

H 10(1).

SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS  
OF THE OFFICE OF THE  
FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER PANJAB.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

15516

No. 13.

CONTENTS :—

	<i>Page.</i>
No. XXXIX.—Report on Cattle Fair, Sirona District, 1871-72.	34
No. XL.—System of collection of fees at Cattle Fairs.	8

H 10(1)  
1872  
15516

WEST PAKISTAN CIVIL SECRETARIAT  
LIBRARY COPY

(To be returned to the Library when done with)



No. XXXIX.—REPORT ON CATTLE FAIR, SIRSA DISTRICT, 1871-72.

*Copy of a letter No. 161, dated 21st November 1872, from Major C. A. McMahon, Officiating Commissioner and Superintendent, Hissar Division, to J. A. E. Miller, Esquire, Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb.*

In reply to your No. 6907, dated 3rd ultimo, I have the honor to for-

\* No. 255, dated 18th November 1872, ward a Report\* on the Sirsa Cattle Fair by the Deputy Commissioner.

2. The rate charged is half an anna in the rupee; but with reference to Mr. Melvill's para. 3, I do not recommend any present reduction in the rate.

3. Rewards should be given in future. This will be arranged in communication with the Deputy Commissioner previous to the next Fair.

---

*Copy of a letter No. 255, dated 18th November 1872, from R. G. Melvill, Esquire, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Sirsa, to Major C. A. McMahon, Officiating Commissioner and Superintendent, Hissar Division.*

I have the honor to submit a report on the Sirsa Cattle Fair for 1872, called for in your No. 197 dated 8th ultimo.

2. From the accompanying statement it will be seen that the number of cattle brought to the fair this year was 6,936, and the number sold 5,252. The numbers fell off greatly in 1869, recovered in 1870,\* and have decreased still further in 1871 and 1872. This is owing almost entirely to the Gúga Fair † in Bikanír coming off at the same time. This necessarily draws away a large number of cattle which would otherwise have come to the Sirsa Fair; and moreover, abundance of wood and grass is obtainable there free of charge, and a uniform charge of 6 annas per head is levied on all sales. These attractions are only partially balanced by the greater security afforded by the Police arrangements in British territory. Influence is also exerted, certainly indirectly, if not directly, to prevent the Bikanír people from bringing their cattle to the Sirsa Fair. The exercise of such influence ought to be put a stop to; and having the Fair 15 days earlier may have some good effect. Grass and wood are generally so scarce that it is almost impossible to afford the same advantages in respect to them as at the Gúga fair. Some arrangements, however, may be made to supply fodder at a cheap rate.

---

\* Owing apparently to there having been an unusual demand for plough bullocks that year.

† Re-established in 1869.

3. As regards the reduction of fees, the Municipal income depends chiefly on the receipts of the Fair, and cannot bear any reduction; the question is therefore whether lower rates would necessarily reduce the income. I think they would; because I am of opinion that the present rates are sufficiently low, not in themselves to deter cattle dealers from attending the fair, and that therefore reducing the fees would not attract larger numbers. The projected bridge across the Ghággar will do away with one of the difficulties the dealers have to meet in bringing their cattle in.

4. About one-fourth of the cattle belong to the Sirsa district, and about one-fourth to neighbouring districts. Bháwalpúr and the Rajputána States supply the other half.

5. The buyers principally come from Firozpúr, Ludiánah, Mírat, Alígarh, Farrakabád, Bijnaur, and other places in the North Western Provinces.

6. Rewards are desirable, in proportion to the number and quality of the cattle brought, for plough and draught bullocks, and for sheep, to encourage the improving of the breed, and bringing good animals for sale.

Statement showing number of Cattle brought and sold at the Cattle Fair at Sirsa, during the years 1866 to 1872.

