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REPORT ON  
THE HILLY REGION  
OF KURRACHEE

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GOVERNMENT.

No. XXXV.—NEW SERIES.

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REPORT BY THE COLLECTOR OF KURRACHEE

ON THE

HILLY REGION FORMING THE WESTERN  
PART OF THAT COLLECTORATE:

ALSO

A LETTER FROM THE ACTING COMMISSIONER IN SIND  
SUBMITTING THE ABOVE REPORT;

AND

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THE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT ON  
THE SUBJECT.

**B o m b a y :**

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1856.



# HILL DISTRICTS OF THE KURRACHEE COLLECTORATE.

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No. 265 of 1856.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From Lieutenant Colonel JOHN JACOB, C.B.,  
Acting Commissioner in Sind,

To the Right Honorable Lord ELPHINSTONE, G.C.H.,  
Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

*Dated 8th July 1856.*

MY LORD,—I have the honour to submit a report, No. 1499, dated 9th June 1856, drawn up by Major Preedy, Collector of Kurrachee, upon the Hill Region forming the western portion of his Collectorate. These hilly tracts are outlying branches of the great mountain range stretching almost unbroken from Peshawur to the ocean. They reach northward until Sehwan, where they abut on the river; and their southern extremities are Munora Point and Cape Monze. The aspect of the region is wild and savage. The valleys and plains lie at an elevation of some 1,000 feet above the level of the Indus, while the hill ranges rise above the valleys from 1,500 to 2,000 feet higher. The formation, which is of stratified limestone, bears evident marks of volcanic action; and the entire district forms a thorough contrast to the other portions of this province.

2. In the autumn of last year Mr. Frere visited this region, in view to ascertaining its present resources, its capabilities for improvement, and the characteristics of its inhabitants, with the intention of afterwards submitting to Government such suggestions for the management of this singular tract as his personal inspection might lead him to consider expedient.

3. Mr. Frere had, however, scarcely left the hill tract, when he was compelled by failing health to quit the province, and he was thus prevented drawing up his proposed report. He nevertheless placed upon record some rough notes, briefly illustrative of his ideas regarding this portion of his charge; and I have already in paragraphs 78 to 82 of my annual report, No. 40, of the 31st May last, embodied those views for the information of your Lordship in Council.

4. Following out Mr. Frere's wishes, I requested the Collector of Kurrachee, who had accompanied him during his tour, to furnish me any suggestions that might have occurred to him for the improvement of the district. In issuing my instructions, I informed Major Preedy that I did not anticipate we should be enabled to turn this region to any profitable account by collecting a revenue from the present scanty agricultural produce of its rain-lands, and that I should not deem it advisable to levy such tax even although cultivation should be extended; but that the hill tracts were chiefly valuable as grazing lands, and that we might do something towards ameliorating the condition of the Hillmen, by assisting them to construct a few wells or bunds for supplying their cattle and themselves with water; by endeavouring to introduce into their villages or grazing districts some form of Patelship; by ascertaining, registering, and perhaps levying some slight capitation tax upon the cattle; and by opening up roads through the more frequented valleys, to enable the Hillmen to bring the produce of their flocks and herds readily to market.

5. With the object of more accurately ascertaining the social statistics of this region, I supplied Major Preedy a form of statement, showing the name of every village, tract, or valley; the names of the chief men, and approximate estimates of the numbers of inhabitants; of the size and description of boundaries; of the numbers of flocks and herds; and of the number of wells. But, above all, I impressed on the Collector the necessity of bearing in mind throughout these proceedings with the people of the hill tracts, that they are essentially a pastoral, and therefore, in some degree, a nomadic race, and that no attempt should be made towards compelling them to have recourse to agriculture; on the contrary, that they should be left wholly free to choose their own mode of life, as circumstances might permit.

