



# Quetta Earthquake

1935

(1935)



Government Document

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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**QUETTA EARTHQUAKE**  
**1935**

# QUETTA EARTHQUAKE—1935.

## MEMORANDUM.

This publication contains information made available from time to time to the Press in India and abroad in the form of communiqués, statements and reports regarding the situation at Quetta, and the measures taken in connection with relief, supplies, evacuation, and salvage. Extracts from the Press in India (both English-printed and Vernacular) and from the British Press in regard to the measures taken by the Authorities to deal with the situation are also reproduced.

As soon as possible after the disaster occurred, the Director of Public Information with the Government of India proceeded to Quetta (which he reached on the 3rd June) for the purpose of arranging for the provision of facilities for Press Correspondents there, and of ensuring that the fullest possible information regarding the situation was made available to the Public.

The Bureau of Public Information at Simla was supplied from hour to hour, by the Departments of Government concerned, with detailed information regarding the situation at Quetta and of the measures taken to provide medical relief and supplies and this was at once communicated to the Representatives of all sections of the Press.

The following Newspapers and Agencies were represented at Quetta :—

### *English-printed Papers :*

The Times (London).  
The Statesman (Calcutta|New Delhi).  
The Times of India (Bombay).  
The Civil & Military Gazette (Lahore).  
The Tribune (Lahore).  
The Bombay Chronicle (Bombay).  
The Hindustan Times (Delhi).  
The Sind Observer (Karachi).  
The Hindu (Madras).  
The Eastern Times (Lahore).  
The National Call (Delhi).

### *Vernacular Papers :*

#### *(Urdu).*

The Khilafat (Bombay).  
The Haqiqat (Lucknow).  
The Watan (Delhi).  
The Millat (Delhi).  
The Rozana Hind (Calcutta).

#### *(Hindi).*

The Vishvamitra (Calcutta).

#### *(Bengalee).*

The Anand Bazar Patrika (Calcutta).

### *News Agencies :*

Reuters.  
Associated Press of India.  
United Press of India.

The Press Representatives at Quetta were invited to attend the daily conferences held by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

With the co-operation of the local authorities, the Director of Public Information arranged for the preparation and publication in the Press of approximately 6,000 Indian casualties.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the variation from time to time of the estimates of casualties was due to the magnitude of the disaster and the consequent impossibility of assessing with accuracy, in the early stages, the numbers of killed and wounded. In certain particulars there are also discrepancies of minor importance in the Situation Reports telegraphed to the Secretary of State which were compiled from telegrams received from the authorities at Quetta. Some variation in the daily reports of the extent of damage, etc., was inevitable in the stress of the situation and in view of the enormous pressure on the restricted telegraphic facilities.

Bureau of Public Information,

Government of India.

Simla, 27th August, 1935.

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## QUETTA EARTHQUAKE.

Situation Reports telegraphed to the Secretary of State by the Government of India and issued to the Press.

2nd June 1935.

**No. 1.** (a) *Material damage.*—

- (1) Quetta City. The whole of city has been destroyed and is being sealed under Military Guard from today by Medical advice. Estimated twenty thousand corpses remain buried under debris and no hope rescue any more living. Corpses extracted and buried number several thousands. Exact figures unobtainable. There are about ten thousand Indian survivors including four thousand injured.
- (2) Civil Area. All houses have been razed to ground except Government House which is partially standing in ruins. Church and Club are both in ruins also Murree Brewery.
- (3) Cantonment Area. One quarter destroyed, remaining three quarters slightly damaged but inhabitable. Most damage in R. A. F. area where barracks have been destroyed and only \*6 out of 27 machines serviceable.
- (4) Railway Area. Destroyed.
- (5) Hanna Road and Staff College area undamaged.
- (6) Surrounding villages destroyed with it is feared very heavy casualties but number are not yet ascertainable. Military parties are being sent out to investigate and render help.
- (7) Outlying Districts. As already reported Kalat and Mastung are reported razed to ground with very heavy casualties. All villages between Quetta and Kalat also reported to be destroyed. Loralai and Chaman are known to be safe and no information has been received of any damage at Fort Sandeman which appears also to have been outside orbit of earthquake. Messages received from Kandahar show that that area has escaped entirely.

(b) *Relief Work and Supply.*—Whole control of supply has been assumed by Western Command who are rationing Civil population and arrangements are being made to send food and collect casualties in villages in district. Indian Military Hospital treated three thousand five hundred patients in last 24 hours. Cantonment Hospital has treated over one thousand and detained two hundred for further treatment. Refugee camps have been established on race course. Fourteen Medical Officers and six nurses together with large quantity of medical stores have been despatched by aeroplane from various stations in India, Viceroy's aeroplane being sent by His Excellency for this purpose. Special trains containing medical personnel and stores have also been sent from Karachi and Lahore.

(c) *Communications.*—Rail and Road Communications with Quetta are still intact and Chief Commissioner, Railway has gone there to investigate position. Telegraphic communication has hitherto been by Military wireless but civil land line has now been restored with assistance of Army Signals and large accumulation of private telegrams was despatched from Quetta on 2nd June remainder being sent by aeroplane.

(d) *Administration.*—Situation reported well in hand, but owing to the fact that nearly all the subordinate civil officers and police have been killed, the A. G. G., has asked the Military authorities for assistance in carrying on the administration and such powers as are necessary will be provided by emergency legislation. Both the Punjab Government and the N.-W. F. P. are sending at the request of the A. G. G. special police with officers to assist pending reorganization of the Baluchistan Police Force.

\* It was subsequently reported that only 3 machines were found to be serviceable.

Punjab and Sind refugees are being evacuated from today in six trains leaving from 11 A.M. onwards. This evacuation will continue as long as no epidemic disease breaks out. The Punjab and Sind authorities have been requested in consultation with Railway authorities to arrange food for destitute refugees after Jacobabad.

In order to prevent influx of persons for whom no accommodation or supplies are available, tickets are not being issued for Quetta, and travellers will not be permitted to proceed beyond Rohri except with special permission. The public are requested to co-operate in making these orders effective.

Daily situation reports will be issued containing further information regarding casualties as obtained. It is hoped that particulars already published regarding British Casualties are inclusive.

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3rd June 1935.

No. 2.

(a) *Material Damage*.—There were renewed shocks at intervals throughout yesterday, but no further serious damage or casualties reported.

- (1) Quetta City. Total dead estimated at 26,000 out of estimated population before earthquake of 40,000. Estimated not less than 20,000 corpses remain buried under debris. Bodies of about 5,000 Indians have been recovered and either buried or burned.
- (2) Cantonment Area. Reports now confirm that R. A. F. lines and one-quarter of military cantonment destroyed, but Staff College area undamaged. Dairy Building is damaged but standing.
- (3) Outlying Districts. Chaman, Loralai and Fort Sandeman are unaffected. Estimated 70 per cent. of population in some outlying villages either dead or injured. Villages between and including Mastung and Beleli reported completely destroyed.

(b) *Relief work and supply*.—The numbers now being fed, including troops approximately, British 6,000, Indians 30,000. Food situation satisfactory. Milk supplies available for children. Supplies of tinned milk, tinned meat, meat essences, Perishable and brandy, being distributed. Supplies of food and medical supplies to outlying villages commenced yesterday. Indian Military Hospital treated about 4,000 wounded. About 10,000 evacuated to rest camp on Race Course. 11,000 doses of anti-tentanic serum, and large supplies of cholera vaccine sent Quetta yesterday by air and train. Supplies of medical stores, such as flannel, bandages, splints, iodine, creosol and every description of medical comforts have been and are being despatched. Arrangements made to send 100 medical students 50 nursing sepoy, also general hospital personnel. Royal Indian Army Service Corps personnel for supply work also despatched. Electric light and power station working on restricted load. General Ironside, Quarter-Master-General, leaves for Quetta today.

(c) *Administration*.—About 3,500 persons evacuated, from Quetta and surrounding districts, yesterday. Food provided at railway stations. The behaviour of population under heart-rending conditions is excellent, and people are co-operating whole-heartedly with local authorities. It is hoped that there will be a generous and urgent response to the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Appeal.

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4th June 1935.

No. 3.

(a) *Material damage*.—There were further shocks at intervals yesterday, but mostly slight. No new damage or casualties reported. Situation no worse and work proceeding according to plan.

(b) *Casualties*.—Cases in Hospital at Quetta—British men 79, Women 73, Children 3. Indians 3,250. Every effort is being made to obtain complete revised list of British casualties both killed and injured, together with daily reports regarding the condition and progress of the latter.

The difficulty of publishing lists Indian casualties is enormous. Identification is often impossible and the numbers in themselves are at present only approximate estimates.

Names of Indian casualties among subordinate personnel of Railway and other Departments will however be made available by local authorities as soon as ascertained.

Estimate given in situation report of 3rd June, of 26,000 Indian dead for Quetta City stands. But figure cannot be confirmed unless and until it is possible to calculate number of survivors, a task which may prove very difficult as large number are presumed to have fled to surrounding districts when earthquake occurred.

(c) *Relief and supply*.—Local authorities at Quetta report supply situation now satisfactory in the circumstances. Food and medical supplies continue to be despatched by rail and air. With the continued assistance of the R. A. F. 21 aircraft employed yesterday in transport of medical and nursing personnel, medical stores and tinned milk. Regular air freight service commences today.

Organisation set up to provide medical relief to surrounding villages. One week's supplies sent to all near villages.

(d) *Administration*.—Evacuation of inhabitants proceeding, including many who are only slightly injured. When trains leave Quetta arrangements are made for supply of food on the journey. Arrangements in hand for evacuation of British families and for embarkation of those desiring passage.

Labour corps of 600 formed locally, and another battalion being collected and equipped at Jullundur for salvage work.

Organised salvage of valuables and stores begins today. Little hope of survivors under debris, but working parties will spare no efforts in their search. Precautions being taken to safeguard working parties from contact with disease. Information Bureau opened on race course to help refugees and to institute enquiries into identity of survivors and injured.

Following communiqué issued to Press last night :—

*Begins.* Owing to continued prevalence of earth tremors, the necessity of harbouring supplies and the heavy demands made on the railway transport for the carriage of necessities and the evacuation of personnel, the admission of private individuals into the Quetta area must unfortunately be prohibited. Until further notice, therefore, no private individual will be allowed to pass beyond Rohri unless in possession of a pass. The issue of passes will be restricted to those on official duty, and will be obtainable from the Adjutant-General in India, Army Headquarters, Simla. *Ends.*

5th June 1935.

No. 4.

(a) *Material damage*.—No further shocks have been reported, and no fresh casualties. Situation in Kalat and neighbouring districts is still uncertain and reliable estimate of casualties cannot yet be given.

(b) *Administration*.—Organisation of rest camp on race course successfully completed. Work of organised excavation by labour corps in search for possible survivors and for recovery of property commenced yesterday, but salvage operations have had to be suspended owing to the appalling stench. Impossible to say when work can be recommenced. Everyone is now out of the city, around which a military cordon has been placed.

Between 4,000 and 5,000 people have already been evacuated and arrangements have been made by the authorities in the Punjab and Sind for their reception and care. Camps for refugees and wounded are being established where needed.

(c) *Relief and Supply*.—With arrival of additional doctors, treatment of injured being facilitated. Supply situation now reported satisfactory and is being eased by evacuation of survivors.

Regular air freight service to Quetta commenced yesterday. Viceroy's aircraft and R. A. F. machines conveyed medical personnel and stores.

(d) *Earthquake Relief Fund*.—Estimate of total sum required for relief measures cannot be given at present. But thousands of refugees are absolutely destitute. Government is using all its resources to meet their immediate needs, but relief of distress and suffering can be facilitated by swift response of public to Viceroy's Appeal.

6th June 1935.

**No. 5.** No further damage reported.

*Administration.*—Behaviour of whole civil population continues to be excellent. Electric light and water supply satisfactory. Milk supply adequate. Evacuation of British and Indian survivors continues satisfactorily. All R. A. F. families for transfer to England have left Quetta, and some other British families are on their way to Karachi. Arrangements are in hand for evacuation next week of between 700 and 800 members of British families who will be accommodated at Karachi pending provision of passage.

Bureau established at Quetta for registration of claims for property lost in earthquake. Salvage work in accordance with these claims is being carried out to maximum extent commensurate with safety and public health.

Railway traffic for private individuals now opened as far as Jacobabad, but no private individual will be allowed beyond that point without a pass from the Adjutant-General in India.

*Casualties.* (a) *General.*—Report appearing in Press of total death roll of 56,000 killed in Quetta and surrounding districts cannot be confirmed. Number killed in surrounding villages reported to be heavy, but reliable estimate impossible at present. Authorities are investigating.

(b) *British.*—No report of new or additional casualties received.

(c) *Indian.*—Authorities doing all possible to ascertain names of Indian casualties. Further list has been despatched from Quetta by air, and will be published as soon as received. Enormous pressure on limited telegraph facilities makes transmission of lists by wire impossible.

In addition to 3,250 cases in hospital at Quetta many wounded attending intermittently for treatment. Medical aid is also available at refugee camp.

It is hoped that it will be possible to commence evacuation of hospital cases shortly. Governments of Bombay, United Provinces, Punjab and North-West Frontier are preparing hospital accommodation. Patients discharged from hospital are rejoining families on race course refugee camp, before evacuation.

*Care of refugees.*—Government authorities in Punjab and Sind arranging to establish organisation at Rohri to provide food and medical comforts and money for immediate expenses to refugees from Quetta. Lists of refugees passing through Rohri will be compiled and issued to Press. All Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to provide food and accommodation for refugees arriving in their districts.

7th June 1935.

**No. 6.** Range of earthquake estimated at 130 miles long and 20 miles broad. In addition to the towns of Kalat and Mastung, at least 100 villages in Quetta subdivision and Kalat State have been totally destroyed. Survey of villages not yet complete, but present estimate of number killed is between 12,000 and 15,000. Total death roll including Quetta is therefore probably in excess of 40,000. Number of destitute refugees is estimated at not less than 15,000.

Supplies of food and medical comforts at Quetta are now adequate. Evacuation of British and Indian survivors continue with all possible speed. Vickers-Victoria Troop Carrier leaves Lahore for Quetta today to assist in transport of survivors to Karachi.

8th June 1935.

**No. 7.** News of subscriptions to Relief Fund by Their Majesties and Members of Royal Family and of efforts of Lord Mayor of London has been received with gratitude throughout India. Grants by His Majesty's Governments in United Kingdom and Commonwealth of Australia have also given great satisfaction.

Though subscriptions to Fund are being given with greatest liberality both in India and England, large sums are needed at once. Governor-General in Council has therefore sanctioned grant of Rs. 10 lakhs to supplement Fund and to ensure that adequate funds are available for immediate relief of all sufferers wherever they may be.

Governor General in Council has also decided to appoint Earthquake Commissioner to co-ordinate measures of relief and to advise him on many miscellaneous problems that will arise in connection with Earthquake.

Following is situation report based on official messages received upto mid-day 8th June.

*Begins.* Evacuation proceeding smoothly. No effort being spared for comfort and convenience of all survivors in transit. Food, water, and ice provided at all stations. *S. S. Karanja* chartered by Government of India for evacuation to England from Karachi of approximately seven hundred members of British families. Some families have already left for England.

Two Ambulance trains left Lahore for Quetta yesterday and evacuation of wounded will commence as soon as possible after their arrival. All wounded will be transferred from Quetta as quickly as possible and present congestion in hospitals will thereby be relieved.

Medical and sanitary arrangements are well organised and working satisfactorily. Field Ambulance Sections operating in Mastung area. Villages in earthquake area patrolled daily and provided with food and medical attention. *Ends.*

Commander-in-Chief has sent following telegram to General Karslake at Quetta :—

*Begins.* I am directed to convey to you personally, and through you to all officers and men of the Army and Air Force, and especially to Medical Officers, Nurses and voluntary helpers in Quetta, the thanks of the Government of India for the splendid way in which they have responded, under your admirable direction, to the tremendous strain placed upon them by the catastrophic earthquake in Quetta.

The Government of India include in their thanks all those, Civil, Military, Railway and Air Force, who have worked so hard in India to supply you with the many things you required at short notice. *Ends.*

9th June 1935.

- No. 8.** Situation satisfactory.—Nothing further to report. Until further notice propose to telegraph situation report on alternate days commencing tomorrow.

10th June 1935.

- No. 9.** It is anticipated that Headquarters, Western Command, will be transferred from Quetta to Karachi before the end of June and that General Sir Ivor Vesey, the new G. O. C.-in-C., will assume command there on his arrival from England. Headquarters, Baluchistan District will however, remain in Quetta under the command of General Karslake.

Estimated that about 20,000 survivors have been evacuated by special trains since 1st June. The majority of these survivors belong to Punjab and Sind. Delicate children have been evacuated by air to avoid risks of heat in Sind Desert.

Six-hundred and thirty-six patients have now been evacuated by ambulance trains. Approximately 100 cases have still to be transferred.

Latest reliable figures of casualties in Kalat State are 2,900 killed and 5,000 injured out of population of 10,000 in stricken area.

Governor-General in Council has decided to depute immediately to Quetta, Lt.-Col. Russell, I.M.S., Public Health Commissioner with Government of India, to investigate in consultation with local Medical and Public Health authorities, health situation at Quetta, and to submit report thereon, with special references to question as to when it would be possible and hygienically safe to start salvage operations.

Mr. B. M. Staig, I.C.S., Financial Adviser, Military Finance has been appointed Earthquake Commissioner.

Orders have been issued to all Post Offices in India and Burma directing them to deliver, without taxing, all unregistered articles posted at Quetta, Mastung and Kalat (all places in Baluchistan which have suffered from the

earthquake) if such articles are either unstamped or understamped. The orders apply to inland as well as to foreign articles, whether intended to be conveyed by air or by surface route. British Post Office has been requested not to tax letters sent from these offices whether they are conveyed by sea or by air. Booking of ordinary telegrams at Quetta was re-opened on 8th June.

*12th June 1935.*

- No. 10.** General situation is satisfactory. With transfer of wounded to hospitals in India medical situation in Quetta is reaching normality. Stringent precautions against outbreak of epidemic diseases are however still essential, and authorities are tackling energetically the problems of sanitation, which are present both in Quetta itself and the surrounding districts. Administration of villages around Quetta has improved rapidly from day to day. Villages have been divided into five areas, each under an Extra Assistant Commissioner responsible for co-ordinating all medical and food supplies.

In interests of public health City remains closed under guard of Military and Police and no indication can be given at present as to when it will be possible to recommence salvage operations. As already announced, Public Health Commissioner with Government of India has gone to Quetta to consult local authorities on this question and results of his enquiry will be published. In the meantime Government of India wish to assure those whose property is buried in the ruins that the vigilance of the authorities for protection of private property will not be relaxed.

Clothing and necessities for European and Indian refugees are being provided from the Relief Fund and supplies of clothing have been collected and sent from Simla and elsewhere.

Bomber Transport aircraft evacuated 21 people from Quetta to Karachi yesterday. Viceregal aircraft took medical stores and clothing from Lahore to Quetta.

Sir Norman Cater, Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, has arrived in Simla to confer with the Government of India on the situation.

*14th June 1935.*

- No. 11.** Situation satisfactory. Nothing further to report at present.

*17th June 1935.*

- No. 12.** (Based on official messages up to midnight 16th June.)

All British wives with children have been evacuated from Quetta except those unable to travel. All Indian injured also evacuated except six serious cases in Cantonment Hospital. Wire fence round City completed on 13th. Loud speakers producing Indian music much appreciated by inhabitants of Refugee Camp. Cinema for troops opened yesterday.

Following are figures as at present known of casualties in villages Quetta sub-division and Kalat State. In both cases area has been divided into circles for medical relief.

Quetta sub-division Sariab circle killed 1,206 injured 641; Baleli killed 108 injured 23; Kuchlagh killed 8 injured 9; Nauhissar killed 77 injured 28; Durrani killed 101 injured 114; Kanshi killed 1,010 injured 370. Survivors including injured in whole area 14,163.

Kalat State Mastung circle killed 1,736 injured 716. Tiri killed 710 injured 275; Pringabad killed 369 injured 234; Mangochar killed 185 injured 282; Kalat town killed 120 injured 50. Others killed 11. Number of survivors not yet known. Above figures represent ascertained casualties and are probably underestimated.

About 10,000 refugees have now returned to Punjab including 700 cases of minor injuries and 300 serious cases. Latter have been accommodated in hospitals mainly in Lahore. Very heavy burden of relief work has therefore fallen on Punjab Government who have received invaluable assistance from

Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance. Private organisations have arranged for feeding and accommodation of refugees and have provided volunteer nurses and attendants.

- Dera Ghazi Khan will suffer very heavily as result of disaster as between 6,000 and 7,000 Derawals lost their lives in Quetta. Relief on a large scale will be required there.

Contribution of Rs. 1 lakh made by Government of Punjab to Relief Fund has been distributed to local officials in the Province for expenditure on immediate relief.

Sir Norman Cater, A. G. G., Baluchistan has returned to Quetta from Simla.

