh, Mubárikpur and outpost of Manimájra.

Tahsíl Rúpar.—Thánas Rúpar and Morinda.

Tahsíl Naráingarh.—Thánas Naráingarh, Sadhaura and Ghari and second class outposts of Morni and Patwi.

Tahsíl Jagádhri.—Thánas Jagádhri, Biláspur and Chhappar.

Tahsíl Pípli.—Thánas Pípli, Shahabad, Thánesar, Radaur, Sanghaur, and Ládwa, and Biluch guard at Ismailabad.

There is a cattle pound at each thána and also at the outpost Patwi.

The Ambála district lies within the eastern police circle of the Province, with head-quarters at Lahore. Table No. II. shows some reduction in the police staff in recent years. This is due to the abolition of the Rúpar Central Gaol in 1882, on completion of the Sirhind Canal where the prisoners were employed on convict labour; to the reduction of some of the chaukís on the Grand Trunk Road, when the Delhi-Kálka Railway was opened in 1891; and to the transfer from Ambála to Karnál of the Pehowa thána in 1889.

The Biluch tribe is the only registered criminal tribe under the Criminal Tribes

Tribe.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Biluchís	287	...	...	287

Act in the district, and their number on the register on the 31st December 1892 is shown in the margin. During the year 17

were convicted of the following offences :—Absence without leave 16, other offences 1. They do not commit much crime in this district, but go to other districts, utilising the railway greatly in their expeditions. The crimes they are chiefly addicted to are burglary, dakaiti, and serious non-bailable offences. There are 624 male and 592 female Sânsîs in the district. They are not registered, and are not accountable for much of the crime in the district. Cattle stealing is common throughout the Pîpli tahsîl, among the Râjpût villages of the Mullâna parganna in Ambâla, and among Râjpût and Gujar villages in Narâingarh, especially Parganna Kotaha. Some of the Jât villages of Rûpar and Kharar have a bad name for crimes of violence generally originating in disputes about land, and Sadhaura in Narâingarh is a well-known centre for professional forgers.

The people of the district are not addicted to much serious crime on the whole, but from a police point of view Ambâla is a heavy district, from its large size and irregular formation; from the large number of separate police thânas, many of them not readily accessible at all seasons of the year; and from the way in which it is surrounded on all sides and intersected with Native States. Cattle stealing in the south of the district can hardly be kept within reasonable bounds without free use of the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. The people are apt to look on it in the light of a gentlemanly employment more than a crime, and even a village headman gains rather than loses influence by conniving at theft, if indeed he does not actually participate. It is very common for these cases to be settled summarily by the people themselves. The owner of the cattle makes enquiries, finds out where they have gone, and enters into terms with the thief paying a sum of money as ransom (*bunga*) for the return of his property. The police then hear little or nothing about the case unless one or other of the parties fails to act up to his engagement. If both parties keep their word honorably the incident ends without leaving bad blood. The matter is treated as a game and the loser consoles himself with the hope that he will some day have a chance of retaliating.

The District Gaol at head-quarters contains accommodation for 797 prisoners. This gaol relieves the smaller gaols in the southern portion of the Province when they are getting overcrowded or from other causes. This is one of the prisons of the Province in which prisoners for transportation to the Andamans collect. A new central gaol for Ambâla is under contemplation and work has been started, but progress is for the present suspended pending final orders sanctioning the Ambâla city water-supply scheme. The present gaol water-supply from a large well on the bank of a branch of the Tangri naddi is far from good, owing to risk of contamination by drainage from Ambâla cantonments.

The revenue collections of the district for the last ten years are shown in Table No. XXVIII, while Tables Nos. XXIX, XXXV, and XXXIII, give further details for Land

Chapter V. A.

General and
Military.Criminal, Police
and Jails.Revenue, taxation
and registration.

Chapter V. A.

General and
Military.Revenue, taxation
and registration.Excise.³

Revenue, Excise, Income Tax, and Stamps respectively. Table No. XXXIIIA shows the number and situation of registration offices. In all cases the comparison of statistics for a series of years is affected by the transfer to Karnál in 1889 of 89 villages with a total area of 137, 154 acres, a cultivated area of 45,500 acres, a population of 34,519, and a land revenue of Rs. 34,370.

Central distilleries for the manufacture of country liquor were formerly situated at Ambála, Jagádhri, Kharar, Rúpar and Pípli. In the last five years they have been abolished every where except at Ambála city. Owing to the difficulty in putting down smuggling from the Saháranpur district (where a much lower rate of still-head duty is imposed), or from liquor shops established in Native States just across the district border, and in suppressing illicit distillation within the district, godowns were opened at Jagádhri, Kharar and Rúpar in 1891. These depôts are supplied from the Ambála Central Distillery. They are worked by a wholesale vendor under an arrangement by which the liquor shall be sold, subject to a moderate maximum price per gallon of proof spirit. There is some difference of opinion whether the reduction of distilleries has been beneficial or not. The tendency is for cheap adulterated European spirits to compete unfairly with the country liquor, which is probably the less injurious of the two. Poppy cultivation is still carried on extensively in the district, subject to an excise tax of Rs. 2 an acre in addition to land revenue and cesses. The Deputy Commissioner writes that though the acreage under poppy has not fallen off so far, yet the crop is becoming less popular partly from the stringency of the regulations under which it is cultivated and partly from the difficulty of selling the opium at a profitable rate. *Bhang* grows wild in many parts of the district, particularly in the Jagádhri tahsil. *Charas* is imported from Hoshiárpur and Amritsar. Siswán in the low hills of Kharar has now for some years ceased to be used as a trade route by dealers in *charas* from Yárkand. The trade was at one time considerable, but was finally killed by the seizure at Siswán of a large store of *charas* which was being imported illicitly into the district.

District and Local
Boards.

Table No. XXXVI. gives the income and expenditure for the last five years from district funds, which are controlled by a Committee consisting of 124 members, of whom 81 are elected, 32 nominated and 11 *ex-officio*. The *ex-officio* members consist of the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners at the sadr station, the Tahsildárs of the district, Civil Surgeon, District Inspector of Schools, and Executive Engineer together with the Deputy Commissioner of the district as president. Table No. XLV. gives statistics for municipal taxation, while the municipalities themselves are noticed in Chapter VI.

The income from provincial properties for the last five years is shown below. The ferries, bungalows and encamping-

grounds have already been noticed at pages 94 and 95, and the cattle-pounds at page 98. Figures for other Government estates are given in Table No. XVII :—

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General and
Military.

District and Local
Boards.

INCOME FROM PROVINCIAL PROPERTIES FOR THE LAST
FIVE YEARS.

Source of income.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ferries with boat-bridges	7,306	...	...	...	...
Do. without boat-bridges					
Staging bungalows, &c.	786	950	1,035	1,236	978
Encamping-grounds, &c.	1,291	1,291	1,041	872	1,355
Cattle-pounds	990	791	1,148	1,129	1,114
Nazúl properties ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Total	10,373	3,032	3,224	3,237	3,447

The income from ferries was transferred to the District Board with effect from 1888-89. The amount realized by ferries in 1891-92 was as follows :—

		Rs.
Sutlej ...	{ Rúpar-Miáni ...	1,260
	{ Malána-Chahilán ...	265
	{ Awámkot-Serai ...	1,410
Jamna ...	{ Rájghát ...	1,200
	{ Gumthala ...	240
	{ Dika-Paubari ...	760
Total		5,135.

Table No. XXIX. gives figures for the principal items and the totals of land revenue collections. Table No. XXXI. gives details of balances, remissions and agricultural advances for the last ten years; Table No. XXX. shows the amount of

Statistics of land
revenue.

Chapter V. A.**General and
Military.**Statistics of land
revenue.

assigned land revenue ; while Table No. XIV. gives the areas upon which the present land revenue of the district is assessed. The incidence of the fixed demand per acre cultivated, as it stood in 1891-92, is Re. 1-6-10. The incidence on the culturable area is slightly lower, but the returns do not show culturable areas correctly. There is really little culturable waste land anywhere in the district except in the Pipli tahsíl. The incidence of the revenue on the total area is Re. 0-14-4. The statistics given in the following tables throw some light upon the working of the settlement:—Table No. XXXI.—Balances, remissions and *takávi* advances. Table No. XXXII.—Sales and mortgages of land. Tables Nos. XXXIII and XXXIIIA.—Registration. The instalments of revenue and the cesses are noticed at page 106.

Government lands,
forests, &c.