6. In compliance with my request, Major Preedy has furnished the accompanying memoranda, which contain the required informa-

tion. It appears that the entire district is about 120 miles in length, with an average breadth of 50 miles, containing about 6,000 square

|                         |    |   |
|-------------------------|----|---|
| 1 Naib Kardar .. Rs.    | 40 | miles of country. The establishment hitherto                  |
| 1 Moonshee . . . .      | 10 | employed in its revenue management has been                   |
| 2 Tuppadars, at Rs.     |    | unprecedentedly small, costing only Rs. 90                    |
| 15 each. . . . .        | 30 | per mensem. The total revenue derived in                      |
| 2 Peons, at Rs. 5 each. | 10 | 1854-55 amounted to Rs. 1,171, of which sum                   |
|                         | —  | Rs. 650 were realised by the levy of Rs. 1 per                |
| Total . . . Rs.         | 90 | cart-load on grass cut in the Guddap Valley, and the balance, |

Rs. 514, on garden lands lying along the Mulleer river banks.

7. The Collector does not state, nor indeed would it be possible to estimate with any degree of certainty, what might be the effects of bringing this hill country under careful management. Major Preedy is of opinion (paragraphs 30 and 31) the present inhabitants are by no means disinclined to agriculture, and that by securing heads of water in well selected situations, we might widely extend cultivation. But my own opinion is that the staple wealth of these districts naturally consists in flocks and herds. These, together with ghee, wool, and other pastoral produce, they could exchange with the more varied commodities of the plains, thereby commanding the supplies of distant markets at a less cost than they could be produced at home; and I think that our object should be to promote these interchanges by means of improved communication, and thus gradually to create among these half civilised races new wants, increased productiveness, and a higher social condition.

8. In his 32nd paragraph Major Preedy enumerates the other measures he would recommend in view to forwarding the object contemplated. These proposals are as follows:—

“ 32. In the *second* place, I would have a rough survey made of the whole district, and fix a light assessment on all grazing lands, the farm of which I would offer, in the first instance, to the Chief of the tribe now in possession. The boundaries of all these lands are well known, and are for the most part well defined. If the Chief agreed to pay the rent fixed, either by the year or on lease for a series of years, I would allow him to make his own terms with all who wished either to cut grass or to graze cattle within his limits.

“ *Thirdly*.—I would recommend the construction in favourable localities, and near the larger villages, of pukka wells with troughs for watering cattle attached. The wells should, I think, be con-

structed only where the villagers would engage to keep them properly drawn, leaving them at liberty to apply the water not required for themselves and their cattle to agricultural or horticultural purposes. I would also have cleared roads made wherever necessary.

“ *Fourthly*.—Without in any way attempting to force agriculture on the people, I would assist those who required aid, and who could give security that the money would not be misapplied, with small advances for the construction of kutchas bunds for cultivation in suitable situations.

“ *Fifthly*.—I would endeavour to improve the breed of cattle throughout the districts, and greatly to multiply their numbers. The breeds of sheep, goats, and horses might, I think, be greatly improved.

“ *Sixthly*.—I would use every effort to promote education both amongst Chiefs and people, and to bring them acquainted with the common wants and conveniences of civilised life, of which the great part of the Hillmen have at present not the most remote idea.

“ *Lastly*, if the above recommendations meet with your favourable approval, as it is clear that the present establishment is wholly inadequate for the performance of such important duties as would be required of them, and as it would be impossible, with my numerous other duties, for me effectually to discharge the executive duties of a homestead very little short in extent of the principality of Wales, I would beg to recommend that an additional assistant, with a suitable establishment, be allowed me, to take charge of, and to carry out, under my superintendence, the above improvements in the Highlands.”

9. These suggestions have my general concurrence ; and, on the whole, the question presents itself to my mind in the manner now summarised :—That it is undoubtedly advisable to turn our attention towards the development of this hill region ; that it is so advisable, not simply because the district forms a portion of this province, but because, also, its natural development would supply the requirements of the plain ; because the region itself lies along the frontier of our empire ; and, mainly and chiefly, because I am convinced that every advance we make in civilising and attaching to us the wild people dwelling on our western borders tends to cause a corresponding extension of wholesome English influence towards Beloochistan, and

adds really, permanently, and by the most unexceptional means, to the strength of our empire, whether as respects peaceful or warlike operations. On the other hand, that we have still a large field of labour open to us in developing the agricultural and other resources of the plain country of Sind ; that this plain country would constantly yield a more remunerative, more immediate, and, generally, more important return ; and that the means at our disposal for the performance of the whole task as respects both hill and plain are very limited.