Headquarters, Western Command will be established at Karachi on 18th June. Headquarters, Baluchistan District will remain at Quetta.

As administration and relief work is proceeding smoothly no further reports will be issued unless special events occur.

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General summary of the situation telegraphed to the Secretary of State by the Government of India on 21st June 1935.

- No. 13. Thirty thousand people perished in Earthquake which occurred at 3 A.M. on 31st May. About twenty thousand lie buried in ruins of their homes in city itself and remainder were killed by havoc wrought in the surrounding districts. City, Civil area and Railway area were totally destroyed, while in Cantonment area Royal Air Force Barracks collapsed and all remaining buildings were either destroyed or rendered uninhabitable.

Zone of earthquake was about one hundred and thirty miles long and fifteen to twenty miles broad, and within that area, in addition to Quetta itself, towns such as Mastung and Kalat, and many villages, suffered complete or partial destruction within fortyfive seconds of first shock.

To fact that Quetta is military garrison and that troops escaped with comparatively few casualties, hundreds of survivors owe their lives. Without resources at disposal of military authorities, which were mobilized with a rapidity and thoroughness which is the admiration of all, there is no doubt that starvation would have faced refugees and hundreds would have succumbed to their injuries. Practically entire police force in Quetta was wiped out and heavy casualties among civil officials and subordinates made it imperative for General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command, Quetta, to assume complete control of situation. Within twenty minutes of disaster General Karlslake, in collaboration with Sir Norman Cater, Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, had decided upon his plan and had given orders to his officers, and within fortyfive minutes British and Indian soldiers were engaged, while it was still dark, in rescue work and in excavating the dead from the debris in Civil Lines and in City. To aid to difficulties and dangers of situation, fires broke out in various parts of city, but were soon brought under control.

The telegraph lines were broken, but communication with Government of India at Simla was established by military wireless, and within few hours doctors and nurses, medical stores and supplies, were on their way to Quetta by special trains and aircraft from various stations in Punjab and Sind. Fortunately railway was not badly damaged, and work of rescue and subsequent evacuation was greatly facilitated.

General Karlslake's headquarters were established on lawn of Club, and dressing stations were functioning long before break of dawn. Shortly after daybreak, Royal Signals had established telephone lines to hospitals, Supply Depot, and other important centres, and arrangements had been made for reception of casualties and for feeding of refugees. All military units engaged in operations were linked up by wireless telegraphy, thus ensuring co-ordination of effort and instant compliance with orders.

By 8 A.M., whole devastated area had been divided systematically into areas for relief work, and injured were taken from dressing stations to hospitals. Within first twentyfour hours nearly five thousand injured were treated by Indian Military and Cantonment hospitals.

LSIDPI

Refugee camps were established on Quetta Race Course, where about ten thousand survivors were shepherded by troops and were fed and accommodated in tents supplied by Army authorities.

Meanwhile working parties were engaged at points outside city disposing of thousands of dead by burial or by burning; and eye-witnesses of horror of scene bear testimony to reverence and care with which task was undertaken.

As if to drive both rescued and rescuers to breaking point, earthquake shocks continued at intervals throughout the day. But of panic there was no sign.

Work of rescue and burial of dead in Quetta continued unceasingly until late in afternoon of second June, when military authorities, having satisfied themselves that there was no hope of rescuing any more people alive, closed city on imperative recommendation of medical authorities. At that time risk of outbreak of epidemic disease was very grave indeed and fact that Quetta has escaped such a calamity is a tribute to their wisdom and foresight.

Preliminary survey of situation in surrounding villages was undertaken by officers of Staff College at Quetta on 31st May and 1st June, and by 2nd June medical aid and supplies of food had reached survivors there.

Special police were sent to Quetta by Punjab and North-West Frontier Governments to assist military authorities, pending reorganization of Baluchistan Police Force.

On 2nd June, as the result of remarkable staff work on part of railway authorities, it was possible to commence systematic evacuation of refugees, and six special trains left Quetta for stations in Punjab and Sind. Punjab and Sind authorities, in consultation with railway authorities and with hearty co-operation of volunteer organizations, did all that was possible to help refugees. At every station where trains stopped, willing helpers came forward with supplies of food, drink and ice. Meanwhile supplies of essential foods were being rushed to Quetta, where authorities, up to time that the evacuation commenced in earnest, were feeding approximately thirtysix thousand British and Indian people. Antitetanic serum, cholera vaccine, bandages, splints, iodine and every description of medical comforts were also despatched by train and by air, a work in which the Viceregal aircraft and the Royal Air Force played a most valuable part. By 3rd June, three thousand five hundred persons had been evacuated from Quetta and surrounding districts.

Though city had already been closed, the troops, with help of labour corps of six hundred, formed locally, continued work of excavation and certain amount of salvage. But work became increasingly difficult, and most elaborate precautions had to be taken to safeguard working parties from contact with disease. By 4th June conditions became so appalling that salvage operations had to be suspended, and military cordon was placed round city to prevent any one from entering.

About five thousand people had by this time been evacuated. Camps for refugees and wounded had been established in Punjab and Sind and treatment of injured in Quetta and surrounding district had been greatly facilitated by prompt reinforcement of medical personnel. In all, fourteen medical officers, sixteen nursing sisters, twelve members of the Indian Medical Department, one hundred and ninety nursing orderlies were despatched. Further, two Sanitary Sections were hurriedly mobilized and sent to Quetta, and three sections of a Field Ambulance were rushed from Waziristan to Mastung. In addition to full use being made of reserve medical stores in Quetta Depot, six tons of medical supplies were despatched from other centres in India. By 6th June arrangements had been made for evacuation from Quetta of between seven and eight hundred members of British families for whom authorities in Karachi had established a rest camp pending their embarkation for United Kingdom. Arrangements had also been made to establish an organization at clearing station of Rohri to give every possible assistance to Indian refugees on their way from Quetta. Every District Officer was instructed to provide food and accommodation for refugees arriving within his area and was authorised to disburse money to meet their immediate expenses. By 10th June twenty thousand survivors had been evacuated by special trains, and one hundred and forty delicate women and children were evacuated by air to avoid risks of terrific heat in Sind desert. Ambulance

trains specially mobilized for purpose had also evacuated between six and seven hundred patients from hospitals in Quetta. Arrangements proceeded so smoothly and according to plan that by 12th June situation in Quetta was considerably relieved. Rapid improvement had also been effected in administration of villages around Quetta, which had been divided into five areas, each under an Extra Assistant Commissioner, responsible for co-ordinating all medical and food supplies.

Voluntary helpers worked feverishly at Simla and at other centres to supply clothing for refugees, and they were provided, from Viceroy's Relief Fund, with other necessities and comforts. Authorities in Punjab and Sind are now shouldering very heavy burden in relation to relief work, a burden which is being shared cheerfully and generously by many organizations such as Red Cross and St. John Ambulance and by numerous individuals who have come forward as volunteer nurses and attendants. In Punjab, about ten thousand refugees are being cared for, and a thousand wounded are accommodated mainly in hospitals in Lahore. In Karachi and other towns in Sind many hundreds of other refugees are accommodated. Over four hundred wounded are also accommodated in Civil and Dufferin Hospitals in Karachi, and another two hundred injured are in other districts.

With exception of few hospital cases, all British wives and children, and all Indian injured have left Quetta. About two thousand permanent Indian residents remain, for whom authorities have created new Rest Camp at a safe distance from the city, where they are being fed free of cost.

Government of India, local Governments, and all branches of administration have left no stone unturned to alleviate terrible suffering and distress caused by earthquake. Military, Royal Air Force, and Civil officials, not only in devastated area itself but in other parts of India, have used all their energy to that end. There is much to be done, however, which is beyond Government agency to accomplish without whole-hearted and generous financial backing of public. At least twenty thousand people will be face to face with destitution during coming months as result of this calamity if their needs cannot be met from relief fund inaugurated by His Excellency the Viceroy. Their Majesties the King and Queen, and Members of Royal Family, have given lead to which people of India have responded nobly, and fund at present moment amounts to over nineteen lakhs. But without generous gifts of people of the United Kingdom, amount necessary to enable survivors to have fresh start in life cannot be realised. Apart from vast current expenditure for immediate relief, generous provision will have to be made for hundreds of orphans and for those thrown out of employment. Help must also be given to thousands of poor people to enable them to re-establish their homes, and to those upon whom this great disaster has inflicted physical disabilities which will make it impossible for them to work again.

## QUETTA EARTHQUAKE.

## Press Communiqués.

- No. 14. "The Queen and I are greatly shocked to hear of the tragic disaster in Quetta involving the loss of many valuable lives amongst the European and Indian population. Our hearts go out in sympathy to the bereaved, the injured and those whose homes and property have been destroyed. Please keep me informed of any further news. George R. I."
- Telegram dated 31st May 1935, from His Majesty the King-Emperor, to His Excellency the Viceroy.
- No. 15. "Please send to the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan a message expressing the profound regret with which I have received the news of the terrible earthquake and my heartfelt sympathy with all the sufferers especially the relatives of those whose deaths are reported."
- Telegram dated 31st May 1935, from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Viceroy.
- No. 16. "It is with the most profound regret that I now learn of the severity of the earthquake and resultant appalling loss of life and damage to property. In extending my deepest sympathy to you and through you to the injured and relatives of those who have been killed I wish to assure you that I and my Government will do all in our power to assist you in any way we can."
- Telegram dated 1st June 1935, from His Excellency the Viceroy, to the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan.

2nd June 1935.

- No. 17. "No words of mine are necessary to impress upon the Princes and people of India the severity of the appalling disaster which has befallen our fellow-countrymen in Quetta and the surrounding Districts. The reports, which have already appeared in the newspapers based on such official information as is at present available, will show that the calamitous Earthquake experienced in the early hours of last Friday morning has resulted in a loss of tens of thousands of lives—both Indian and European. The damage to property cannot be estimated but we know that Quetta city and the Civil and Railway areas have been raised to the ground. Many surrounding villages are in a similar devastated condition, whilst information has been received to the effect that the towns of Mastung and Kalat have been practically wiped out."
- H. E. the Viceroy's Appeal.

At such a time I cannot but feel that all classes of people in this country will wish to give practical proof of their sympathy for the sufferers, Indian and European alike, and I have therefore decided to open a Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund for which I now appeal for donations. In making this appeal, I shall never forget the splendidly generous response that India made at the time of the terrible earthquake in Bihar. I realise full well the magnificent way in which India has recently contributed to Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee Fund. But this sudden and overwhelming catastrophe impels me to appeal once again to the generous sympathy of the Indian public, and I am confident that I shall not appeal in vain. Her Excellency and I are starting the Fund with a donation of Rs. 5,000.

Please send your donation which will be acknowledged individually direct to the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund, Viceregal Lodge, Simla."

3rd June 1935.

- No. 18. Owing to the continued prevalence of earth tremors, the necessity of harbouring supplies and the heavy demands made on the railway transport for the carriage of necessities and the evacuation of personnel, the admission of private individuals into the Quetta area must unfortunately be prohibited. Until further notice, therefore, no private individual will be allowed beyond Rohri unless in possession of a pass. The issue of passes will be restricted to those on official duty, and will be obtainable from the Adjutant-General in India, Army Headquarters, Simla.
- Prohibition of entry into Quetta area of private individuals.

4th June 1935.

No. 19.  
Prohibition of  
entry into  
Quetta area  
of private  
individuals.

The Government of India desire to draw the attention of the public to the official announcement already issued pointing out that the entry of private individuals into the Quetta Area is prohibited, and that no private individual will be allowed to proceed beyond Rohri, unless in possession of a pass obtained from the Adjutant-General in India, Army Headquarters, Simla.

Reasons for  
prohibition.

The natural anxiety of many persons to proceed to Quetta in order to make enquiries about their relations or to render assistance is fully appreciated ; but the public are asked to accept the fact that the restriction of movements to Quetta is absolutely essential for the present. The dangers in the earthquake area, either by failure of the water supply, interruption of communications, or the outbreak of serious epidemics, are by no means at an end ; and until the situation becomes much more settled, it is obviously in the interests both of the authorities and of the public that the number of persons to be dealt with in the area should be kept as low as possible, instead of being increased. Meanwhile, those who wish to render assistance will probably find the best opportunity of doing so by getting into touch with the Local Governments of the areas to which refugees are being evacuated and helping in the formation and organisation of relief depots for their reception.

How assistance  
can be given.

No. 20.  
Contradiction  
of rumours.

5th June 1935.

In view of certain wild and misleading rumours that are being circulated regarding what is happening in Quetta the Governor General in Council considers it desirable to make certain points clear beyond all possibility of misunderstanding.

" Sealing " of  
city.

It was stated in an official message received a day or two ago that Quetta City had been " sealed ". This has been misinterpreted as meaning that all relief operations and rescue work had ceased 48 hours after the disaster, and that no attempt was being made to rescue possible survivors in the debris. This interpretation is entirely untrue. Rescue operations were continuously carried on by the troops. But while they were in progress it became essential to prohibit all unauthorised persons from entering the city. This precaution was necessary partly because of the fear of looting, but mainly on medical advice in view of the grave danger of an outbreak of epidemic disease. The risk of infection is made clear by the fact that the soldiers engaged on rescue work have to be supplied with gas masks. The destruction of buildings has been so extensive and so much more complete than in the towns of Bihar that there is now little hope that there can be any more survivors under the debris, but working parties will continue to spare no efforts in their search.

Continuous  
Rescue work.

Risk of  
infection.

Little hope of  
more survivors.

Intensive salvage  
and rescue work.

Temporary  
suspension of  
salvage  
operations.

False statements  
regarding  
" blowing up " and " firing " the City.

Prohibition of  
entry into  
Quetta area—  
detailed reasons  
for.

The earlier relief work was carried on by the regular troops to discover possible survivors. But the operations have now reached a further stage and more intensive salvage work directed both to rescue work and to salvage of property is now being carried out by organised salvage corps, which will be supplemented, as soon as possible, by corps organised in other areas and despatched to Quetta. This stage of organised salvage commenced yesterday, the 4th of June, but had to be suspended later in the day in the interests of all owing to the appalling stench and grave risk of infection ; all troops have consequently been for the present withdrawn from the city with the exception of a cordon surrounding it. It is impossible to say when such salvage operations can be recommenced.

2. The second rumour which the Government of India consider it desirable to contradict in the most emphatic manner is that it is under contemplation either to blow up by explosives or to set fire to the debris of the city. Even if any such operation were not entirely out of question for reasons of humanity, it would be entirely impracticable as there is no explosive that could possibly dispose of the vast accumulation of debris over an area of several thousand acres, and the great mass of masonry can obviously not be destroyed by fire. In Bihar, the use of explosives was necessary to destroy the tottering, but still standing, buildings, with a view to prevent further damage to lives or property. But in Quetta, the destruction of buildings has been far more complete, and practically none of them are now standing.

3. An official announcement has already issued pointing that the entry of private individuals into the Quetta area is prohibited, except to persons in possession of a pass obtained from the Adjutant General in India. This decision has been approved by the Governor General in Council in view of the considerations stated below, though he fully recognises the natural anxiety of many

persons to proceed to Quetta to make enquiries about their relations and also appreciates the many offers made by associations or individuals to render assistance. The restriction of movements to Quetta is absolutely essential owing to :—

- (a) the grave risk of failure of the water supply ;
- (b) the risk of interruption of communications, particularly of the tunnels on the railway line being blocked by fresh earthquake shocks ;
- (c) the danger of the outbreak of serious epidemics, such as cholera, which is in the opinion of the medical officers a very grave one ;
- (d) the scarcity of food supplies and the total absence of accommodation. The entire surviving population, both civil and military, is now living in tents, the local supply of which is for the moment exhausted ;
- (e) the necessity of using all possible forms of transport, whether by air or rail, for the carriage into the affected area of medical and other necessities, and for the evacuation of the survivors ; and
- (f) the danger, which is by no means remote, of further shocks, causing further loss of human life.

Until the situation becomes much more settled, it is obviously in the public interests that the number of persons to be dealt with in the area should be kept as low as possible, instead of being increased.

4. The difficulties of publishing lists of Indian casualties are enormous and it will take time to surmount them. Identification is often impossible as in most cases entire families and households have perished. Names of Indian casualties among subordinate personnel of Railway and other Departments are, however, being published by the local authorities as they become available. In regard to the non-official population even though complete lists of those dead cannot for the reasons given above be compiled, efforts are being made to compile lists of survivors. But this can at the moment only be done as and when the survivors are evacuated. In this task, the Government authorities in Sind and the Punjab are assisting.

5. The Governor General in Council earnestly hopes that the Press will co-operate in allaying panic by refraining from giving currency to unauthenticated rumours. All possible steps are being taken to supply to the Press the fullest information as it becomes available.

5th June 1935.

No. 21. Railway traffic for private individuals has now been opened as far as Jacobabad. Restriction of travel beyond Jacobabad.

Until further notice no private individual will be allowed beyond Jacobabad unless in possession of a pass. The issue of passes will be restricted to those on official duty, and will be obtainable from the Adjutant General in India, Army Headquarters, Simla.

7th June 1935.

No. 22. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 (III of 1897) the Governor General in Council, being satisfied that Quetta and its neighbourhood are threatened with an outbreak of epidemic disease, is pleased to direct that all railway administrations in India shall place such restrictions on the issue of tickets to any railway station in Baluchistan as are for the time being considered necessary by the military or civil authority for the time being in charge of the administration of Baluchistan. Power to restrict railway travel to stations in Baluchistan.

7th June 1935.

No. 23. The restriction on railway movements of private individuals into Baluchistan will be further reduced on June 8th. From that date the only restriction will be to Quetta, where no private individual will be admitted unless in possession of a pass. The issue of passes to Quetta is still restricted to those on official duty. Passengers for Chaman must move *via* Harnai. Passengers for stations between Sibi and Quetta will book to Sibi, where their cases will be enquired into. If genuine, they will be allowed to re-book to their destination. Modification of travel restrictions.

7th June 1935.

**No. 24.**

Money orders.  
No commission  
on remittances  
to Relief Fund.

The Government of India have decided that with immediate effect no money order commission shall be charged on remittances by money orders payable to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy for the Viceroy's Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund presented at any British Indian post office authorised to issue money orders. All such money orders should bear the words "The Viceroy's Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund" written prominently across the particulars filled in by the remitter.

7th June 1935.

**No. 25.**

Ample medical  
and other  
assistance  
available at  
Quetta.

The Commissioner in Sind reports that relief parties, doctors and nurses are still arriving at Rohri. The Government of India wish it to be known that ample medical and other assistance is already available—it will not be possible to allow further parties to proceed.

14th June 1935.

**No. 26.**

Measures for  
protection and  
ultimate  
salvage of  
property.

In view of the natural anxiety which is being felt by property owners in Quetta City as to the safety of property which lies buried under the ruins and to allay the apprehensions that the measures taken to safeguard private property are inadequate, the Government of India wish to make clear the steps already taken to secure this object and to indicate, so far as is possible at present, the steps that will be taken to secure the ultimate restoration of property to its rightful owners. Though it is not possible to remove the general ban on entry into Quetta the evacuation of the majority of the survivors has eased the situation and the Government of India are now prepared to allow a limited number of property owners to visit Quetta to see for themselves the conditions prevailing there and the arrangements made for protection of property.

Visit to  
Quetta of  
property  
owners.

Prevention of  
looting.

2. As soon as the earthquake occurred elaborate precautions were taken to prevent looting and the entry of unauthorised persons into the city. The troops formed a cordon round the city to make it impossible for any person to enter unnoticed while cavalry patrolled the outskirts.

Salvage  
already  
undertaken.

3. As long as salvage was possible the operations were conducted by the troops. Representative of each shop salvaged was given a pass to enter the city and was accompanied by a working party under an officer with transport to remove the goods. In cases in which property was recovered when the owner was not present the property has been kept in safe custody by the authorities at Quetta.

Precautions  
to guard  
property in  
city.

Barbed wire  
fence and patrols.

4. In view of the decision taken on the imperative recommendation of the medical authorities to close the city, elaborate precautions have been taken to prevent any unauthorised person entering it. A double spron barbed wire fence is being put up round the city and is nearly completed. This fence is guarded and patrolled by day and night by piquets of about 200 infantry and 200 civilian police and will be well lighted by electric light at night. In the case of banks a special guard has been provided for their protection. Arrangements have also been made to deal with outbreaks of fire. No one is allowed to enter the city except medical officers and patrols under the command of officers and so far no attempt has been made by any unauthorised person to enter the city. These arrangements will be maintained till the Government of India are satisfied on the best medical advice available that entry into the city and excavations of the ruins can be resumed without risk of epidemic disease. They have deputed their Public Health Commissioner to examine the position in consultation with the local medical officers and will be guided by his advice. They also intend to ask the Public Health Commissioner to revisit the area at regular intervals with a view to ascertain the earliest possible date at which salvage operations can be reopened.

Visit of  
Public Health  
Commissioner.

Visit of  
property  
owners—  
conditions.