Table No. XVII. shows the area and income of Government estates ; while Table No. XIX. shows the area of land acquired by Government for public purposes. The forests have already been noticed in Chapter IV.

Assignments of
land revenue.

Table No. XXX. shows the number of villages, parts of villages, and plots, and the area of land of which the revenue is assigned, the amount of that revenue, the period of assignment, and the number of assignees for each tahsíl as the figures stood in 1891-92. The principal assignees have already been noticed in Chapter III, Section E, and details of the *jágir* assignments are given in the Appendix.

Education.

Table No. XXXVII. gives figures for the Government and aided, high, middle and primary schools of the district. The old high school is the Mission School at Ambála city. A new high school has been opened by Government at Jagádhri since July 1891. English is taught in the Municipal Board Schools at Ambála, Rupar and Jagádhri, and in the aided Mission Schools at Ambála city and cantonments. In addition there are 11 vernacular middle schools, six of them District Board Schools at Mullána, Biláspur, Naráingarh, Kharar, Mani Májra and Morinda, and the remaining five Municipal Board Schools at Sadhaura, Shahabad, Thánesar, Ládwa and Buria. There are 89 primary schools and seven girls' schools. The latter are situated at Mullána, Chudiála, Magarpura, Raipur (in Naráingarh), Kharar, Bhareli and Rúpar. The district lies within the Delhi circle, which forms the charge of the Inspector of Schools at Delhi. Table No. XIII. gives statistics of education collected at the census of 1891. The general system of indigenous schools has been described at pages 44 to 46. Some of these indigenous schools are now aided by District Funds.

Education of Gov-
ernment wards.

From 1866 to 1887 a special school was kept up at Ambála under the superintendence of an English Head Master for the sons of Sardárs of the district, especially those who were Wards of Court, and for the sons of such other native gentlemen of good social position as wished to enter the institution. Since the opening of the Aitchison College at Lahore, the Wards' School at Ambála has been given up. There are always a number of

Government wards in the district, owing to the large number of Sardár families described in Chapter III, Section E, and whenever the funds at disposal of the Deputy Commissioner as *ex-officio* guardian of the wards admit of it the boys are now entered at the Aitchison College, where they are given a good education under the close supervision of English officers. A general manager has been appointed to assist the Deputy Commissioner in carrying out the multifarious business connected with the wards' estates within Ambála. The present holder of the post, Rái Bahádur Dharm Naráin, is a pensioned Tahsildár who has been closely connected with the district for upwards of forty years. He is an Honorary Magistrate for the whole district and an invaluable assistant in all matters connected with the wards. Some of the larger estates have paid managers under his immediate supervision.

Chapter V. A.

General and Military.

Education of Government wards.

Table No. XXXVIII gives separate figures for the last five years for each of the dispensaries of the district, of which there are six, as follows :—

1. Ambála city	...	Civil Hospital in medical charge of an Assistant Surgeon.
2. Rúpar dispensary	...	Ditto.
3. Jagádhri dispensary	...	Ditto.
4. Thánesar dispensary	...	In medical charge of a Hospital Assistant.
5. Sadhaura dispensary	...	Ditto.
6. Kharar dispensary	...	Ditto.

All are under the control of the Civil Surgeon.

There is also a Leper Asylum at the head-quarters of the district under the superintendence of the American Missionary stationed here. The average number of yearly in-patients is 45 but the hospital now accommodates over 50 patients. The asylum was founded in 1856; the money for the buildings and for the support of the inmates being contributed mostly by officers in cantonments. It is situated north-east of the city and north of the Grand Trunk Road. The objects of the institution are to provide comfortable homes for lepers who have no other means of support than begging, and to prevent lepers from begging by the roadside and in the bazaar. It is not expected that their disease of leprosy will be entirely cured, but they are made more comfortable while they live by having good medical treatment for such diseases as can be cured, as fever, dysentery, &c., and by having good nourishing food regularly supplied, and suitable clothing. Early in 1892 a new men's ward was added to the asylum, containing a dispensary room and five other rooms accommodating ten lepers. During the last four years the asylum has been under the immediate care of a lady doctor connected with the American Presbyterian Mission, the Civil Surgeon giving assistance as required. Medicines were formerly supplied by the City Charitable Dispensary. They are now supplied by the Presbyterian Woman's Hospital which is

Ambála leper asylum.

Chapter V. A.

General and
Military.Ambála leper asy-
lum.

Year.	Expenditure.	Patients.
	Rs.	
1888 ...	1,708	35
1889 ...	1,891	34
1890 ...	2,296	52
1891 ...	1,752	50
1892 ...	3,904	56

also under Miss J. R. Carleton, M. D. The figures in the marginal statement show the expenditure and number of patients for the past five years. The 1892 expenditure includes Rs. 1,959 expended on the new barrack and a well with fittings. Of this sum Rs. 1,321 were subscribed at a meeting on the occasion of the death of Prince Albert Victor, and the balance by the Superintendent of the Mission to lepers in India. The institution is deserving of the most cordial support from the general public.

New hospitals.

A large hospital has been recently built for the City Charitable Dispensary, and will shortly be opened. The building has cost about Rs. 41,000, of which nearly half has been contributed by the District Board, Rs. 9,600 by the Municipality of Ambála, and the balance met from funds at the credit of the hospital. The building is a very fine one. A new dispensary is also being built at Rúpar.

Medical aid for
women.

An interesting movement has been recently set on foot in Ambála for the supply of competent female medical attendance in midwifery cases for both rich and poor women. Subscriptions have been received and a proposal to start a "sadda-varth" subscription not for money, but for flour, *ghi*, &c., has been warmly taken up. The house to house contributions in flour, *ghi*, &c., are sold and the scheme contemplates that the proceeds should be devoted to the purchase of food and medical comforts for indigent women before and after child-birth. The movement is spreading satisfactorily so far, and competent female attendants are being brought to Ambála from Amritsar and Dehli, while scholarships are being given to local *dhais* who attend lectures and midwifery classes.

Ecclesiastical.

There is a large church in the Ambála cantonment capable of seating more than 1,000 persons, which is reputed the finest in the Punjab with the exception of the Cathedral at Lahore. In the Sadr Bazaar there is a small church, frequented principally by Eurasians, and a church and school belonging to the American Presbyterian Mission. There is also a small church in the civil station belonging to the same Mission. In addition to the above, there are in the cantonment a Roman Catholic and a Presbyterian Chapel. There is a resident Chaplain at Ambála, and usually an Assistant Chaplain during the winter months; and there is a resident Roman Catholic Priest and a Presbyterian Minister.

Troops and can-
tonments.

The ordinary garrison of Ambála consists of two Batteries R.H.A., one British Cavalry Regiment, one Battalion of a British Infantry Regiment, one Native Cavalry and one Native Infantry

Regiment. The strength of the

Station.	Officers.	Non-commissioned officers and men.
2 Batteries R.H.A.	10	314
1 British Cavalry Regiment.	28	602
1 British Infantry Regiment.	28	984
1 Native Cavalry Regiment.	10	625
1 Native Infantry Regiment.	9	912
Staff of District and Station, A.M. Department, Commissariat Military Works Department, &c., &c.	17	...
Total ...	102	3,437

garrison as it stood in 1892 is shown in the margin. In the hot season, however, it is customary to send up half the British Infantry Battalion to Solon, both on account of its better climate and lower temperature, and because the Infantry barracks at Ambála are not constructed for a complete regiment. For about four months in the cold season the troops from the hill stations in the Division, two complete Battalions, and two Mountain Batteries, in addition to the half Battalion from Solon, are usually brought down and encamped at Ambála for manœuvres. The Native Infantry Regiment quartered

Chapter V. A. General and Military.

Troops and cantonment.

at Ambála is always one of the Pioneer Regiments of the Bengal Army. Ambála Cantonment is the head-quarter station of the Sirhind district.

Ambála is also the head-quarters of a Transport Dépôt. The dépôt keeps up 7 elephants, 250 hired camels, 628 pack mules, 102 draught mules, 234 gun mules, 60 army transport bullocks, and 400 siege train bullocks, including 200 placed at the Saháranpur Remount Dépôt. The elephants, camels, bullocks, 250 of the pack mules and 26 of the draught mules are attached to the dépôt. The remaining animals are distributed among the regiments quartered in the station. For the rest any additional transport that might be required at any time for military purposes would have to be obtained through the interposition of the civil authorities. The Ambála cantonment is quite open on all sides, and is not provided with any fort or other means of defence. The water-supply is brought in by an aqueduct from some wells about seven miles north-east of cantonments.

