

CHAPTER IXNAVSARI PRANTADMINISTRATION OF DEWAN SIR T. MADHAVRAO : 1875-1881Problems and Objectives :

The uneasiness and discontent of the raiyats, the mounting arrears, the large stretches of cultivable waste land, and the emigration of raiyats from Gaekwad's territories were all alarming symptoms of a weak economy which the new administration of 1875 could not fail to miss. The first concern of the Dewan T. Madhavrao was, therefore, to conciliate the peasants by attending to their grievances and restoring the lost confidence of the cultivating classes in the Gaekwad administration. By a series of measures and activities affecting land revenue during the years 1875-81, did the dewan tackle the economic problems of the state.

Measures :(1) Organisation of Talukas :

One of the measures of the dewan in his work of reconstruction was the organisation of the talukas into proper and more compact administrative units. Accordingly the large and unwieldy talukas were divided or split up and other smaller ones were attached to the bigger and more organised talukas.

In 1876, therefore, the Navsari division was organised as a territorial sub-division. The taluka of Mahuwa which was formerly a very small unit was enlarged and made more compact in 1876, by the addition to it of the villages of Anaval and Valvad.¹ In the Navsari taluka the mahals of Teladi, Maroli and Navsari were thrown together and thus made more compact.² Another administrative change was the new name given to the taluka of Balesar viz., Palsana.³

1. File 263/31, op.cit.

2. File 263/34, op.cit.

3. DN 6; File No.11; SSO Jamabandi branch, p.14, Report dated 22nd Sept. 1825 by Wahiwatdar of taluka to Suba, Navsari Prant.

Note: The reductions in 1875, over the demand of 1874, in the different areas and according to different documents.

Talukas	<u>%age fall in demand</u>		Taluka	<u>%age fall in demand</u>	
	1874	1875		1874	1875
Kamrej		-48.6	Wario		-47.7
Navsari		-20.6	Teladi		-25.0
Gandevi		-32.4	Vasrai		-21.6
Maroli		-16.6	Balesar (Palsana)		-30.9
Timba		-39.9	Total excluding the 6 holbandi		31.3

Reductions in Navsari Administration report Revenue department ending March 31st 1875, DN 107; File 632.

(b) Note: The reductions according to another document. The percentages have been calculated from the revenue statistics in the file. Administration report of prant 1875-76, DN 106; FN 628.

The overall reduction in revenues was of 22.0% and of land revenue of 23.0%.

Also see below reduction in the named areas.

contd.

(2) Reduction in Govt. demand :

This was the most significant measure of the Dewan's administration after 1875, which really conciliated the peasants. The reduction when compared with the land revenue of 1874, was of 20.1%, but when compared with the settlement of 1865, was of 32.6%. This gives an idea of the degree to which the districts had been taxed since the times of Khanderao Gaekwad in 1865⁴.

A Closer look at the Reduction in some talukas :

Kamrej : The annual revenue demand in the taluka of Kamrej was reduced from Rs.396019 in 1876 to Rs.313158 in 1877⁵; and

3. contd.

Talukas	<u>%age fall in demand</u>		Taluka	<u>%age fall in demand</u>	
	1874	1875		1874	1875
Taladi		-17.6	Vasriav		-13.8
Maroli		-4.1	Shulla		-11.5
Navsari		-19.2	Variav		-41.9
Balesar		-21.4	Gandevi		-24.5
Kamrej		-37.2	Total		-20.1
Timba		-17.0			

(c) Note: The reduction in the three places on the Khanderao's settlement of 1865.

It was of 38% in Teladi; 47% in Maroli and 35% in Navsari. The reduction in Maroli was specillay desirable as the rates here had been high on a land that was mostly salty, in the taluka, and where no vegetation existed in any case. Therefore, the assessment of Rs.40 on the bigha, on the rice land on the cost was reduced to Rs.8 per bigha. Ibid.

The average rates on garden land were Rs.16-4 per bigha; on rice land were Rs.10-8-0; on dry crop were Rs.4-9-0; on grassland were Rs.2-3, ibid, the Ratio compare with rates of Khanderao footnote 6,8,9 Chap.VIII.

4. This reduction is for the 11 mahals in footnote 3 Chap.IX, Item (b).

5. File 263/56, op.cit.

specially low rates were fixed for the deserted villages in order to encourage the return of the emigrants. That consideration was shown for the class of cultivators, and their ability to pay is indicated by the rates fixed in 1877 for the different classes in the villages of the taluka of Kamrej.⁶

Palsana : In the taluka of Palsana a revision of rates was made in 1875 when the raiyats were relieved by a reduction of 17%.

Velecha-Vakal : A reduction by 1/4 was made on the lump sum demanded of each village during the years 1875-77, and the rates too were reduced in the taluka of Velecha-Vakal. In order to facilitate the spread of cultivation, low rates were enforced on the 'Vada-popda' or grassland, which had been left as uncultivated grassland on account of the high demands on cultivated lands. The new vada popda rates were kept low in all villages where there was much unoccupied cultivable land present. These villages whose rates varied from Rs.1-8-0

6. pp.12-14, Rates of different castes. File, Ibid.

Villages	Chief caste	Bigha rate fixed in 1877	
Rundhi	Kanbi	Rs.6-2-1	Note: Maximum rates only of 4 out of the 94 villages taken.
Khalvad	Bohra	5-12-10	
Mallav	Kanbi	4-15-5	
Dighas	Kanbi	4-14-5	
Targana	Deserted	1-0-6	Minimum rates of 4 out of 4 villages taken.
Nana Bambara	Deserted	1-0-7	
Dalaiya	Deserted	1-4-9	
Niadra	Duble	1-7-9	

to 8 annas per bigha were the villages of Nani, Nandi, Mahuvej, Lindiad, Tarasali, Dinod and Dhanod. In villages where the 'Vada Popda' land was less, low rates were not applied. The villages with high rates were Barsara, Mota, Athoda, Sava, Navali Moti, Velacha Kasbo, Kosadi, Kothva, Panatha, Paniar, where the area of Vada Popda was small.

In certain villages of Velacha proper as Megrad, Varthan, Borsad, Dungri, Jakharda, Undav, Vakrav and Visali, the holbandi system of assessment was left unchanged. This was because they were poor and the worst situated villages in Velecha and were considered to be too weak for any new or more perfect mode of collection.

Mahuwa : Likewise was reduction made in the taluka of Mahuwa where new bighoti rates were introduced after the rough survey.*

Navsari : In the taluka of Navsari reductions of 4 annas in the rupee i.e. of 25% were made after the survey. However, the people were not satisfied with the reductions and they complained to Laxman Jagannath, the suba of the division, after which fresh inquiries and inspection were constituted. Soils

* Note: Despite the tightened administration in 1875-76, the realisation in Mahuwa taluka in 1876 was Rs.121204 over the sum fixed in 1875 of Rs.122775. This made it clear that the demand was above the realizable sum and needed to be reduced.

were roughly classified into three categories and a further reduction in rates was made. These rates remained in force till 1892.