5. As stated above, the Government of India are prepared to allow small parties of property owners to proceed to Quetta at their own risk to see the measures that have been taken. They desire that these parties should be such as to command the confidence of all surviving property owners in Quetta and consider that this object can best be secured by granting permission to proceed to Quetta to parties of not more than three property owners from those towns and areas in the Punjab, Sind, N.-W. F. P. and elsewhere to which the property owners originally belong. Thus in the Punjab a deputation of three property owners residing in each of the town of Lahore, Amritsar, Gujranwala, Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan will be permitted. Further notice will be issued as to

other towns and areas from which similar deputations will be allowed. All Applications applications from property owners desirous of taking advantage of this permission should be intimated within one month of the publication of this communiqué to the Deputy Commissioner of the district in which they are residing, who will forward them to the Earthquake Commissioner, Simla. That Officer will issue permits to the three owners selected to form each deputation.

6. Property owners taking advantage of this permission will not be allowed to enter the city, still less to attempt excavations therein, but will be shown all the arrangements made for safeguarding the city by the local authorities, who will make arrangements for their accommodation and food for a short stay of not more than 48 hours. But it must be understood that the accommodation that can be provided will necessarily be of the simplest possible character and that conditions in Quetta still involve some risk and discomfort. If any property owner wishes to stay at Quetta for a longer period, he may be allowed to do so but must make his own arrangement for accommodation and food.

7. It is not possible for the Government of India to state definitely at present what arrangements will be made for the salvage of buried property when the operations are reopened, but it is probable that all salvage operations will be carried out by organised and disciplined labour battalions recruited by Government. For this purpose in addition to the Labour Corps of approximately 600 already recruited locally, a Labour Corps of about 1,000 from Jullundur will be available for employment on salvage operations in the city when these can be safely resumed.

8. Due notice will be given, as far as practicable in all districts to property owners of the dates on which salvage will begin in a particular quarter or street of the city, and the opportunity will thus be afforded to them to be present while the operations are being carried out. In all cases the operations will be carried out in the presence of a responsible civil officer of Government and if the property owner is not present, the property excavated will be deposited with the civil authorities, all possible steps being taken to see that it is satisfactorily identified.

9. To facilitate this very difficult work of identification and restoration of property the Earthquake Commissioner is making arrangements for the registration of claims before Deputy Commissioners, Collectors or Political officers. Further instructions will shortly be issued on this point and will be widely published in all districts in which property owners are residing. Further information will also be given regarding the organisation to be set up to deal with claims to property.

14th June 1935.

**No. 27.** The following statement is issued by the Government of India : A newspaper of the 12th June (Hindustan Times) contains a statement\* alleged to have been made at Delhi by " Mr. T. Brookes, an Indian Christian, Superintendent of Military Grass Farm ", making serious charges against British Troops. Enquiries that have been made show that no one of this name is employed or has been employed during the last six years, either in the Military Grass Farms, the Military Dairies, or the Military Labour Corps. Further enquiries are being made to trace the origin of this report.

\*Mr. T. Brookes, an Indian Christian, Superintendent of the Military Grass Farm at Quetta reached here to-day. His wife and two children perished under the debris of their house. Mr. Brookes told our representative the pathetic story of how his wife died right under his eyes waving her hands for help while he lay helpless half buried under debris, with only his face above it. He said, he could see his wife buried quite close to him, with only her arms out of the debris. He could not move and when day broke European soldiers, with spades, reached there. They dug frantically, Mr. Brookes further said, not caring whether their blows were falling on the earth or people, dead or alive. Several people's limbs, he continued, were cut on account of the blows given by the spades. This fact was corroborated by several other refugees in the camp. When the soldiers came near him he shouted out that he was alive and was spared. When he was dug out of the earth, he requested the soldiers to dig out his still living wife, but, he alleged, they turned their back on him and left him, and his wife died before she was taken out.

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17th June 1935.

No. 28.

Letter dated  
17th June  
from H. E.  
the Governor of  
the Punjab, to  
H. E. the  
Commander-in-  
Chief, expressing  
gratitude of  
Punjab  
Government.

"I am writing for myself and at the special request of my Members and Ministers, recorded in Executive Council, to express the deep gratitude of the Punjab Government for the magnificent work that has been done by the Army in connection with the Quetta earthquake. As Your Excellency knows, the Punjab had many residents in Quetta, and there are few districts in the Province which have not been affected by this terrible calamity. Thousands of refugees have returned to their homes in the Punjab, or are under treatment in our hospitals. They are full of praise for the splendid work done by General Karslake and the officers and men under his command. Their accounts fully confirm what one has read from other sources, and we have the greatest admiration for the manner in which all gave their best. We would like particularly to mention the devotion shown by the British and Indian women of Quetta. We know that, in expressing our grateful thanks, we are voicing the feelings of the people of the Punjab."

19th June 1935.

No. 29.

Denial of story  
of explosion  
of ammunition.

In order to strengthen an argument for allowing non-official investigators to go to Quetta an article in the "Bombay Chronicle" of the 14th June by "A Military Correspondent" insinuates that the heavy loss of life might to some extent be due to the blowing up of ammunition.

There is not one atom of truth in this insinuation.

The article further suggests that some explosion may have taken place as a result of the earthquake itself, which the authorities are endeavouring to conceal. The public need have no fears on this account. The earthquake caused no explosion and the ammunition at Quetta is absolutely secure.

22nd June 1935.

No. 30.

Visit to  
Quetta of  
property  
owners—  
further towns  
and districts  
from which  
they may  
proceed.

In their press communiqué of the 14th June regarding the grant of facilities to parties of selected property owners to proceed to Quetta to enable them to see the precautions being taken by Government for the protection of property buried in Quetta City on the occasion of the earthquake, the Government of India mentioned certain districts of the Punjab from which deputations would be allowed. It has now been decided that the same facilities will be granted to parties of property owners proceeding from the town of Shikarpur and the following districts in Sind :—

Karachi district, including Karachi City.  
Hyderabad district, including Hyderabad.  
Sukkur district, including Sukkur but excluding Shikarpur Town.  
Larkana district.  
Nawabshah district.  
Dadu district.  
Upper Sind Frontier district.

25th June 1935.

No. 31.

Relief Fund—  
administration of.

His Excellency the Viceroy has had under consideration certain matters relating to his Relief Fund and has arrived at the following decisions :—

Co-operation of  
non-officials.

2. As regards the general principles of relief, His Excellency will himself administer the Fund and to advise him in this connection he has appointed a Sub-Committee of his Executive Council consisting of the Law, Finance and Commerce Members. The detailed administration of the Fund, including the distribution of relief, will be mainly conducted by the local officers of Government—i.e., district officers and their subordinates. Local relief associations will be organised in places where the number of refugees indicates that these are necessary. Such associations will contain a substantial non-official element and the officials administering the Fund locally are being directed to consult them freely as to the merits of claims for relief. The co-operation of purely non-official relief associations is also invited in bringing deserving cases to the notice of the local authorities. Arrangements for the accounting and auditing of the expenditure of the Fund are being made by the Auditor General through his provincial accounts officers.

Immediate relief  
given.

3. The fund has already been devoted to the immediate relief of all refugees by the provision of clothes, medical comforts, railway facilities and small cash grants to enable them to reach their homes, and local officers will

continue to give this relief where necessary at their discretion. If further free passes on the railways are needed, certain local officers are being empowered to authorise the railway authorities to grant them, the cost being debited to the Relief Fund. Free railway passes.

The measures of further relief which will depend on the funds available and also on the ultimate decision regarding Quetta itself are being considered by His Excellency and a further communiqué will be issued as soon as a decision is reached. But meanwhile there may be many cases of obvious hardship in which immediate relief is needed, and it has been decided that this relief should include— Further measures.  
Provision for cases of hardship.

- (a) Temporary subsistence grants. These will be given in cases where there is no other means of support, for a period not exceeding 3 months in the first instance and are given with the object of affording persons thrown out of employment by the earthquake a breathing space in which to endeavour to obtain it.
- (b) Payment of school fees and subsistence grants to children rendered destitute by the earthquake in cases approved by an authority to be designated by the Local Government or Administration; applications for aid from the fund by University students in distress owing to the earthquake will also be considered.
- (c) Purchase of medical appliances and comforts.

25th June 1935.

- o. 32. In paragraph 4 of their Communiqué of the 14th June in regard to precautions taken for the safety of health and property in Quetta City, the Government of India intimated that they had deputed their Public Health Commissioner to examine the question of when entry into the city and excavation of the ruins could be resumed without risk of epidemic disease. They have now received Colonel Russell's report, and are considering it in consultation with the local authorities at Quetta. When the views of the latter are received, the Government of India will arrive at decisions on the Public Health Commissioner's recommendations. Public Health Commissioner's report—  
Government of India considering.

26th June 1935.

- o. 33. In their *Press Communiqués* of the 14th and 22nd June 1935, the Government of India mentioned certain districts of the Punjab and Sind from which deputations of selected property-owners would be allowed to proceed to Quetta to enable them to see the precautions being taken by Government for the protection of property buried in Quetta City on the occasion of the earthquake. It has now been decided that the same facilities will be granted to parties of property-owners proceeding from the Delhi Province and the Rohtak district of the Punjab. These places will be treated as one area for the purposes of the Communiqué. Visit to Quetta of property-owners—further areas from which they may proceed.

28th June 1935.

- o. 34. "On behalf of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, I write to express our appreciation of the valuable assistance we have received from the Army authorities in restoring postal and telegraphic communications with Quetta. Mr. Bewoor, the Director-General, visited Quetta immediately after the earthquake and he and his officers have expressed to me the gratitude they feel for the courtesy and patience shown by all ranks in the Army to all ranks in their Department. In particular, the Indian Signals Corps, under Colonel Vivyan, freely placed their resources at our disposal, and the assistance afforded by the Indian Signals Corps transport, signallers, despatch riders and military fatigue parties greatly facilitated the disposal of arrears of work and the restoration of normal traffic conditions. Letter, dated 24th June, from the Hon'ble Member for Industries and Labour to H. E. the C.-in-C., conveying appreciation of assistance by the authorities.

I must also acknowledge, with an even deeper feeling of gratitude, the great kindness shown by all ranks of the Army to the injured officials of the Department and their families. The blankets, rations and other necessities so promptly, methodically and ungrudgingly distributed by the Army authorities did much to relieve the sufferings of the survivors, and the kindly and cheerful manner of the distribution had a value of its own which I cannot adequately describe.

On behalf of the Department I wish to convey to Your Excellency, and through you to Major-General Karslake and Colonel Vivyan and all officers

and staff under them, sincere thanks for the assistance given and kindness shown. The Department must always be thrown into close contact with the Army in times of great emergency, and I wish to emphasize that in this instance the closeness of the liaison has been of the greatest value to the Department."

## No. 35.

28th June 1935.

Telegram from His Majesty the King-Emperor, to H. E. the Viceroy, dated 27th June 1935.

"From all accounts I have received of the disaster at Quetta I have been deeply impressed by the measure taken with such promptitude and efficiency to relieve distress and help sufferers. Please convey to all concerned both men and women my heartfelt thanks and admiration for their splendid efforts in meeting such an awful tragedy."

Telegram from H. E. the Viceroy, to His Majesty the King-Emperor, dated 28th June 1935.

"I am deeply grateful to Your Majesty for your sympathetic and encouraging message regarding the relief of distress amongst those who have suffered in the disaster at Quetta. I will personally convey to those who have taken part in the work Your Majesty's gracious recognition of the splendid way in which all concerned have dealt with the organisation of relief."

## No. 36.

5th July 1935.

H. E. the Viceroy's Address to the Troops at Quetta—5th July 1935.

*"General Karlake, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Quetta Garrison,—*

I consider it a very real privilege to-day to have this opportunity of paying my tribute to you all in my position of Governor-General of India for the discipline, courage and devotion to duty you have shown during the past few weeks since that night when, with appalling suddenness, the city of Quetta and the surrounding areas were overwhelmed by an earthquake shock which caused a loss of life and destruction of property probably without parallel in the history of our country. This is not the time or occasion for me to refer to splendid efforts of both men and women to undertake any duty or service for the relief of the sufferers and refugees. My purpose to-day is to give a short message to every officer and man who is on parade.

I wish to express, as head of the Government of India, my most deep and grateful thanks to you, one and all, for your splendid service at this awful crisis. It can truly be said that the Army in India, both British and Indian, has once again proved itself worthy of its history and tradition.

I should like to add this one word in conclusion. It is difficult to refer to particular individuals when all have done so well. But this morning I think I may make special mention of one name, that of your Commanding Officer General Karlake, and thank him on behalf of the Government of India for displaying a spirit of leadership which gave confidence to all who worked under him and for showing a power of initiative and organisation which diminished the dangers of the very much graver consequences which might have resulted from this terribly sudden catastrophe."

## No. 37.

5th July 1935.

Remarks by H. E. the Commander-in-Chief at Quetta on 5th July at a review of Troops by H. E. the Viceroy.

"His Excellency the Viceroy has been so good as to ask me also to speak to you to-day.

It is my last chance of seeing you before I leave India for good, and I welcome the opportunity he gives me.

His Excellency has paid you a very great compliment—one of the greatest I have ever heard paid to troops on parade.

I should like to add that I have never known praise better deserved, and I am proud personally to be the Commander-in-Chief of an Army, whose Commander, whose officers, whose men, and may I say whose ladies, have stood up to and dealt with a situation of unexampled horror and difficulty, as you have all done, so devotedly and so successfully."

## No. 38.

7th July 1935.

H. E. the Viceroy's Address to No. 3 Indian Wing of the Royal Air Force at Karachi—7th July.

"Wing Commander Slessor, Officers and Airmen of No. 3, Indian Wing.—I am very glad to have this opportunity to-day of paying my tribute to you all, in my position as Governor-General of India, for the way in which you faced your recent terrible experiences in Quetta. I deplore very deeply the heavy casualties suffered by No. 3 Indian Wing of the Royal Air Force, and I sympathise with you sincerely in the loss of your comrades.

Notwithstanding the nerve shattering experience in which your branch of the service suffered more heavily than any other, the way in which you met and overcame the effects of the catastrophe was magnificent. I have been told of the rapidity with which you set to work to extricate your comrades from the ruins of your quarters, and subsequently to save property from the wreckage. The speed with which you got your damaged aircraft into action again was remarkable and proved of the greatest value. The Government of India are truly grateful for the splendid service which the aircraft in Quetta gave in reporting the condition of outlying districts immediately after the earthquake, in flying emergent requirements to Quetta, and in evacuating casualties.

Those of you who are married have been parted from your families, because unfortunately it is impossible to provide accommodation for them at present. As one who during long years of public service has always realised how important, how necessary it is to have his wife at his side, I assure you that I and my Government are fully alive to the situation, and we will do what we can to relieve this hardship as soon as it is possible.

Let me express to you all in conclusion my admiration of the fine spirit you have displayed throughout the disaster, and warmly congratulate you on maintaining to the full that spirit of courage and initiative which has always been a tradition of your service."

9th July 1935.

No. 39.

In their Press Communiqués of 14th, 22nd and 26th June, the Government of India mentioned certain districts from which deputations of selected property-owners would be allowed to proceed to Quetta to enable them to see the precautions being taken by Government for the protection of property buried in Quetta City at the time of the earthquake. It has now been decided that the same facilities will be granted to parties of property-owners proceeding from (1) Rawalpindi Town, (2) Dera Ismail Khan, (3) Kohat and Peshawar Districts combined, and (4) Hazara.

Visit to Quetta of property-owners—further areas from which they may proceed.

10th July 1935.

No. 40.

1. In a communiqué of the 25th June 1935, the Government of India intimated that they had received the report of their Public Health Commissioner (which is being separately published\*) regarding *inter alia* the question of the salvage operations at Quetta. In their recent visit to Quetta Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief took the opportunity of discussing the situation fully with the local authorities in the light of the Public Health Commissioner's recommendations, and it has further been considered in His Excellency's Council since his return to Simla.

Government of India's conclusions on Public Health Commissioner's report.

2. The Government of India find themselves in general agreement with Colonel Russell's conclusions regarding the extent to which it is possible to undertake immediate salvage operations. From the outset they have constantly had in mind the natural anxiety felt by property-owners regarding the inevitable deterioration of property, should salvage be long delayed. Further, in so far as the early inception of salvage operations may mitigate the hardships of the earthquake by enabling at least some sufferers again to maintain themselves, it is their earnest desire to secure this object with the least possible delay, consistent with the requirements of public health. They have therefore decided to authorise the Agent to the Governor-General, Baluchistan, to take the steps necessary to give effect to Colonel Russell's recommendations. In addition to the lines of action suggested by the latter officer they hope that it may prove practicable to carry out salvage in a certain number of shops and houses throughout the city where the damage to the structure is small, where access is fairly easy and where there is reasonable certainty that few, if any, bodies are interred. Preliminary work in street clearing has already begun with the labour locally available; certain motor transport has already been secured and arrangements for the housing of the additional labour required are being urgently made.

Preliminary salvage operations.

3. The completion of the preliminary operations outlined above will pave the way for the inception of a systematic scheme of salvage over the whole of the enclosed area. The details of such a scheme have been already roughly worked out. It is perhaps unnecessary to observe that it must take many months to complete. The mass of debris to be handled in itself renders this inevitable.

Plans for systematic salvage.

\* See page 39 (No. 68).

Reverence for  
the dead and  
protection of  
sacred books.

4. In connection with salvage operations, anxiety has been felt in some quarters regarding the observance of due reverence in the treatment of the dead and the protection of holy books. No community need entertain any apprehensions on this point. All possible precautions will be taken to ensure that their feelings in this matter are fully respected and that work proceeds with the most careful regard for considerations of religion and piety.

Protection of  
property.

5. As soon as progress with the preliminary work of street clearance, etc., indicates that it will soon be possible to make a start with the restoration of property to its owners, a further communiqué will be issued indicating the conditions and arrangements under which property-owners will be enabled to proceed to Quetta. Meanwhile the precautions taken by Government for the protection of property outlined in their communiqué of 14th June are being rigorously maintained.

11th July 1935.

No. 41.  
Letter to H. E.  
the Viceroy,  
from H. H. the  
Khan of Kalat  
regarding the  
earthquake in  
Kalat.

"I beg leave to write this letter to Your Excellency in order to express my deep gratitude to you and to Her Excellency for taking so much trouble to visit my State in order to acquaint yourselves with the terrible effects of the earthquake and with the efforts that have been made to try to meet the situation. Your Excellency's visit to Mastung has done so very much to give consolation to me and those of my Sardars and my people who have suffered, and to encourage us to meet the task before us—a task we can face the more cheerfully in the knowledge of your personal interest and sympathy.

Rescue and  
relief work.

It was the will of God that this disaster should befall us, but it was our great good fortune to have in Quetta Sir Norman Cater as Your Excellency's Agent and General Karslake in command of the Military Forces. Immediately they heard that Kalat State had suffered in the same way as Quetta they sent out relief parties, engineers to clear the roads, doctors and nurses to comfort and aid the injured, food for the indigent, tents and comforts to temper the severity of our misfortune. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to them and their officers for all that they did for us in the midst of their preoccupations with the disaster in Quetta.

Treatment of  
injured and  
other survivors.

I have seen with my own eyes the wonderful work which was done in Quetta both by the Army and by the Civil Authorities. Everything possible was done in the devastated city to succour the injured and to save those who were buried alive under the debris; the survivors who had lost everything were given food, clothing, money and shelter, and those who had come from other parts of India were enabled by the generosity of the Railway Authorities to travel free to their homes; the arrangements made for the injured both while they were in hospital in Quetta, and afterwards when they were in ambulance trains on their way to Sind and the Punjab were magnificent; and I can assure Your Excellency both from my own knowledge and from what I have learnt from my subjects who were in Quetta at the time of the earthquake that everyone concerned with the relief of Quetta performed superhuman tasks.

Protection of  
property in  
Quetta.

Finally I would ask permission to voice my conviction, as an owner of property myself and as the Ruler of many others who owned houses in Quetta, that the arrangements made for the protection of the property which remains buried in Quetta City are beyond all praise; I am convinced that it was, and is, necessary to restrict entry to the area in the vicinity of the city, to prevent inevitable looting by an undisciplined rabble, and it would be a matter of consolation to all property-owners to know that their moveable property is safe until such time as Your Excellency and your Government may decide, in consultation with your Medical and Public Health advisers, that salvage can safely be undertaken.

Tribute to civil  
and military  
authorities.

I would end this letter by assuring Your Excellency again of my heartfelt gratitude to all Civil and Military personnel who have done such magnificent work, not only for me and my subjects, but for all those who suffered in this terrible calamity. In all earnestness I say that it was humanly impossible for more to have been done."

No. 42.  
Note on the  
After-Care of  
Quetta Casualties  
by Lieutenant-  
Colonel W. Ross  
Stewart,  
F.R.C.S.E.,  
I.M.S., Surgeon  
to H. E. the  
Viceroy.

15th July 1935.

"It was a wise decision to distribute early, the most severe injuries to the best equipped Surgical Centre within reach of Quetta.

All honour is due to the Doctors and Nurses who rendered First Aid of a Tribute to very high standard at the scene of the Earthquake on 31st May 1935, to the Doctors, Nurses and Railway Authorities and willing helpers who facilitated the despatch of the injured and their reception at Railway Platforms *en route* and on arrival, and to those who fed and clothed them.