Transport dépôt.

The head office of the North-Western Railway is at Lahore, with a District Traffic Manager's Office at Saháranpur. The Delhi-Kálka Railway is worked as part of the East Indian Railway system with a district office at Ambála. The portion of the Western Jamna Canal running within the district is under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Karnál Division, stationed at Dádupur (Ambála *viâ* Jagádhri). The Sirhind Canal within the district is worked by the Executive Engineer at Ludhiána, with an Assistant at Rúpar. Both canals are supervised by the Superintending Engineer at Ambála. The Grand Trunk Road within the district is under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, at Ambála cantonments, who has

Head-quarters of other departments.

Chapter V, A.

General and
Military.Head-quarters of
other departments.

charge of all public civil buildings in the district, and is subordinate to the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, Punjab, also stationed at Ambála. The military buildings and cantonment water-supply works are under the charge of the Executive Engineer, Military Works, at Ambála, subordinate to the Superintending Engineer, Military Works, at Lahore. The Telegraph lines or offices of the district are controlled by the Assistant Superintendent, Telegraphs, at Ambála, and the Post Offices by the Superintendent of Mails at Kálka. Ambála cantonment is also the head-quarters of the Chief Superintendent of Telegraphs for the Punjab.

Revenue instal-
ments and cesses.

The following table gives details of the instalments of land revenue and of the cesses, with the date and amount of each. The cesses are uniform throughout the district except that the village officers cess includes a charge for patwáris at Rs. 5-6-8 per cent. in Tahsíl Pípli and Rs. 4-11-0 per cent. in the rest of the district. The amount shown as land revenue is exclusive of assigned revenue, and of jagir commutation tax received by Government, while the latter item is included in the figures given in Table No. XXVIII. The cesses are calculated on the total land revenue inclusive of assignments :—

TAHSIL.	LAND REVENUE.				
	1st Instalment.		2nd Instalment.		Total.
	1st Decem-ber.	1st February.	15th June.	15th July.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ambála	35,350	35,350	35,339	35,340	1,41,379
Kharar	33,976	33,976	31,903	31,409	1,31,750
Rúpar	40,714	40,714	30,409	30,410	1,42,247
Naráingarh	26,356	26,357	24,970	24,970	1,02,653
Jagádhrí	30,714	30,714	30,591	30,592	1,22,611
Pípli	39,028	39,028	39,203	39,203	1,56,462
Total	2,06,138	2,06,139	1,92,415	1,92,419	7,97,111

TAHSIL.	LOCAL RATE AT RS. 10-6-8 PER CENT.					VILLAGE OFFICERS' CESS.									
	1ST INSTALMENT.		2ND INSTALMENT.		Total.	PATWARI CESS.		{ AT RS. 5-6-8 PER CENT. IN-PIPLI. AT RS. 4-11-0 PER CENT. IN OTHER TAHSILS.				LAMBARDAR CESS AT Rs. 5 PER CENT.			
						1st Instalment.		2nd Instalment.		Total.		1st Instalment.		2nd Instalment.		Total.
	1st. Decem-ber.	1st February.	15th June.	15th July.		1st Decem-ber.	1st February.	15th June.	15th July.			1st Decem-ber.	1st February.	15th June.	15th July.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ambála ...	6,122	6,123	6,054	6,054	24,353	2,775	2,775	2,706	2,707	10,963	2,959	2,960	2,886	2,886	11,691
Kharar ...	6,844	6,844	6,529	6,530	26,747	3,108	3,109	2,909	2,909	12,035	3,316	3,316	3,103	3,104	12,839
Rúpar ...	6,828	6,829	4,980	4,981	23,618	3,084	3,085	2,226	2,227	10,622	3,293	3,293	2,376	2,377	11,339
Narángarh	5,105	5,106	4,841	4,841	19,893	2,314	2,315	2,159	2,160	8,948	2,487	2,487	2,288	2,289	9,551
Jagádhrí	6,275	6,275	6,170	6,171	24,891	2,844	2,844	2,753	2,753	11,195	3,038	3,039	2,933	2,933	11,943
Pípli ...	6,204	6,205	6,227	6,228	24,864	3,254	3,254	3,213	3,214	12,935	2,973	2,973	2,935	2,936	11,817
Total ...	37,378	37,382	34,801	34,805	1,44,366	17,379	17,382	15,966	15,970	66,698	18,066	18,068	16,521	16,525	69,180

SECTION B.—LAND REVENUE SETTLEMENTS.

Chapter V, B.

Land Revenue Settlement.

Sikh revenue system.

In the days of the empire, the Ambála district formed part of the "*sibah*" of Sirhind. The revenue was then regularly assessed, but the statistics of the settlement are not procurable. Part were lost in the period of anarchy that preceded the consolidation of the Sikh power, and the rest were made away with by the jealousy of the Patiala Chief, who did not wish them to fall into the hands of the British Government. Among the Sikhs there was no such thing as an assessment. The almost universal system was to collect the revenue in kind from the person actually in possession. Two-fifths of the gross produce was the ordinary proportion which they took in the Cis-Sutlej States. But where the soil was very poor, or in special cases, where, for instance, the occupants were Sikhs, this rate was lowered to one-third or even one-fourth. In Jullundur the proportion was as high as one-half, but it did not usually exceed two-fifths in the Ambála district.

Regular settlement, Ambála.

Summary settlements of the land revenue were effected at various times for such parts of the district as lapsed prior to 1846; in the next year, 1847, the preliminary operations of a regular settlement were set on foot, under Mr. Wynyard, in the southern tahsils of the district as then constituted. At first the proceedings of the Settlement Officer were much embarrassed by the doubtful nature of his instructions as to the assessment of the large tracts still in the hands of Sikh Chiefs, but this difficulty was removed by the further changes introduced in 1849. In 1853 the regular settlement operations were extended, under Mr. Melvill, to the northern tahsils, and the settlement of the whole district, as then constituted, was completed and sanctioned in 1855. Mr. Melvill's settlement operations covered the whole of Tahsils Rúpar and Kharar and Parganna Kotaba of Tahsíl Naráingarh; the jágir villages left unsettled by Mr. Wynyard in Tahsils Ambála, Jagádhri and Naráingarh; and a revision of settlement in parts of these three tahsils where Mr. Wynyard's assessments had been found too high. The only portion of the district as it then stood, that is exclusive of Tahsíl Pípli, which was not settled by Mr. Wynyard or Mr. Melvill was the Sulhar tract of 52 villages in the south-west corner of the Ambála tahsíl, which had passed to Government in 1843 on the lapse of the Kaithal State. These Sulhar villages had been dealt with by summary settlements in 1843 and 1846 and a regular settlement in 1847. The latter was much too high an assessment, and in 1853 it was revised by Mr. Bowring, the Deputy Commissioner, who remitted large balances and reduced the total by 33 per cent.

Regular settlement, Thánesar.

The Pípli tahsíl was as that time included in the Thánesar district, and was not attached to Ambála till 1862. In the Thánesar district, summary settlements were effected in each portion, as it came under British rule. The first regular settlements were made separately, in two Divisions, at distinct

periods, and by different officers. The western, or Kaithal, portion (now in the Karnál district) was, for a short time after 1846, treated as a separate district, and was first brought under regular settlement in 1846 by Captain Abbott, whose proceedings began and ended within the year. This assessment, however, was never reported for sanction, doubts existing from the first as to its fairness. The portion of the district comprising the estates of Thánesar and Ládwa was first assessed by Mr. Wynyard. Here too doubts were soon raised as to the equity of the assessment, and in 1853 (Kaithal being by this time incorporated into the Thánesar district), a revision of assessment in the whole Thánesar district was entrusted to Captain Larkins, then Deputy Commissioner. His assessment was completed and reported upon in 1856. It soon appeared, however, that though Captain Larkins had granted considerable remissions, the assessment was still in parts too high, and further reductions were directed to be granted. This operation was carried out by Captain Busk, who reported the results in 1859. The assessment, however, was still too high, and the greatest difficulty was experienced in its realization. Accordingly, at the suggestion of Mr. Roberts, then Financial Commissioner, who pronounced the condition of the district to be a blot upon British administration, it was determined to effect another revision. This revision was reported by Captain Elphinstone in 1860; but was again pronounced unsatisfactory, and a further revision ordered. This was effected by Captain Davies, who reported its completion in 1862. The settlement was then finally sanctioned.