Years.	BULLOCKS.		BUFFALOES.		PONIES.		CAMELS.		DONKEYS.		GOATS.		TOTAL NUMBER.	
	Brought.	Sold.	Brought.	Sold.	Brought.	Sold.	Brought.	Sold.	Brought.	Sold.	Brought.	Sold.	Brought.	Sold.
1866,	24,953	21,953	1,635	1,335	40	32	8	6	10	...	28	...	26,674	23,326
1867,	13,000	10,769	1,500	1,026	41	30	3	1	...	...	...	...	14,544	11,826
1868,	15,275	11,775	339	229	30	22	12	8	3	1	3	2	15,662	12,037
1869,	7,600	5,576	63	43	30	22	10	5	12	8	5	3	7,720	5,657
1870,	17,000	13,854	110	88	45	33	24	16	3	2	8	8	17,190	14,001
1871,	7,430	5,426	50	34	50	33	15	10	5	3	8	5	7,558	5,511
1872,	6,400	4,885	350	250	70	49	6	4	10	7	100	57	6,936	5,252

SIRSA DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, }  
*The 18th November 1872.* }

(Sd). R. G. MELVILL,

Officiating Deputy Commissioner.

*Copy of a letter No. 8355, dated 6th December 1872, from J. A. E. Miller, Esquire, Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, to Major C. A. McMahon, Officiating Commissioner and Superintendent, Hissar Division.*

In reply to your No. 161, dated 21st ultimo, furnishing a report by the Deputy Commissioner, Sirsa, on the present year's Cattle Fair in that district, I am directed by the Financial Commissioner to observe that this report shews a considerable diminution in the number of cattle brought to the fair in 1872.

2. It is desirable to encourage those who bring good animals, by offering prizes as suggested by you. Local causes no doubt influence the number of cattle brought to the Fair; and as the Sirsa district has during the last two years suffered from drought, and the people are in a somewhat depressed condition, the prospect of a poor market has probably kept many dealers away from the Fair this year.

4. The mode in which duty is levied at the Fair, is by a per-centage on the price of the animals sold. This method no doubt brings in more income, but it is doubtful if it promotes the prosperity of the Fair.

5. As the Fair is a small one, and as both yourself and the Deputy Commissioner do not recommend any change, the Financial Commissioner does not think any alteration should be made at present in the mode of levying the fees.

---

No. XL.—SYSTEM OF COLLECTION OF FEES AT CATTLE FAIRS.

*From Edward O'Brien Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, to L. H. Griffin, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Government, Panjáb, No. 1009, dated 12th December 1871.*

I AM directed to submit, in original, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, the accompanying docket No. 164, dated 21st ultimo, from the Commissioner, Amritsar Division, furnishing a report from the Deputy Commissioner, Siálkot, on the Gúlu Shah Cattle Fair held in that district on the 15th September last.

2. This Fair appears to be increasing in importance, and the arrangements made for it this year by the Deputy Commissioner seem to have been quite satisfactory; but the Financial Commissioner thinks the fees should be levied per head of animals brought to the Fair, and not on the price of animals sold.

---

*From L. H. Griffin, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Government, Panjáb, to Edward O'Brien, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, No. 2032, dated 18th December 1871.*

IN reply to your letter No. 1009, dated 12th December, forwarding in original, correspondence from the Commissioner, Amritsar Division, regarding a Cattle Fair in the Siálkot District, I am to remark that the Lieutenant Governor would wish the opinion of the local officers taken on the question of the levy of fees.

2. There is a great deal to be said in favor of a change, and fees being levied upon animals brought to the Fair, and not upon sales made. It may, also, be worthy of consideration whether the fees themselves could not more appropriately be collected by a respectable native official; and credited to the Government against the expenses of the Fair, than made over to a Contractor, who is more likely to abuse the authority entrusted to him.

---

*From Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Hall, Officiating Commissioner and Superintendent, Amritsar Division, to W. M. Young, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, No. 78—532, dated 29th February 1872.*

I HAVE the honor to reply to the questions contained in your letter No. 44, dated 2nd ultimo, regarding the levy of fees on animals brought to Fairs, &c., and to make the following remarks.