10. Giving due weight to these considerations, I do not think that it would be consistent with a wise economy at present to incur much cost for the maintenance of a revenue establishment in this hill district, and I am not inclined to recommend that your Lordship in Council should *immediately* sanction any greatly increased establishment on account of this tract. I would suggest, rather, that when Captain Hodgkinson, Supernumerary Deputy Collector, Kurrachee Collectorate, shall return to his duties (some two or three months hence), his services be temporarily made available for a more detailed inspection, and such general ameliorative measures in regard to it as he may find opportunity for effecting ; and that I be empowered to sanction for his assistance in this work such temporary increase upon the present establishment of Rs. 90 per mensem as may from time to time appear necessary ; provided always that the total monthly cost of such establishment do not exceed an aggregate of Rs. 205 per mensem, as per margin—that is Rs. 115 more than at present disbursed.

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| 1 English Clerk . . .    | Rs. 50  |
| 1 Kardar . . . . .       | 50      |
| 1 Head Moonshee . .      | 25      |
| 1 2nd Moonshee . . .     | 15      |
| 4 Peons, at Rs. 5 each.  | 20      |
| 3 Tuppadders, at Rs. 15. | 45      |
| <hr/>                    |         |
| Total . . . . .          | Rs. 205 |

11. It is my own intention to visit the hill region immediately the season opens, and I can then more precisely learn what may really be required ; and, after Captain Hodgkinson shall have passed some months there, he will probably be enabled to furnish such a report as, with my future observations, shall place me in a position to lay before Government, next year, some permanent plan of revenue management for the entire district.

12. Having so recently described the inhabitants of the tract now under report, and the Collector's remarks upon them being very detailed, it is unnecessary that I should occupy the attention of your Lordship in Council by any further description of them. I will

mention only that by the Census Return of last February it appears that the district contains 187 permanent habitations, and 3,322 temporary huts ; that the Mahomedan population totals 14,154 souls, and the Hindoo population 2,246 souls ; thus showing a grand total of 16,400 souls, or about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to the square mile.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JOHN JACOB, Lieutenant Colonel,  
Acting Commissioner in Sind.

*Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 8th July 1856.*

No. 1499 of 1856.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From the COLLECTOR OF KURRACHEE,

To Lieutenant Colonel JOHN JACOB, C.B.,

Acting Commissioner in Sind.

*Dated 9th June 1856.*

SIR,—In compliance with the request contained in your letter No. 825, of the 21st March 1856, Revenue Department. marginally noted, I have the honour to submit for your consideration the following memoranda regarding the present state of the Hill Districts of my Collectorate, showing their estimated extent, the amount of revenue derived by Government from them, and the tribes inhabiting them ; together with a few remarks relative to the measures which I would recommend should be adopted for their improvement.

2. The tract of country denominated the Hill Districts or Highlands of Kurrachee extends from the Ghara Creek and Cape Monze on the south and south-west to the Valley of the Munchore Lake on the north. It is bounded on the east by a chain of rugged mountains, and on the west by the Hubb River and the new boundary line on the Mohul and Keertur Mountains, fixed by Lieutenant Stewart.

3. The whole district is about 120 miles in length, with an average breadth of 50 miles, or about 6,000 square miles in extent.

4. The establishment employed in the revenue management of this extensive district is detailed below, and is, as will be observed, on

the most limited scale, the aggregate expenditure on this account being Rs. 90 only per mensem :—

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 Naib Kardar, per mensem.....     | Rs. 40 |
| 1 Moonshee, ditto .....            | 10     |
| 2 Tuppadars, at Rs. 15 ditto ..... | 30     |
| 2 Peons, at Rs. 5 ditto .....      | 10     |
| <hr/>                              |        |
| Total.....                         | Rs. 90 |

5. The total revenue derived by Government in 1854-55 was Rs. 1,171, of which amount Rs. 658 were realised by the levy of Rs. 1 per cart-load on grass cut in the Guddap Valley, and brought for sale in the Kurrachee bazars. The balance, Rs. 514, was the amount of land tax levied on the garden cultivation in the Valley of the Mulleer River.