From 1862 onwards the subsequent revenue history of the whole district including Pípli has been uneventful, in the sense that no further instances of general breakdown occurred involving revision of the assessment. The era of high prices for agricultural produce set in about 1860 and thereafter the condition of affairs was changed. The value of land ran up rapidly, and with it the credit of the landowning classes became very much better than it had ever been before. The consequence was that if a village got into difficulties, instead of clamouring for a reduction of assessment, as it would have done in the period 1850-60, it took the much easier remedy of going to a money-lender and parting with its land. It is not implied by this that glaring instances of over-assessment remained unnoticed in the subsequent 25 years during which the last settlement ran, but only that in judging of the work of the Settlement Officers of the past generation it should be freely recognised that their assessments were subjected during the earlier years to a very much more severe test than can now be applied.

The period for which the regular settlements were sanctioned expired about 1880, but proceedings for revision of assessment were not begun till 1882. The district again formed a divided charge. The northern tahsils of Ambála, Kharar, Rúpar and Jagádhrí were placed in Settlement charge of Mr. A.

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Regular settlement, Thánesar.

Revised Assessment 1882-9.

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Revised Assess-
 ment 1882-9.

Kensington, while Tahsils Jagádhrí and Pípli were placed, together with a part of the Karnál district, under Mr. J. M. Donie. The new assessments were introduced from the following dates:—

Tahsils Ambála, Kharar, Rúpar and Pípli,	
from ... ..	... kharíf 1887.
Tahsils Jagádhrí and Naráingarh (excluding	
Morni), from ... ..	... kharíf 1888.
Iláka Morni of Naráingarh, from ... ..	... kharíf 1891.

The settlement of the Morni iláka was not begun until operations were nearly complete in the rest of the district, and the new assessment was delayed partly in consequence of the proposals for a forest reservation scheme in the tract, as described in Chapter IV, Section A. The net result of the new assessment for the existing Ambála district, excluding 89 villages transferred to Karnál in 1889, has been an increase in the land revenue demand by Rs. 1,68,751, of which Rs. 1,02,551 goes to Government and Rs. 66,200 to assignees. The total Government gain by new assessment including its share on account of commutation tax on the increased jágir revenue has been Rs. 1,11,392. These figures include a sum of about Rs. 6,000 which will not actually be credited until a few deferred or progressive assessments (chiefly in Tahsils Jagádhrí and Pípli) become due in later years. The existing gross assessment of the district (1891-92) is Rs. 13,83,601 including Government land revenue and sums payable to assignees of all kinds.

Assessment reports
 and memoranda on
 prices.

The grounds on which the new assessments were based have been stated in detail in the Assessment Reports prepared separately for sanction for each tahsíl before the new assessments were introduced. The reports were preceded in each case by a memorandum dealing with the subject of agricultural prices during the previous 40 years, and by a series of statements giving in detail the prices realised for principal articles of produce in each of these years for which separate figures could be obtained. The statements were arranged so as to show separately (1) the average prices reported in Government Gazettes or in Annual Revenue Reports, (2) the retail trade prices prevailing in the larger towns of the tract; and (3) the harvest prices actually realised by agriculturists in each tahsíl as shown by the traders' books in four or five large villages of the tahsíl. The subject of prices was dealt with by each Settlement Officer once for all in respect of the whole tract under his charge shortly before the submission of his first Assessment Report. The general conclusion for the Ambála district did not differ materially from that arrived at in the previous similar enquiries made in Ludhiána and Hoshiárpur. It was found that prices were fairly high during the period 1846 to 1850, which covered the period of conversion from payments in kind to payments in cash through the greater part of the district. It was on these high prices that the regular settlement was based. During the next

ten years 1851 to 1860, prices were extraordinarily low, but on these nevertheless the revenue was paid. Taking the whole 15 years 1846 to 1860 to represent the prices by which the old settlement was supported, and comparing the average for this period with the average of continuous high prices during the next 25 years 1861 to 1885, it was found that in round numbers the value of raw produce had risen during the latter period by from 50 to 66 per cent. On the other hand it had to be considered that the rise in prices was not confined to the value of raw produce, but extended at least equally to the value of other articles on which the agriculturists depended for their living, particularly the wages of labour and price of bullocks. Further there was the indisputable fact that whatever the correct estimate of rise in prices might be the level had varied comparatively little during the previous 25 years. The people had, therefore, become accustomed to existing conditions for at least a generation, and any reduction in their present scale of living would be felt out of all proportion to the gains they might be making in comparison with the returns looked for by their fathers 35 years before.

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Assessment reports and memoranda on prices.

It was felt that on these grounds alone it would be impossible to realise in the new assessments an increase of revenue at all proportionate to the apparently great rise in prices. In framing their proposals the Settlement Officers were also guided to a considerable extent by the orders issued in recent cases of revision in other districts, the general drift of those orders being in the direction of great moderation in the assessment of tracts at all comparable to Ambála. Again it had to be considered that Ambála is cultivated almost entirely by petty proprietors with holdings rarely averaging more than 8 to 12 acres, and frequently falling as low as 5; that the people were not really prosperous in any considerable part of the district outside the Rúpar and Kharar tahsils, and were more or less heavily involved in debt throughout the southern two-thirds of the district; and that they had in many parts suffered severely from over-assessment in the earlier of the old settlements. Lastly there was the peculiar feature of Ambála that so much of the revenue is assigned in perpetuity to jágirdárs, who have, in the case of the larger Sardárs, much more frequently than not grossly abused their position, while in the case of the minor fraternities of pattidári jágirdárs the assigned revenue is split up into so many fractional shares that even a large increase of revenue would practically be frittered away to no purpose. The leading features of the revised assessment may now be stated separately for each tahsíl, showing the assessment circles into which the tahsils have been divided for revenue purposes.

In the Ambála tahsíl no accurate subdivision of the tahsíl by assessment circles was found possible. The general character of the country is much the same everywhere, a level tract of land varying in quality from a light sandy loam to the stiffest

Tahsíl Ambála.

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Tahsíl Ambála.

and most unworkable clay fit for little beyond rice cultivation. There is practically no irrigation. Villages vary in prosperity roughly according to the greater or less proportion of stiff clay (Dákar) soil contained within their limits, and this was taken as the basis for such subdivision as was attempted. The great mass of the tahsíl was thrown into one large Seoti or loam circle, containing 186 out of the total of 304 estates. The remaining poorer villages, usually containing a larger proportion of Dákar soil, were thrown into two minor circles lying mainly in detached blocks in the two pargannas of Ambála or Mullána, styled Dákar Ambála and Dákar Mullána, comprising 61 and 57 estates respectively. Even in the Seoti circle, however, it is rare to find a village of any size free from some Dákar area, and as far as the assessment was concerned it would have been almost as easy to deal with the tahsíl as a whole without any assessment circles at all. The increase in cultivated area since last settlement had been unimportant, amounting to 4 per cent. only in the Seoti circle, 8 in Dákar Ambála, 12 in Dákar Mullána, and an average of 6 for the tahsíl.

In the Seoti circle owners cultivate 71 per cent. of the land and occupancy tenants $8\frac{1}{2}$. Of the owners somewhat over two-fifths are good cultivators, mostly Hindu Jats. The rest are all indifferent or bad cultivators, and one-third of the circle is held by Rájpúts of the worst class as tillers of the soil. Rather over 3 per cent. of the cultivated land had been sold, and 15 per cent. mortgaged since regular settlement and about half the sales and three-fifths of the mortgages are to professional money-lenders.

In the Dákar Ambála circle iron clay soil is greatly in excess. Rice is one of the principal crops, but the rice lands are poor and choked with coarse grass, and the crop is very uncertain. The circle includes the majority of the Sulhar villages of which the previous over-assessment has been already noticed. Owners cultivate 80 per cent. of their lands, and a full three-fourths of the circle is in the hands of good cultivators. This is the one strong point of the circle, but against this must be set the unusually thin population, and the fact that land transfers since last settlement aggregated 19 per cent. of the cultivation. Half the sales and two-thirds of the mortgages are to money-lenders, which is a very high proportion for a tract with a Jat population, the present evident want of prosperity in the tract being probably due in some measure to the extravagant demand made on the people from 1843 to 1853. It is unlikely even now to prosper unless some turn of fortune in the future should cause the whole face of the country to be altered through a change in the course of the Ghaggar stream on one side or the Umla on the other. Changes of the kind have occurred in a few villages of this part altering their land almost at once from coarse clay soil to good alluvial loam.