2. As regards the levy of fees per head instead of *ad valorem* on sales, the Deputy Commissioners of Siálkot and Gurdáspúr are of opinion that such a measure would diminish the number of Cattle brought to Fairs, for, as the Deputy Commissioner Gurdáspúr remarks, men do not object to pay a tax on money *made by a bargain*. The Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar is decidedly in favor of the measure, as fees levied in this way yield a larger and more certain income. In this opinion I entirely agree, and for the reasons stated.

3. As regards the second question, *viz*: whether the fees could not be more appropriately collected by direct agency rather than through a contractor or lessee, the Deputy Commissioners of Siálkot and Gurdáspúr are of opinion that they could not. The Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar is of quite the opposite opinion. He is in favor of direct management, and his opinion is based on the fact that the arrangements for direct management made by me when Deputy Commissioner during the last Dewali, produced a larger profit than had ever been made before, when the contract for the levy of fees was leased to a private individual. With this case in point, and from my own experience of how the system of direct agency can be made to yield a larger income, and is productive of less trouble and annoyance to the owners of animals, I cannot but agree with the opinion of Captain Marshall.

I would refer you further to Mr. Halsey's and my reports on the Dewali Cattle Fair, No. 76—516, dated 28th February 1872, with enclosures, in which the subject is reported on in detail.

---

*From W. M. Young, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, to the Officiating Secretary to Government, Panjáb, No. 274, dated Lahore, the 14th March 1872.*

I AM directed to submit, in original, a letter, No. 76, dated 28th ultimo, Report on the Dewali Cattle Fair at Amritsar. from the Commissioner, Amritsar Division, with its enclosures, furnishing a report on the Dewali Cattle Fair held at Amritsar in November last.

Three important changes in arrangements at fair noticed.

3. The most important changes in the arrangements at the fair were—

*1st.* The whole of the animals were registered.

*2nd.* A fee of one ana per head of cattle, and one rupee per camel was levied on each animal brought to the fair.

*3rd.* Animals were entered for competition for prizes by their owners; a fee was levied on each animal, and the prizes were awarded by marks, each animal entered being examined in turn by the judges.

4. The Committee of judges approve of the two first innovations, but think the third undesirable, though it gives satisfaction to the exhibitors.

6. The plan of levying a fee of small amounts for each animal brought to the fair, instead of a per-centage on the prices realized by sale, appears a great improvement, and the arrangements for carrying it out were judicious and successful.

7. The plan of levying a fee on animals entered to compete for prizes is also a good one. It keeps back worthless animals, and, as the prizes are of considerable value, it is reasonable to make the owners who compete, pay for entering their animals.

Levy of a small fee on each animal.

8. The Committee recommend that the rate of fee be increased in the case of cattle, to two anas per head, and reduced in the case of camels to eight anas.

The Commissioner has not stated his opinion on this point. The Financial Commissioner thinks the fees should remain unaltered for the present.



*Extract from a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Hall, Officiating Commissioner and Superintendent, Amritsar Division, to the Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, No. 76—516, dated Amritsar, the 28th February 1872.*

\* \* \* \* \*

4. Complaints were loud and universal on the subject of extortion and violence used by the contractor and his men at these cattle fairs, and disgraceful disturbances were constantly occurring. I, as, District Officer, thought it right to effect some improvement if possible.

5. I first made a careful calculation of probable assets by direct entrance fees, based on the very smallest number of cattle assumed to attend the fair, at the rates alluded to by Mr. Halsey; this I found would realize more than any contracts had, in previous years, particularly if it be taken into consideration that the net income was several times diminished by contractors absconding without paying up.

6. But a greater object than a mere financial result was to remove the pressure and oppression from the people who attended the fair.

7. My proposals when worked out, were laid before a Committee of Zaildars presided over by the Táhsildar. Their opinion was a highly favorable one. The proposed system was accordingly put into practice. The result was a complete success, and the main objects were fully attained, bringing in their train some minor advantages, showing that the system of a levy of direct fees is far preferable to the contract for fees on sales: but the system must be properly worked and supervised. The *modus operandi* here was as follows:—

8. Day after day as numbers increased it was proclaimed by beat of drum throughout the fair that fees on sales were abolished, but that instead, each owner would have to purchase a ticket at a certain rate without which he would be unable to pass his animals out of the fair, and that these tickets were procurable on application at the Katchery tent in the centre of the fair.