6. Prior to our rule, agriculture, except in the immediate vicinity of a few natural springs, would seem never to have been attempted in these districts. The inhabitants, from the earliest times, appear to have been a pastoral people; and although the remains of very extensive bunds are frequently met with, these, from their position, were evidently intended for the retention of rain-water for the use of the inhabitants and their cattle, and not for irrigational purposes.

7. Since the country came into our hands, agriculture, wherever practicable, has been encouraged, and in some very favourable localities, such as the Valleys of the Mulleer and Hubb, with considerable success. On the banks of the Mulleer, about 2,000 beegas of waste land had been converted into flourishing gardens, and there was every hope of the cultivation extending, when the disastrous floods of 1851 and 1852 blasted these fair prospects, and not only put a stop to the extension of culture, but destroyed fully half the land which had been reclaimed, by covering it thick with sand. It is on the remaining portion only that revenue is at present levied, at a reduced rate of assessment of 8 annas per beega.

8. There are a few patches of cultivation near Boolah Khan, Dumanch, and Kurchat, near Pokrun, all places on or near the direct route leading to Sehwan. The land in these localities has been granted free of tax for five years, in the hope that at the expiration of that period the people will have become attached to the soil, and disinclined to revert to their former nomadic habits. Great benefit is derived by travellers even from these small cultivated patches, and I

would recommend that such of them as belong to Government (some belong to the Jagheer of Mulk Sirdar Khan Noomreea) be granted rent-free in perpetuity to their present holders and their heirs.

9. As you are, I think, from personal observation, acquainted with these highlands, it seems unnecessary to offer any lengthened description of the country or of its inhabitants. I will therefore confine my report to a brief sketch of the more prominent natural features of the country, and of the principal tribes who inhabit it.

10. The southern portion consists of extensive plains, divided one from the other by low ranges of hills, running parallel in some parts, and in others diverging like the sticks of an open fan. At Peer Mungah the hills form a series of concentric circles round a lofty peak, and which peculiar formation is evidently the effect of volcanic action at some distant period of the world's history.

11. The plains or valleys between the several ranges of hills are usually intersected by the wide sandy bed of a mountain stream, which, except after rain, presents a dry, unpromising surface, beneath which, however, at the depth of a few feet, abundance of excellent water is found. The plains on either side, after seasonable showers, produce abundance of forage, and are frequented at such seasons by vast herds of cattle brought from the Valley of the Indus and other parts.

12. The Hubb, Mulleer, Bharun, and Mohul rivers are usually well supplied with water throughout the year. Water is found at short intervals preserved in deep pools, and occasionally in running streams of considerable length and depth. A wide extent of land, capable of cultivation, is lying waste in the valleys of all these rivers, which might be brought under the plough were means taken to raise the water to a level with the banks on each side, and which might be done by building weirs across in favourable localities.

13. The central portion of the highlands presents far bolder and more picturesque views and scenery than the southern districts. The hills here attain the size and altitude of mountains, while the valleys are deeper and of wider extent than those below. The scenery of this division is often very beautiful.

14. The northern portion consists of vast mountain ridges of limestone, rising abruptly from the plains, and usually found running parallel with each other from north to south. The valleys or glens between these mountain ridges are deep and narrow, and the descent

into them is difficult, and often impossible, without ropes, in consequence of their precipitous sides. The bottoms are filled with huge boulders of rock, brought down by the torrents which, after heavy rain, rush through these narrow defiles with irresistible force.

15. The above hasty sketch will probably suffice to show that in few regions could a greater variety of wild and beautiful scenery be met with than is presented in many parts of these highlands. The Valley of the Mohul is extremely beautiful. It is about twenty miles in length by ten in breadth, the river dividing it nearly in the middle. The Pucheran Hills bound it on the left side, while the lofty mountain of Meher, with its scarped and precipitous sides, and others of a similar character, enclose it on the right. The valley itself is considerably raised, and must be upwards of 800 or 1,000 feet above the level of the sea. The air was pure and bracing in November, and the climate throughout the year is much praised by the inhabitants. The soft purple tints exhibited towards sunset in the clear atmosphere of this beautiful valley, and in other parts of the central division, would require the genius of a Claud adequately to portray them, while the dark glens and frowning precipices of the north would require the bold tinting of a Rosa to do full justice to their wild and savage grandeur.