The Dákar Mullána circle is a very hopeless bit of country to assess. Four-fifths of the land is in the hands of bad cultivators mostly Chauhán Rájpúts. There are some prosperous

Raien villages in the circle and the proprietors there manage to make a good living and pay a fair revenue, but the Rájpúts can at best barely hold their own with good land, and break down miserably where the conditions of the soil are such that farming will only pay at all with hard work and energy. Many of their villages are in a very bad way and the land transfers already cover upwards of 30 per cent. of the circle.

The following table shows the result of re-assessment in the Ambala tahsíl :—

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		REVENUE NOW IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
Seoti	Rs. 1,56,455	Rs. a. p. 1 5 5	Rs. 1,73,896	Rs. a. p. 1 7 10	Rs. 17,441	11
Dákar Ambála ...	24,926	1 0 2	25,050	1 0 3	124	...
Dákar Mullána... ..	32,685	0 15 8	35,483	1 1 0	2,798	8½
Total Tahsíl Ambála ...	2,14,066	1 3 7	2,34,429	1 5 6	20,363	9½

The Kharar tahsíl comprises a densely populated tract of country surrounded on three sides by the Native States of Patiála, Kalsia and Nálagarh. The greater part of the tahsíl is compact in shape, but there are three small isolated blocks of villages separated from it by native territory. It includes 391 estates covering 369 square miles, of which 235 only are cultivated, the large waste area being partly made up by a considerable stretch of barren hilly country in or under the Siwálik range. It is divided into six assessment circles, but by far the larger proportion of the revenue is paid by the rich tract of good alluvial loam occupying the centre of the tahsíl. This tract has been styled Seoti, as in Ambála, though for convenience it has been split up into two classes, Seoti I and II, comprising 121 and 130 estates respectively, the distinction in the case of Seoti II being that it covers the belt of slightly inferior land immediately adjoining the Ghar hilly circle of 51 estates. In the south of the tahsíl there is a small tract of either stiff clay, or poor undulating *kalarí* soil, covering 50 estates classed as Dákar villages, and the rest of the tahsíl is made up of two small highly irrigated circles. Of these the Charsa circle in the west includes 13 estates with fine well irri-

smaller villages where the increase in cultivation had been very large the new revenue is from 50 to 100 per cent. higher than the old. In all such cases the rate per acre is still far below the sanctioned rate of Rs. 1-1-0 for unirrigated land.

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Tahsíl Kharar.

The assessment of the Neli circle presented unusual difficulties owing to the peculiar physical features of this very unhealthy tract. One-tenth only of the cultivation is unirrigated, including some Ghar lands in the hills. The remaining nine-tenths, including the whole plains cultivation, is irrigable by ducts from the Ghaggar. Unlimited water-supply has led to perpetual over-irrigation, and the tract is notorious for its dense vegetation and deadly climate. Upwards of 60 per cent. of the cultivated land of the circle has been transferred to outside purchasers since last settlement, and in most of these transactions the price realised was very low, quite out of proportion to the high assessment of the circle which falls at an all-round rate of over two rupees an acre. The rapidity with which land was changing hands early attracted attention. Mr. Melvill returned to the district as Deputy Commissioner in 1858, and made a careful inquiry. The conclusion he came to was that the circle had certainly been assessed by him rather heavily, in some cases much too high, but that this was not the cause of the break down. He regarded it as inevitable that the villages should die out owing to the deadly climate, and gave it as his deliberate opinion that the faster villages were bought up by capitalists the better. Government would at any rate then have some security for the payment of its revenue, and the people would be no worse off than before. He did not recommend revision of assessment, even where his revenues were admittedly too high. A reduction would not really benefit the villages, and the speculating purchasers must take their chance of loss. There was no difficulty in finding purchasers, and it was for them to count the cost, while it was suggested that the mere fact of the risk of loss might lead them to exert themselves to improve the condition of the tract.

This statement of the case was accepted at the time with some hesitation, and it was finally determined to let matters take their course. The result is much what was expected. The villagers have perhaps held their own rather better than was hoped, but large areas have been bought up by speculators, who are nearly all non-resident and, if they may be believed, have nearly all lost by their investments. Under these circumstances the new assessment of the circle has in the first instance been sanctioned for five years only, in case it should in the meanwhile be found possible to devise some scheme for improvement of the tract. The period of five years has recently been extended to see the result of an experiment now being tried in a neighbouring somewhat similar tract of the Kalsia State.

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The following table gives the results of the new assessment in Tahsíl Kharar:—

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		REVENUE NOW IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	
Seoti I	89,704	1 13 1	1,02,580	2 1 3	12,876	14½
Seoti II	64,145	1 7 0	75,382	1 11 0	11,237	17½
Dákar	22,069	1 3 2	23,856	1 4 9	1,787	8
Charsa	8,051	1 3 6	10,950	1 10 7	2,899	36
Ghar	19,435	0 13 11	24,483	1 1 6	5,048	26
Neli	18,595	2 1 5	20,441	2 4 10	1,846	10
Total Tahsíl Kharar ...	2,21,999	1 7 8	2,57,692	1 11 5	35,693	16

Tahsíl Rúpar.

The Rúpar tahsíl is a small subdivision in the extreme north of the district, comprising 386 villages with a total area of 288 square miles of which 182 are cultivated. It contains a great variety of soil and physical features. Generally speaking, and excluding the Ghar hilly tract which is similar to the corresponding Kharar circle, it may be said that the country is healthy and prosperous, with good loam soil and a large area of rich alluvial soil. Even in the fine uplands, however, there are some blocks of coarse clay soil and large tracts of sandy land in irregular patches following roughly the old or present courses of destructive torrents from the hills, while the large riverain tract along the Sutlej comprises land of every quality from the best to the worst in the district. The assessment circles here follow well defined natural divisions and are substantially the same as fixed at last Settlement. The Bet river tract includes 144 estates and the Ghar hilly circle 48, while there is a small Ghar-Bet circle of 23 villages lying partly in the Ghar and partly in the Bet, which need not perhaps have been separately demarcated. The remaining Dhaia circle of 171 villages covering the whole southern half of the tahsíl includes the uplands and some undulating lowlands which it was not worth while to throw into a separate circle, though their physical features are different from the true uplands. The Dhaia is on the whole a very fine bit of country with good irrigating wells all over the western half of the circle. It is in the hands of a strong Jat population and pays over three-

fifths of the revenue of the tahsíl. The tahsíl is densely populated throughout, the pressure varying from 700 to over 1,000 per square mile cultivated in different circles. Small holdings are consequently the rule, but the people are full of resource, and always seem to have plenty of money to spend on their land or more often waste in gambling in the Law Courts. The construction of the Sirhind Canal since last settlement, with its head works at Rúpar, has done much both to alter the face of the country for good and bad, and to sharpen the wits of people who earned much money in one way or another during the long series of years in which the works were in progress. The canal runs for 14 miles through the tahsíl, though there is practically no canal irrigation till much lower down on its course.

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Tahsíl Rúpar.

The Bet circle has suffered much from incursions by the Sutlej since last settlement. The tract subject to annual inundation, known as the Mand, is extremely poor soil, a huge, dreary waste of sand and river-bed, with large islands mostly covered with coarse grasses and stunted tamarisk bushes. It includes two-fifths of the entire Bet circle, but less than a seventh of the cultivation, and all of this of the poorest description, except for occasional plots growing sugar-cane one year, and perhaps washed away the next. The permanent land is ordinarily a rich alluvial plain of great fertility. The exceptions are a bad tract of coarse clay soil on the west, by the sources of the Budha Nala, and the numerous sandy wastes marking the former beds of the hill-streams. Parts of the circle are extraordinarily rich, but much cut up by these streams, and by the canal protection works, and, on the whole the circle is not very prosperous. The people have lost heavily by the river on one side, and the canal on the other, and they now no longer get rich silt washed down from the Dhaia. Holdings are extremely small especially in a cluster of highly assessed Saini villages lying to the north of Rúpar. The actual river frontage is mostly in the hands of Mussalmán Jats, a well-behaved but somewhat feeble set of men largely dependent on advances from money-lenders to enable them to hold their own in the constant struggle with the caprices of the river.