9. This proclamation, printed with the addition of prescribed rules and fees for competition and exhibition, and other matters connected with the management of the fair, were conspicuously put up all over it.

10. No one was bullied or interfered with.

11. In the Katchery tent sat selected Moharirs, men already in Government employ on good salaries, Darogahs, &c. supervised by Táhsildars and Naib-Táhsildars, and by the District Officer, who passed hours daily amongst the people at the fair to see the working of the system. Each clerk had a register, a box for tickets, and a box for money with a slit in the lid.

12. The tickets were counted out to each by the Táhsildar and the cash receipts with balance of tickets; and a comparison with the registers, were the checks imposed. The applicants for tickets were at times very numerous, but not one suffered any annoyance, and not a single complaint was made.

13. Numbers did not take tickets at first, but when they had sold cattle, left it to the purchaser to procure his exit ticket.

14. So well was it known throughout the fair that tickets were only procurable in this manner at the tent itself, that an impudent Táhsil chuprasi who had stolen tickets and tried to sell them for his own benefit was at once brought up for justice by some Malwa Jats.

15. In former years, under the contract system the number and description of cattle which attended the fair was not known. An approximation was made which was generally far above the mark. One consequent advantage of the direct fee system are the registers, which now furnish accurate statistical information regarding the fair.

16. I need say no more to show that the direct fee system, if properly worked, is much preferable to the contract for fees on sales.

17. The entrance fee for exhibition is so palpable an improvement on the old way of doing business that it is useless taking up your time in discussing it.

18. By levying an entrance fee the competition becomes a real one. It depends upon the will and pleasure of the owner, as well as on his opinion of his animals; and many willingly pay one rupee to win Rs. 100, if they think they have a good chance. No one is compelled to exhibit nor compete who does not wish to do so, and these fees, which are entirely voluntary, swell the income.

*Extract from a Report of the Committee on the Amritsar Autumn Cattle and Camel Fair of 1871, bearing on the system of collection of fees.*

THE Amritsar Autumn Cattle and Camel Fair of 1871 was remarkable for several innovations. The chief of which were the following:—

Exit fees of one ana per head of cattle, and one rupee per camel, were charged in lieu of taking one pie per rupee on sales of cattle and per cent. on sales of camels.

All fees were collected by Government direct and not farmed out as heretofore.

Entrance fees of eight anas per head on cattle and one rupee on camels competing for prizes were taken.

2. The change in the system of fees has been a financial success, and was much approved by dealers attending the fair:—

24,333 head of cattle paid one ana each,	...	Rs.	1,520	13	0
1,613 camels paid one rupee each,	...	"	1,613	0	0
234 animals for competition @ eight anas,	...	"	117	0	0
Halwais and Bannias' stalls,	...	"	158	8	0

TOTAL, ,, 3,409 5 0

The Committee believe that Rs. 2,400 was the largest amount ever collected under the old system.

6. At former fairs it has been the custom to farm out the right of collecting the fees on sales; very great complaints were made that the contractors took more than their right from ignorant villagers; and the Committee have no hesitation in saying that the great approval of the new system shewn by the dealers attending the last fair arose from the fact that they knew the fees were being collected fairly and honestly.

This was the first occasion when an entrance fee has been taken for animals exhibiting for prizes.

8. The Committee will now make its remarks and suggestions on these innovations. It is of opinion that a fee of two anas per head, may be taken on all cattle, and eight anas on all camels, coming to the fair for the future. A fee of two anas per head would, under the old system of taking a pie in the rupee on sales, represent an average value of Rs. 24 per head, which is greatly under the real value of the cattle coming to the fair; but, as the Contractor nearly always took a pice instead of a pie in the rupee, the increase of the fee to two anas a head cannot be considered excessive.

The fee of eight anas a head on camels might be a tentative one; the Committee are not sure that the reduction is necessary; at the last fair the demand for camels was small, but had they been all sold, as they often are, a fee of one rupee per head would not have been felt.