16. The principal rivers are the Hubb, the Bharun, and the Mohul. The Hubb has a course of upwards of 300 miles, the Bharun of about 90, and the Mohul of about 70 miles. The Hubb enters the sea near Cape Monze; the Bharun, the Indus, about 10 miles north of Jerruck, and the Mohul, after receiving several tributary streams, enters the Ghara Creek near Ghizree Bunder under the name of the Mulleer. Near Pokrun the level of the country obtains its greatest elevation. Low, transverse ridges of rock there cross the valleys, and cause all the rivers and streams north of that place to flow towards the north, and to pour their waters into the Munchur Lake; while all those to the southward of that point either break through the eastern barrier, and enter the Indus, or hold on their tortuous course to the Ghara Creek or to the sea.

17. The principal mountains are the Kara, Soorjano, Soombuk, Eree, Runnee, and Lukkee, which form one almost continuous range, and divide the highlands from the Verow Plain and Valley of the Indus. The Kamboo, Meher, Pucheran, and Mohul ranges raise their lofty ridges in the centre, while the magnificent Keertur raises

its giant form, and stretches away to an interminable distance towards the north.

18. The population scattered over this extensive district is miserably scanty, averaging little more than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to a square mile. The tribes inhabiting the southern and central districts are for the most part Sindees, and claim descent from the great Summah tribe, which for some centuries ruled in Lower Sind. The northern division is inhabited chiefly by Beloochees of the Gubbool, Rhind, and Nohanee tribes.

19. The two principal tribes in the southern and central divisions are the Noomreeas or Naomurdees, and the Jokeeas. Each of these tribes is divided and subdivided into numerous branches, each deriving its name from an ancestor who claimed immediate descent from the reputed Patriarch of the tribe. Sidjeros or genealogical trees of portentous length are produced in support of these claims, which, however, on examination, are found to contain merely long strings of names, without any proofs in support of the ambitious claim, and the reputed ancestor himself is often found to be little better than a mere myth.

20. Thus the Noomreeas claim descent from a prolific old lady of Rajpoot origin, who they say became the mother of nine sons (Nao Murdees), from whom the whole of the present Noomreea tribes descend. The name of the father of these worthies has unfortunately not been handed down to posterity, and hence their enemies take advantage of this circumstance to brand the old lady's memory with much opprobrium, affirming that, although of Rajpoot origin, she was addicted to polyandrianism, and having on that account been expelled caste, sought refuge with her *nine* husbands in the wilds of Sind.

21. The first man of any celebrity amongst the Noomreeas, of whom we have any certain record, would appear to have been Ibrahim Boorfut, who flourished about one hundred and seventy years ago. He ruled the whole tribe, and transmitted his authority to his son Pahar Khan, who was succeeded by his son Izzut Khan, an active and ambitious Chieftain, who appears to have got possession of Beyla and the whole Province of Lus, and which he held till his death. He was succeeded by his son Sobdar, the father of Mulk Ahmed Khan, the possessor of the "Pug" at the time of the conquest, and who was the grandfather of the present Chief, Mulk Sirdar Khan.

22. There are at present upwards of twenty branches or subdivisions of this tribe, all claiming descent from the original Naomurdees. The subdivisions vary much in numerical strength, and the families composing them are so widely scattered, both throughout the hills and in the plains, that it is almost impossible to obtain a correct roll of any one of them. The annexed memorandum of their names and chief haunts may tend to assist future inquiry :—