At His Excellency's visit to the chief Surgical Centre at the Mayo Hospital Lahore, on July 2nd, *i.e.*, a month after the Earthquake, one was struck with one outstanding fact, namely, that the Indian patients of both sexes suffering from severe Fractures, were brought under Surgical treatment of a standard of surgical which one usually associates with the most highly specialised Fracture Clinics treatment of the United Kingdom, Vienna or America.

The organisation whereby all cases of Fracture of the Spine, Fracture of the Pelvis, and Fractured Thigh were collected together in separate wards was most efficient, while the detailed treatment applied to each individual case was an ocular demonstration of the Treatment recommended by, and illustrated in, the most modern Text Books.

'Balkan Frames' fitted with adjustable pulleys, weights and Traction cable, were available for all cases, and 'step up' supports to raise the foot of the beds to obtain counter-traction, had all been improvised.

Several dozens of Fractured Thigh cases requiring extension, were treated by means of stainless steel pins transfixing soft tissues and bone, attached by a stirrup to the traction cable, pulley and weight. In other cases Kirschner Wire was used, with the appropriate design of stirrup for this variety. In no single case was there a sign of septic infection of the Soft tissues or Bone so trans-fixed, and the Patients were invariably comfortable. The limbs were supported in flannel slings on Braun's Cradles.

The success of this treatment was evidenced (1) by the marked absence of Pain, which would have been expected from inspection of the X-Ray Photographs taken before treatment was begun, and (2) by the perfect alignment of the limbs as result of treatment. Most of these cases had been put up under Local Anaesthesia.

Further evidence of the success of this method will undoubtedly be forthcoming when solid union can be studied, and when the absence of stiffness in adjoining joints reveals itself. Patients can look forward to an earlier return to their occupations and to a greatly diminished final deformity.

Many cases of Fractured Pelvis were treated by Pin or wire traction applied to both lower limbs; which will save a large proportion from being badly crippled later on.

The old fashioned methods of Treatment by Padded Splints were conspicuous by their absence.

'Aeroplane' splinting combined with Transfixion and Spring traction was being used for fractures of the Upper Arm, with corresponding advantage, and allowing of helpful movements of surrounding joints with no disturbance of the alignment of the fractured area.

Fixation by Plaster of Paris was of first class quality, each plaster case bearing a tracing in ink of the X-Ray picture, and all relative data written thereon.

The cases of Fractured Spine had all been reduced on a special table and were being given the best possible chance of recovery.

This counsel of perfection indicated that a host of workers had contributed to organise this Surgical Clinic, and to provide apparatus which though improvised, bore none of the usual features of improvised equipment.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Rai, I.M.S., Officiating I. G., Civil Hospitals, Punjab, and Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Harper Nelson, I.M.S., Principal of the King Edward Medical College (now on leave) had much to do with the provision of this Surgical Unit and the expansion of Beds, but it is agreed that this exceptional standard of treatment is the direct outcome of the vision, energy, and skill of Lieutenant-Colonel V. R. Mirajkar, I.M.S., Professor of Operative Surgery, King Edward Medical College and Superintendent of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore.

Apart from the kindness which has surrounded these cases, there is no doubt that they have received collectively and individually a Surgical Service

which could not be bettered in any country in the world—a matter of comfort to all concerned in the Quetta catastrophe.”

H. E. the  
Viceroy's visits  
to hospitals.

His Excellency's subsequent visits to Hospitals at Multan, Mastung, Quetta itself, and finally Karachi, confirmed the resourcefulness of all Doctors and Nurses, and their unfailing devotion to the cases consigned to their care. All are worthy of the traditions of their profession, but special mention of the arrangements at Lahore is made, because of the extremely capable manner in which the medical staff there dealt with the heavy task of treating the most severe cases sent to them in large numbers.

#### No. 43.

30th July 1935.

Law for  
regulation of  
distribution of  
salved property.

Government have recently had under their close and urgent attention the framing of a law to regulate the distribution of property salved from the area devastated by the Earthquake at Quetta. This law which is known as the Quetta Distribution of Salved Property Law, 1935, is now being promulgated.\* It empowers the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan to appoint one or more Claims Commissioners and authorises the latter, after enquiry to make over salved property to any person appearing to them entitled to receive it. Where no claimant is able to satisfy a Claims Commissioner as to the merits of his claim, the property will remain in the possession of Government until the right of possession is determined by a competent authority.

Plans for  
commencement  
of salvage in  
certain parts  
of Quetta.

In their Communiqué of the 10th July 1935 regarding their policy as to salvage operations at Quetta the Government of India intimated that preliminary work in street clearing had been commenced and they expressed the hope that it would prove practicable soon to undertake salvage in a certain number of shops and houses where the damage to the structure was small, where access was easy and where there was reasonable certainty that few, if any, bodies were interred. A stage in the preliminary operations has been reached at which the salvage of these comparatively undamaged buildings can be commenced and notices are being issued in all cases, where it is practicable, to the property-owners concerned. Salvage from these buildings will now proceed as quickly as possible in accordance with the provisions of the law referred to in paragraph 1 of this Communiqué.

#### No. 44.

13th August 1935.

Denial of story  
of man rescued  
after 47 days.

The Deputy Agent to the Governor-General, Baluchistan, has seen statements in the press that Shikarpuri Halwai Jethanand, son of Tekchand, dug himself out of the ruins of his shop in Quetta City after being buried for 47 days, that he was arrested as a looter and that he was subsequently released on proving his story. It has been further stated by the "United Press Agency" that these facts have been officially confirmed. This is not so. Enquiries made in Shikarpur and Quetta have failed to discover anyone who has seen Jethanand after his escape. He had a house in one part of the city and a shop in another. It has been stated by a former servant of his that Jethanand used to sleep at night in his house and not in his shop and that on the night of earthquake he was in Quetta. Sites of both the house and shop have been carefully examined and no exit has been discovered by which the man could possibly escape through the debris. It is clear therefore that the story is not founded on any facts and it is probable that Jethanand was killed in the earthquake and his body is still buried in the ruins of his house. The Deputy Agent to the Governor-General hopes that the press and news agencies will refrain from giving currency to unauthenticated rumours which can only give pain to the relatives of those who were killed in the Quetta earthquake.

\* See page 37 (No. 66).

No. 45. The following news has been received by the Railway Board by telephone, from the Agent, North Western Railway :—

The Quetta Chaman Railway line is undamaged. On the Sibi Quetta Railway. Section one small bridge badly cracked. A sleeper crib is being put in.

Twenty European Railway staff including families and 100 Indian railway Casualties. staff including families killed. Number of injured not yet to hand.

The control wire from Sibi to Quetta has been repaired and telegraphic Telegraphs. communication is expected to be restored to-day. Railway water supply not affected.

Dr. Cairns, Chief Medical Officer, North Western Railway, with Mrs. Relief. Berridge (Lady Doctor) and a number of First-Aid men left Lahore for Quetta in the special train last night. 136 additional railway staff and 2 additional officers are being sent to Quetta.

1st June 1935.

No. 46. The Viceregal aircraft "Star of India" flew from Lahore with six Army Relief work by Nurses. aircraft.

Five machines left Kohat with four medical officers, ten machines left Risalpur with seven medical officers and wireless equipment, four machines left Ambala with three medical officers, four machines left Lahore with 1,000 lbs. of medical stores and anti-tetanus serum and two machines left Karachi with a further supply of serum.

3rd June 1935.

No. 47. With reference to the news issued yesterday that Quetta City had been "Sealing" of sealed, under military guard, it is pointed out that this action was not decided city— explanation. upon until it had become certain that there were no further survivors. It was imperative to seal up the town, in order to prevent an outbreak of disease. Every possible step will be taken by the local authorities to safeguard property.

3rd June 1935.

48. Suggestions have been made in some quarters that there has been undue Casualties— explanation of delay in ascertaining. delay in the announcement of reliable figures of Indian casualties and the names of Indians who have lost their lives. These suggestions arise from ignorance of the appalling conditions that exist, and of the task which confronts the local authorities. A careful estimate places the number of Indians who have lost their lives at not less than 20,000, the majority of whom are buried under the debris in the city. It will be apparent that it is quite impossible, at the moment, to give an exact figure, or to attempt to issue a detailed list. The fact is that the local authorities are working under terrific pressure, each man doing the work of at least ten. The first duty of the authorities, having satisfied themselves, so far as is possible, that no persons remain alive under the debris, is to concentrate upon relief for the survivors, and medical treatment for the injured. Relief work the most urgent. Every possible means has been taken to this end, and the public may be assured that the authorities are doing everything that is possible in the difficult circumstances.

9th June 1935.

No. 49. The normal number of telegrams received in Quetta before the earthquake Telegrams— delivery of. was about 170 per day. As the result of news of the earthquake, over 14,000 telegrams were received by Quetta between the 1st and 7th June, for delivery to addresses in Quetta alone. The greatest difficulty was experienced in the delivery of these telegrams, owing to the destruction or abandonment of residences, but as the result of persistent efforts, over 11,000 have been delivered and only 3,000 remain undelivered owing to the addresses being untraceable.

L15DPI

10th June 1935.

No. 50.  
Wireless, Post  
and Telegraph  
Services in  
earthquake  
area.

As communication with the outside world was vital factor in the Quetta earthquake situation, the story of how this contact was established and increased, is gathered from Mr. Bewoor, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs. The Wireless Staff played the most important part, followed by telephone connection which enabled even three Overseas calls to be made on 1st June and the Telegraph work which can be gathered from the fact that on an average 800 telegrams were booked at Quetta daily and 2,000 received in a station normally clearing about 60 messages either way. As regards the time the earthquake took place the two clocks at the Telegraph Office stopped working at two minutes and three minutes past three respectively.

Intimation of the Quake reached Mr. Bewoor at about 11 A.M., on 31st May through a message sent by the civil wireless station at Quetta to the civil wireless station at Lahore. Mr. Bewoor says: "The message indicated that the earthquake had been of a very severe character involving large loss of life and that owing to the destruction of the batteries the telegraphic and telephonic communications had been interrupted. Steps were immediately taken to strengthen the wireless station at Lahore so that it could work 24 hours. The wireless staff in Quetta consists of Wireless Supervisor one, Wireless Attendant one. The Building in which the Wireless station is situated has not suffered from the earthquake nor have the quarters of the Wireless attendant and the Engine Driver and menial staff. The residence of the Wireless Supervisor has been slightly damaged. The battery and the engine in this building have not suffered at all. I hear from Colonel Vivian, the Chief Signal Officer, that Mr. Todd, the Wireless Supervisor and his Sikh Assistant worked most energetically and assiduously and were on duty almost to continuously for 48 hours after the earthquake. Until the line communications were established the wireless station was the only means of communication and was greatly helpful in obtaining assistance from outside. They were given as soon as possible assistance from the Military Wireless Operator and one Telegraphist who could understand wireless operating was also sent to help. This circuit is helping to clear the traffic.

The telephones suffered as a result of the earthquake the batteries being destroyed and though the room in which the automatic equipment was accommodated is still standing and the equipment is in good condition it was considered unsafe to enter the building. The cable was therefore cut outside and a Manual Telephone system established. In the establishment of this telephone Mr. P. H. Agarwala, Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, Karachi Sub-Division, has worked most creditably. A 200 line Board has been established in a tent and connections were given on the 4th of June. From 2 P.M., on the 5th of June the Military have taken all connections from this Board and have discontinued their own temporary system. I heard glowing tribute paid by the Military to the excellent work put in by Mr. Agarwala in this connection.

It must be mentioned here that the trunk connection from Quetta to the rest of India was established by the evening of the 1st of June and this connection was so good that there have been three calls to overseas from Quetta.

The main damage to the telegraphic communication was the breakage of the batteries which were knocked off their stands. The telegraph lines were also twisted between Quetta and Sar-i-Ab station. The Military signals Branch sent out their own staff to examine the lines on the morning of the 31st of May and they put the lines right. Dry cells from Mobilization Stores were taken out and communication was established on the 1st of June; but the rush of telegraph traffic both inward and outward was so heavy that it was out of question to cope with it by the usual routes and methods. The incoming and outgoing aeroplanes were therefore utilised in receiving telegrams for Quetta and in sending them from Quetta to Lahore and Quetta to Karachi.

The following additional telegraph staff were sent on 2nd June to cope with the rush of work :—

Telegraph Masters	..	..	2	} from Lahore.
Telegraphists	..	..	6	
Clerks	..	..	6	
Telegraphists	..	..	2	from Karachi.

A further batch of five telegraphists was sent from Lahore on the 5th June in order to relieve the local staff who may wish to relieve Quetta.

Great difficulty has been experienced in the delivery of telegrams received because the city having been levelled to the ground it was impossible to trace the addressees some of whom were dead, some had left and others scattered in the open spaces of hospitals.

I must state in this connection the great assistance rendered to us by the Military authorities. They have given signalling staff and despatch riders and they have sent for and collected their own messages. I saw the Chief Signals Officer and the General Officer Commanding and I conveyed to them the sincere thanks of this department for their help. It was a great pleasure to hear the tribute paid by the Military authorities to the work done in connection with the telegraphs and telephones by the staff of this department. Every effort is being made through honorary workers to deliver the telegrams but they are far too numerous and a large portion of the population having left Quetta it is impossible to effect delivery of all the telegrams.

The position in Quetta is still somewhat uncertain. The telegraph traffic continues to be very heavy. Where the station normally booked about 60 messages a day it is booking over 700 messages. Exact figures of the number of telegrams received for delivery are not available but they have reached as much as 2,000 per day. At present one line to Karachi, two lines to Lahore and one wireless circuit are operating. It is hoped, however, that the pressure on the telegraphs will be reduced in the course of the next few days.

As regards the Postal side, all work except the delivery and despatch of fully-paid articles was suspended for the time being but on the 5th of June registered letters and parcels which had been previously received were given out for delivery. A large number of parcels will have to be returned to the senders as the city has been destroyed and there are no addressees to whom the articles could be delivered.

In order to assist in the disposal of work the following postal staff has been sent from outside :—

Selection grade Assistant Postmaster ..	1	} from Karachi.
Clerks .. .. .	10	
Supervisor .. .. .	1	} from Lahore.
Clerks .. .. .	6	
Clerks .. .. .	6	from Multan.

The Railway Mail Service has a Mail Office on the Railway Station as well as a Sub-Record Office and Quetta is the headquarters station of the section working into Quetta. The Building on the Railway station has collapsed and the Railway Mail Service Mail Office has now been accommodated in a tent in the Post Office compound. The headquarters of the sections working into Quetta have been changed to Sukkur. The Railway Mail Service staff has not suffered any casualties so far as could be ascertained.

No stores or foodstuffs are available for sale in Quetta. The Military have undertaken the rationing of the population. Our employees have been provided with adequate accommodation in tents which have been pitched in the open spaces in the compound of the Post Office, in the compound of the Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, and just outside the compound of the Telegraph Office. Military guards have been provided in all these camps.

The Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle, Karachi, was asked to proceed to Quetta by aeroplane and he actually left Karachi on the morning of the 1st June arriving in Quetta by mid-day. He is still at Quetta and will continue to be there until everything has been established on proper lines."

16th June 1935.

No. 51.

Over 400 hospital cases have been received at Karachi. Serious cases are being treated in the Civil and Dufferin Hospitals and in a vernacular school. Ordinary cases are being treated in an improvised hospital at Pilgrims' Camp. About 200 cases are accommodated in other hospitals in Sind. Hospital requirements are sufficient at present, but more nurses are required and are being obtained from the Red Cross, Bombay.

In Karachi, about 300 Muhammadan refugees are housed in the Sind Madressah School, and the care of about 50 Hindu refugees has been undertaken by Hindu organisations. Accurate figures of refugees in other districts are not available at present, but arrangements are being made for a complete census to be taken.

Numerous organisations and individuals have come forward with gifts of cash and goods and continue to do so.

Notable relief work has been done at Rohri where thousands of refugees passing through have received food and medical attendance, and small amounts for their expenses. An Extra Assistant Commissioner and a party of helpers is at present at Rohri, assisting the local authorities.

22nd June 1935.

No. 52.  
Relief work in  
Sind.

*Karachi.*—A number of persons have been discharged from hospital cured during the last few days and have gone to their homes and friends or are in the Haj Refugee Camp and in the various non-official institutions. The numbers in the Hospitals are as follows :—

Civil Hospital	..	..	..	96
Haj Camp	..	..	..	81
H. V. Mahratta School	..	..	..	76
Lady Dufferin Hospital	..	..	..	18

The Civil Surgeon, assisted by Captain Smithwick, I.M.S., is in charge of the first three hospitals, and, in addition to the official medical staff, they are being assisted by a number of private practitioners. A few convalescent cases are in private institutions. The supply of nurses and medical requisites is fully adequate.

*Other Refugees.*—The numbers at the main camps are approximately as follows :—

Sind Madressah	..	..	..	400
Haj Camp	..	..	..	550

and in addition about 600 are distributed among various non-official relief organisations or with private individuals. Refugees from the villages of Baluchistan are still coming in at the rate of 20—30 a day.

*Other Districts.*—The number of cases treated and still remaining in the various hospitals is as follows :—

	Number treated.	Number remaining.
Shikarpur	176	41
Sukkur (Civil and Railway Military Hospitals)	125	62
Hyderabad (Civil and Bombay Merchants' Association Hospitals)	29	12

As in Karachi, the funds and other contributions for immediate relief have been provided by non-official liberality.

The following are the most recent estimates of the number of persons belonging to Sind (excluding Shikarpur and Karachi) who were at Quetta during the earthquake and have since returned :—

	At Quetta.	Returned.
Hyderabad district	342	187
Sukkur district (excluding Shikarpur Town)	267	104
Larkana district	142	60
Nawabshah district	536	283
Thar Parkar district	1	..
Dadu district	243	132
Upper Sind Frontier district	275	117
	<u>1,806</u>	<u>883</u>

As regards Shikarpur, some 4,000—5,000 people were at Quetta, of which about 400 have returned.

There are 70 tongawalas with their families, tongas and horses at Sukkur and Shikarpur, who have driven these from Quetta. They are being sent by train to their homes or relations at Delhi and Lahore.

150 sweepers have been sent to Quetta, 100 from Karachi and 50 from Sukkur. Vegetables and other food requisites have been sent there until recently from Sukkur.

*Future Relief.*—Enquiries are being made with a view to setting up Committees composed of officials and non-officials to administer the second stage of relief with the help of His Excellency the Viceroy's Fund as indicated in the recent communiqué of the Government of India.

28th June 1935.

- No. 53. "We wish to offer our thanks and gratitude to the Military for all the thought and help in saving our lives in the Earthquake at Quetta—it was wonderful the way the military came to our rescue, also the wonderful way the Doctors, Nurses and Orderlies attended to us while we were in the British Military Hospital. We were buried under debris for 3½ hours and we owe our lives to the soldiers and Indian Sappers who dug us out."

Letter from Mr. A. Cumper, Proprietor (late) Cafe Stanley, Quetta, to A. H. Q.

Thanking all the military who helped to save us."

1st July 1935.

- No. 54. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief leaves Simla to-morrow for Quetta. The object of his visit is to see conditions on the spot and discuss matters with the local authorities before dealing at Headquarters with the various large problems that will arise regarding the future of Quetta. His Excellency will return to Simla on 6th July.

Visit to Quetta of H. E. the C.-in-C.

2nd July 1935.

- No. 55. "During the critical weeks following the earthquake the one form of assistance which was not merely redundant, but definitely embarrassing to the overworked authorities, was that of volunteer workers who had nothing but their personal services to give and who were in most cases ignorant alike of the locality and of the mentality, the customs, and above all, the language of the inhabitants."

Prohibition of entry into Quetta of private individuals and unofficial relief parties—reasons for.

This statement, which appears in a communication received by the authorities at Simla from a civil official who has been in direct personal touch with the situation in the area affected by the earthquake since the disaster occurred, serves to emphasize the necessity of the decision taken by the Government of India and the local authorities in the early stages of the catastrophe to prohibit the entry into the Quetta Area of private individuals and unofficial parties desiring to undertake relief work.

In the various unofficial statements already issued on the subject it has been made clear that the main reasons for the prohibition were:—

- (1) the absolute necessity of conserving food supplies during the early days,
- (2) the possibility of the complete breakdown of the water supply and the interruption of communications if another serious shock had occurred, and
- (3) the grave danger of the outbreak of epidemic disease.

Quite apart from these considerations, which in themselves completely justify the Government of India's action, it is obvious that it was essential that relief work should be conducted on an organised basis, and under discipline, and to have permitted the entry at will of private individuals and parties of volunteers would have led to confusion.

Necessity for organised relief work under discipline.

In addition to the immediate work of rescue and relief, on which every available individual, both civil and military, was engaged, the concern of the authorities was to evacuate refugees and wounded from Quetta, with the least possible delay, and thereby lessen the dangers to which reference has been made above.

Reply to claim that more lives could have been saved.