Gandevi : Similarly were reductions made successively in the taluke of Gandevi in the years 1875 by 30%; and in 1877 by 18% at the recommendations of the Sarsuba.

Songadh : In the taluka of Songadh too were the raiyats relieved when the revenue demand of 1875 of Rs.38228 was reduced to Rs.38129 in 1876.⁷ The comparatively low figures of revenue returns from certain bhagdari villages Songadh during the years 1875-1881 are attributed partly to the low demands fixed by the Diwan.⁸

(3) New System applied :

Vyara : With the abolition of the izara system, the introduction of new rates, the application or trial to the new system was made. This 'new system which was applied to the talukas of Vyara and Songadh was the 'Kaltana' system which remained in force till 1886. In this system the produce of each field was estimated by the talati in October or November,

7. Book No.5421, op.cit.

8. pp.9-12, Appendix No.II-B, Amount received by High Highness government in the bhagdari villages situated in the Dangs - Songadh (1871-1901).

1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880
518	679	733	607	383	368	334	394	491	472
					1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
					529	695	718	803	975

Note: Only years 1871-1885 taken here.

tests were subsequently taken by the Wahiwatdar and the Naib subha who inspected the grain actually produced, kept it waiting in the fields where it was threshed till their tests were over. Thereafter rates for each kind of grain were fixed and each cultivator's produce was valued. Of the total valuation 6 annas in the rupee were levied as government demand.

The above, therefore, was an attempt to fix rates in accordance with the quality of produce. This system, however, having proved a faulty one and one affecting adversely the interests of government, attracted increasing attention and a bid was made to change it. The 1st movement in favour of a change was made by the subha of the Navsari division Laxman Jagganath in 1877, but changes really came in after 1881.

Songadh: The Kaltana system combined with holbandi was also introduced in 1876 to the taluka of Songadh. This system - according to which the government official, assisted by a Patel or a Panchayat, estimated the outturn of the fields and then estimated the share of the government, which from kind was converted into cash at the prevailing market rate - was found to be faulty and unsound, as in the taluka of Vyara, and was, therefore, abolished in 1885.

These measures of the dewan viz., of abolishing the izara system with the application of new reduced bighoti

rates, and the attempt at introducing a new system of fixing assessment were notable changes in the existing system and affected in a significant way developments in the future.

Proposal for Holbandi rates :

Whilst a general relief was given in 1875, new rates were proposed for the holbandi villages.⁹ In this way a defect of the system was removed as the ploughs in possession, and the fields cultivated under them were now recorded.¹⁰

Summing up of the discussion Regarding the new Settlement :

The revision settlement was made on a summary inquiry, no doubt, as the circumstances allowed. Its arrangements, therefore, did not bring in any radical change but in fact were in continuity of the old arrangement. It was the rate of

9. (a) The rates in Maroli tappa of the Navsari taluka were as follows :

1. Single plough	Rs.22
2. 2 ploughs	Rs.40
3. 3 ploughs	Rs.51
4. 4 ploughs	Rs.60
5. Above 4 ploughs, each plough to pay	Rs.15.

(b) In Antapur and Songadh too rates on plough were fixed.

10. Earlier no proper account was kept of the number of plough one had, or the field cultivated by him. In this way the state was losing revenues, for more were kept and ploughed than had been assessed. Moreover there was no system in the assessment of the plough to that those who possessed less number of ploughs and those who possessed more paid almost the same amount of tax, irrespective of the size of the holdings. And this served to the disadvantage of the poorer land holder, but the advantage of the bigger one with more ploughs and a larger area.

assessment alone that was affected.

The arrangements made as regards grass land were no doubt, new. For such land, cultivated, was no longer considered as Vada Papda but as jarayat land - light though the rates were. The idea would have been to urge the people to cultivate grassland by having a tax on it. It was hoped, that to pay the demand, proper cultivation, or some cultivation, would have to be carried on, instead of leaving them as grassland and having to pay a higher rate on them.

No doubt, there were differences between the suba and the Sar suba, for the former felt, that by charging the grass land jarayat rates, a breach of faith was committed. For, the people had earlier been assured that no change would be made in the rates then fixed.¹¹

The one radical change that took place, was in the proprietary right in land conceded to the cultivator. The idea was to encourage the peasants to invest in their holdings having provided them with a stake in the system.¹²

Preparations prior to the regular scientific survey :

Whilst a rough settlement was applied, preparations for a regular scientific survey were started during the dewan's

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11. Reference made to this in Kazi's letter to the suba Navsari Division, dated 17th Sept. 1878, DN 53, File No. 296, Survey, Navsari.
 12. Sarsuba's circular No. 411 of 1875, Administration report, DN 106; FN 628.

administration, and its results applied soon after.¹³ For the purpose of revenue settlement, the division was divided into two parts : (1) Rani or forest and (2) Rasti or Surveyed. Alienated lands were also to be surveyed. The new rates, it was decided were to be fixed in British currency.

By 1881, the classification of land seemed to have been complete as the Suba reported that the prant had eight talukas and 2 peta mahals. These talukas were classified as 1st Class, 2nd class etc. as per the quality of soil and resources.¹⁴

(4) Measures regarding taxes :

(a) Agricultural : There were a number of taxes in the state falling both directly and indirectly on the cultivators. These, together with the already high demands on land, had been so burdensome, that trade and industry were affected.

The dewan, realising the problems that affected the prospects of both the state and the individual, abolished several of these taxes that fell on the cultivators.¹⁵

13. The suba of Navsari division was directed by the Sar suba, Kazi Shahabuddin to start survey operations, first in Velecha taluka, and then elsewhere.

Subha Navsari, Ganesh Shastri to Sar suba, dated 18th April, 1877, DN 53, FN 296, Survey in the Navsari Division,

14. Suba Navsari to Sar suba, dated 3rd June 1883, DN 50, FN 273.

15. Taxes abolished : Proclamation No.605, dated 25, July, 1877.

(a) Havaladari - a cess on the formers of Dumala villages Rs.24-10-3.

(b) Sanvera - a cess on cultivators growing hemp Rs.11-15-3.

(b) Transit and customs duties :

The customs and transit duties too, were objectionable. The transit duties for instance, were charged on the same goods over and over again.¹⁶

15. contd.

- (c) Tad Ghoongdu - in Rani mahal where the cultivators had to give umbrellas made of palm leaves Rs.5-10-0.
- (d) Tulli Telo - Rs.4-10-9.
- (e) Amlī vero - on tamarind trees.
- (f) Ghee telo - In Rani mahal where the holder of each plough had to give the farmer a quantity of ghee varying from 1 to 1½ seer.
- (g) Dhad giras - In order to prevent the incessant in roads of freebooters, the cultivators used to collect funds between themselves and pay Rs.150-13-0.
- (h) Pahuwa vero - when a particular kind of rice with husk was grown Rs.68-7-6.
- (i) Mandvi Raja Giras - Moje Mandvi collected grain in 14 villages Rs.268-00.
- (j) Dang-rajās-giras.
- (l) Miscallenaous cesses - Rs.588-0-0.
Cesses abolished in Mahuwa, vide Sarsuba's order No. 44, dated July 1876.
- (a) Gol dastori - on plantations of sugarcane.
- (b) Ghas dasturi.
- (c) Roku Tali - Cess on the Kaliparej people.
- (d) Sadri - on date trees from Kaliparej people.