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1st.—The Boorfut,    | inhabiting the Valleys of the Gungyaree, and<br>of the Bharun River. |
| 2nd.—The Humalane,   | ditto Valley of Mohul.   |
| 3rd.—The Bramanee,   | ditto ditto of the Bharun.   |
| 4th.—The Shadad,     | ditto ditto of Khund.  |
| 5th.—The Doodra,     | ditto Pokrun and Kurchat.  |
| 6th.—The Akulane,    | ditto Plain of Peer Gybee.   |
| 7th.—The Soomera,    | ditto Valley of Bharun.  |
| 8th.—The Soharanee,  | ditto Valley of Tong.  |
| 9th.—The Kasota,     | ditto Valley of Bharun.  |
| 10th.—The Bapranee,  | ditto Boolah Khan's Tanda, and Plain of<br>Verow.                    |
| 11th.—The Bawah,     | ditto Valley of Thudda.  |
| 12th.—The Kuchela,   | ditto Mukan Jurmula, near Kuddegee.                                  |
| 13th.—The Lassee,    | ditto Vale of the Hubb, and Lus.                                     |
| 14th.—The Khavera,   | ditto Khund, in the Vale of the Hubb.                                |
| 15th.—The Choota,    | ditto Valley of the Hubb.  |
| 16th.—The Hangarea,  | ditto ditto of the Hubb, and Lus.                                    |
| 17th.—The Bunsbera,  | ditto the Vale of the Guddap.  |
| 18th.—The Palaree,   | ditto ditto of Lohiach.  |
| 19th.—The Palleja,   | ditto the plains around Tatta and Jerruck.                           |
| 20th.—The Jakra,     | ditto the plains of Rhode and Komeeance.                             |
| 21st.—The Shahana,   | ditto the Vale of Mohul.   |
| 22nd.—The Lorah,     | ditto ditto of the Bharun, and plains<br>near Kotree.                |
| 23rd.—The Bundeaja,  | ditto ditto of the Hubb.   |
| 24th.—The Banjaoria, | ditto the plains near Kurrachee.                                     |

23. All these tribes acknowledge Nuwab Sirdar Khan as their Chief. He usually resides at Humalane, in the Vale of the Gungyaree, a tributary stream of the Bharun. The village is merely a collection of mat huts, and the Chief's residence is scarcely distin-

guishable from those of his followers. It consists of a few Punka mats supported on poles, with the weather side protected by a heap of camel furniture, and a few black curtains of goat-hair. Sirdar Khan occasionally resides at Kotree, where he has a substantial abode, and where, when present, he seems to take an interest both in the school and in the municipal improvements of the town. He is a young man of good character, but of no great intellectual endowments, and he seems to stand, and perhaps not without cause, in considerable dread of his uncles, Pahar and Izzut Khan, who are constantly about him, and who, from their superior age and experience, rough energy of character, and burly forms, have great influence with the tribe.

24. The Jokeeas, under the rule of the Kulhoras, and probably for many years before, were the rivals of the Noomreeas, with whom they had frequent skirmishes, and in which, although numerically inferior, they almost invariably obtained the victory. Their first Chief of any note would appear to have been Jam Bejor, who obtained great celebrity by the murder of the Rana of Kukeralla, a feat which he accomplished at the instigation of Ghoolam Shah Kalhora. The Jokeeas, like their neighbours the Noomreeas, claim to be of Rajpoot origin, and their aquiline features, courage, and martial bearing, certainly tend to support their claims. They are held in high repute, not only in Sind, but throughout Kattywar and Guzerat, and even in the Nizam's territory, for their courage and fidelity; and it is computed that there is seldom less than half the tribe absent from Sind in the employ of the several Governments mentioned above. The present Jam estimates the absentees at 6,000, but this is, no doubt, a great exaggeration.

25. The Jokeeas chiefly inhabit the villages of the Mulleer, Runn Pittyanee, Malmooaree, and Guddap, and the intermediate country between the Ghara Creek and the Hubb. They are subdivided into numerous clans, all of which acknowledge Jam Meer Ali as their Chief.\* The principal of these, with the localities which they chiefly inhabit, are as follow :—

Tahir (to which clan the Jam belongs), Mulleer.

Moosa, Malmooaree and Runn Pittyanee.

Bundeeja, inhabiting Guddap.

Salar, ditto Gooja.

Mahummut, ditto Guddap.

Dagra, ditto Dumb.

|           |            |                      |
|-----------|------------|----------------------|
| Soonria,  | inhabiting | Guddap.              |
| Bund,     | ditto      | Hubb.                |
| Ameerka,  | ditto      | Kuddejee and Guggur. |
| Sahmanee, | ditto      | Mulleer.             |
| Powhar,   | ditto      | Mulleer and Guddap.  |

The Jam possesses extensive Jagheers both in the Kurrachee and Hyderabad Collectorates, and enjoys a pension of Rs. 250 per mensem. He is nevertheless so careless of his money affairs that he is always in difficulties. He usually resides at Mulleer, and, like the Noomreea Chief, is simple and unostentatious in his habits. He is now about seventy years of age, and it seemed probable that the race of Jam Bejor would become extinct in him. However, to the great surprise of all, and of none more than of the Jam himself, a son has been born to him within the last twelvemonth, which has caused much joy and congratulation throughout the tribe.