The claim has been made by some persons with no first-hand knowledge of the situation, that more lives could have been saved if unofficial relief parties had been admitted. But not an atom of evidence can be produced that where rescues were at all possible they were not effected promptly by the authorities on the spot. And it should be remembered that the greater part of the rescue work, which was commenced on an organised basis within forty-five minutes of the disaster, had been completed within the first forty-eight hours, *i.e.*, before it would have been possible for volunteer working parties to have arrived from outside.

Situation in rural area.

In regard to the demand that has been put forward in certain sections of the Press that relief parties should be allowed to work in the rural area affected by the earthquake, it is perhaps not recognised generally that of the villages in the neighbourhood of Quetta which were partially or wholly destroyed, all but Sariat, Samungli and Nauhissar (together with a few other settlements and isolated farms), are in Kalat State and not in British India.

The Kalat State authorities have made it clear that they do not require volunteer relief workers from British India, though assistance in the shape of materials for erection of earthquake-proof houses, and the supply of tents to meet the needs of temporary accommodation would be greatly appreciated. Even in normal times travellers, other than State subjects, are not permitted to proceed beyond Mastung without a special permit.

Supplies of food and medical relief.

The prompt steps to supply food and medical relief to the whole of the affected rural area, and the organisation established for the purposes of ensuring regular and adequate supplies have already been described in detail in official reports published from day to day.

As regards the rural area in the Quetta Tahsil, it has been ascertained that the food supplies are assured as the standing *rabi* crop is exceptionally heavy and, provided enough labour is available to reap it in full, will suffice for the needs of the surviving population for three or four years.

Local resources ample to meet the situation.

The civil authorities, who have now resumed control, are being provided by the military authorities with such additional assistance as they require, and the resources available locally are ample to deal with the situation. The services of volunteer parties from outside are quite unnecessary.

The authorities appreciate the genuine offers of assistance that have been made and would not hesitate to accept them if the situation or the interests of the surviving inhabitants would thereby be improved. But the need does not exist. The administration is proceeding quite smoothly, and the survivors are being given all the assistance they require. If, however, in these circumstances, those who have expressed a desire to undertake relief work will devote their time and money to swelling the Viceroy's Relief Fund which, as already announced, will provide, among other things, for maintenance grants, medical appliances and assistance for orphans, they will be rendering very valuable service.

6th July 1935.

No. 56.  
Claims to property—  
procedure for  
submission.

Just after the earthquake at Quetta, while many of the refugees were still in the refugee camp on the Quetta race course, certain records were made of their claims to property buried in the city. Since then a special form for the submission of claims has been devised by Government and published\* in the Press. It would facilitate the disposal of claims if the persons whose claims were then recorded, and any others who have submitted claims in forms other than that prescribed by Government, would resubmit their claims, in duplicate, through the Deputy Commissioner, Collector or Political Agent of the area in which the claimants are now residing, using the Form which Government has now prescribed. The object of having the claims in duplicate is that one copy may be forwarded by the officer receiving it to the Claims Commissioner at Quetta, and the other retained in the receiving office for future reference if necessary.

24th July 1935.

No. 57.  
Relief work in  
United  
Provinces.

Upto July 6, 1935, 654 refugees were received in Lucknow. Of these 25 were sent to the King George's Hospital, Lucknow, 64 were slightly injured and were treated at the railway station (where a dressing station was estab-

\* See page 38 (No. 67).

lished) and the remaining 565, together with those treated at the Station, were sent the same day on which they arrived, to their destination after being fed.

It is estimated that 1,500 to 2,000 refugees arrived at Kotdwara in the Garhwal district. They were fed and given free transport to their homes. A few who had minor injuries were treated by doctors at Kotdwara and Dogadda.

The relief work carried out by the Mayor's Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund Committee consists in giving shelter to the *bona-fide* refugees from Quetta either coming directly from Quetta or from Karachi or adjoining places, where they had gone from Quetta immediately after the disaster. Most of them were given shelter in a Musafarkhana and have been provided daily with food and clothing. Small sums of money have also been provided to meet the immediate needs of refugees. The Railway Board has authorised the Great Indian Peninsula and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways to issue free passes to the refugees wishing to return to their native places, or to places where their friends and relatives reside.

Relief work in Bombay City.

24th July 1935.

No. 58.

Colonel Russell, the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, whose Report on the Health situation at Quetta was recently published, will visit Quetta again early in August in connection with the question of the resumption of salvage operations. It is probable that Mr. Staig, the Earthquake Commissioner will also revisit Quetta at the same time.

Further visit to Quetta of Public Health Commissioner.

A labour corps of approximately 2,000 men is at present engaged upon the huge task of clearing the debris from the roads.

The Government of India have now under consideration the terms of a Regulation, which will be issued\* at an early date, to determine the powers and procedure of the Claims Commissioner and to control salvage operations within the enclosed area of Quetta. An announcement of the appointment of Major Gastrell (who is already in Quetta) as Claims Commissioner, is likely to be made in the near future. Two probationers of the Political Service have been posted to Quetta to assist in the control of salvage operations.

Law to control salvage operations and powers and procedure of Claims Commissioner.

27th July 1935.

No. 59.

The second stage of relief work has been started, and Committees to assist in the administration of the Viceroy's Fund have been formed in Karachi, Sukkur, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Dadu. Most of this work lies in Karachi; next come Shikarpur and Sukkur, while in Jacobabad, Dadu and Larkana there are at present very few cases requiring such relief. The relief is at present confined to the following categories:—

Relief work in Sind.

- (a) Free passes and small cash grants to people who wish to go to relations or friends who could look after them or find them work;
- (b) subsistence grants to those without any means of support who wish to live outside refugee camps;
- (c) grants to the injured discharged from hospitals for medical comforts and appliances;
- (d) school fees for the young whose education has been interfered with;
- (e) small grants for tools and equipment to humble craftsmen to enable them to earn a living in lieu of subsistence grants;
- (f) provision of employment.

The following sums have been placed at the disposal of the several Collectors to meet the cost of such relief:—

	Rs.
Karachi .. .. .	25,000
Sukkur .. .. .	5,000
Upper Sind Frontier .. .. .	2,000
Dadu .. .. .	300
Larkana .. .. .	300

\* See page 37 (No. 66).

In Karachi, 257 persons have so far been provided with free railway passes and small cash grants amounting to Rs. 1,074-8-0 ; 11 small artisans have been set up in work with grants for the purchase of tools and equipment, two such artisans having been supplied with sewing machines ; 225 families consisting of 504 persons have been provided with subsistence and equipment grants amounting in the first month to Rs. 6,086-8-0.

As regards repatriation, it is now possible to send back refugees in suitable cases to other parts of Baluchistan than Quetta sub-division and Kalat State, and the necessary enquiries are being made. Refugees belonging to Afghanistan are being sent there *via* Chaman.

*Refugee camps.*—The Sind Madressah camp was closed from July 8th, the refugees there being transferred to the Haj Camp and other places. There are at present 937 persons in the Haj Camp and 185 in other Camps seeking relief. Refugees are still arriving in the Haj Camp from Quetta in fairly large numbers and by transfer from other centres. A refugee camp for Hindus was opened by Rao Bahadur Mohatta from July 5th.

*Hospitals.*—The Haj Camp temporary hospital was closed on the 8th July, and Captain H. S. Smithwick, I.M.S., who was deputed from Sholapur to assist the Civil Surgeon, left that day. Convalescent cases are, however, still being treated by a medical officer who attends daily. There are 63 cases in the Civil Hospital, 31 in the Kotwal Mahratta School and 17 in the Lady Dufferin Hospital. Most of the Red Cross nurses left for Bombay in the second week of July.

As already announced, the Mayor's Fund with assistance from other organizations has so far been responsible for feeding and clothing arrangements at the large hospitals and camps in Karachi. The resources of this Fund are not likely to last much longer, and the burden, which has been so ably borne by that Fund, will shortly be taken over by the Viceroy's Earthquake Fund.

In Sukkur 97 cases were brought to the Viceroy's Relief Committee's notice up to the 20th July, and are being suitably dealt with.

In Hyderabad, the Bombay Silk Merchants Earthquake Relief Committee are providing the necessary relief, and it has not been necessary to constitute a Committee to disburse relief out of the Viceroy's Fund at that place. This Committee has given emergent and second stage relief in 50 cases amounting to Rs. 3,483. Previously it opened a hospital near the railway station with 50 beds and provided two bungalows as refugee camps.

7th August 1935.

No. 60.  
Relief work in  
the North-West  
Frontier  
Province.

\* Occasional reports have been made of the various individual efforts made by the North-West Frontier Province to assist their sister Province in connection with the great Quetta disaster. Amongst this was the immediate despatch of a sorely-needed force of 200 Police, of a complete medical unit under Dr. Hukam Chand Gupta, Civil Surgeon, Kohat, the immediate despatch of food supplies by leading citizens of Dera Ismail Khan *via* Fort Sandeman. But a review of the general effort of the Province may not be without interest.

2. The Province was at first led to expect a large ingress of some 2,000 seriously wounded cases at short notice. It was self-evident that such cases would have to be cared for at the only big centre with direct rail communication, *viz.*, Peshawar ; and urgent preparations were made to expand the medical resources of that City to accommodate this large influx : the main body were to have been accommodated at the Lady Reading Hospital, others at the C. M. S. Hospital, while Dr. Khan Sahib, amongst others, undertook to take a portion. An appeal was circulated and readily responded to for the hospital clothing necessary. Similarly, a large body amounting to some 2,000 unwounded refugees was expected at Haripur where preliminary preparations were made. Each of the districts of the Province readily undertook to furnish an allotted quota of supplies. In the event there was no large influx of either seriously wounded or unwounded refugees and such clothing surplus to requirements as had been collected was passed on to meet the needs of districts in the Punjab.

3. Detailed lists have been furnished to the press already giving full names of all refugees arriving in this Province. In Peshawar immediately on the arrival of the refugees a Relief Committee, with K. B. Kuli Khan, as its President, was formed, and gave immediate relief in various forms, such as food, clothing, accommodation, railway or lorry fare, and diet money to their destinations in accordance with individual needs. 36 refugees have since left for their

homes, 37 are housed in various schools and are still being cared for by this Committee out of their own funds.

4. Kohat received about 117 refugees and has dealt with them similarly through a local Relief Committee.

5. Some 119 refugees have arrived in Dera Ismail Khan District. The first batch of 81 refugees was met at Dera Ismail Khan and brought across the Indus under arrangements organised locally, mainly through the Sewa Samiti, who continue to assist indigent refugees.

6. In Hazara District about 230 refugees arrived at Haripur by rail and were assisted to their homes by a local Relief Committee.

7. A few refugees belong to the Agencies, mainly to the Kurram Agency.

8. In the hospitals of the Province some 121 refugees have been treated—including both Government hospitals and private hospitals such as the Afghan Mission Hospital and Dr. Khan Sahib's hospital—a considerable number of these belong to Tribal Territory or Afghanistan.

9. There was a ready response to the Viceroy's appeal which aroused the sympathy of all, rich and poor—cultivators in the Peshawar District collected grain to be sold for the benefit of the Fund.

10. This Fund is now being utilised where necessary for the relief of distress. In certain cases subsistence grants are being paid out, and arrangements have been made for the payment of school fees on behalf of the children of refugees.

*10th August 1935.*

**No. 61.**

*Karachi.*—The total number of refugees arrived from Quetta is now 2,366. Fresh cases continue to arrive daily from Quetta and other provinces. Relief work in Sind.

The work of the district Committee administering the Viceroy's Fund continues to be very heavy. 365 cases have been finally disposed of, 354 having left Karachi with free passes and journey expenses amounting to Rs. 1,664-8-0 and employment having been found for 11 persons. 1,340 refugees have been placed on subsistence allowances, the amount so far paid being Rs. 19,128.

The number of refugees in the Haj Camp was 937 on the 3rd August, but it has subsequently come down to 743. In other camps the number is 91.

The Viceroy's Fund Committee took over the feeding and clothing arrangement at the refugee camps and hospitals from the Mayor's Fund Committee on the 6th August. The voluntary workers at these places who assisted the Mayor's Fund Committee continue to assist the Viceroy's Fund Committee. The Memon Relief Society under Mr. Abdul Sattar with headquarters at the Haj Camp continues to do notable work and has spent nearly Rs. 50,000.

*Sukkur.*—87 applications for relief have been dealt with by the Viceroy's Fund Committee and cash relief of Rs. 1,462 has been granted in addition to the supply of three sewing machines to poor widows and providing for the education of 7 orphans.

*Hyderabad.*—The Japan-Bombay Silk Merchants Quetta Earthquake Committee continues to provide relief.

*Upper Sind Frontier.*—Relief has been provided for 164 refugees, involving a total liability of Rs. 3,100. 7 of these have been sent to their homes or relations with free passes and small cash grants for railway expenses; 15 have been provided with tools and equipment to enable them to earn a livelihood, e.g., sewing machines, a tonga and a horse; and the remainder have been placed on subsistence grants. More applications are being received and will soon be dealt with.

*Dadu.*—15 persons have been given subsistence grants amounting to Rs. 165 in the first month.

*Larkana.*—Two families have been given each a subsistence grant of Rs. 20 and a household equipment grant of Rs. 15.

*Nawabshah.*—Applications for relief have now been received from refugees in the Nawabshah district also from 36 families consisting of 170 members requiring a subsistence allowance of Rs. 650 per month. A Committee is being formed to deal with these applications.

2. The amounts placed at the disposal of the district Committees up to date are as under :—

	Rs.
Karachi .. .. .	35,000
Sukkur .. .. .	5,000
Upper Sind Frontier .. .. .	4,000
Dadu .. .. .	800
Larkana .. .. .	300

15th August 1935.

No. 62.  
Relief work in  
Ajmer-Merwara.

Soon after His Excellency the Viceroy issued an appeal on the subject in the press, a meeting of the leading citizens of Ajmer-Merwara was called. At the meeting a small Committee was formed to receive subscriptions towards His Excellency's Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund, and forward them to the Headquarters with Rai Bahadur Seth Bhag Chand Soni, M.L.A., as Honorary Treasurer, and Rai Sahib Pt. P. B. Joshi, as Honorary Secretary and Mr. N. D. Madhok as Assistant Secretary. Within a week after the formation of this Committee, it was found that the earthquake sufferers were coming to Ajmer also, and that some sort of local relief was necessary for them. It was therefore decided to form a sub-Committee consisting of Rai Bahadur Pt. Mithan Lal, Khan Bahadur Abdul Wahid Khan and Khan Sahib Zahur Masih to enquire into all cases of Quetta sufferers needing local relief, and suggest the type of relief. It was also decided that a sum of Rs. 500 be placed at the disposal of this Committee for use locally. The total number of refugees including women and children that have come to Ajmer so far is as below :—

1. Europeans and Anglo-Indians .. .. .	8 ladies.
2. Indian Christians .. .. .	17 including women and children.
3. Hindus .. .. .	5
4. Muslims .. .. .	30

With only three or four exceptions, the refugees are mostly servants of officials and non-officials killed or wounded during the earthquake, and of these 15 have already left Ajmer. They were provided with money for food and clothing while here and with railway tickets and some cash to enable them to reach their destination. Others are still in Ajmer and every kind of help is being given to them to find work. If they fail to do so and wish to go elsewhere, they will be given Railway fare. In the meantime necessary funds have been provided for their maintenance.

Cases of sickness are being treated on the recommendations of the Honorary Secretary in the Local Hospitals. 3 rooms have been reserved for lodging the refugees free of cost in the Edward Memorial Serai.

The total amount promised so far by the Province towards the Relief Fund is Rs. 10,073|13|- of which Rs. 8,177|1|- have already been sent to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, and Rs. 400|- have been disbursed locally, including railway fare to those who left Ajmer. Subscriptions are still coming in.

16th August 1935.

No. 63.  
Salvage and  
restoration of  
property.

Systematic  
Salvage.

The salvage of property from partially damaged houses in Quetta City has recently begun and property recovered is being made over to its owners by the Claims Commissioner, in accordance with the terms of the Quetta Distribution of Salvaged Property Law, 1935, which was recently promulgated.\* Active preparations are being made for the commencement of systematic salvaging in the City, including collection of material for a light railway to remove the debris. The erection of corrugated iron huts is progressing rapidly and these will be used *inter alia* to provide shelter for property owners visiting Quetta in connection with the restoration of their property.

Rural relief.

In regard to rural relief in Baluchistan, local authorities are preparing estimates for the clearance and reconstruction of *karezes* (subterranean irrigation channels) damaged in the earthquake. This work is expected to cost 1½ lakhs and will be pressed forward so that its benefits may be secured for the

\*See page 37 (No. 66).

next harvest. A scheme is reaching maturity under which the rural population, whose houses are seriously damaged, will be afforded assistance in the shape of a grant of some material for rebuilding their houses.

Apart from the relief administered immediately after the earthquake, relief in Kalat State will take the form mainly of clearance and reconstruction of *karez*s and grants of material for rebuilding of houses. The securing of labour for repair of *karez*s and the collection of material for rebuilding of houses is now receiving the very urgent attention of the Political Agent and the State officials. A grant of Rs. 10,000 has been made from the Viceroy's Relief Fund to the State for expenditure incurred on immediate relief and a further sum of Rs. 50,000 has already been placed at their disposal, for expenditure on clearance of *karez*s, from the same source.

In regard to the question of permanent relief, the official orders already issued permit of free grants to enable destitute persons of the artisan class to re-equip themselves with tools and materials to restart work. It is likely that orders will issue in the near future extending the scope of free grants and authorising local officers to deal with demands on a larger scale than hitherto. Requests have been received for very large sums by way of relief either as grants or as loans; it is improbable that such applications can be finally considered until demands on Relief Fund are fully known when only it will be possible to secure the distribution of available resources to the best advantage among deserving cases. In the meanwhile, apart from such grants to restart business, local authorities have given relief, on the prescribed lines, of temporary subsistence grants, medical facilities and help for the education of children.

19th August 1935.

No. 64. *Karachi*.—There were no fresh arrivals since the last report.

444 cases have been finally disposed of, 424 having left Karachi with free passes and journey expenses amounting to Rs. 1,964-8-0 and 20 cases having been employed in their calling with the aid of tools and equipment provided from the Viceroy's Fund.

892 cases involving 1,894 persons have been given subsistence grants amounting to Rs. 26,576.

The present number in refugee camps is 563 in the Haj Camp and 52 in other camps. The former is now a residential camp only, as, with the grant of subsistence allowance, it is no longer necessary to maintain separate feeding arrangements, and people are leaving slowly as they find accommodation in the City.

Enquiry is now being made into the cases of patients in the Civil Hospital and refugees outside the Haj camp.

The Relief Commissioner visited Karachi during the week with the result that wider powers will be delegated to the local Committee in due course. It is hoped that final grants to small business men will dispose of a number of cases during the current week.

The number of patients receiving medical treatment had now fallen to 95, distributed as follows :—

Civil Hospital	..	..	..	..	51
Mahratta School Hospital	..	..	..	..	30
Rao Bahadur Shivrattan Mohatta's camp	..	..	..	..	13
Military Hospital	..	..	..	..	1

There are also a few patients in the Arya Samaj refugee camp.

*Sukkur*.—94 cases, involving 329 individuals, have been disposed of. In 15 cases the refugees have been sent to their relations or friends with free passes and small cash grants amounting to Rs. 56. The rest have been given grants for stock in trade amounting to Rs. 1,528, for house-rent Rs. 215, and for subsistence Rs. 1,143. Sewing machines have been given to 10 persons, mostly widows, and liability for the education of orphans assumed for one year in 8 cases. In two cases Rs. 50 each have been sanctioned to widows to cover the expenses of their confinement. The total commitments so far amount to Rs. 4,780.

*Upper Sind Frontier.*—Over 200 applications were received during the week. A large number of these turned out to be bogus cases, and the applicants included wandering tribesmen, fakirs and labourers. In some cases separate applications were made by the same person under different names, or by the dependants of the persons who had already obtained relief for them. Eventually relief was given in 39 cases. 13 more are being enquired into.

The total number of cases dealt with by the Committee so far is :—

Passes with cash grants .. ..	17 cases.
Refugees set up in business .. ..	23 cases.
Given sewing machines .. ..	11 cases.
Granted subsistence allowance .. ..	60 cases.

The total expenditure has been over Rs. 4,000.

The amounts placed at the disposal of the district Committees up to date are as under :—

	Rs.
Karachi .. ..	35,000
Sukkur .. ..	15,000
Upper Sind Frontier .. ..	5,000
Nawabshah .. ..	1,000
Dadu .. ..	800
Larkana .. ..	300

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**No. 65. Regulation to provide for the administration of British Baluchistan during the state of emergency resulting from the recent earthquake.**

(REGULATION NO. II OF 1935.)

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the administration of British Baluchistan during the state of emergency resulting from the recent earthquake ; It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. (1) This Regulation may be called the British Baluchistan (Emergency Administration) Regulation, 1935. Short title, commencement and duration.

(2) It shall come into force on such date\* as the Local Government may, by notification in the Gazette of India, appoint.