Cesses abolished in Songadh vide Sarsuba order No.6, dated 11 June 1876, (a) levy on grass (b) levy on hemp (c) cess on guarding villages.

The total of agricultural cesses abolished were worth Rs.397439.

Administration report, 1876-77, DN 106, File No.628.

16. (a) Again the duty on timber floating down the Tapti was different at different places such as Vijapur, Bunda, and Parget, being highest of Rs.5-8-0 at Vijpur. Here too it was the Sircar's duty that was highest, Ibid.
- (b) Then goods taken from Velecha in the north to Navsari paid Varying fees at varying places. The highest being at Timba.
- (c) The duties on oil seeds passing from the through Songadh to Surat were differed at Songadh, Vyara and Palsana. In all those places, it was the sarkar's duty which was highest at Vyara, being Rs.1-4-13 per cent.

Note: The above information is from the following file. Memo of T. Madhavrao, July 1878, File 261/1, Reform of Customs administration in Navsari, 1877-79.

This, as well as the absence of statistics, made the problem of reorganising the revenue system even greater for the dewan. And that was very true as far as the information regarding customs nakas was concerned.

The solution of the problem, therefore, necessitated an inquiry which the dewan set in motion. These inquiries revealed that the prant had innumerable nakas and posts at which duties and imports under various denominations were levied. The rates were particularly high in the eastern mahals.

Inquiries also revealed that the duties were being levied unauthoritatively by Parekhs, Majumdars and others.

Proposals made :

Several proposals were made regarding the transit and customs arrangements :

- (1) That a uniform customs arrangement be made for the whole prant.
- (2) that as the prant was divided into two blocks by intervening British territory, the administration of the two blocks be separate.
- (3) That the town duties at Songadh, Vyara and Kathar be abolished.
- (4) That certain goods be exempted from duty viz., animals,

carts, wooden furniture, betel leaves, soap, milk, paper, leather, and other articles of common use.

The above proposals were approved by the British and implemented in 1878.¹⁷

(5) Other incentives for agricultural development :

(a) Waste land for cultivation :

Whilst the measures seen were notable incentives for encouragement of cultivation, there were others as well which not only encouraged cultivation but also helped the cultivators in tiding over their economic difficulties, so that investment was possible with less financial strain upon them. While providing this incentive the sarkar ensured the cultivators interest, so that it was made clear to those who took up the waste lands, that no change in land tenure would be allowed and that the villagers of the waste land village would be given priority as against private individuals in the buying of such land. That was to ensure that the people around the area got good prospects in their own region.

(b) Remissions and writing off of arrears :

The raiyats were benefitted on one hand by the reduction in demand and on the other by the writing off of arrears, and remissions granted.¹⁸

17. Ibid.

18. Remissions granted and arrears written off in the different talukas. R = Remissions; A = Assets.

Impact of the Measures Upon Economy and Economic Conditions :

The reductions made and the incentives provided set in motion forces of development and arrested those of stagnation and decay.

18. contd.

(1) pp.58-59, File 263/56, op.cit. HPO, CRO.

	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
R	50	19041	26478	135	20	41	-	7
A	227	1346	5216	6139	4815	2571	1371	1253

(2) pp.49, Appendix VIII, Palsana taluka file, Ibid.

	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
R	232	372	12017	26593	-	-	-	-	-	10
A	882	574	368	493	501	421	495	713	183	132
	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892			
R	3	59	22	10	4	5	-			
A	112	149	868	64	62	-	-			

(3) pp.112-113, Appendix X, File 263/29, op.cit.

	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
R	152	9123	53607	-	-	15	17	-	244
A	283	2940	3943	-	6995	7622	6932	524	2318
	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892		
R	296	668	151	103	96	141	-		
A	761	769	505	92	-	-	-		

(4) pp.108-111, Appendix VII, File 263/31, op.cit. Mahuwa Taluka.

	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73	416
A	-	138	36	165	302	220	749	7775	1781	30
	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	
R	36	46	-	-	79	61	-	-	361	
A	67	287	60	434	345	191	-	417	-	

(5) pp.50-51, Appendix No.VIII, File 263/34, op.cit.

	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881
R	-	27602	6969	-	337
A	-	2607	-	-	10

Improvement in economy is evidenced in several ways. First of all, there was an extension of agriculture, hence an increase in cultivated land¹⁹ with a corresponding growth of waste land sold for cultivation.²⁰ The extension of agriculture is also to be seen in the extension of government occupied land with the accompanied fall in unoccupied land.²¹

It was this extension of agriculture that affected a growth in land revenue in particular and general income, in general, as seen in the receipts of the year.²² The larger margin of profit allowed to the cultivators, and the state help given by way of remissions,²³ enabled them to increase their assets as is evidenced in the growth of cattle and carts,²⁴ soon after the new settlement was affected.

This improvement in agriculture affected other revenues allied with the industry of the times viz., abkari, customs²⁵ and trade, with the abolition of taxes, the movement of goods

19-25. Note : Below the 3 tables indicating growth i.e. percentage growth from year to year as specified and simple percentage growth or fall in the various areas.

contd.

Footnotes 19-25 (contd.)

Table I : Percentage growth in years marked with arrow :

Item or areas	1874-	1875-	1876-	1877-	1878-	1879-	1879-
	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1880
1. Cultivated land			0.6	0.8			0.1
2. Govt. occupied land			1.9	9.1			1.7
3. Unoccupied govt. land			-2.5				-8.9
Bighas of Waste land				7.0	-31.2		
4. Land revenue	-23.0	5.3	72.7	-21.7	9.7		
5. Abkari (Excise)		11.5					
6. Sugar (customs)		33.0					
7. Stamp		16.0					
8. Law & Justice		47.9					
9. Miscellaneous		-60.9					
10. Non-land revenue	-22.0	-6.0			4.7		
Taxes - Total							
11. Receipts of year			3.2	-0.2			
12. Expenditure			*				
13.							
14. Cattle		5.1					
15. Carts		32.0					

* More than 8 times.

Note: (1) The figures showing decline will be explained in the text later when discussing impact of famine and have been put here for convenience. (2) Certain items not referred to in the text presently, have been given in table for later reference and convenience. (3) The negative growth of land revenue of 23.0% in 1875-76, is due to the reduction made.

Table II : Simple %age - see the growth and fall.