26. The Jokeeas and Noomreeas have conducted themselves well since they came under British rule, and have in many ways proved themselves useful subjects. Both tribes have abundance of cattle, which are their chief source of wealth. The ranks of our city police are almost entirely recruited from amongst them, and from the Kulmuttees, a few of whom reside amongst the Jokeeas.

27. This latter tribe, like the Beloochees of the north, claim to be of Arabian origin. They appear first to have established themselves on the Mukran Coast, whence they pushed their way into Sind, and acquired by conquest possessions on both banks of the Hubb, and in the Talooka of Sakra, where they are still very numerous. They are a well conducted, intelligent tribe, and many of them hold extensive Zemindarees both in Sakra and in Ghorabaree. Their chief wealth consists in camels, of which they have immense herds, which they keep for breeding purposes, and which they dispose of to great advantage to the Afghan merchants.

28. The chief settlements of the Belooch tribes inhabiting the northern district are at and near Pokrun, Dhul, and at Runee-ka-Kote. The inhabitants are few in number, and are chiefly of the Gubbool tribe, with a few Rhinds and Nohanees scattered amongst them. The Gubbools, by means of small earthen bunds, cultivate about 200 beegas of rain-land near Pokrun, and they also cultivate all the available land in the Valley of Dhul, which is watered by a

natural spring, and which, with the lands adjacent, I have lately, with the Commissioner's approval, granted to them on lease for a term of fifteen years, on a light cash assessment of Rs. 20 per annum. The Gubbbools are rich in flocks and herds, which are their chief means of support.

29. I will now proceed briefly to state the measures which I would recommend should be adopted for the improvement of these districts. In a region intersected as this is by numerous rivers and watercourses, there ought to be no scarcity of water ; and yet this no doubt is the chief want of the districts. Thunderstorms are of frequent occurrence, and the rain descends in torrents ; but the precious element, which ought to be arrested and stored for irrigating the fruitful soil of the valleys, no sooner falls than it rushes away at headlong speed down the sandy or rocky beds of the rivers, and is lost either in the ocean or in the Indus.

30. It appears to me, then, that the *first* thing to which we should turn our attention is the erection of weirs in suitable positions in the beds of these mountain streams, by means of which considerable heads of water might be retained, and small streams might be diverted, for the irrigation of the plains on either side. In the selection of suitable localities for these weirs, considerable judgment and experience of hydraulics would be requisite, and the work could not be entrusted to any Native official.

31. The inhabitants of the hills are, it is true, for the most part a pastoral people ; but they are by no means disinclined to agriculture : and wherever water is available without any great expense being required to raise and to apply it to the land, as at the natural springs of Tong, Kurchat, and Dhul, they cultivate to the utmost of their ability. At Runee-ka-Kote and Pokrun I have also known them to incur considerable expense and great labour in the construction of watercourses for the conveyance of a small rill of water to distant plots of land. I feel convinced, therefore, that were water provided there would be no lack of willing hands to turn it to advantage.

32. In the *second* place, I would have a rough survey made of the whole district, and fix a light assessment on all grazing lands, the form of which I would offer, in the first instance, to the Chief of the tribe now in possession. The boundaries of all these lands are well known, and are for the most part well defined. If the Chief agreed to pay the rent fixed, either by the year or on lease for a series of

years, I would allow him to make his own terms with all who wished either to cut grass or to graze cattle within his limits.

*Thirdly.*—I would recommend the construction in favourable localities, and near the larger villages, of pukka wells with troughs for watering cattle attached. The wells should, I think, be constructed only where the villagers would engage to keep them properly drawn, leaving them at liberty to apply the water not required for themselves and their cattle to agricultural or horticultural purposes. I would also have cleared roads made wherever necessary.

*Fourthly.*—Without in any way attempting to force agriculture on the people, I would assist those who required aid, and who could give security that the money would not be misapplied, with small advances for the construction of kutchha bunds for cultivation in suitable situations.