(3) Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall in the first instance remain in force for one year only :

Provided that the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, may, by notification in the Gazette of India, from time to time extend the said period by any period not exceeding six months.

2. (1) The Local Government may make rules to provide for the public Rules, safety, health and convenience and for the protection of public and private property, and such rules shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any law for the time being in force.

(2) Such rules may provide that any contravention thereof, or of any order issued thereunder or supplementary thereto, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

(3) The penalty, if any, for the contravention of a rule shall be specified therein.

(4) The Local Government shall cause any rule made under this section to be published in such manner as appears to the Local Government to be best fitted to bring it to the notice of those affected.

3. If any person disobeys or neglects to comply with any rule made under section 2, the Local Government, or any person authorised in this behalf by such rule, may take or cause to be taken such action as the Local Government or person authorised thinks necessary to give effect to the rule. Power to give effect to rules, if disobeyed.

4. Whoever impedes the lawful exercise of any power conferred by this Regulation, or by any rule made under section 2, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both. Penalty for obstruction.

5. Subject to the provisions of this section, but otherwise subject to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898,— Special powers of Courts. V of 1898.

(a) any Magistrate of the First Class specially empowered in this behalf by the Local Government may try in the summary way provided in Chapter XXII of the said Code any offence made punishable under section 2, and may pass any sentence provided for such offence in the rules ; and

(b) notwithstanding anything contained in any law, there shall be no appeal by a convicted person in any case tried summarily under clause (a), in which a Magistrate passes a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding six months, and no Court shall have authority to revise any order or sentence made or passed in any such case or to transfer any such case or to make any order under section 491 of the said Code, or have any jurisdiction of any kind, in respect of any such case.

6. Contraventions of any regulation or order made or issued during the period from the 30th of May, 1935, up to the commencement of this Regulation, by any officer acting in the exercise of control, civil or military, for the purpose of providing for the public safety, health or convenience or for the protection of public or private property, shall be deemed to be contraventions of a rule made under section 2 and shall be triable and punishable as if any sentence authorised by any such regulation or order were a sentence authorised by a rule made under section 2. Validation of regulations and orders made before commencement of this Regulation.

\* The Regulation came into force on 28th June 1935, from which date Martial-Law ceased to be in force.

Validation of sentences passed before commencement of this Regulation.

7. Any sentence passed during the period from the 30th of May, 1935, up to the commencement of this Regulation, by any officer or tribunal acting in the exercise of control, civil or military, for the purpose of providing for the public safety, health or convenience or for the protection of public or private property, in respect of any contravention of a regulation or order, made or issued within the same period in the exercise of such control, shall be deemed to have been legally passed and shall not be questioned in any manner whatsoever :

Provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed to derogate from the power of the Governor General in Council or of the Local Government to suspend, remit or commute sentences under any law for the time being in force, or otherwise.

Indemnity.

8. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding whatsoever shall lie against any person for, or on account of, or in respect of, any act, matter or thing ordered or done, or purporting to have been ordered or done,—

(a) under this Regulation, or

(b) during the period from the 30th of May, 1935, up to the commencement of this Regulation, in the exercise of control, civil or military, for the purpose of providing for the public safety, health or convenience or for the protection of public or private property :

Provided that nothing in this section shall prevent the institution of proceedings by or on behalf of the Government against any person in respect of any matter where such person has not acted in good faith and a reasonable belief that his action was necessary for the aforementioned purposes.

I assent to this Regulation.

WILLINGDON,

*Viceroy and Governor General.*

*The 26th June, 1935.*

No. 66. Law to regulate the distribution of property salvaged in the earthquake area.

NOTIFICATION.

*Simla, the 30th July, 1935.*

No. 449-F.—In exercise of the powers conferred by the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council, 1902, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following Law to regulate the distribution of property salvaged from the areas in the district, including the cantonment and town, of Quetta devastated by the recent earthquake :—

1. (1) This Law may be called the Quetta Distribution of Salvaged Property Law, 1935. Short title, extent and commencement.
  - (2) It extends to the district, including the cantonment and town, of Quetta.
  - (3) It shall come into force on such date as the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan may, by notification in the Gazette of India, appoint.
  2. In this Law— Definitions.
    - (i) the expressions “salvaged property” and “property salvaged” mean movable property salvaged by or under the orders of Government from any area devastated by the recent earthquake ; and
    - (ii) “notified area” means any area which the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan has, by notification in the Gazette of India, specified in this behalf.
  3. No suit or other legal proceeding whatsoever shall lie against the Government, or against any officer of Government, in respect of any salvaged property made over to any person after the 30th of May, 1935, or in respect of any property, movable or immovable, within, or salvaged from, a notified area. Indemnity.
  4. The Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan may appoint one or more Claims Commissioners for the purposes of this Law. Claims Commissioners.
  5. (1) All property salvaged within a notified area shall, subject to the provisions of this Law, remain in the possession of Government. Distribution of salvaged property.
  - (2) The Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan shall, as soon as may be after the salvaging of any such property, cause to be recorded in writing with sufficient precision the limits within which such property was salvaged, and such record shall, for all purposes whatsoever, be conclusive proof that such property was salvaged within such limits.
  - (3) A Claims Commissioner may, after such inquiry as he thinks fit, make over any such salvaged property to any person appearing to him to be entitled to receive it :
- Provided that, before such date as the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan may appoint in this behalf, no property shall be made over to any person under this sub-section unless and until such person is, in the opinion of the Claims Commissioner, able to remove the property without interfering with the salvaging operations.
- (4) If it does not appear to a Claims Commissioner that any person is entitled to receive any such salvaged property, he shall report the fact to the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan and the property shall remain in the possession of Government pending the decision of a competent authority as to the right of possession thereof.
  - (5) For the purposes of the inquiry referred to in sub-section (3), a Claims Commissioner shall have the same powers of enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the production of evidence as are vested in a Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
6. A Claims Commissioner and any person acting under his orders for the purposes of this Law shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code. Certain persons to be public servants.  
XLV of 1860.

No. 67.

**Form of claim for property buried in Quetta City.**

(This form was published extensively as an advertisement in the Press).

Notice is hereby given that the registration of claims to movable property buried in Quetta City will now be undertaken. Any person claiming to be entitled to receive property buried in Quetta on the occasion of the earthquake should in his own interest submit a claim to the Deputy Commissioner, Collector or Political Agent of the area in which he is at present residing, as soon as possible.

Claims should be submitted in duplicate in the following form :—

**FORM OF CLAIM**

Name and description of the claimant.				If claimant claims as legal representative, enter here description of owner on date of earthquake.				If claimant claims as legal representative enter here his relationship to deceased owner or other basis of his title to claim as legal representative of deceased owner.		Description of building in which property kept on date of earthquake.			Full descriptions of items of property claimed.				
Name.	Father's name.	Caste.	Occupation.	Permanent address.	Whether claimant was on the date of the earthquake owner of the property claimed or claims as legal representative of the owner on that date.	Name.	Father's name.	Caste.	Occupation.	Permanent address.	Name of street in which buildings situate.	Municipal number if any, of building.	If no Municipal number, full description of the situation of the building.	Serial No.	Full description of item.	Whether kept in receipt. If so, specify nature of receipt.	Situation in building of room in which kept.

B. M. STAIG,

*Earthquake Commissioner.*

**No. 68. Report on the health situation in Quetta by Lt.-Col. A. J. H. Russell, I.M.S., Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, dated the 19th June 1935.**

By the time I reached Quetta on 13th June, the city had been 'sealed' for several days and military and police guards were patrolling the whole perimeter. The barbed wire entanglement round the sealed area was completed by the 14th June. For several days prior to my arrival, the authorities had been actively engaged in evacuating sick, wounded and refugees and the railway officers reported that by the night of the 14th June they had despatched by rail no less than 31,500 persons. The immediate sealing of the city, after all injured persons had been collected and as many of the dead as could be detected had been removed, and the speedy evacuation of sick, wounded and refugees were in my opinion both wise decisions from the health point of view. They were indeed essential if health conditions were to be maintained at any reasonable standard and at the moment they have reduced the health problems in the devastated areas to practicable proportions.

2. The population remaining in Quetta may be divided into five groups : (1) the military cantonment occupied by troops and their families, (2) the civil residential area which lies round the Residency, (3) the railway colony, (4) the refugee camp situated on the race course, and (5) the villages lying within a radius of three miles round the town and cantonment.

3. I need not comment on the cantonment area as that is effectively controlled by the military medical authorities. By the 13th June a considerable degree of sanitary control had already been organised in regard to areas (2) to (5).

In the civil residential area every person is living under canvas and suitable arrangements have been made for water supply and conservancy. The refugee camp has been meantime located on the race course which at this time of year provides a dry non-malarious site, although these conditions may not prevail during the usual rainy months of July and August. About 5,000 persons are in residence in this camp and suitable public health arrangements have been carried out under the supervision of Major Nicol, I.M.S., Assistant Director of Public Health, Punjab, who has on my advice been given the title of 'Chief Health Officer' of the earthquake area. The railway authorities have insisted on the necessity for accommodating their staffs in the vicinity of the station yard and five camps in different parts of their colony provide for the whole of their employees with their families. Suitable sanitary and conservancy arrangements have been made and the management of each camp is meantime in the hands of a military non-commissioned officer. The military authorities may be compelled shortly to withdraw these camp commandants, but Dr. Cairns, the Chief Medical Officer of the North-Western Railway, has assured me that other suitable arrangements will be made in this respect. As these railway camps are at present somewhat congested, it would be advisable for health reasons to evacuate as many as possible of the women and children now residing there. Outlying villages and hamlets within the 3 mile limit have been brought under the control of a suitable health staff.

4. Before Major Nicol reached Quetta on 10th June, the military medical authorities had laid the foundations of a sound public health organisation both in the refugee camp and in the occupied areas round the Residency. This organisation was expanded to some extent between the 10th and 13th June with assistance from the railway authorities and by utilising other available staff. Before I left, 9 district medical officers of health from the Punjab, a number of sanitary inspectors and additional sweepers had arrived, whilst a Sanitary Company provided by the military authorities was also at work. I have no hesitation in stating that the health organisation in all the occupied areas is now both suitable and efficient.

5. The water supply for the civil residential area was originally carried in pipes passing through the city, but the speedy realignment of a water main cut out the city and ensured a pure supply to this area and to the refugee camp. Water for the railway camps is being supplied from an artesian well belonging to the railway. Bacteriological examinations of samples of the piped supply taken at different points show that the water possesses a high degree of purity. The water for the refugee camp is distributed to groups of water tanks conveniently situated in different parts of the camp and supplies are satisfactory in every respect.

In most of the small outlying villages sanitation was non-existent and water supplies unsafe. A suitable health staff is now undertaking their sanitation, water supplies are being chlorinated or otherwise treated, a close watch is being kept for infectious disease and later on anti-malaria work will be carried out where necessary.

6. In the refugee camp, a hospital for men has been organised and is under the charge of the civil surgeon; another hospital for women and children was organised by Dr. Ruth Young and it is now under the charge of an officer of the W. M. S. These hospitals are more than sufficient to meet present needs. So far no infectious or water-borne disease has appeared except one doubtful case of modified smallpox and two of mild dysentery. These have been isolated and meantime there seems to be little danger of an outbreak of dangerous disease so long as the present precautions are maintained. An infectious diseases hospital capable of accommodating 30—50 cases and consisting of two blocks of tents, for cholera and smallpox respectively, has however been erected about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles along the Sar-i-ab road. The hospital is under the charge of a medical officer of health and has been provided with a suitable staff for nursing and for sanitation. A Portable Thresh Disinfectant has been installed.

7. At my suggestion, every person in the refugee camp has been vaccinated against smallpox and inoculated against cholera, supplies of vaccine lymph and anti-cholera vaccine having been made available by the military authorities. The whole population in the camp is therefore now adequately protected against these epidemic diseases.

8. Milk supplies have been abundant throughout and a large dairy farm in which some 800 cattle are housed has been opened at a site  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles out on the Sar-i-ab Road. This will obviate the objection to its former proximity to the Isolation Hospital. The sanitation of the dairy farm is being carried out by a sanitary inspector and a suitable conservancy staff under the supervision of one of the medical officers of health.

9. Medical and sanitary stores and equipment (including tents) have so far been supplied by the military authorities. It is very desirable that the civil authorities should make early arrangements for continuous and adequate supplies of disinfectants, etc., required by the Chief Health Officer.

10. During the period of military control, military officers have been responsible for the arrangements under which entry to the Quetta area has been rigidly restricted. For health reasons, if for no other, these restrictions should meantime be maintained and no unauthorised person should be permitted to proceed beyond Sibi.

11. The general health arrangements now in force are in my opinion adequate to meet all emergencies and I am satisfied that the health staff is capable of maintaining satisfactorily the health of the communities under their charge.

I may add that it has been decided to remove the refugee camp from the race course to an excellent site three miles to the west of Quetta and lying below the Brewery. This site has been regularly used for military camps; it has an abundant and pure water supply and is comparatively free from malaria. The move should be effected as soon as possible, as this will not only be to the direct advantage of the refugees but will remove them to a safe distance from any health nuisance emanating from the city. The transfer should not, however, be made until the new camp is *completely* ready for occupation and is provided with all sanitary and other requirements.

#### Disposal of bodies and carcasses.

12. One of the most urgent problems facing those who took over emergent control of the civil areas lying around the city was the disposal of bodies and carcasses which very soon began to decompose and cause offence. Bodies and carcasses which were totally exposed were speedily dealt with, but it was only when decomposition began that those superficially buried could be detected. It was rightly considered to be of extreme importance to deal at once with this menace to health and the extent of the problem may be gauged from the fact that some 50 human bodies and 200 animal carcasses were disinterred and disposed of between the 11th and 14th June. Even with the protection afforded by gas

masks and thick leather gloves those who undertook the work of exhumation and removal were given a gruesome and repulsive task but it was one which had to be undertaken in order to protect the health of those compelled to live in the areas in which the bodies were lying. By the evening of 16th June, the occupied areas lying within a three mile radius of the Residency were cleared of all bodies and carcasses causing an immediate nuisance. Any bodies remaining are so deeply buried in the ruins that at present at least they are causing no offence, although it is possible that as decomposition proceeds further exhumation will have to be undertaken.

13. Experience has already shown that it is possible to trace fairly accurately the whereabouts of a body causing offence and that it takes from 1 to 5 hours to locate, uncover and remove it. It has also been noticed that a number of bodies may be buried in a limited area of ruins without causing offence, although the opposite also holds good, and in certain instances intense nuisance has arisen from bodies found to be buried deeply. The state of decomposition even in a narrow area has also been found to vary within wide limits, this depending probably on the depth and nature of the material with which the bodies were covered. Flies have been found breeding freely on every body and as these insects were able to find an entrance, so can the newly-bred flies gain an exit and become a dangerous pest. Another point worth noting is that even where there is no vested interest at stake the numbers and position of bodies may be inaccurately described. For example, the police roll-call musters indicated the presence of two bodies in the ruins of a certain house ; in actual fact, 5 were found. These facts must be borne in mind when the question of salvage in the ' sealed ' area is taken into consideration.

#### Salvage of the city area.

14. The question of salvage in the ' sealed ' city is one which has demanded considerable thought and I have taken the opportunity afforded by my visit to Quetta of consulting every civil and military authority who could assist me in arriving at a conclusion.

In the first place it seemed essential to try to obtain even an approximate estimate of the number of bodies remaining buried in the ruins of the city. The summer population of Quetta, including city, cantonment, etc., may, I think, be taken to have been somewhere between 66,000 and 70,000, this approximation having been reached by using the 1931 census figures along with other facts pointing to a recent large increase in numbers in the city. Between the 31st May and 14th June, the railway authorities evacuated by train approximately 31,500 persons,—sick, wounded and refugees ; the estimated numbers of Indian and European troops and their families in the cantonment may be taken as about 12,000 ; the refugees now living in the race course camp number approximately 5,000 ; the railway camps contain about 3,500 persons ; and the records kept by the officer in charge show that about 2,500 dead bodies were dealt with. These five figures reach a total of about 54,500 ; the inference is that between 12,000 and 16,000 human bodies are lying buried in the ruins of the city, whilst account must also be taken of hundreds, if not thousands, of animal carcasses. These figures are admittedly mere approximations and it is possible they may be wrong by several thousands, but, even so, they give a clear enough idea of the grim problem to be faced when salvage is begun.

15. I was present at a number of exhumations carried out in the occupied areas round the Residency between the 14th and 16th June and, supported to some extent by this experience, I am of opinion that it would be undesirable at present to undertake exhumations *on any extensive scale* because of the nuisance which would inevitably arise from stench and flies. At the present moment the city is comparatively inoffensive, this being probably due to the fact that the bodies remaining in the sealed area are all more or less deeply buried in the ruins. Indeed, during my inspection of the city, the comparative absence of foul odours was to me a matter of some surprise.

16. For health reasons alone, it would be undesirable at present to recruit a labour force exceeding 3,000 ; the accommodation, sanitation, conservancy, food and water supplies required for any such force will demand careful planning and will meantime add to the existing difficulties. Moreover, whilst it is unnecessary to go into details regarding the equipment required for the

salvage operations, for the labour corps and for other persons who will have to be present, gas masks, disinfectants, etc., will obviously be necessary.

17. Although, however, I cannot recommend any immediate large scale operations, in my opinion there are certain parts of the enclosed area in which salvage could be begun without much delay and without causing any serious menace to health. These areas include the shopping centres in Bruce Road and St. John Road which were occupied by large Indian and European stores. Many of the buildings in these roads were of two storeys, but I understand that few, if any, of the upper storeys were used for residential purposes. As soon as a suitable labour corps with the necessary equipment has been organised, salvage work might be commenced along these roads. A few bodies will probably be unearthed, but I do not anticipate the discovery of such numbers as would compel cessation of the work, provided suitable sanitary arrangements were in existence for their immediate removal and disposal.

18. Two other areas might, I think, be also taken in hand as soon as the labour forces and equipment are provided. These include the higher lying parts of Nachari and Kansi, situated in the eastern quarter of the enclosed area. These suburban parts suffered less damage than the main bazaar whilst comparatively few casualties occurred. They also contain large vegetable and fruit gardens which are at present enclosed inside the barbed wire entanglement and if the houses were salvaged and bodies removed, these gardens could be opened up and given over to cultivation. Another advantage to be derived from the salving of the latter areas would be a considerable reduction in the length of the perimeter of the 'sealed' area with a corresponding reduction in the number of guards required to patrol the boundary.

19. Depending on the size of the labour force available, it may be possible, simultaneously with the above operations, to begin to clear the wider roads and streets. These are all at present blocked with fallen material and in my opinion it will be impossible to salvage the property in the adjacent ruined houses until this clearance is effected. Owing to the crowded nature of the city, it is probable that most of this material will have to be removed outside its boundaries and this work will inevitably take a considerable period before it can be completed. Bodies will almost certainly be discovered during the clearance of these wider thoroughfares, but in my estimation these will not be large in number and their removal and disposal should give rise to comparatively little nuisance. Once this clearance has been effected, the salvage of one or two houses might be tried out, as an experimental measure only, in order to determine the possibility of general salvage work.

20. On the other hand, the narrower roads and lanes in the densely populated parts of the bazaar present a much more difficult problem. They are covered to considerable depths with large quantities of bricks, rubble, etc., and numbers of bodies are probably buried under this debris, as it is likely that many persons who had effected a successful escape from their dwellings were killed outside by the collapsing walls. In these dense areas, where the lanes were only 6 to 8 feet wide or even less and where the majority of the dead no doubt lie, it does not seem to me to be possible to do any salvage for some months because of the time which preliminary clearance of the wider roads and streets will necessarily take and because of the danger to health from the simultaneous exposure of large numbers of bodies. For these reasons, it is doubtful if any salvage can be undertaken in those areas before the advent of the winter season. This implies the postponement of salvage until March, 1936, when the Quetta winter is over. Even then, I am unwilling at the moment to say more than that experimental excavations should be conducted in the first instance in order to determine whether the work could proceed without danger to the health of the community living in the vicinity.

21. In concluding this report, I hope it will not be considered an impertinence on my part to give expression to my deep admiration for the splendid work done by every one during the days immediately following the disaster. Within a short space of time, order was evolved from chaos and organised relief was available to all survivors. Nor can I refrain from making special mention of the splendid work done by parties of Rover Scouts, under the direction of Mr. Hogg of Lahore. These lads have without exception given devoted service under exceptionally difficult and trying circumstances.

No. 69. Geological Account of the Earthquake and its Origin by Mr. W. D. West,  
Geological Survey of India.

*(Published with the sanction of the Director, Geological Survey of India.)*

The earthquake which devastated Quetta and the surrounding country on May 31st must rank, from the point of view of the mortality sustained, as the most disastrous earthquake that has visited India within historic times, the nearest approach to it being the Kangra earthquake of 1905, when 20,000 people perished. But from the point of view of the size of the area over which the shock was actually felt, it must take a less prominent place. Though the area affected has not yet been accurately estimated, it is likely to have been less than 300,000 square miles. This figure may be compared with the 1,900,000 square miles for the North Bihar earthquake last year, with the 1,625,000 square miles for the Kangra earthquake of 1905, and with the 1,750,000 square miles for the Assam earthquake of 1897.