	1874-	1875-	1876-	1877-	1878-	1879-	1880-
	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881
1. Govt. villages	-	94	94	94	-	-	-
2. Alienated	-	5.9	5.8	5.8	-	-	-
Percentage of land.							
3. Revenue to total	83.9	82.9	82.9	87.1	85.1	86.0	84.1
4. Abkari	2.4	3.4					
5. Customs	4.9	8.5					
6. Stamp	0.3	0.5					
7. Law and justice	0.2	0.4					
8. Miscellaneous	0.3	3.9					
9. Total %age of all non agricultural revenue						13.9	15.9
10. Realisation of revenue		93.9	94.8	90.6	88.2	96.3	97.2
11. Percentage of waste land bighas sold for cultivation			21.3	32.5	10.6		contd..

by way of import and export too gained momentum²⁶ and the balance of trade was in favour of Baroda mostly since there were more export than imports.

19-25. (contd.)

Table III : Note : Percentage growth in bighas under crops.

	1876-77	1877-78	1878-79	1879-80
Grass		41.4	34.8	21.3
Rice		-80	35.4	30.9
Juar		20.7	-21.0	42.6
Crops cottons		12.7	-61	108.0
Bajri		22.5	65.1	-62.0
Wheat		-86.0	17.6	45.5
Oil seeds		Over 100% increased		
Hemp		15.4	13.7	41.3
Tobacco		-35.3	53.4	22.9
Sugarcane		-22.0	-37.5	25.3

The increase in the total cropped area including other crops not listed, in these specified years was from 20.8% to 13.3 to 6.3.

Note : All the percentages have been calculated from the statistics available in the Administration reports of the respective years. DN 106, File 628.

26. Note: the growth income from the export import trade at the posts of the prant.

(a)	<u>Billimora</u>		<u>Navsari</u>	
	1880-81	1881-82	1880-81	1881-82
		16.9%		0.0%

The total income from both parts increased by 14.8% from 1880-81 to 1881-82.

Note: These percentages have been calculated from the statistics in the following file : Annual report for 1881-82, DN 10, File 11, Masarsuba jamabandi branch.

(b) Note : The import export activities from the growth and fall in number of vessles at port in the respective years.

contd..

It was on account of this general improvement that the realisation of demand improved consistently²⁷ and population too increased²⁸ there being a return of emigrants to their original homes. For while a natural increase explains the increase in population, the other explanation in view of the changed times is also a valid one.

A Closer look at the changing scene in the talukas - as an impact of the measures :

Kamrej taluka : The moderate rates and the specially low rates for the deserted villages of the taluka of Kamrej started the process of the return of emigrants - a process that was slow,

26. contd.

<u>Import vessels</u>	<u>1876-77</u>	<u>1877-78</u>	<u>1878-79</u>	<u>1879-80</u>	<u>1880-81</u>
At Bilimora		-11.1%	26.3%	-13.5%	-28.2%
At Navsari		90.0	3.8	22.2	-6.0
<u>Export Vessels</u>					
At Billimora		16.8	-30.0	42.0	-6.0
At Navsari		-62.0	22.2	-15.7	-7.5

The balance of trade on the whole is in favour of Baroda specially at Billimora.

Note: These percentages have been calculated from the statistics of vessels in the below cited document. Administration Report Navsari of the respective years. DN 106; FN 628.

27. Refer Table II - %age realisation in footnote series 19-25 Chap. IX.

28. Note : The growth/fall of population.

	<u>1874-75</u>	<u>1878-79</u>	<u>1879-80</u>	<u>1880-81</u>	<u>1881-82</u>
%age growth of population		-3.3	4.4	7.5	1.0
					<u>1882-83</u>
					-0.4

Note: These percentages have been calculated from : (1) Figures of 1874-75, Administration Report of Revenue Dept. year ending March 31st 1875, DN 107; File 632. (2) Figures of 1878-1883, Annual report 1882-83, DN 11; File 3; Rara 20.

but which continued, the results being noticed in the next two decades. The promise and plan of the administration for a detailed and scientific settlement was in due course instrumental towards that end. As the area of cultivated land increased, that of arable waste decreased by the 1890s. When the 1st scientific settlement, as promised, was made, the area of arable waste was only 5% of the total area. This in its turn went to increase the revenues of the state as well; and on account of this development, the state did not have to spend large sums by giving remissions. In the 15 years that followed 1877, Rs.45995 were remitted of which Rs.45529 were the special extra-ordinary remissions in the famine years of 1877-78. In specific terms, therefore, the improvement in economy or development of Kamrej taluka is to be seen in the extended area of cultivation²⁹ which had affected a fall in prices of goods³⁰ and the decrease in figures of remissions

29. The total area recorded in 1877 was 157895 bighas, and in 1892 was 160095 bighas for 94 villages in the Kamrej taluka. p.33, appendix No.IV. File No.263/56 op.cit. The increase in cultivated land was from 112364 bighas in 1877 to 113042 bighas in 1892. There was simultaneously a decrease by 1894 of 5436 bighas of uncultivable waste, Ibid.

30. Prices of staple products, p.18, Appendix No.I, File, Ibid.

Year	Wheat	Rice	Bajri	Juar	(per maund)
1879	2-0-0	1-6-0	1-8-0	1-7-0	
1880	1-6-0	1-6-0	1-2-0	0-14-0	
1881	1-7-0	1-6-0	1-0-0	0-14-0	
1882	1-8-0	1-2-0	1-4-0	1-0-0	
1883	1-8-0	1-5-0	1-4-0	1-1-0	
1884	1-3-0	1-6-0	1-3-0	1-2-0	
1885	1-4-0	1-12-0	1-3-0	1-0-0	
1886	1-8-0	1-10-0	1-4-0	1-0-0	

made as also in the arrears written off.³¹ Realisations too, for the years 1877-92 were good, being not much less than the demand fixed.³²

Palsana Taluka : The same trend of development set in motion is to be seen in the taluka of Palsana. The significant feature in the taluka of Palsana was the low assessment on 'Vadapooda' or grassland which led to the reutilization of these lands for cultivation so that by 1892 Vada Popda claimed almost 1/3 of the occupied area.³³ It was this trend of development that led to an increase in the total area of land paying proper revenue to the state; an increase in occupied land i.e. of operational holdings,³⁴ which in their turn brought about a certain amount of stability in prices in the years that followed³⁵ and which demanded less from the