The Dhaia circle is cultivated to the extent of 84 per cent. by the proprietors themselves, and as fully 70 per cent. of the land is in the hands of strong Jat communities it is in a flourishing condition. The proportion of cultivated land transferred is 2 per cent. for sales and 8 per cent. for mortgages, but the villages really heavily involved are a few owned by Rájpúts and other inferior cultivators. The Jats are always ready to buy up land, and out of the total transfers only two-fifths of the mortgages and less than one-fifth of the sales have passed out of the hands of the zamíndárs. The only inferior part of the circle comprises some 25 villages bordering on the actual Dhaia bank where a constant struggle has to be kept up against the inroads of sand. There are fine wells all through the tract, 15½ per cent. of the cultivation being irrigated on an average of three years, and

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Tahsíl Rúpar.

probably at least 25 per cent. in a year of drought. The villages are strong, and the country looks decidedly prosperous, the greatest possible contrast with the southern portions of the district. In those lowlands, which have, for convenience, been included in the Dhaia circle, the soil is a lighter loam corresponding more with the Seoti circles of the Kharar tahsíl. The water level is here much higher, and irrigation little needed. The well irrigation in the Dhaia is of much importance, especially for the wheat and sugar-cane crops, which on the average occupy 53 per cent. and 19 per cent. respectively of the irrigated area. It is these two crops which make the irrigation so valuable, and in particular, the contrast between the irrigated and unirrigated wheat in the true uplands is most marked. The wells are laborious and expensive to work, and the Jats habitually contrast their own life unfavourably with their neighbours' in the loam villages of both Kharar and Rúpar, and there is no doubt they have to exert themselves more. At the same time they are more than repaid by the heavier yield, and greater certainty of cropping.

In the Ghar circle as in Kharar there had been a large increase (of 28 per cent.) in the cultivated area since last settlement. The two circles are very similar and are assessed at the same rate of Rs. 1-1-0 an acre for unirrigated land. The Ghar-Bet circle is a small tract in which the villages lie mostly in parallels running down from the hills to the Bet, along the narrow strip of country between the low hills and the Sutlej in the extreme north of the tahsíl. The Ghar lands are generally poor, while the Bet lands are liable to losses from diluvion from hill streams, and holdings are almost as small as in the regular Bet.

The following table gives the results of the new assessment in Tahsíl Rúpar:—

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		REVENUE NOW IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	
Bet	54,230	1 14 6	59,452	2 1 5	5,222	10
Dhaia	1,21,050	1 12 0	1,43,288	2 1 1	22,238	18
Ghar-Bet	8,399	1 5 5	9,551	1 8 4	1,152	14
Ghar	10,813	0 13 9	13,405	1 1 1	2,592	24
Total Tahsíl Rúpar	1,94,492	1 10 9	2,25,696	1 15 0	31,204	16

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Settlement.The Naráingarh
Tahsil.

The Naráingarh tahsíl comprises in all 326 estates covering 435 square miles of which 214 are cultivated. These total figures include the tahsíl proper with 312 villages, and the Morni hill tract which is technically part of the tahsíl, and administered as such. The southern two-thirds of the tahsíl is fairly level, and has generally a close resemblance to the adjoining Ambála tahsíl. The remaining third is all more or less up and down, as in the wilder parts of Rúpar, Kharar and Jagádhrí, and for distinction may be called hilly, though there is little real hill area. Throughout this curious tract the land lies in great waves or ridges, running at right angles to the Siwálik range. The soil is light and stony, offering no resistance to the rapid drainage, and the whole tract is in consequence intersected with sandy torrents and deep rávines. This perpetual ravine cutting is a prominent feature in many parts of the Ambála district, and in Naráingarh especially constitutes a serious difficulty to the farmer.

The villages with broken ground adjoining the hills have been thrown into a Ghar circle as in Rúpar and Kharar, here containing 81 estates. A small separate circle, called Darrar, containing 28 estates, was formed in the centre of the tahsíl, where the peculiar ravine formation already referred to is most prominent, and the rest of the tahsíl is made up of a large Seoti circle with 163 villages and a small Dákar circle in three detached blocks covering 40 villages. The Morni iláka was divided into two circles, Ghar and Pahár, following a well recognised local distinction. The Ghar circle there included the 4 Bhojes of Rájpura, Kudána, Paunta, Palásra and 4 villages of Mator, in 63 hamlets lying in the low country adjoining the Ghar circle of the plains, while the Pahár circle of 109 hamlets comprised, as its name implies, all the higher mountain ranges of the tract.

The Seoti circle covers three-fifths of the cultivated area of the tahsíl and pays two-thirds of the revenue. By the figures there had been a small falling off in cultivation, but this was more than neutralised by revenue reductions for diluvion. The tract is not prosperous. A fifth of the land has already passed out of the hands of the owners by sale or mortgage, and there is a huge debt not yet secured on the land, but which will inevitably lead gradually to a wholesale transfer to the money-lending class. Moreover a very large percentage of the mortgages is to professional money-lenders, as opposed to agriculturists. In Rúpar and Kharar nearly half the land mortgaged remained in the hands of the agriculturists, and even in Ambála a third, but in Naráingarh less than a fifth, showing that the people are more than ordinarily wanting in capital. At the same time the want of prosperity can only be attributed to the unthrifty habits of the great mass of the landowners. Good cultivators hold a bare third of the circle, and there are only two strong groups of villages. Together these hold about a tenth of the land. Sixty-two per cent. only of the land in the circle is cultivated by the

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The Naráingarh
Tahsil.

owners themselves, but 13 per cent. is in the hands of occupancy tenants, who generally belong to the better class of cultivators and make much more of their opportunities than the owners.

The main characteristics of both Ghar and Darrar circles are a large increase of cultivation, amounting to 31 per cent. in the former case and 38 in the latter, mostly of a very inferior character, a rough, shingly or sandy soil, much over-grown with thorn bushes and cut up by ravines, and a poor population mostly Gujars. An unusually large proportion of land (18 per cent. in the one case and 13 in the other) has been sold since last settlement. Most of these sales represent entire villages made over by the zamíndárs to the Mír of Kotaba at a nominal price in the famine year 1860-61. Mr. Melvill noticed that the Mír was very anxious at last settlement to have himself registered as sole proprietor of all his *Jágir* villages in the plains. His claim was not tenable to the full extent, but the proprietary right was awarded to him in three villages, and small *biswadári* dues in the remaining 15. In the pressure of hard times the Gujars shortly afterwards sold to him their entire rights in eight of these villages and large shares in four more. The transactions attracted some attention at the time, both on account of their extent and the small amounts paid by the Mír, but as they were found to be voluntary no objections were eventually taken by the Deputy Commissioner. There is no doubt that the villagers made a very bad bargain, but on the whole they have not much to complain of. The villages are situated in an extremely poor tract, and the Mír has given the sellers right of occupancy in the lands then cultivated on payment of low grain rents. He has proved a good landlord to them, and they are probably better off than in their former position as proprietors though the village revenues were exceedingly light.

In the Dákar circle cultivation and population have practically remained stationary since last settlement, and the latter, falling at 510 per square mile cultivated is somewhat sparse as things go in the district. The circle is not a well-defined subdivision and its 40 villages were most unequally assessed at last settlement. Rájpúts hold about 40 per cent. of the land and Málís 9. The Málís manage to get on well enough, but Rájpúts break down hopelessly before the special difficulties of a stiff clay soil, and many of the villages are so completely in the Bania's hands that it is difficult to know what to do with them.

The Morni hill
settlement.

The Morni hill *iláka* consists of 93 square miles including 25 square miles of low, broken, hilly ground more or less closely resembling the adjoining Ghar circle of Naráingarh. These lower hills are of friable sandstone almost bare of vegetation, and the few villages dotted about the tract are very similar in their general characteristics to the villages of the wilder parts of the Ghar circle except that they lie at a higher level and are more completely cut off from communication with the plains. The remainder of the *iláka* is made up of two main ridges of much higher hills ranging up to nearly 5,000 feet, including

between them the valley of the Ghaggar. The whole tract is held in *jágir*, and the *jágirdár* has extensive rights in waste areas. The cultivated lands are owned almost entirely by Kanets, Brahmans and Gujars in the proportion of about 60, 24 and 16 per cent. respectively. Holdings are small, averaging 4 or 5 acres, over two-thirds of the land being cultivated by the proprietors themselves, and the rest by tenants paying as a rule little if any rent beyond the Government demand for revenue and cesses. The 8,000 people inhabiting the tract live comfortably enough after the simple fashion of a hill population, consuming their produce almost entirely at home, the only exports being a little ginger, sugar and rice. They depend entirely on their cattle and crops. There are no manufactures and even cotton cloths and blankets are imported from the plains. About 2 per cent. only of the cultivated land has been sold at an average price of Rs. 20 an acre, and about 5 per cent. mortgaged at the rate of Rs. 25. Somewhat over half the sales and mortgages are to money-lenders, but there are generally special reasons accounting for the fact that a man had parted with his land. There is comparatively little floating debt, and considering their small requirements, the people may be considered prosperous. They lead a somewhat hard life, but are on the whole better off and very much more contented, than the residents in the plains of Naráingarh. The old assessment in Morni was very light, much below the standard then adopted elsewhere in the district. Until 1888 the tract had never been properly surveyed for revenue purposes. No village records of a suitable kind had been prepared, and practically the operations now undertaken were those of a first regular settlement. The increase in assessment was in consequence higher here than in other parts of Ambála, falling at 49 per cent., or at 56 per cent. including an addition to the revenue of Rs. 329 on account of the fruit of the *harrar* trees (*terminalia chebula*) in Bhoj Nagal. The arrangement now made in respect of these trees has been that the zamindárs should, in return for the payment of Rs. 329 a year, receive full right to the fruit of all Harrar trees of the Bhoj, whether standing in their cultivated lands or in the forest jungle.