#### Previous Earthquakes in Baluchistan.

BOMBAY  
Baluchistan has always been subject to earthquakes, some of which have been of considerable severity. Previous to the present one, the most severe have been the earthquake of 1892, located near Chaman; that of 1909, which destroyed many villages in the plains south of Sibi; and the two earthquakes of 1931, the first of which, on August 25th, was located at Sharigh, some 40 miles east of Quetta, and the second and much severer, on August 27th, down the Bolan Pass, south-east of Quetta.

#### Time and Position of the Earthquake.

The Quetta earthquake occurred at approximately 3-02 A.M. on May 31st. The epicentral area, where the greatest destruction was wrought, is approximately 70 miles long and 15 miles wide, and lies along a narrow belt stretching from Quetta, through Mastung, to half way between Mastung and Kalat. Kalat itself was less severely affected than places further north.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the earthquake was the very short time that it lasted, probably less than half a minute. During this time the ground was viciously shaken in a horizontal plane at a high speed. The motion was described by many as being like a terrier shaking a rat. The intensity of the shock was such that it is reported to have thrown the seismograph at Calcutta out of adjustment, though situated at a distance of some 1,400 miles from Quetta.

#### A Shallow Focus.

In spite of the great intensity of the shock within the epicentral area, the rapidity with which its effect rapidly diminished away from that area was very striking. This seems to be a characteristic feature of earthquakes in Baluchistan, and suggests that the focus, or place of origin, of the earthquake was not very deep beneath the surface, possibly not more than a mile or two.

#### No Connection with Volcanic Action.

Another feature of the Quetta earthquake, which led many to conclude that it had a volcanic origin, was the large number of rock falls that occurred on the surrounding mountains, and especially on Chiltan, the prominent mountain some 13 miles south-west of Quetta. The clouds of dust which arose after these falls, and which were most spectacular at the time of the severe after-shock which occurred on the afternoon of June 2nd, were mistaken by many for 'smoke' issuing from a volcano. It may be definitely stated, however, that there are no active volcanoes in any part of the Indian Empire, and the inhabitants of Baluchistan may rest assured that there is not the slightest likelihood of volcanic activity breaking out in this part of India. These rockfalls, which have scarred the face of Chiltan and the neighbouring mountains in many places were the result of the severe shaking which the mountains sustained during the earthquake and subsequent aftershocks. In other words the rock falls were not the cause of the earthquake, but one of the results of it. The earthquake must have originated at a much greater depth.

### An Eruption of Mud.

Other features of interest include a line of fissuring in the alluvium extending on and off for over 70 miles, from the south side of Chiltan to near Kalat; the crumpling of the railway line two miles west of Mastung Road Station; and the eruption of a considerable quantity of mud at a place some 15 miles south of Kalat. The fissure mentioned is a purely surface phenomenon affecting the alluvium only and does not traverse the underlying rocks.

### The Earthquake Zone of India.

To understand the origin of earthquakes in India it is necessary to say a word or two concerning what may be termed the architecture or geological structure of India. Geologically, India and the surrounding countries may be divided into three distinct parts. Central and southern India, south of the alluvial plains of the Indus and the Ganges, is a very old and stable part of the earth's crust, composed for the most part of massive rocks which have undergone no folding since the remotest times. This part of India is free from severe earthquakes. To the north of the Himalayas and their associated mountain ranges there occurs another stable area forming Central Asia. In between these two stable blocks there occur the Himalayas and the alluvial plains bordering them to the south. To this area belong also the Burmese mountains and the mountains of Baluchistan and Persia. It is along this belt that nearly all Indian earthquakes are located.

### Himalayas once beneath the Sea.

For a very long time this central area was the site of a long shallow sea, in which soft marine deposits were laid down. Latterly, during comparatively recent times, the stable continental area of Central Asia moved towards India, with the result that the soft marine deposits in between became compressed and folded into the mountains that we see at the present day, and which surround India on its north-west, north and north-east sides. The movement may be likened to the jaws of vice closing and compressing some soft material in between. At first the rocks fold. Then, when the compression becomes more acute, they yield by fracturing, and a large mass of rock perhaps several cubic miles in volume may become driven over another mass in front of it. This movement very probably takes place in jerks, and it is generally believed that it is some such sudden movement which is the cause of the great majority of earthquakes. Whatever the exact truth may be, the fact remains that severe earthquakes in India are confined in their distribution to those comparatively new mountains around the northern flanks of India, and to the alluvial plains bordering them, whereas the stable block of Peninsular India, in which no folding or mountain formation has recently taken place, is practically free from earthquakes.

### Origin of Baluchistan Earthquakes.

Coming now to Baluchistan itself, the facts are very interesting. The hills of Baluchistan have been folded by a compression coming from the north-west. In other words the softer rocks have been folded and pushed south-eastwards towards the rest of India, in the way that a person might push a cloth on a table horizontally, causing the cloth to pucker up into long folds in front of his hand. If, however, we examine in more detail the general lie of the mountain ranges between Peshawar and Karachi, we find that the alignment of the mountains is not a straight line, but is abruptly disturbed by a marked re-entrant angle running up through Sibi to Quetta, with its apex near Quetta. It almost appears as though some obstacle were holding up the free movement of the mountain folds towards the south-east. It is not possible to tell the shape of the northern edge of Peninsular India, where it abuts against the soft marine rocks because it is covered up by the thick alluvial deposits of the Indus and the Ganges. But it is probable that this northern edge is irregular in shape, and it may be that a wedge-like promontory of Peninsular India extends up towards Sibi beneath the alluvial covering, and is acting as an obstacle to the free movement of the mountain folds, causing this very striking re-entrant angle in the alignment of the mountains. If this suggestion is correct, then it is clear that the rocks at the apex of this angle must be in a condition of great strain; and it is possibly the sudden yielding of the rocks as a result of this strain which causes the numerous earthquakes which visit this part of Baluchistan.

#### **Future Earthquakes in Baluchistan.**

As regards Quetta and the possibility of further severe earthquakes, this much may be said. If the movement which caused the recent earthquake be regarded as having afforded relief to the accumulated strains within the rocks of that area, then further earthquakes are unlikely to be located again along the Quetta-Mastung line for a long time to come. Should more earthquakes visit Baluchistan in the near future, the probability is that they will be located in some other part of the country where the strains have not been relieved by the present earthquake, though of course they may be felt to some extent at Quetta. It seems clear, however, that the correct way of anticipating further earthquakes and of minimising their disastrous effects, both in Baluchistan and elsewhere in India, is to construct buildings which will withstand these severe shocks.

*The 26th July 1935.*

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## QUETTA EARTHQUAKE.

Comments by the English-printed Press in India.

*Tribune.*

No. 70.

"It is gratifying to note that both official and un-official India have promptly realised this need. The Viceroy has issued a feeling appeal in which no attempt is made to conceal or minimise the nature and magnitude of the disaster." (5th June.)

*Bombay Chronicle.*

"We are glad that the Viceroy has taken the initiative, and we congratulate His Excellency on the promptitude with which he has opened his Fund for the Relief of Baluchistan and its people . . . ." (6th June.)

*National Call.*

"The *communiqué* issued by the Government of India on the manner in which the Viceroy's earthquake relief fund will be administered should commend itself to all sections of opinion in the country. . . ." "The general principles of relief as laid down in the *communiqué* seem to be such as to ensure the proper utilisation of the fund, and one can reasonably hope that the case of the really needy will not go by default." (29th June.)

*Hindustan Times.*

"By 5-30 A.M. (on the day of the earthquake), the first platoon of Troops, consisting of a party of Sappers and Miners, and Gunners arrived and started digging as a result of which more living than dead people were picked up. Nearly 3,000 injured were taken to the Indian Military Hospital and medical aid was immediately administered." (6th June.)

"On the second day, the Military, who had to assume control as the Police Force had been wiped out completely, divided the City into definite districts . . . ."

"Systematic evacuation went on uninterrupted. As all the food stuff of the City had been destroyed, the Military supplied the survivors with food from their stores." (6th June.)

"All available soldiers and reserve Air Force are used for rescue work. Lorries and private cars are also available. The report that the Pathans rushed to the City is contradicted as a cordon of Cavalry was thrown round the outskirts of the City on the first night." (6th June.)

"The task of feeding thousands of victims and others, besides meeting the requirements of the Military is managed with clock-like regularity." (6th June.)

"We hope the bitterness of politics will not be allowed to creep into this humanitarian undertaking, nor that political suspicion would be permitted to mar the spirit of co-operation that exists. As far as Quetta is concerned, there can be no flavour of racialism and politics." (6th June.)

"All the Quetta refugees sent to the Civil Hospital are getting all possible help from the Hospital Staff." (6th June.)

*National Call.*

"The soldiers were to be seen everywhere and they tried to pull out as many corpses as possible." (Special Correspondent's Article—6th June.)

"We do not doubt for a moment of the Government of India's concern for the Quetta victims." (4th July.)

*Amrita Bazar Patrika.*

"As regards relief, the action of the authorities has been very prompt, probably because of the fact that Quetta happens to be an important military station with a large army in which the British element was not inconsiderable." (5th June.)

LSDFI

*Bombay Chronicle.*

Rescue and  
Relief Work—  
contd.

"Thousands of soldiers—British and Indian—were mobilised with the utmost expedition to alleviate urgent distress. The rescue of the wounded and buried and their removal to hospital was attended to at once, and the efficient and scientific work speedily organised by the Military cannot be too highly commended.

Platoons consisting of Sappers, Miners and gunners arrived in the city and began digging instantly. The dying and the dead under the debris were extricated. Thousands of civilians trapped under the ruins were rescued alive." (Extract from a Statement made by Mr. Sham Lal, Municipal Commissioner, Multan, who visited Quetta—20th June.)

"In the circumstances of utter ruin disclosed to the eye, with all passages gutted and even the highway strewn with the debris of buildings, the handicap under which rescue work had to be carried out by the military appeared to be formidable enough. On the top of that, breakdown of lights on that pitch dark night enhanced the difficulties of the rescues. All over the station the telephone service had also failed. It was only tongues of fire seen from afar which gave the military an intimation of the disaster in the City. Under half an hour of the disaster the troops were on the scene, busy doing rescue work which can be called lightning work." (Quetta Correspondent's Article—12th June.)

*Daily Gazette.*

"Thanks to the rapidity and efficiency with which Government tackled the problem of relief to the victims of the terrible Quetta Earthquake,—from within a few minutes of the enactment of the appalling tragedy, up to the present moment, when all the immediate needs of the unfortunate victims have been fully attended to,—the very utmost that could be done, has been done. An official inspection of the Relief Camps and Hospitals in Shikarpur, in Sukkur, and in Karachi has satisfied all concerned that the position of the victims is, for the moment, as comfortable as human forethought and human skill can make it." (25th June.)

"I am much surprised to see certain people criticising the Military Authorities, which is most deplorable. While at Quetta, I had the occasion to study the arrangements made and I have nothing but the highest praise for the authorities." (Extract from a Statement by Mr. Fida Husain M. Quettawalla, a Karachi merchant—15th June.)

*Civil and Military Gazette.*

"Every assurance may be given that the military authorities are acquitting themselves gallantly in the tremendous task with which they have been entrusted. As this is being written and as it is read, thousands are slaving in the ruins that were Quetta on the gruesome work of extricating the dead and giving them burial." (5th June.)

"The military authorities have had to "pool" their medical supplies and they have been using them for the relief of the sufferers. Medical supplies have been arriving by aeroplanes and one has to hear the stories of the survivors of the earthquake to realise how the military authorities have been attending to those injured, extricating those buried under the debris and, what is infinitely more difficult, policing the entire city and supplying all survivors with food." (6th June.)

"It was the Indian element that was completely overwhelmed by the disaster. Survivors have volunteered the information to me that many of them in the bazars would never have come out alive if British soldiers had not come to their rescue." (7th June.)

"Within a quarter of an hour of the subsidence of the earthquake, parties of British soldiers under British Officers were doing truly heroic rescue work in the ruins of the bazar and the Indian quarters of the city. It was not among the European victims of the earthquake but among Indians that the rescue operations were concentrated." (7th June.)

*Statesman.*

"The G. O. C. has not allowed a day to pass from the opening of the camp (on the Race Course), without visiting it every morning and attending courteously and sympathetically to everyone who comes up to talk about his difficulties." (21st June.)

*Hindustan Times.*

"High Police and Civil Officers made the most elaborate arrangements for detrainment of 1,900 refugees arriving from Quetta by the first relief train. . . . Those wishing to go home were provided therefor, and others were afforded lodging, etc., under the supervision of the Government and Red Cross and other relief organisations." (5th June.)

"Evacuation commenced on the first day and is proceeding with increasing rapidity daily." (6th June.)

"A number of special trains is leaving Quetta daily. Enquiries from passengers showed that they were extremely satisfied. Some acknowledged enthusiastically the arrangements made by the authorities for their comfort." (8th June.)

*Tribune.*

"The Military . . . placed at the disposal of the refugees all their rations. . . . If the Military had not supplied the rations to the people, half of the survivors would have died of hunger." (20th June.)

"The refugees who left Quetta from 8th June onwards were given cash varying from five rupees to twenty-five rupees each for expenses during journey." (Extracts from a Statement made by Mr. Sham Lal, Municipal Commissioner, Multan—20th June.)

*National Call.*

"The work of evacuating the bazar and Indian quarters is proceeding unceasingly. Scores of military lorries are carrying people left alive with their goods and chattels to the big refugee camp at the race-course." (Special Correspondent's Article—6th June—See also Civil and Military Gazette—4th June.)

*Sind Observer.*

"The camp (on the Race Course), is well equipped and hundreds of tents have been pitched on it. Each family has a decent and large enough tent given to it. As the nights are extremely chilly, plenty of neat Army blankets have been distributed for the use of the refugees. All other necessities are being supplied. Provisions or cooked-food are given twice daily. The sanitary arrangements are very adequate." (Extract from Statement by Dewan Bahadur J. Punjabi, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Alibuksh and Seth Chainrai—11th June.)

*Daily Gazette.*

"Every survivor who reaches here is unstinting in praise of the unceasing and unselfish work that government civil and military officials and the troops at Quetta are doing in this time of catastrophe." (8th June.)

*Hindustan Times.*

"We do not question the correctness of Government's action in preventing curious visitors or too many un-official helpers from entering Quetta, as the unregulated influx of visitors cannot but interfere with discipline, and discipline is very necessary in relief work." (7th June.)

"From my experience of the situation in Quetta, I am convinced that the Authorities acted wisely in banning entry of outsiders into Quetta, as otherwise rations would have been exhausted, causing a serious situation. The help rendered by the Military was really splendid . . ." (Extract from Statement by Mr. Sham Lal, Municipal Commissioner of Multan—16th June—A similar Statement was published in the *Tribune of the 20th June*.)

*Free Press Journal.*

"With all the wealth of Quetta lying buried in the debris, we can appreciate the need of circumspection in allowing the entry of outsiders into the ruined city." (9th June.)

*Forward.*

"The Government may have good reasons to take some steps to regulate the entry of outsiders into the devastated area. Probability of the failure of water and food supply as well as of infection are strong reasons why any and every person should not be allowed entrance into Quetta." (10th June.)

*Civil and Military Gazette.*

Ban on Entry  
into Quetta of  
Unofficial Relief  
Parties and  
Visitors  
—contd.

" Shortage of supplies has rendered it imperative that visitors should be excluded from the earthquake area and many offers to help from organised relief parties have perforce been refused for the same reason ; but some part of the general anxiety must be relieved by the news that the help available is sufficient for the work in hand." (5th June.)

*Hindustan Times.*

Tributes to the  
Authorities.

" In spite of the immensity of the task, all the arrangements made by the Authorities are excellent." (6th June.)

" The letters and telegrams from the relatives of the dead or missing are promptly and carefully attended to." (6th June.)

" . . . Without the prompt and wonderful aid of the Military, rescue work and medical aid could not have been carried on so effectively, and many lives would have been lost." (9th June.)

" The Authorities, overwhelmed by a sudden and unprecedented calamity, have coped with the situation in a manner that today commands the grateful appreciation of the public." (12th June.)

The following is the text of a Resolution passed by the surviving members of the Quetta Municipality at a meeting held at Quetta on the 22nd June :—

" While mourning for the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake, the Committee express their heartfelt thanks to General Karslake, General Officer Commanding, Western Command, his officers and men of all services under his command for the prompt and marvellous help rendered to the victims of the earthquake that devastated Quetta, their looking after the thousands of the injured persons and providing shelter, clothes and medicines."

The Committee also expressed its gratitude to the North-Western Railway, the administration of the neighbouring provinces and private individuals and organizations in the various provinces for the service rendered.

The Resolution further denied all the allegations made in certain quarters regarding the brutality of the troops. (24th June—Also referred to in *Sind Observer*—25th June.)

" The work of the Chief Commissioner of Railways, the concessions made in respect of transport and telegraph, the organisation of refugees' supplies and other emergency measures, have been of a standard that reflects credit on Officers and Troops called to face a baffling emergency." (12th June.)

*Free Press Journal.*

" The action and steps taken by the Civil and Military Authorities on the spur of the unexpected tragedy, or even a week after the loss, in giving all humanly possible relief to the dead, dying and living are simply laudable and richly deserve praise from all quarters." (Extract from Special Article by Mr. Nadir N. Gokal, A.M.I.E.—20th June.)

*Bombay Chronicle.*

" After referring to criticism regarding the delay in issue of casualty lists of Indians, the paper says that ' . . . criticism in this sphere need not detract from the praise due for the most prompt handling of the situation '." (5th June.)

*National Call.*

" So far as Quetta is concerned, there might be serious dissatisfaction in some quarters regarding Government ban against the entry of prominent non-officials, but there is a general feeling of appreciation at the manner in which the authorities have shouldered their responsibility at Quetta, and how civilian and military officials and men have responded with signal devotion to the call of duty. If therefore, some papers have been less charitable, or have been unduly severe in their criticism, Government should have shown a spirit of broadmindedness, since such criticism could not have minimised the appreciation Government have generally received from the responsible press." (11th July.)

*Sind Observer.*

"Our Special Correspondent praises the military for maintaining perfect order amidst terrible chaos. There is no looting on account of the vigilance of the authorities." (4th June.)

"Though martial law is in operation everywhere, the authorities are very sympathetic and lax in enforcing the same, keeping themselves to reasonable and safe limits." (11th June.)

"What these parties (of European and Indian soldiers) did and accomplished was simply marvellous and it is doubtful if any other agency, official or private, could have done anything equal to it.

I can only repeat what I have said in scores of letters written to my relatives and friends immediately I was able to communicate with them, that but for the timely help of the military, the percentage of the survivors would have been very small indeed . . . ." (Extract from a letter from Rai Bahadur Rama Nand, Retired Extra Assistant Commissioner—20th June.)

*Forward.*

"We do not doubt that Government have been doing their best . . . for the victims of the Quetta Earthquake." (10th June.)

*Amrita Bazar Patrika.*

"Once again, let it be said that the splendid aid which the Quetta military rendered in this great disaster is fully appreciated by all Indians." (21st June.)

*Daily Gazette.*

"If any other organisation than the Military had taken up the work it could not have done so well." He added that the Military did its best and in spite of rigid discipline they were on the whole very sympathetic. (Extract from Statement by Professor Jhamatmal Lakhasingh, a prominent Congressman of Hyderabad, Sind—15th June.)

*Civil and Military Gazette.*

"What the Military Authorities have been doing in Quetta since this disaster of the first magnitude overwhelmed the city, constitutes record work, which for directness of purpose, efficiency of execution and thoroughness in detail will be a proud chapter in the history of the Army. . . . In fact, I tremble to think what would have become of the civil population after the earthquake if the staff of the Western Command and the Baluchistan and District Headquarters had not promptly taken the threads of the administration in its hands." (Extract from Article by the paper's Special Representative at Quetta—6th June.)

"The messages from our special correspondent and from other sources, and the stories told by the survivors who have arrived in Lahore and other places bear eloquent testimony to the magnificent way in which the Army came to the help of the stricken city and took complete charge of the situation without a moment's avoidable delay when the civil administration and police force had been almost wiped out of existence by the toll of death. The Punjab Government, too, deserves every credit for the promptitude and liberality with which it has met and is meeting the call for every kind of assistance and relief that it is possible to provide." (6th June.)

"We have received reliable information from Quetta as some of our men who have gone there have returned. They say that the military authorities have been helpful and have done unique services to the sufferers by looking after the survivors, affording them all possible relief and comfort, and rescuing the buried persons who were yet alive. Men of high social position and residents of Quetta have given me a most praiseworthy report of the kind and sympathetic treatment meted all round to the public by high military authorities. But for the help of the military those left alive would have perished for want of protection and provision of food. Thousands of blankets and tons of food materials were distributed by the military authorities to the survivors. Ambulance lorries in hundreds worked day and night to carry the injured to the hospital and thousands of soldiers, Indian and European, were enthusiastically working in rescuing the

buried persons whenever they could trace them." (Extract from a Statement by Rai Bahadur Dr. Maharaj Krishan Kapur, Secretary of the Punjab Quetta Relief Fund Committee—12th June.)