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31. Note: For remissions and arrears written off refer figure of remissions for Kamrej, footnote 18 Chap. IX.
32. pp.7-8, File, Ibid. The average annual demand for the 15 years from 1877-1892 was Rs.359403 and the average annual realisation for these years was the 354659.
33. File, Ibid.
34. pp.38-39, Appendix No.V, op.cit. The increase in total of land was from the figure of 8523 bighas in 1877 to 88369 bighas in 1892 and the increase in occupied land was from 61308 bighas in 1877 to 62514 in 1892.
35. Prices, p.43, Appendix VII, ibid. (Rs.per mound)
- | Years | Bajri | Wheat | Juar | Dangar | Rice | Caster | Oil | Gol |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-----|-------|
| 1886 | 1-8-0 | 2-0-0 | 1-0-0 | 1-0-0 | 2-4-0 | 2-0-0 | | 3-0-0 |
| 1887 | 1-6-0 | 1-8-0 | 1-6-0 | 0-12-0 | 0-12-0 | 1-8-0 | | 3-0-0 |
| 1888 | 1-6-0 | 1-12-0 | 1-4-0 | 2-0-0 | 2-0-0 | 1-8-0 | | 3-0-0 |
| 1889 | 1-8-0 | 1-8-0 | 1-0-0 | 1-12-0 | 1-12-0 | 1-9-0 | | 3-4-0 |
| 1890 | 1-4-0 | 1-8-0 | 1-0-0 | 0-14-0 | 0-14-0 | 1-4-0 | | 3-4-0 |
| 1891 | 1-4-0 | 1-8-0 | 1-4-0 | 0-14-0 | 0-14-0 | 1-8-0 | | 3-8-0 |

*Note: Though the prices pertain to the years following the administration of Dewan T.Madhavrao 1875-1881, they can be illustrated to show the trend.

state in succeeding years by way of remissions and arrears written off.³⁶ The figure of realisation too was not markedly below the figure of demand fixed.³⁷ Moreover, in Palsana there were figures of a developed industry and trade³⁸ which was due to its proximity to the British ports where there was much movement of goods in these times.

Velecha Vakal : The revised rates in the taluka of Velecha and its tappa of Vakal encouraged the spread of cultivation in the years following the settlement of 1875. And it is to be assumed that these villages to which low rates were applied saw a greater conversion of grassland to cultivation, than those to which the low rates were not so applied. Thus the extention in cultivation and improvement of taluka was greater in villages which saw revise rates. Moreover, it was these light rates also in the villages of the greater part of wada popda lands which enabled the raiyats to bear the heavy rates of taxation that were levied, despite the reductions of dewan T. Madhavrao.

36. Refer Remissions granted and arrears written off foot note 18 Chap. IX for Palsana.

37. pp.54-55, Appendix IX, Demand and Realisation. The average annual demand during the years 1877-1892, was Rs.23368 and the average annual realisation during these years Rs.230769 despite the famine year of 1877.

38. That only 23% of the people were cultivators indicates that there was in those times, a notable alternative to agriculture, in the taluka - Report of Navsari Prant Suba, dated 3-1-1876, DN 6; Ferisht 170, Masarsuba Jamabandi branch.

The development in the taluka, during and after the year 1881 is to be seen in the statistics on areas of land which show an increase in area of occupied land with a corresponding decrease in cultivable waste land³⁹; the narrow difference between the demand fixed and the realisation of revenues;⁴⁰ the trend of a gradual falling off of remissions made and arrears written off except for the famine years of 1877, 78, 79.⁴¹ And but for these famine years conditions in the taluka would not have been so poor. Finally the very fact that the administration considered the equalisation of rates by bringing the special low rates of grasslands to the level of others, also shows that conditions had improved and so the justifications for special treatment were not there any more.

Mahuwa : Signs of improvement and recouping conditions were to be seen in the backward taluka of Mahuwa as well. Deve-

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39. The increase in occupied land since the survey of Gaekwad Khanderao till 1892 was of 4272 bighas; the decrease in cultivable waste was of 2100 bighas; and the decrease in uncultivable waste was of 2420 bighas. File 263/29, op. cit. Note: Part responsibility of this increase is attributed to the progressive policies of Dewan T. Madhavrao during the years 1876-1881.
40. pp.24-25, File, Ibid, Demand and Realisation the average annual demand during the years 1877-1892 was Rs.211468, and the average annual realisation for the same period was Rs.202627 (for 117 villages).
41. Note: For remissions and arrears written off in taluka of Velecha Vakal refer figures of footnote 18 Chap. IX.

lopment is to be seen in the increased area of cultivated land; in the decrease in uncultivable waste; and the overall increase in the recorded area during the years 1876-1894;⁴² it is seen in the steady trend in prices of staple goods;⁴³ in the marginal difference between the demand and realisation,⁴⁴ in the relatively low figures of arrears written off.⁴⁵ The absence of figures of remissions during the period is equally significant.⁴⁶

Navsari : With the reduced rates in the Navsari taluka the raiyats got a better margin of profit and so agricultural enterprise was encouraged and the conditions of cultivators,

42. pp.54-55, Appendix V, op.cit.

The cultivated land increased from 67274 bighas in 1876 to 79653 bighas in 1894, the increase being of 12379 bighas; the decrease in uncultivable waste was from 19019 bighas in 1876 to 11618 in 1894 i.e. a decrease of 7401 bighas; and the increase in total area was of 25592 bighas.

43. Prices of Staple Produce, pp.1-2. Appendix IV, File, Ibid.

Years	Cotton	Wheat	Rice	Juar	Bajri	(per mound)
1883	2-12-0	1-5-0	1-4-0	0-13-0	1-0-0	
1884	3-2-0	1-5-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	1-4-0	
1885	3-1-0	1-4-0	1-9-0	1-8-0	1-4-0	
1886	2-14-0	1-9-0	1-12-0	0-14-0	1-4-0	
1887	3-0-0	1-8-0	1-13-0	1-1-0	1-4-0	
1888	3-4-0	1-7-0	1-8-0	1-3-0	1-2-0	
1889	3-12-0	1-8-0	1-10-0	1-2-0	1-8-0	
1890	3-12-0	1-8-0	1-9-0	1-0-0	1-2-0	
1891	3-4-0	1-8-0	1-7-0	1-1-0	1-4-0	
1892	2-8-0	1-9-0	1-5-0	1-1-0	1-7-0	
1893	4-0-0	-	-	-	-	

44. pp.120-121, Appendix IX. Realisation and Demand. Demand (average annual) was Rs.153357 during the years 1876-1894 and the average annual realisation was Rs.152879.

45-46. Note : For remissions and arrears written off refer footnote 18 Chap. IX.

in consequence, improved. The comment made in 1891 bears this out. It was observed that conditions were better than what they had been during the period of Khanderao Gaekwad and an improved standard of living was visible in the better houses and better clothing of the people.⁴⁷

The process of reconstruction started by the new administration of 1875 continued and the results are to be seen in the extended area of cultivated land; the corresponding decrease in cultivable waste;⁴⁸ the falling figures of remissions granted and arrears written off, at least for the period of administration of Dewan T. Madhavrao;⁴⁹ and the slight difference between the average annual demand and the average annual realisation.⁵⁰

Gandevi : A similar pattern of development viz., in the extension of area of cultivation and reclamation of waste land⁵¹ for purposes of cultivation which was the result of the

47. File 263/34, op.cit.

48. p.24, File 263/34, op.cit. Comparison of Areas. The cultivated area increased from 61584 bighas in 1876 to 61983 in 1891; culturable waste decreased from 4396 bighas in 1876 to 23112 in 1891; the overall increase in area being of 9630 bighas.