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Land Revenue Settlement.

The Morni hill settlement.

The figures below give the results of reassessment in tahsil Naráingarh :—

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		REVENUE NOW IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	
Seoti	1,05,375	1 5 10	1,23,115	1 9 6	17,740	17
Ghar	21,887	0 13 3	27,379	1 0 6	5,492	25
Darrar	8,182	0 11 4	10,315	0 14 3	2,133	26
Dakar	20,718	1 6 2	22,726	1 8 4	2,008	9½
Morni	5,370	0 12 5	8,348	1 3 6	2,978	56
Total Tahsil Naráingarh	1,61,532	1 2 10	1,91,883	1 6 4	30,351	19

tion consists of Gujars. The Southern Jamna Khádir is generally flat, and the soil is an easily worked productive loam. An exception must be made in the case of the lands flooded by the river, and of some lowlying estates near Buria, which are situated between the canal and a drainage channel, and are consequently liable to be water-logged. Rájpúts form the bulk of the agricultural population; but there is a large admixture of Gujars, Jats, and Kambohs. The river for some years back has been steadily cutting into the best part of the circle.

The Bangar was divided into two circles: the Bangar and the Dahr. The first forms the backbone of the tahsíl. In the north-west it runs up into the ravines of the Ghar; in the south-east the drainage into the canal is rapid, and the surface is often sloping and broken, and the land poor and sandy. On the other hand, some of the villages in the west of the circle near the Rakshi have a stiffish soil with a large admixture of clay. But, as a rule, the soil is a rich loam, containing a large but not excessive amount of sand, easily worked and yielding a good return to the husbandman. The land is not very level, except to the south of Jagádhri, but the slopes are gentle and do not interfere much with the success of cultivation. The Dahr lies to the west of the Bangar, and is traversed by the Chautang and the Sarusti. The surface is flat. The loam soils contain less sand than in the Bangar; but they are not difficult to work, and are very productive. There is a fertile strip of flooded land, which forms the valley of the Chautang. But the distinctive feature of the circle is the large amount of rice land (dahr), only cropped in the autumn harvest, which gives heavy returns in good and next to nothing in bad years. To the east of the Sarusti the dahr is lighter than to the west of that stream, where it consists of a stiff black clay. Rájpúts predominate in the Dahr, and Jats and Rájpúts in the Bangar circle.

The tahsíl is not in a prosperous condition. Since 1859 no part of Jagádhri can be said to have suffered from a heavy assessment, but the landowners have become deeply involved in debt, and nowhere in the Punjab has the money-lender a stronger grip on the land. Rájpúts, Gujars and Banias own half the land, and strong cultivating castes only a quarter. The new assessment of the tahsíl was the subject of much discussion, Government being inclined to hold that a considerably higher revenue should be taken than that proposed by the Settlement Officer. The arrangements finally accepted are shown in the following table:—

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Tahsíl. Jagádhri.

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Tahsíl Jagádhri.

Assessment Circle.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION		REVENUE NOW IMPOSED.		INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per cent.
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	
Kandi	9,880	0 13 1	12,163	1 0 1	2,283	23
Dahr	43,367	1 2 6	52,820	1 6 8	9,453	21
Bangar	75,068	1 3 9	90,874	1 7 10	15,806	20
Southern Jamna Khádir	35,361	1 7 9	39,620	1 10 11	4,259	11
Northern Jamna Khádir	13,352	1 1 2	16,108	1 4 8	2,756	19
Scm Kádir	28,358	1 1 1	32,785	1 10 8	4,427	16
Total Tahsíl Jagádhri	2,05,386	1 3 9	2,44,370	1 7 6	38,984	19

The amount shown as new revenue in the above table includes deferred assessments amounting to Rs. 1,656, of which Rs. 1,190 are on account of progressive assessments falling due in 1893-94, and Rs. 466 on account of protective leases for wells.

The Pípli tahsíl.

The Pípli tahsíl as now constituted covers 559 square miles, and includes a great variety of soils and agricultural conditions. It is traversed by four hill streams and their affluents, whose influence on the tracts through which they flow is widely different. Four strongly marked natural divisions can be recognized. Between the Jamna and the canal is a small flat river Khádir of the ordinary type. A narrow strip of Bangar, with good soil and abundant well irrigation lies between the canal and the Rakhsi. The country between the upper course of the Umla and the Márkanda is a rich alluvial tract in which almost every acre of land is under the plough, and where the crops, although raised without any artificial irrigation, are

fairly secure. The rest of the tahsíl is marked by the abundant growth of dhák jungle, and the whole tract in which it abounds is called the "Chachra." The Chachra which stretches from the border of Jagádhri on the one side and beyond that of the Pehowa pargana on the other, is by no means of a homogeneous character. The country lying between the Rakshi on the east, the Sarusti and the Ládwa and Shahabad road on the south, and the Betan and Linda nállas on the west, is a tract of good natural capacities, with a fairly fertile soil. Water is sufficiently near the surface to make irrigation easy. Sugar-cane is grown in nearly every village, and wheat can be raised without artificial irrigation. The crops, especially the rice, which is a very important staple here, are always most uncertain, and the part of the tract which is flooded by hill streams is very unhealthy. It cannot be said to have prospered since last settlement, but there is no reason why it should not do so with proper revenue management. This part of the Chachra was formed into a separate assessment circle and called the Northern Chachra. The country to the south and west, with Tháncsar as its centre, is cursed with an unhealthy climate, with hill streams whose floods are most capricious, and with a strong soil which requires an abundant rainfall, which it very often fails to get. Rice is the great autumn, and gram the great spring staple. Wheat can rarely be raised in unirrigated land, and very little sugar-cane is grown. This circle, which has been called the Southern Chachra, was greatly over-assessed at regular settlement. No subsequent revisions have put it right, and it has been a by-word for steady decay for the last thirty-five years. Five assessment circles have accordingly been formed, the Khádir, the Ládwa Bangar, the Northern and Southern Chachras, and the Márkanda Bet.

Population has declined in the tahsíl and the cultivated area expanded to only a small extent. In the tahsíl as a whole there has been a marked falling off in the number of wells. In the Southern Chachra especially the contraction of irrigation has been very great, and this is one of the most striking signs of decay in that unfortunate tract. Holdings are often very small in the Khádir and the northern part of the Markanda Bet. Taken all round the tahsíl is far from prosperous and has suffered much from previous over-assessment from 1850—62. On these grounds a comparatively small increase of revenue was taken in Pípli. The details are given in the following table. The sum shown as new revenue includes about Rs. 4,000 which was arranged to become due in the form of progressive assessments partly in 1892, and partly in 1897. Many of these progressive assessments were in villages acquired in whole or part by new Máli settlers under the circumstances described on page 49. The Mális were treated liberally by the Settlement Officer, as the future of the two Chachra circles depends on the continued immigration of these industrious husbandmen:—

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The Pípli tahsíl.

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The Pipli tahsil.

ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.		REVENUE NOW IMPOSED.		INCREASE OR DE- CREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.	
	Amount	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount.	Rate per acre cultivated.	Amount	Rate per cent.
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	
Bet Mārkaṇḍa ...	84,302	1 0 3	95,120	1 2 4	+10,818	+13
Khādir ...	25,784	1 5 1	27,960	1 6 11	+ 2,176	+ 8
Bangar ...	39,323	1 5 11	41,570	1 7 2	+ 2,247	+ 5
Northern Chachra ...	46,401	1 1 6	51,110	1 3 4	+ 4,709	+10
Southern Chachra ...	31,217	1 6 0	26,900	1 3 1	- 4,317	-13
Total Tahsil Pipli ...	2,27,027	1 2 6	2,42,660	1 3 10	+15,633	+ 7

Result of new As-
sessment of whole
district.