*From C. M. Rivaz, Esquire, Officiating Under-Secretary to Government, Panjáb, to the Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, No. 587, dated Lahore, the 26th April 1872.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 274, dated the 14th ultimo, and its enclosures, giving an account of the Diwali Cattle Fair held at Amritsar in November last.

3. The system introduced on this occasion for the first time, of levying a small fee on animals brought to the fair, in place of taking fees on sales, is reported to have worked well. His Honor considers the new system the more suitable of the two for large fairs, and sanction has been conveyed in a separate letter to your address to its being continued at the Amritsar and introduced at the Rohtak fairs.

The fees levied were one ana per head of cattle, and one rupee on each camel. The Committee suggest that, in future fairs, the rates might be altered to two anas per head of cattle, and eight anas on each camel; but the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Financial Commissioner in considering that the present rates should be maintained.

---

*From Major C. A. McMahon, Officiating Commissioner and Superintendent, Hissár Division, to W. M. Young, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, No. 17, dated 20th January 1872.*

I HAVE the honor to reply to your No. 45, dated 2nd January.

2. With reference to the question whether the fees levied at Cattle Fairs should be collected by native officials, or whether the right to collect them should be sold to a Contractor, the District Officers of the Division have expressed conflicting opinions; the Deputy Commissioners of Hissár and Rohtak are in favor of collection by a native official, and my opinion coincides with theirs. The Deputy Commissioner of Sirsa, on the other hand, considers that "as the amount that will be realized is very uncertain, it is better to let a contractor run the risk, as he has not much opportunity of abusing his authority." In other words, Government is advised to put up to public auction that which in its pecuniary result to the auction purchaser depends very much on chance. This year the Sirsa Contractor lost about Rs. 6,600 on his venture.

3. The Deputy Commissioner Hissár remarks:—

"For the last two years the Hissár Cattle Fair has been under *direct* management, the fees being collected under the supervision of the Táhsildar or Naib-Táhsildar, assisted by a suitable establishment, and I am satisfied from past experience, that this is a far preferable arrangement for many reasons to the contract system."

4. The opinions of District Officers on the second question proposed, *viz.*, whether fees should be levied on sales or by a charge per head on animals brought for sale, are also conflicting. The Deputy Commissioner Rohtak would levy the fee on animals brought to sale, but remarks that the "fee levied per head must be so small as not to have the effect of deterring people from bringing their cattle." The Deputy Commissioner Sirsa would fix the fee "so small that owners of cattle would not take it into consideration;" but he would maintain fees on sales at a reduced rate as well. The opinion of the Deputy Commissioner Hissár is as follows:—

"2ndly, it is presumed that the same fee will be levied on cattle of different value, in which case it would perhaps be considered unfair that the owner of a

"bullock worth Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 should pay as much as he whose animal is worth Rs. 100 or more."

"3rdly, it sometimes now happens that cattle brought for sale change hands at the fairs two or three times, being bought and sold by other parties, who on each occasion pay the prescribed fee. By the proposed arrangement, this could not be done, and there would consequently be a loss of revenue.

"Finally, as regards the Cattle Fair here, many cattle owners who reside in the neighbouring villages bring their cattle every day to the Fair, and take away those unsold to their homes, to be brought back again the next day as long as the Fair lasts. According to the new system this would be impracticable, as it would be difficult to identify them, and would lead to many abuses if permitted.

"The system now in force has worked very well heretofore, and the tax is very fair in its incidence, only affecting those who have been fortunate and successful in disposing of their cattle. I therefore think unless some very strong reasons can be urged in favor of the proposed change, the practice which has hitherto obtained should be permitted to continue."

*From Philip H. Egerton, Esquire, Commissioner and Superintendent, Ráwulpindi Division, to W. M. Young, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, No. 43, dated 3rd February 1872.*

In reply to your No. 43, dated 2nd ultimo, I have the honor to forward replies as noted in the margin,\* received from the Deputy Commissioners of Ráwulpindi and Shahpúr, in which alone there are Horse and Cattle fairs.