49. Note: For remissions and arrears written off refer footnote, 18 Chap. IX.

50. p.19, File, Ibid. Demand and Realisation 1877-1891, Demand was Rs.267069 and the realisation was Rs.248033.

51. p.51, Appendix No.5, Survey and settlement report Gandevi Taluka, File, Ibid. The increase in cultivated land was from 30226 bighas in 1876 to 31428 in 1891; the decrease in culturable waste was from 1622 in 1896 to 1440 in 1891; and the decrease in barkhali was from 3852 in 1876 to 3805 in 1891.

policies and measures of the administration, is to be observed in the taluka of Gandevi. The effect of these measures was felt on the price level, which, though showing a trend of increase, was fairly steady.⁵² Both the state and the individual benefited - the state as it got more revenues and the individual as the burden of rates was less and more commensurate with the quality of soil.

Songadh Taluka : The process of agricultural development, while having been set in motion in the Songadh taluka, took time to catch on as it was a hilly and forested region, inhabited primarily by backward tribes. The really useful measure of the dewan's administration in Songadh was that the system of farming the forest revenues was put to an end in 1878, and with forest management forest revenues were improved. Thus another area of development started and the way was prepared for the improvement of the taluka's economy.

52. p.149, Appendix No.2, Prices: File, Ibid.

Years	Wheat	Juar	Bajri	Kodra	Sugar	Coconut Oil	Gol
1884-85	1-2-0	0-15-0	1-6-0	-	1-13-0	47-8-0	2-8-0
1885-86	1-4-0	0-15-0	1-7-0	1-4-0	1-10-0	47-12-0	2-7-0
1886-87	1-8-0	1-1-0	1-4-0	-	1-7-0	43-11-0	2-5-0
1887-88	1-9-0	1-3-0	1-11-0	-	-	48-10-0	2-5-0
1888-89	1-7-0	1-4-0	1-9-0	2-6-0	2-6-0	58-0-0	-

One category of statistics that enable us to judge the success of the programme or measures of the Dewan during the year 1875-1881, is that of population. The population statistics of all the talukas of the Division in 1881 and 1891⁵³ show an increase during this period. While this increase was largely a natural increase, one cannot discount the fact of a slackness in the process of emigration from Gaekwad territories or the process of return of refugees accounted for the increased numbers in 1891. And these two processes, the one negative and the other positive, were directly the results of the progressive policies and the facilities provided for agricultural enterprise.

Famine of 1877 :

The forces of development and progress set in motion, as seen, did get a set back by the famine that intervened in 1877. In fact, its effects were felt for at least two years, so that recovery from famine conditions took place

53. The increase in population was in the taluka of Vyara from 4709 in 1881 to 52568 in 1891; in Palsana it was from 22909 in 1881 to 25262 in 1891; in Mahuwa taluka it was from 32628 in 1881 to 35483 in 1891; and in Navsari taluka from 49202 in 1881 to 51359 in 1891; The density therefore increased - being 248 persons to a square mile in Mahuwa, 411 to a sq. mile in Navsari; 277.6 to a sq. mile in Palsana; and 711 to a sq. mile in Gandevi.

after 1878 as seen from the statistics in the tables referred to.

It was, therefore, due to the famine and its ill-effects, that the cultivated area declined by 0.8%; the revenue receipts, which otherwise show growth, fell by 0.2%; the percentage of land revenue to total revenue fell to 82.9%; the total non-agricultural revenues too fell 17.0%; realisations of demand were reduced to 90.6% and 88.2% and a larger figure of waste land, i.e. uncultivated land, was sown showing 32.5%.⁵⁴

Agriculture affected most :

It was agriculture that was affected most and in agriculture it was the more expensive crops as rice, wheat, tobacco and sugarcane that were affected immediately i.e. in 1877-78;⁵⁵ and the other crops as juar, cotton, bajri and oilseeds, and sugarcane again that were affected in the next two years.⁵⁶ The fall in area under grass by 21.3%⁵⁷ must have hit the people owing cattle who would have had to move out of the districts in search of fodder.

54. Note: For all these items refer footnotes 1124-1130, tables I and II.

55. Ibid, Table III - on percentage growth and fall of cropped area of various crops.

56. Ibid.

57. Ibid.

Conditions of the majority were affected in varying degrees for the majority in these times did constitute the agricultural community,⁵⁸ and the others, a small minority, were connected to the agrarian set up either by dealing with trade in agricultural goods, or in serving the village in some capacity. The price rise⁵⁹ in these times was a potent factor in accentuating the conditions of distress of the poorer classes that abounded. The impact of famine is also to be seen in the fluctuation of wages of unskilled labour-fluctuation that shows a fall.⁶⁰ That was because of scarcity

58. See Table II in footnote 19-20 Chap. IX Land revenue constitutes well above 80% of the total tax, so the dependants on this industry were in majority.

59. Note: The prices in terms of seers available per Re. of various grains.

Crops	1875-76	1876-77	1878-79	1879-80	1880-81
Rice	21 seers to 1 Md	16½ to 26½	12-19	18-26	24-30
Bajri	35-53 Seers		14-25	25-32	27-45
Dal	21-30 S	14-32	11-18		
Wheat	26-36 "	23-40	13-22	18-24	24-34-
Jowar	40-53	23-40	16-28	30-50	39-55
Cotton	55 per bhar	6-65	60-92		
Math			16-26		
Wal			15-36		
Kodra				60-140	80-100

Note: The rise and fall in price during and after famine years. The figures are from the file cited below: Administration report of the respective years DN 106; FN 628.

60. Note: The wages in the different year.

Type of labour	1875	1877	1878-79	1879-80	1880-81
Unskilled person (Male)	1.3-4 annas	per	3-2	3-2	2-4-0
female	2.2-3 annas	per	2-1½	2-2½	2-3-0
child	3.1-2 per		2-1	1½-1	1-1:
Skilled	6-10 annas		6-10	5-12	5-12

Adm reports of respective years. DN 106, FN 628.

and high prices, and more were available for work.

No doubt, state help was forth coming by way of tagavi and by way of writing off of arrears⁶¹ and granting remissions.⁶² The orders to the subha, when signs of famine started appearing in 1876 were "... where the crops is good or only a little short of average, say even half of the average, the fixed money assessment should be remitted as a special case in the circumstances of the season. Remission ... should be granted only when large tracts of cultivation have failed ... not failed here and there ..." ⁶³

Note Govt. caution in giving of remissions :

The government was careful while giving remissions - careful in that state help was given only to the needy, and not unnecessarily. Such caution, in view of the fact that the government had sacrificed much by way of reductions and abolition of certain taxes, was no doubt, justified.