The ultimate result of the new assessment for the whole Ambāla district as it now stands is an increase in Government land revenue by 15 per cent., in revenue paid to assignees of all kinds by $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and of nearly 14 per cent. in the total. The details by tahsils are shown in the following table. Government has further received an immediate increase of Rs. 8,841 in the increased commutation tax paid by jāgīrdārs on their assigned revenue, but this gain has been balanced by the subsequent assignment of a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,500 a year in payment of the ināmdār or zaildār class constituted under the orders specified on page 52, and by the remission (since 1891) of the commutation tax hitherto paid by the Mir of Kotāha on the revenue derived by him from the Morni hill tract (page 71):—

TAHSIL.	REVENUE BEFORE REVISION.			ULTIMATE REVENUE BY RE-ASSESSMENT.			INCREASE BY NEW ASSESSMENT.			Total Government gain by revision including the increase to jagir commutation.
	Khálsa.	Assigned.	Total.	Khálsa.	Assigned.	Total.	Khálsa.	Assigned.	Total.	
Ambála	Rs. 1,27,262	Rs. 86,804	Rs. 2,14,066	Rs. 1,40,800	Rs. 93,629	Rs. 2,34,429	Rs. 13,538	Rs. 6,825	Rs. 20,363	Rs. 14,349
Kharar	1,12,741	1,09,258	2,21,999	1,30,796	1,26,896	2,57,692	18,055	17,638	35,693	20,349
Rúpar	1,19,456	75,036	1,94,492	1,42,041	83,655	2,25,696	22,585	8,619	31,204	24,350
Naráingarh	86,970	74,562	1,61,532	1,01,965	89,918	1,91,883	14,995	15,356	30,351	17,016
Jagádhri	1,00,783	1,04,653	2,05,386	1,22,516	1,18,377	2,40,893	21,783	13,724	35,507	23,236
Pípli	1,44,986	82,091	2,27,027	1,56,531	86,129	2,42,660	11,595	4,038	15,633	12,092
Total Ambála District ...	6,92,098	5,32,404	12,24,502	7,94,649	5,98,604	13,93,253	1,02,551	66,200	1,68,751	1,11,392

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Result of new Assessment for whole district.

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Land Revenue Settlement.

Assessment rates
per acre.

The tables given in previous paragraphs show the incidence of revenue, under the old and new assessment, on the total cultivated area of the assessment circles or tahsils. Different rates were fixed at both settlements for the different classes of soil. It is unnecessary to give the details of the revenue rates of the first settlement, as the practice of the time was to divide tahsils for assessment purposes into a large number of circles, and to apply a great multiplicity of rates, or more strictly speaking to give long tables of rates which the Settlement Officers were supposed to have applied. As a fact they did not themselves adhere to their rates closely, and the detail given was little real guide to the character of the assessment. The following tables show the principal rates per acre cultivated sanctioned at the revised settlement :—

Tahsil.	Assessment Circle.	Irrigated.		Unirrigated.		
		By wells.	By tanks or kuls.	Loam lands.	Clay lands.	Sailáb.
AMBALA.	Seoti ... Dákar Ambála " Mulana...	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
		4 0 0	..	1 7 6	...	...
		2 8 0	...	1 0 0	1 0 0	...
		2 8 0	...	1 0 6	1 0 6	...
KHARAR.	Seoti I ... Seoti II ... Dákar ... Charsa ... Ghar ... Neli ...	4 8 0	...	2 0 0	...	...
		4 8 0	2 5 4	1 10 0	...	...
		4 0 0	...	1 4 0	1 4 0	...
		3 8 0	...	1 8 0	...	...
		5 0 0	...	1 1 0	...	...
		...	2 5 4	1 2 0	...	...
ROJAR.	Bet ... Dhaia ... Ghar-Bet ... Ghar ...	5 0 0	...	2 2 0	...	1 4 0
		3 12 0	...	1 12 0	...	...
		3 0 0	{ Bet	{ 1 12 0	{ ...	{ ...
		4 0 0	{ Ghar	{ 1 1 0	{ ...	{ ...
NARAINGARH EXCLUDING MORNI.	Seoti ... Ghar ... Darrar ... Dákar ...	3 0 0	...	1 9 0	...	...
		...	2 4 0	1 0 0	...	...
		...	...	9 14 0	...	...
		...	2 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	...
JAGADHER.	Kaudi ... Dahr ... Bangar ... Southern Jamna Khádir. Northern Jamna Khádir. Som Khádir ...	...	...	1 0 0	...	...
		3 12 0	2 12 0	1 7 0	0 15 0	1 12 0
		3 12 0	2 0 0	1 7 6	1 0 0	2 0 0
		3 12 0	2 0 0	1 11 0	1 9 4	2 0 0
		...	...	1 5 0	1 4 0	1 0 0
		...	...	1 8 0	...	...
PIPLI.	Bet Márkanda... Khádir ... Bangar ... Northern Chach- ra. Southern Chach- ra.	2 12 0	...	1 0 0	1 2 4	1 2 4
		2 8 0	...	1 12 0	1 5 4	1 5 4
		2 10 4	1 12 0	1 10 0	1 2 0	0 14 0
		2 8 0	1 10 0	...	1 1 0	0 12 0
		2 4 0	1 12 0	...	0 12 0	0 12 0

The rates given above represent these adopted for guidance by the Settlement Officers after making certain changes in the assessment required by the orders of Government in the case of the Seotí and Dákar circles of Naráingarh and all circles except the Kandi of Jagádhri.

In the Morni hill iláka a more elaborate series of rates was prepared based on a well-known local classification of soils. Land in these hills is known as *kulahu*, *obar* or *khil*, the *kulahu* being irrigated (by streams), the *obar* covering all level or terraced cultivation, and *khil* the rough jungle cultivation. *Obar* land is further subdivided into *obar I*, which includes only highly manured and terraced cultivation, and *obar II*, which includes the outlying fields from which comparatively poor crops only are obtained. The revenue rates sanctioned for these different classes of soil were as follows:—

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Assessment rates per acre.

Morni revenue rates.

CIRCLE.	Irrigated.	Obar I.	Obar II.	Khil.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Morni Ghar... ..	3 8 0	1 4 0	0 10 0	0 5 0
Morni Pahár	4 12 0	1 8 0	0 14 0	0 5 0

The *khil* land is brought into cultivation by burning the forest jungle and mixing the ashes with the soil. A few poor crops are harvested and the land is then either abandoned altogether for years, or laboriously worked up into terraced fields, which may eventually yield a fair crop under regular cultivation. It was found that much damage had been done to the hillsides in the past by reckless firing of the jungle, and in order to stop the practice it has been arranged that while existing *khil* cultivation should be assessed on its merits at the low rate of five annas an acre, all fresh *khil* obtained by jungle firing after 1891 should be penalised by the levy of a prohibitive rate at Rs. 4-12-0 an acre to be levied as additional fluctuating assessment.

In the case of lands subject to the action of rivers or streams the following rates are now prescribed for the annual alluvion assessments. The particular rate to be applied depends on the quality of the soil for the time being, and is determined primarily by the nature of the crops grown during the year:—

(1) For the Jamna river villages—

(a) In Pípli and the Northern Jamna Khádir circle of Jagádhri—

	Rs. a. p.	
Highest... ..	1 4 0	an acre.
Middle	0 14 6	"
Lowest	0 8 0	"

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sion.

(b) In the Southern Jamna Khádir circle of Jagádhri—

				Rs.	a.	p.	
Highest	1	8	0	an acre.
Middle	...	...	...	1	0	0	"
Lowest	...	...	...	0	8	0	"

(2) For the Sutlej river villages of Rúpar—

			Rs.	a.	p.	
For good sugar-cane land			2	8	0	an acre.
For ordinary lands	{ highest		1	8	0	"
	{ middle		1	0	0	"
	{ lowest		0	8	0	"

In the case of both the Jamna and Sutlej waste lands, fit for grazing, are assessed at the rate of one anna an acre.

In the case of villages subject to the action of hill streams or sand the revenue is remitted on cultivated land wholly destroyed by torrents. Where the land is materially injured, but not wholly destroyed it is assessed at half the revenue rate fixed for that land, or for the village, at the revised settlement. Similarly land on which the revenue has been remitted or which was unassessed at settlement, and subsequently cultivated owing to the action of streams, may be assessed at full or half rates according to its quality.