"Every possible praise must be given to the great and noble work of rescue, carried out under the most difficult and appalling circumstances, by the Military of all ranks. One shudders to think of what might have happened if the Military authorities had not risen to the occasion so promptly, and organised, as they alone are capable of doing, the relief and rescue work." (Extract from a Statement made by Nawabzada Khurshid Ali Khan—23rd June.)

*Statesman.*

"Amid the terror fine work has been done, and those who read of it may well be proud in their grief. The soldiers were out at once and took charge, acting as police and rescuers, bringing confidence to the bewildered and unnerved, getting survivors out of the debris, taking precautions against the spread of panic and disease. British and Indian troops have won equal gratitude and commendation." (5th June.)

"The refugees themselves tell of the admirable work done by the military on the spot, whose nerves must have been as severely attacked by the disaster as those of any others." (10th June.)

"It (the military administration) has been a remarkable achievement and has earned praise from every sort of eye-witness, if a certain amount of criticism from distant commentators . . . . Had the military not been on the spot to take charge (they began salvage work and the organization of relief 20 minutes after the disaster occurred) the situation would have been incomparably more terrible even than it was." (20th June.)

*Bombay Chronicle.*

"The work done by the wives and daughters of officers from the staff college, the women from outside the military area and the nurses who came from the Punjab by aeroplanes is beyond all praise. They did not spare themselves in the humanitarian task of helping the victims. These ministering angels cheerfully performed even the duties of the sweepers." (Extract from a Statement by Mr. Sham Lal, Municipal Commissioner, Multan, who visited Quetta—20th June.)

*Civil and Military Gazette.*

Behaviour of  
the Troops.

"That all such accusations are imaginary and without any foundation is amply proved by the statements of numerous refugees, whom I have met both at Lahore and Amritsar, including some of the friends who have arrived from Quetta. They pay the highest tributes to the efficient manner in which the Military and the Red Cross organised their work of rendering every possible help to the injured and the dead in this gigantic task, not infrequently at great personal risk." (Extract from a letter from Mr. G. R. Sethi, Municipal Commissioner, Amritsar, referring to accusations made against the troops—21st June.)

*Hindustan Times.*

Food and Water  
Supply, Lighting,  
etc.

"No serious damage has been done to the pipe line. All the minor bursts were promptly repaired by the Royal Engineers." (6th June.)

*Civil and Military Gazette.*

"Nothing was overlooked, not even the problem of the lighting of the city. Hospitals had electric light on Friday night (31st May) and the earthquake has made no difference to the city so far as supplies of current and water are concerned." (Extract from Article by the paper's Special Representative at Quetta—6th June.)

"Quetta has not had the horror of starvation added to the horror of the earthquake, because the military authorities foresaw the danger of indiscriminate ingress into Quetta of people from Sind, the Punjab and other parts of India to look for missing friends and relations. They also commandeered all food supplies, including those in officers' messes, and initiated the system of rations immediately after the earthquake. The peril of starvation has, thus, been warded off.

With the question of food supplies, the military authorities also took immediate account of the problem of water supply—a serious one in Quetta—and the problem of electric current for lighting. Both these problems could not wait until the authorities had prepared a death-roll or completed rescue or salvage operations.” (7th June.)

*Statesman.*

“Prompt attention to rationing has made the food supply safe for the present at the cost of the soldiers, British and Indian. Water is adequate, though the continuing shocks may interfere with the supply.” (5th June.)

*Hindustan Times.*

“The Railway Staff has suffered heavy casualties, but except for a few Transport, Traffic inevitable delays, specials run in time. The number is being increased daily.” and *Telegraphs.* (6th June.)

*Civil and Military Gazette.*

“The military authorities commandeered all motor vehicles, and these, with others from the Army Motor Transport Department, including many new ones kept in reserve, were immediately employed for removing the survivors to rest camps. This involved an organised procession of motor vehicles for carrying the survivors and their salvaged belongings to rest camps. British troops regulated the traffic.” (7th June.)

“The promptitude with which telegraphic communication was restored was one of the most notable achievements at Quetta and every credit must be given to the sorely tried staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, who had suffered so heavily themselves from the effects of the disaster, for the manner in which this was effected, but they themselves would be the first to admit that they could not possibly have coped with the appalling situation that presented itself but for the generous and whole-hearted assistance they received from the Army.” (2nd July.)

*Hindustan Times.*

“ . . . Supervision over property under the debris was very strict, and only one case came to my knowledge, in which a Sepoy was suspected of having tampered with a trunk and was immediately punished.” (Statement by Mr. Sham Lal, Advocate and Municipal Commissioner of Multan—16th June.) Protection of Property and Salvage.

“Salvage of property is proceeding by means of organised excavation. The debris is being removed systematically. The task is immense and it will take months to complete.” (6th June.)

*Bombay Chronicle.*

“We can appreciate their suspension (salvage operations), owing to the appalling stench and grave risk of infection.” (8th June.)

*Statesman.*

“In Quetta itself, there is at the moment nothing for private relief workers to do. The town is deserted and the authorities are necessarily waiting until the stench has sufficiently abated for salvage work to be resumed and until they have the views of the Public Health Commissioner, who is studying the situation at first hand.” (15th June.)

*Free Press Journal.*

Information Bureau (at Simla) functioning all night to answer telephone enquiries from Press Representatives and other persons. Press Facilities. (20th June.)

*Bombay Chronicle.*

“It must be admitted that every possible facility has been given to the press here regarding the disaster.” (Simla Special Correspondent’s Article—5th June.)

*Hindustan Times.*

"Twice daily a Conference of Military and Civil Officers is held at the Quetta Club when reports of the day's working are read out and orders for the next day are issued. All interested in relief work are allowed to attend, including Representatives of the Press." (8th June.)

*Amrita Bazar Patrika.***Martial Law.**

"The proclamation of Martial Law has been a right move, for hooligans are always active on calamitous occasions like these." (5th June.)

*Statesman.*

**Attempts to make  
Political Capital  
out of the  
situation.**

"The Government of India have now issued a very satisfactory *communiqué* in correction of various myths, false hopes or alarms and excellent, but misleading intentions. The report that the Quetta bazar was to be blown up so soon as rumour suggested was one of those canards that not even a moment of stress can excuse, though it was so monstrous and absurd that it should have found no credence anywhere. Almost more evil are the efforts being made here and there—in places safely distant from Quetta and in unavoidable ignorance of all that is being done there—to exploit the event and its irremediable miseries for political capital's sake. It is lamentable that measures for relief should be embarrassed willy-nilly by surplus visitors to the place, and more discredibly by mischievous propaganda or uninformed criticism." (10th June.)

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## QUETTA EARTHQUAKE.

Comments by the Vernacular Press.

*Urdu Papers.**Al-Burhan, Akola.*

- No. 71. "The public have of late been overtaxed by subscriptions, nevertheless the H. E. the Viceroy's Quetta Relief Fund deserves generous support and we appeal to the richer people of our country to respond to it liberally." (7th June.) Viceroy's Relief Fund.

*Siyasat, Lahore.*

"The experience of Bihar leads us to declare that the Viceroy's Fund is the safest organisation to which subscriptions for the relief of Quetta sufferers should be sent." (11th June.)

*Vir Bharat, Lahore.*

"Contributions to the Viceroy's Fund from the British Government, the Dominions and from Their Majesties the King and the Queen and the Royal Princes demonstrate boundless feelings of sympathy." (11th June.)

*Haqiqat, Lucknow.*

"The rescue and relief work organised by the military was all that could be desired." (11th June.) Rescue and Relief Work.

*Rozana Hind, Calcutta.*

"Whatever could possibly be done by human hands is being done to the sufferers in Quetta." (12th June.)

*Khilafat, Bombay.*

"The arrangements of rescue and relief work made by the military are excellent." (13th June.)

"The rescue and relief work organised by the military was the best that could be imagined under the circumstances." (14th June.)

*Zamindar, Lahore.*

"Arrangements for the treatment and relief of refugees are extremely praiseworthy." (11th June.) Evacuation and Treatment of Refugees.

*Millat, Delhi.*

"Arrangements made for the treatment and accommodation of refugees are the best imaginable." (12th June.)

*Rozana Hind, Calcutta.*

"The prompt measures taken to evacuate the city and send the injured to the local and outside hospitals were well organised and praiseworthy." (12th June.)

*Haqiqat, Lucknow.*

"The hospital arrangements for the injured in Quetta are the greatest achievement of military organisation." (13th June.)

*Wahdat, Delhi.*

"The prompt and excellent work done by the Indian and British soldiers in treating the refugees and feeding them and taking the survivors to relief camps was highly praiseworthy." (24th June.)

*Wahdat, Delhi.*

"Quetta being a frontier town, some precautions were necessary and we realise that the ban has been justified on administrative grounds." (8th June.) Ban on entry into Quetta of Unofficial Relief Parties and Visitors.

*Rozana Hind, Calcutta.*

"We appreciate the weight of the reasons for the ban on entry of unofficial relief parties and visitors." (10th June.)

Ban on entry into  
Quetta of  
Unofficial Relief  
Parties and  
Visitors—  
contd.  
Tributes to the  
Authorities.

“ There is no doubt that the precautions taken were necessary for the protection of survivors and the buried property.” (13th June.)

*Rozana Hind, Calcutta.*

“ It may be said to the great credit of the military authorities that everything is being done with wonderful organisation and clock-like regularity.” (11th June.)

*Munadi, Delhi.*

“ So far as we are informed the military, which was fortunately saved in the disaster, did admirable rescue work and if their help were not forthcoming the sufferings would have been much greater.” (14th June.)

*Madina, Bijnor.*

“ The reports published about the excellent arrangements in Quetta were very ably written and there is no reason to doubt their veracity. We offer our cordial and sincere thanks for the sympathy shown in these arrangements.” (20th June.)

*Rozana Hind, Calcutta.*

Food and  
Water Supply,  
Lighting, etc.

“ The suffering in Quetta would have been very much greater if the military had not made prompt and adequate arrangements for feeding and other necessities of the survivors.” (12th June.)

*Khilafat, Bombay.*

“ Arrangements for food, water supply and other necessities are well organised and excellent under the military control.” (14th June.)

*Rozana Hind, Calcutta.*

Transport,  
Traffic and  
Telegraphs.

“ The Railway authorities, despite terrible losses in their own staff, have made excellent arrangements for transport of the refugees and carrying them without any charge to the places of their liking.” (12th June.)

*Khilafat, Bombay.*

“ The postal arrangements, despite the terrible loss of property and life in their own department, were very well organised and the surviving staff admirably tackled with the greatly increased amount of work. Letters from Quetta were despatched without any postal charges.” (14th June.)

*Wahdat, Delhi.*

Protection of  
Property and  
Salvage.

“ The arrangements for the protection of property and prevention of epidemics were such that, considering the requirements of the situation, nothing better was possible.” (8th June.)

*Milap, Lahore.*

“ The announcement (regarding protection of property) by the Government will relieve anxieties and we must praise the authorities for this timely assurance.” (10th June.)

*Khilafat, Bombay.*

“ The arrangements for the protection and salvage of property and prevention of epidemics were promptly and adequately organised by the military and this considerably minimised the suffering which would have been much more otherwise.” (14th June.)

*Bande Mataram, Lahore.*

“ The announcement of the Government regarding protection of property is very timely and reassuring.” (17th June.)

*Rozara Hind, Calcutta.*

Martial Law.

“ The promulgation of Martial Law may appear to outsiders as indicating of hardship, but the fact is that it was a real boon to the survivors and if the military had not taken control of the situation so promptly, most of the survivors would have died and there would have been considerable looting in the ruined city.” (12th June.)

*Haqiqat, Lucknow.*

"The prompt promulgation of Martial Law saved many lives and prevented looting." (13th June.) Martial Law—  
contd.

*Watan, Delhi.*

"The Martial Law in Quetta has been a blessing after the disaster, since the military saved many lives and did all that was humanly possible to render prompt relief to the sufferers." (13th June.)

•Hindi Papers.

*Aj, Benares.*

"We understand that the military have coped with the relief work admirably but inspite of this there is need for still more help and it is the duty of whole India to come forward." (7th June.) Rescue and  
Relief Work.

*Bharat, Allahabad.*

"The Government have begun relief work very promptly and the non-official organisations should also make no delay in doing that." (5th June.) Tributes to the  
Authorities.

"So far we see no reason which may prove any defect in the work of relief for the sufferers. Contrary to this on the basis of messages received so far we shall have to admit that the authorities have coped with the situation promptly and well." (10th June.)

*Navjung, Delhi.*

"The promptness which the Government of India have displayed for the relief of Quetta earthquake stricken people is commendable and the help they are rendering is also creditable....." (10th June.)

*Vishwamitra (weekly), Calcutta.*

"Quetta being a military station the excavation of the wounded buried under the debris could be started soon. Only that person can imagine the difficulties of digging up the wounded and the dead who has seen such work being done when a city is reduced to a burial ground. That is the reason why, inspite of such promptness, the dead bodies could not be dug out and the stench in the city caused fear of epidemic diseases. The authorities have shown great promptness....." (11th June.)

*Milap, Lahore.*

"The public doubts that the military is progressing too rapidly with the relief work but we believe that this doubt is baseless and the military is doing its duty with perfect care and labour." (8th June.) Behaviour of  
the Troops.

*Vishwamitra (Daily), Calcutta.*

"The authorities have sent the survivors to Karachi, Lahore, etc., in special trains so that food and water might not fall short. Such measures can be justified."..... (8th June.) Food and  
Water Supply,  
Lighting, etc.

*Aj, Benares.*

"An ordinance will be promulgated which will give powers to the officers of Baluchistan to prevent looting, profiteering and the works injurious to health. Special powers are required to cope with the emergency....." (22nd June.) Protection of  
Property and  
Salvage.

## QUETTA EARTHQUAKE.

### Comments by the British Press.

**No. 72.** *The Times*—1st June, 1935.—\* \* “The sympathy of this country will go out in full measure, and not for the first time, to stricken India. On this occasion sympathy is deepened by the fact that British and Indians have been overwhelmed in a common disaster. The King has spoken for the whole country in his prompt and moving message. And already sympathy has taken the practical form of relief.”

*The Daily Telegraph*—1st June, 1935.—\* \* “We may be assured that the Indian Government is straining its every resource to carry help to the stricken area. \* \* Should help be required from this country India knows that it will be forthcoming, as after every like experience in the past.”

*The Edinburgh Evening News*—3rd June, 1935.—\* \* “So we read of our troops once more filling the breach, and adding to their magnificent record of achievement in India, where in recent times British stock has undergone so much undeserved depreciation.”

*The Scotsman*—1st June, 1935.—\* \* “It is gratifying to learn that the Punjab Government has lost no time in arranging for doctors and nurses to be sent to the scene of the earthquake by the quickest available routes. A rescue train left Karachi for Quetta City last night. All will join with the King in his sincere and heartfelt sympathy for the bereaved, and for those whose homes and property have been destroyed.”

*The Scotsman*—7th June, 1935.—\* \* “The authorities are to be congratulated on the efficiency with which they have gone about the task of transportation. The whole of North India has been organised to deal with it. The Indian survivors are being transported free of charge to all parts of India. British families are to be evacuated to Britain, and other parts of India. Quetta City is now an immense graveyard, and the authorities are taking no chances of an outbreak of epidemics. Already marauding bands have hastened like vultures to the scene of the disaster, hoping to find loot amid the ruins and the buried bazaars, and the deserted city is encircled by troops. Apart from all other considerations, these marauders might unwittingly carry the germs of plague to other parts. The consequences would be unthinkable.”

*The Guardian*—7th June, 1935.—\* \* “English troops have done fine work in the catastrophe which has moved all British people to a profound compassion as well as to admiration of the many proofs of heroic fortitude.”

*The Catholic Herald*—8th June, 1935.—\* \* “The Government of India at once took control of supplies, sealed Quetta as a precaution against the outbreak of an epidemic, and hurried food and medical stores thither.”

*The Halifax Daily Courier and Guardian*—1st June, 1935.—\* \* “In India the great work of rescue, relief and reorganisation is being pushed forward with the utmost despatch.”

*The Belfast News-Letter*—1st June, 1935.—\* \* “The Government of India has taken prompt measures for the relief of survivors in the stricken area, and it is sincerely to be hoped that later news will reveal a death-roll, serious though it undoubtedly is, far less heavy than current reports suggest.”

*The Morning Post*—1st June, 1935.—\* \* “...the garrison, which includes the 1st Battalion of the Queen's and the 1st Battalion of the West Yorkshires, are now devotedly engaged in the harrowing task of rescuing the wounded from among the debris and the dead. Sir Norman Cater, who has himself had a narrow escape, is doing what can be done with his local resources. Communications are cut, but are being restored with all dispatch in order that succour may come in from Karachi.”

*The Manchester Guardian*—1st June, 1935.—\* \* “It is good news that there is no immediate shortage of food in the affected area of Baluchistan. The need there is for medical assistance, which the Government is rushing to the spot as rapidly as possible.”

Extract from despatches by the Special Correspondent of "The Times" at Quetta.

*3rd June, 1935.*—"The disaster has brought out all the traditional courage and fortitude of the British Army. Under their aegis the whole area has been evacuated within 72 hours. Thousands of Indians have been entrained and sent to various parts of India. All roads leading from Quetta are crowded with refugees; but the trains have taken most, and the railway authorities share with the military in the credit for the work already done."

*4th June, 1935.*—"War conditions prevail in Quetta and its vicinity; but the army in control is an army moving under humanitarian orders. British and Indian troops have risen to the emergency created by the disaster, and everything being done here is done by soldiers. They control traffic, issue rations to the civilian population, convoy refugees from the temporary rest camp to the refugee trains, and the general services which are normally supplied by private interests have been taken over by soldiers, who are everywhere in evidence."

"Indian survivors of the catastrophe are grateful to the authorities for all that has been done for them since that fateful night when their city was obliterated. The work already done by the army authorities is bound to rank among the most amazing feats of organisation in the history of India."

"Today the authorities are spreading their net wider to succour the stricken inhabitants of the region. Medical relief is being disseminated under military direction to the outlying villages. This follows up a reconnaissance made on the first day, when food and water were taken to needy areas. Now medical help is being added to the service."

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Extract from despatch by the Simla Correspondent of the "Times" (who visited Quetta)—"The Times", 24th June, 1935.

"Four days were devoted to digging among the ruins, during which time hundreds of Indians were rescued alive and thousands were buried or cremated. In addition, the military authorities undertook to feed, clothe, and give medical assistance to the stricken populace; while relief trains from various parts of northern India hurried to the scene of the catastrophe. In less than a week more than 20,000 Indians were evacuated to various parts of India, a temporary camp for permanent residents was established, emergency hospitals were created to deal with thousands of injured, and the routine life of a population of 20,000 was organised."

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No. 73.

**H. E. THE VICEROY'S QUETTA RELIEF FUND.****List of contributions from Empire and Foreign Countries.**

Government of the United Kingdom	..	..	£50,000
Government of the Commonwealth of Australia	..	£10,000 (Australian currency).	

**Governments of—**

New Zealand	..	..	..	Through the Inter- national Relief Union—Geneva.	{	£1,318 13 7 or Rs. 17,401 1 9
Germany	..	..	..			
Bulgaria	..	..	..			
Roumania	..	..	..			
Switzerland	..	..	..			
Government of Mauritius	..	..	..	..	..	Rs. 10,000
Government of Italy	..	..	..	..	..	£ 1,000

**Through the League of Red Cross Societies, Paris—**

a. Lithuanian Red Cross	..	..	Frs. 1270·30		
b. Netherlands Red Cross	..	..	„ 1000·00		
c. Turkish Red Crescent	..	..	„ 3712·75		
d. Mlle. Bourtaye	..	..	„ 5·00		
			„ 5988·05	Rs. 1,050	8 3
Japanese Red Cross Society	..	..	..	Rs. 2,332	8 0
British Red Crescent Society	..	..	..	Rs. 1,500	0 0.
Spanish Red Cross Society	..	..	Frs. 20,675·00	Rs. 3,620	13 0
Canadian Red Cross Society	..	..	\$1,000·00	Rs. 2,640	0 0
South African Red Cross Society (contributions from local sympathisers)	..	..	£41/10	Rs. 546	10 11
French Red Cross Society	..	..	£133 12 0	Rs. 1,759	15 0
German Red Cross Society	..	..	(Marks 1,500)	Rs. 1,613	0 0
American Red Cross Society	..	..	\$5,000·00	Rs. 13,370	7 0
Egyptian Red Crescent Society	..	..	£50 ..	Rs. 655	15 8
Red Cross Society—Moscow	..	..	\$5,000·00	Rs. 13,250	0 0
Yugoslavian Red Cross Society	..	..	£27 18 2	Rs. 366	14 2

**Total amount of the Fund up to 27th August 1935 :** **Rs. 35,76,057 12 3**