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61. (a) Special allowances were sanctioned to all subas to be used at their discretion for sinking of new wells, for repair of roads and wells in 1876-77. They amounted to Rs.2,000. T. Madhavrao regarding Discretionary allowances dated 3rd Oct. 1882, DN 157; FN 1881, Irrigation of wells and tanks.
62. Refer footnote 18 Chap. IX and Administration report of 1876-77, DN 106; FN 628.
63. Order to suba Navsari dated 11 Nov., 1876, DN 40, FN 197, Remissions to raiyats on account of scarcity of rain.

That caution was to be seen in the instructions given regarding the degree of help. Thus remissions were not granted for bagayat and rice lands and for grass-lands as their owners were not so seriously affected on account of the facilities of irrigation. The jarayat lands were however, given special consideration as their cultivators, by and large, belonged to the poorer sections of the cultivating classes. Moreover, no remission was granted if the estimated outturn of a field was $1/2$ or more than $1/2$ of the ordinary out turn.⁶⁴

Thus the administration was very clear as regards the degree of help it gave.

Other measures of relief to the people came by way of suspension of dues. Thus the port dues at Billimora, importing grain, were suspended in September 1877 in order to enable grain dealers to make the most of the freedom in movement of goods.⁶⁵ In fact the port dues in the entire division were suspended.⁶⁶ That explains the larger figure of import of

64. Kazi Shahabuddin regarding remission to raiyats in mahals of Velecha, Kamrej, Palsana, Navsari, dated 19 Jan. 1879, DN 40, FN 197.

65. Kazi's telegram to suba Navsari dated 15 Sept. 1877, DN 132, FN 742, Revenue Dept. Correspondence on famine.

66. Kazi to subha Navsari dated 25 Aug. 1877, DN, Ibid. File, Ibid.

grain in 1877-78 at both Billimora and Navsari.⁶⁷

Therefore, it was because of the famine that the pace of progress slackened, even somewhat checked, so that conditions of indebtedness were reported in 1890.⁶⁸ Thus, till such time more reductions were made, lands were sold and mortgaged,⁶⁹ cultivable waste and deserted villages existed,⁷⁰ arrears continued to be written off and remissions continued to be given.⁷¹

67. Note: Import-export in terms of its value in money at the 2 parts: Administration report, 1877-78, DN 106: File 628.

	Billimora	Navsari	Total
Import	248029	67020	315049
Export	145399	40584	185983

of goods worth so many rupees.

68. Note: The settlement reports of all the talukas in 1890s- viz., of Kamrej, Palsana 1892 File 263/58, op.cit. File 263/29, op.cit. File 263/34, op.cit. File 263/31, op.cit. Jamabandi settlement report 1906-07, Book 5423, CR0.
69. In Palsana taluka for instance the total value of land mortgaged during the years 1876-1892 was Rs.425000, and of that sold was Rs.25,000.
S.S.Report Palsana taluka, File 263/56, op.cit.
(b) In Gandevi Rs.212442 worth land was mortgaged during 1880-1890 and 4947 bighas sold, p.45, File 263/34, SS, Gandevi.
70. (a) In Kamrej taluka, out of the 94 khalsa villages, 24 were deserted and 67.5% cultivated. Appendix IV, File 263/56, op.cit.
(b) In Palsana out of the 71 government villages 17 were deserted and 5 almost deserted. And 4.7% was cultivable waste pp.38-39. Appendix V. Ibid. SS, Palsana.
(c) In Velecha the culturable waste was 15.4% pp.48-49. Appendix II. File 263/29. op.cit. In the peta mahal of Vakal, out of the 48 govt.villages, 14 were deserted. Jamabandi Revision settlement Report of Vakal peta mahal of Navsari division, 1911. Book No.5385.
(d) In Mahuwa the cultivable waste was 15.2%, pp.54-55, Appendix V, File 263/31 op.cit.

contd..

70. contd.

- (e) In Navsari, the cultivable waste was 3.6%, p.24, File 263/34, op.cit.
- (f) In Gandevi the cultivable waste was 3.1%, pp.57, Appendix 5, File, Ibid.
- (g) The agricultural tracts that lay waste in Songadh were 54982 bighas, i.e. 12.3%, p.27, Book 5421, op.cit.

71. (a) Arrears written off and remissions granted, p.32, Appendix VIII, File, Ibid.

	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
R	-	2760	6769	-	337	15155	-	2438	40400
A	-	2607	-	-	10	14681	4	8274	23887
				1886	1887	1888	1889	1889	1891
			R	34402	791	64490	122	6092	67
			A	8046	2574	6382	4301	3761	76971

(b) Arrears written off and Remissions granted, pp.108-117, Appendix VII, File, Ibid.

	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73	416
A	-	138	36	105	302	220	749	1115	1781	30
	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	
R	36	46	-	-	79	61	-	-	34	
A	67	287	60	434	345	191	-	417	-	

(c) Remissions granted and arrears written off for the taluka and its peta mahal, p.110. Appendix X, File 263/29, S.S. Report of Valecha, HPO, R = Remissions; A = Arrears.

	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886
R	152	9123	53607	-	15	17	-	-	244	296
A	283	2940	3943	6995	1622	6932	5244	3864	2318	261
	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891					
R	168	151	103	96	141					
A	769	505	92	-	-					

(d) Arrears written off, p.49, Appendix VIII, File 263/56, SS Palsana Taluka.

	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
A	882	574	368	493	501	421	495	713	183	132
R	232	372	12017	26593	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892			
A	112	149	868	64	62	-	-			
R	3	159	22	10	4	5	-			

contd..

Defficiency of the Dewan's Measures:

Problems felt in different talukas : The famine was not wholly to blame for the slackened pace of development and the conditions that followed. There were other reasons as well.

Vyara : In Vyara, the Kaltana system of assessment applied by the dewan was a faulty and unsound one, and the comments on the settlement applied to it bear that out and explain the conditions -

"The Kaltana system has attracted more attention since the last two years (1880-81 and 1881-82) when its injuriousness came more vividly to notice. The system is radically bad ..."⁷² Similarly the experiment of the mixed holbandi and Kaltana, as applied to Songadh was a faulty one and had to be abandoned in 1885.

Palsana : Moreover, the settlement itself had been a rough and ready measure so that the relief given was unsubstantial and it became difficult to pay the reduced demands as well, with ease.⁷³

71. contd.

(e) Note: Arrears and remissions in the period following, pp.58-59, Appendix VII, File 263/56, SS Kamrej.

	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886
R	50	19041	26475	135	20	41	-	7	137	50
A	227	1346	5216	6139	4815	2571	1371	1253	315	199
	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891					
R	6	14	-	-	16					
A	281	135	74	73	820					

72. Suba of Navsari commented thus, on June 3rd 1883, p.2, Jamabandi, 1906-07, Book 5305, op.cit.

73. Notices had to be served to people in recovery of dues. In Palsana taluka, for instance, the wahiwatdar issued on an average 825 notices annually to Khatedar, for non-payment of dues. File 263/56, op.cit.