*Fifthly.*—I would endeavour to improve the breed of cattle throughout the districts, and greatly to multiply their numbers. The breeds of sheep, goats, and horses might, I think, be greatly improved.

*Sixthly.*—I would use every effort to promote education, both amongst Chiefs and people, and to bring them acquainted with the common wants and conveniences of civilised life, of which the great part of the Hillmen have at present not the most remote idea.

*Lastly,* if the above recommendations meet with your favourable approval, as it is clear that the present establishment is wholly inadequate for the performance of such important duties as would be required of them, and as it would be impossible, with my numerous other duties, for me effectually to discharge the executive duties of a homestead very little short in extent of the principality of Wales, I would beg to recommend that an additional assistant, with a suitable establishment, be allowed me, to take charge of, and to carry out, under my superintendence, the above improvements in the Highlands.

33. In the above recommendations I have, I think, embodied most of Mr. Frere's views, as gathered from personal conversations with him on the subject; and it now only remains for me to recommend to your favourable notice, as a person well fitted to take charge of the district, both in Mr. Frere's and my own opinion, Mr. Elander, my present Canal Assistant. Mr. Elander is a good draftsman and surveyor, a good practical engineer, understands the language, and

has great temper, and possesses considerable influence with Natives, of whose character he has had long experience.

34. The Naib Kardar has forwarded a statement in the form prescribed in the 5th paragraph of your letter under reply, but the details entered therein are so imperfect that I have sent it back for correction, and will forward it hereafter. By the last Census, commenced on the 29th February,—

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| The mud houses (entered as pukka) amounted to..... | 187          |
| The kutchra, made of reeds ditto .....             | 3,322        |
| Total.....   | <u>3,509</u> |

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| The Mahomedan males amounted to..... | 8,372         |
| Ditto females ditto .....            | 5,782         |
| Total of Mahomedans.....             | <u>14,154</u> |

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| The Hindoo males amounted to ..... | 1,329        |
| Ditto females ditto .....          | 917          |
| Total of Hindoos.....              | <u>2,246</u> |

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Giving a Grand Total of..... | <u>16,400</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|

or about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  persons to a mile, supposing the district to be 6,000 square miles in extent.

35. In conclusion, I beg to apologise for the length of these observations.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. W. PREEDY, Major,  
Collector.

*Kurrachee, Collector's Office, 9th June 1856.*

(True copy)

L. PELLY,  
Acting Assistant Commissioner.

No. 3389 of 1856.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT, REVENUE.

To the ACTING COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

*Copy of the Resolution passed by Government under date 3rd September 1856, on a Letter from the Acting Commissioner in Sind, No. 265, dated the 8th July 1856, submitting a Report by Major PREEDY, Collector of Kurrachee, on the Hilly Region forming the Western part of that Collectorate.*

These papers contain very interesting information regarding the hilly region forming the western part of the Kurrachee Collectorate, in Sind.

2. The statistics of this district which have been collected by Major Preedy constitute a valuable addition to our knowledge of the pastoral tribes on our extreme western frontier. That officer's report, together with the Acting Commissioner's comments, should be printed as a number of our Revenue Selections. His Lordship in Council is inclined to the opinion expressed by Colonel Jacob, that, at least for many years to come, the principal wealth of this region must continue to be of a pastoral kind, and that it would be impolitic to endeavour to force a system of cultivation for which it is not adapted. Nevertheless, the gradual extension of the present very limited agriculture should be encouraged in favourable localities, by improving, where it can be done without much expense, the supplies of water. This, however, must probably be a work of time, and any measures undertaken by Government should be calculated to meet the demand which may spontaneously arise, rather than to create such demand.

3. The other measures advocated by Major Preedy, and concurred in by Colonel Jacob, have the entire approval of Government. The views expressed by the Acting Commissioner in the 9th and 10th paragraphs of his report appear to His Lordship in Council judicious. He sanctions the temporary employment of Captain Hodgkinson as proposed, and authorises, subject to the confirmation of the Government of India, such increase in the establishment as may from time to time be found necessary, on the understanding that the total cost of such establishment is not to exceed Rs. 205 monthly.

(Signed) H. YOUNG,

Offg. Chief Secretary to Government.





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on 24 February, 2020