\* From Deputy Commissioner, Ráwulpindi, No. 128, dated 26th January 1872.

From Deputy Commissioner, Shahpúr, No 45, dated 19th January 1872.

2. I have not by me the statistics of last cattle fair to refer to, but I am inclined to think that it is not expedient to introduce a tax upon all animals as a substitute for tax on sales. The tax per head must be very low or it will deter people from bringing their animals. I would not put it at more than 4 anas per head on horses and less on other cattle.

3. But if kept at this low rate it might supplement the tax on sales, and would allow of that tax being reduced.

4. With regard to collection, a fixed rate per head might be most satisfactorily collected by Government officials, but the tax on sales is best collected by a Contractor, for two reasons :—

1st. Because he has means of ascertaining the real price paid, which a Government official would not have, and the latter would be taken in.

2nd. Because the Contractor, having no authority,\* cannot do anything arbitrarily. He depends on his correct information of sale prices, and if he attempts to collect on more than has been paid he is resisted.

The Táhsildar not having such good information would be likely to assume probable prices and to collect accordingly, when the sellers mentioned prices which were manifestly under the mark.

5. Any mistake thus made by the Táhsildar would be taken as an official act, could not be resisted with the same ease, and would bring unpopularity on Government officials.

6. I recommend that the system introduced last year may not be changed this year at the Ráwulpindi Fair, but the result be awaited as suggested by Major

Urmston, and if future change seems desirable that it be ordered soon after the Fair, so that intimation of it may percolate through the people before bringing their horses to the Fair of 1873.

*From W. M. Young, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb, to L. H. Griffin, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Government, Panjáb, No. 275, dated 14th March 1872.*

IN reply to your No. 2032, dated 18th December last, relative to the system which it is most desirable to adopt for the levy of fees at Cattle Fairs, I am directed to intimate that the opinions of the Local officers have been taken, and with the exception of the Deputy Commissioners of Amritsar and Rohtak, all are in favour of the existing system of levying fees on sales established under this office Book Circular VII of 1867.

2. The proposal in my letter No. 1009, dated 12th December 1871, related to Cattle Fairs and not to Horse Fairs. Ráwulpindi being chiefly a Horse Fair may be excluded from consideration.

3. The Fairs at Rohtak and Amritsar are very large and important ones. The system of payment by head of cattle will be successful at a large fair, while at a small one more money will be taken by a per-centage on the price of the animals sold; the Financial Commissioner would therefore allow the existing system to continue in Siálkot, Gurdáspúr, Hissár and Shahpúr.

4. Mr. Egerton thinks, however, that the system of fees per head is capable of being better regulated than that of per-centage on price, and for this reason it seems desirable to introduce it, more especially in large fairs. Mr. Egerton therefore allows it to be continued at Amritsar and introduced at Rohtak as the Deputy Commissioner desires it. The Financial Commissioner would draw attention to the report submitted with this office No. 274 of this day's date on the method adopted for realizing fees at the Dewali Fair, Amritsar, in 1871, under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, Colonel Hall,\* as an instance of successful management of the fee system.

*From Lepel Griffin, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Government, Panjáb, to W. M. Young, Esquire, Officiating Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Panjáb.—No. 582, dated 26th April 1872.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 275 of the 14th ultimo, reporting further on the subject of the levy of fees at cattle fairs.

2. In reply I am to state that as all the local officers connected with the Financial Commissioner, have, with the exception of the Deputy Commissioners of Amritsar and Rohtak, expressed themselves in favor of retaining the present system of levying fees on sales, and as the Financial Commissioner recommends that this system be continued at all the smaller fairs, and that the system of levying fees upon animals brought to the fair be only carried out at the large fairs of Amritsar and Rohtak, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor consents to the Financial Commissioner's proposals.

3. I am, however, to request that the Financial Commissioner will be good enough to continue to give his attention to this subject, and that he will propose a further extension of the latter system, whenever he thinks it may with advantage be substituted for the system of fees on sales.

\* See page 353.