Velecha-Vakal : In Velecha-Vakal, if the low rates on villages having larger extent of Vada Popda land facilitated the growth and development of cultivation, the higher rates of the villages with lesser area of Vada popda hampered the same. And it has been assumed that it was in these villages that the Vada Popda or grass land was not recovered under cultivation or at least not readily brought under cultivation. Here, instead, the Khatedars maintained the grass lands as grasslands in order to balance the heavy calls of government on the cotton fields. Despite that, the cultivators were unable to keep a balance between the two kinds of holdings and the difficulties on this score explain the state help that had to be given by way of arrears written off and remissions granted. And obvious proof of the deficiency in reduction is the greater reduction envisaged in the settlement of the 1890s.

Damaging effect of the proprietary right in land :

Though the granting of proprietary right in land in possession was a notable and radical social reform, its effect in practice was damaging. For the measure that enabled the cultivator to hold land and transfer it at his will, also made him vulnerable to the moneylender. The latter, because of the security in the immovable property, readily advanced loans. But what the administration failed to understand was that the demands were still high to give the

cultivator a sufficient margin of profit by which he could maintain himself, invest and pay off the loans. What happened over the years, therefore, was that the cultivator got increasingly indebted and dispossessed of the property that was once his.

In these times, when institutional borrowing and organised credit were absent, a necessary thing was to have some kind of legislation, preventing the transfer of land by sale and mortgage. In its absence, the measure that was well intentioned, failed in its purpose. And in the 1890s it was observed, in Navsari taluka for instance, that over 8 lakhs people were in debt, owing a sum four times larger than the annual land revenue.

The inadequacy of reductions, the famine of 1877, not to forget the contribution of Khanderao's demands and those of Madhavrao in addition, also contributed to the conditions prevalent.

For the former, no doubt, it is to be said that at a time when expenditure was increasing owing to the reconstruction of the administrative machinery,⁷⁴ greater reduction

74. (a) Note: The increased expenditure on cost of collection.

1874	1875	1876	-1877	1877-78	1879-80	1880-81
-	0.3	8.1	14.7	-3.5	20.3	-2.1

Note: There have been calculated from figures of Administrative report of the respective years, DN 106, FN 628.

(b) Also see the increased expenditure in general of more than 8 times from 1875-76. Table I, footnote series 19-25 Chap. IX.

was not possible. The administration itself felt the strain of the growing expenses.

Conclusion:

The real purpose of the dewan was, however, fulfilled, ✓ for the raiyats were conciliated if not entirely pleased.

What is significant is that healthy trends of development were set in motion with the new orientation given to agricultural economy which led to improved conditions towards the close of the century. For the increased cultivation and the relatively low figures of cultivable waste, observed in the 1890s, were the logical sequel of the policy and measures of the dewan.

With the increase in agricultural enterprise, the villages started producing beyond the local needs. This, coupled with the improved communication, provided the stimulus for trade and marketing, so that all talukas were centres of export of grain about the last decade of the century.

Kamrej taluka, thus, which was earlier importing grain, became self-supporting in it. An observation made in 1891, illustrates the change during the preceeding twenty years. It says, "... In those days the traveller passing along Baroda frontier saw on the one hand, British territories, well tilled fields, large wells, good houses and all evidences of peace and prosperity, on the other hand in the

Gaekwad's dominions, miles of waste land, deserted villages, ruined huts, choked up wells and every sign of disorder and misery ... the contrast is striking and now both territories look the same"⁷⁵ Even if this statement is taken as an exaggeration there is no denying that the changes were significant.

Likewise the taluka of Palsana too by the 1890s had become self-supporting in food grains as it exported its surplus rice and juar to Surat. Other markets were local ones those being Balesar, Palsana in the taluka and Bardoli and Mota in British territories. Cotton as a rule was disposed off at ginning factories in Balesar, Bardoli, Vesma, Sabargam, Sisodra, Sama and sometimes Rander and Surat.

The taluka of Mahuwa, which was a backward taluka, also become self sufficient in food grains and exported cotton, juar and rice, and imported no food grains.⁷⁶ As Mahuwa itself had no markets, the people went to Surat, Navsari, Billimora and Gandevi for disposal of surplus produces. For ordinary weekly purchases, 'hats' were held.

In the taluks of Navsari in the 1890s, though food

75. p.7, File 263/56, op.cit.

76. File 263/31, op.cit. HPO, CRO.

grains viz. wheat, rice, juar, were seen to be imported, the balance of trade was favourable to the taluka which exported large quantities of cotton, molasses and plantains.

Cotton was exported by rail mostly to Bombay and Madras to both Bombay and Ahmedabad. The imports that came chiefly by rail were tobacco, wheat and sugar; by sea came rice; Sugarcane from China and Mauritius, driving out of market the Bengal sugar. ✓

The taluka of Gandevi became a busy centre of trade by the 1890s. It was exporting molasses to all chief cities of Gujarat. Gandevi too was self-sufficient and was maintaining itself.

The markets for Gandevi taluka were Billimora and Gandevi.

The exports of Velecha taluka went to Kim and Panoli stations.

Cotton went to these two places as there was a ginning factory in each of them. Velecha and Vakal too were market towns, the latter though, a poor and local one. Ankleshwar beyond Panoli was the chief market for the taluka.

Then Songadh too, by century end became an important market for the taluka of Songadh. Timber was its chief export, and its principal market being Surat, Vyara, Bajipura.

Other exports were surplus cereals and diveli. The goods imported were sugar and salt.

The margin of profit provided by the reduced demands; the other incentives given, specially that of abolition of octroi duties; and the extention of roads and railways,⁷⁷ all contributed to the growth of trade and markets - for there was capital at hand; a good profit motive and the added facilities of communication - all the three essentials of healthy economic processes.

77. In the taluka of Kamrej, the BB. & C.I. Railway passed through the taluks and on the work and all local markets were therefore in reach. The town of Kamrej was itself 10 miles from surat station. Then Amreli on the Tapti, was the station for Variav and Sayan Station was 3 miles, from Valther. Roads too connected Kamrej, Palsana and Navsari.

In Palsana while the survey of a railway line from Surat to Nandurbar was in progress, two good roads connected Surat with Bardoli and Kamrej to with Navsari. There were also many tracts that connected the villages.

There were 2 good roads in the taluka of Mahuwa that connected Navsari with Mahuwa and Mahuwa with Kalkua.

The Navsari taluka had the benefit of the BB & CI railway with 2 stations at Navsari and Maroli Roads connected Navsari with Gandevi; Navsari with Surat.

The Gandevi taluka was connected with Billimora and Surat by roads. All villages of the taluka were within easy distance of railway stations of Billimora and Amabad from which molasses were exported to the chief cities of Gujrat. Billimora grew as an thrving part in course of time.

The BB & CI railway passed through the Western villages of the taluka of Velecha, but the railway stations were in British territory at Kim near the South west corner and at Panoli war the M.W. earner of Velecha. A road connected Kim in the Southwest with Tadkesar in the South of the taluka.