

EAST INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).

STATEMENT

EXHIBITING THE

MORAL AND MATERIAL PROGRESS AND CONDITION

OF

I N D I A

DURING THE YEAR 1899-1900.

THIRTY-SIXTH NUMBER.

(PRESENTED PURSUANT TO ACT 21 & 22 VICT. c. 106, s. 53.)

India Office,
11 June 1901. }

ARTHUR GODLEY,
Under Secretary of State for India.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
I. ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATION :		IX. FORESTS - - - - -	110
Administration - - - - -	1	X. AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL RE-	
Legislation - - - - -	2	SOURCES :	
II. LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MUNICIPALITIES, SANITATION, HOSPITALS, &c. :		Agriculture - - - - -	115
General - - - - -	5	Horse Breeding and Veterinary	
Municipalities - - - - -	5	Colleges - - - - -	120
District Boards - - - - -	11	Agricultural Produce :	
Port Trusts - - - - -	14	Agricultural Statistics - - - - -	122
Sanitation - - - - -	18	Wheat - - - - -	124
Hospitals, Dispensaries, and		Oilseeds - - - - -	125
Leper Asylums - - - - -	23	Rice - - - - -	125
Lunatic Asylums - - - - -	24	Cotton - - - - -	126
		Tea - - - - -	127
		Coffee - - - - -	128
		Cinchona - - - - -	128
		Jute - - - - -	129
		Indigo - - - - -	130
		Sugar - - - - -	130
IIA. FAMINE AND PLAGUE :		Mines and Mineral Resources :	
Famine - - - - -	26	Coal - - - - -	131
Plague - - - - -	37	Iron - - - - -	132
		Mineral Oil - - - - -	132
		Gold - - - - -	133
		Rubies - - - - -	133
III. JUSTICE AND POLICE :		XI. PUBLIC WORKS :	
Crime and Police - - - - -	40	General - - - - -	134
Criminal Justice - - - - -	44	Railways - - - - -	135
Jails - - - - -	49	Irrigation - - - - -	145
Civil Justice - - - - -	52	Buildings and Road (Civil) - - - - -	155
		Native States - - - - -	159
IV. REGISTRATION :		XII. POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS :	
Registration - - - - -	57	Post Office - - - - -	161
Joint Stock Companies - - - - -	59	Telegraphs - - - - -	156
Patents and Designs - - - - -	60	Indo-European Telegraph Department - - - - -	160
V. FINANCE :		XIII. EDUCATION AND LITERATURE :	
Form of Accounts - - - - -	61	Education - - - - -	171
Gross Revenue and Expenditure	61	Literature and the Press - - - - -	176
Net Revenue and Expenditure - - - - -	62		
Capital Outlay on Public		XIV. EMIGRATION AND MIGRATION :	
Works - - - - -	64	Emigration - - - - -	179
Debt - - - - -	64	Migration - - - - -	180
Savings Banks and other Obligations - - - - -	65	XV. TRADE AND MANUFACTURES :	
Cash Balances - - - - -	65	Trade - - - - -	182
Coinage and Paper Currency - - - - -	65	Manufactures - - - - -	185
Rate of Exchange - - - - -	66	Factory Act - - - - -	189
VI. SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS :		XVI. FRONTIERS AND NATIVE STATES :	
Survey of India, &c. - - - - -	67	Frontiers and Frontier States - - - - -	191
Meteorological Department - - - - -	69	Native States - - - - -	195
Settlements and Cadastral Surveys - - - - -	71	XVII. ARMY AND MILITARY WORKS :	
VII. LAND REVENUE (INCLUDING FISHERIES, CAPITATION TAX, &c.) AND GOVERNMENT AND WARDS' ESTATES :		Army - - - - -	202
Land Revenue - - - - -	75	Military Works - - - - -	205
Wards' Estates - - - - -	84	XVIII. CENSUS - - - - -	206
VIII. OPIUM REVENUE AND TAXATION :		APPENDIX—Tables of Net Revenue and Expenditure - - - - -	210
Opium - - - - -	87		
Salt - - - - -	88		
Excise - - - - -	93		
Stamps - - - - -	105		
Customs - - - - -	105		
Provincial Rates - - - - -	106		
Income Tax - - - - -	107		

STATEMENT
EXHIBITING THE
MORAL AND MATERIAL PROGRESS AND CONDITION
OF INDIA

During the Year 1899-1900.

[NOTE.—Throughout this Statement, Receipts and Expenditure are shown in pounds, rupees being converted for the purpose at the rate of Rs. 15 = £1.]

CHAPTER I.

ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATION.

ADMINISTRATION.

ADMINISTRATION.

LIST of the holders in 1899-1900 of the more important appointments connected with the Administration of India, those appointed during the year being shown *in italics*.

OFFICE.	—	Date of Appointment or Assumption of Charge of Office.	REMARKS.
Secretary of State	The Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton.	5 July 1895	
Permanent Under Secretary of State.	Sir Arthur Godley, K.C.B. -	30 September 1883	
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.	The Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G.	5 July 1896	
	Field Marshal Sir Donald M. Stewart, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., C.I.E.	16 December 1885	Re-appointed 16 December 1895 (died 20 March 1900).
	Sir James B. Peile, K.C.S.I.	12 November 1887	Re-appointed 12 November 1897.
	Sir Alfred C. Lyall, K.C.B., G.C.I.E.	17 January 1888	Re-appointed 17 January 1898.
	Sir Charles H. T. Cros- thwaite, K.C.S.I.	3 March 1895	In succession to Sir R. H. Davies.
	Sir Stuart C. Bayley, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.	16 September "	In succession to Sir H. C. Rawlinson.
Members of the Council of India	F. C. Le Marchant - -	27 February 1896	In succession to Mr. B. W. Currie.
	General Sir J. J. H. Gordon, K.C.B.	1 January 1897	In succession to Sir O. T. Burne.
	Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, K.C.S.I.	24 April "	In succession to Sir John Strachey.
	Sir J. L. Mackay, K.C.I.E. -	27 April "	In succession to Mr. Hardie.
	Sir John Edge, Q.C. - -	30 March 1898	In succession to Sir C. Turner.
	Sir Philip P. Hutchins, K.C.S.I.	1 August "	In succession to Sir A. J. Arbuthnot.
	<i>Sir James Westland, K.C.S.I.</i>	8 August 1899	
Governor-General	The Right Hon. Lord Curzon of Kedleston, G.M.S.L., G.M.I.E.	6 January 1899	

STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

ADMINISTRATION.

OFFICE.	—	Date of Appointment or Assumption of Charge of Office.	REMARKS.	
Members of Council -	General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, G.C.B., K.C.S.I. (extraordinary), Commander-in-Chief.	4 November 1898	Died 18 March 1900.	
	Sir James Westland, K.C.S.I.	27 November 1893	Appointed Member of Council of India 8 August 1899.	
	Major-General Sir E. H. H. Collen, K.C.I.B., C.B.	27 April "		
	Sir A. C. Trevor, K.C.S.I.	2 May "		
	C. M. Rivaz, C.S.I.	9 April 1898	And temporarily from 18 October 1897 to 10 February 1898.	
	Clinton E. Dawkins -	-	29 March 1899	
Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal -	Thomas Raleigh -	-	3 April 1899	In succession to Mr. Chalmers.
	D. J. C. Ibbetson, C.S.I. -	-	4 December 1899	Officiating for Mr. Rivaz on leave.
	Sir John Woodburn, K.C.S.I.	7 April 1898		
Lieutenant-Governor of the North Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh.	Sir Antony P. MacDonnell, G.C.S.I.	6 November 1896		
Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.	Sir William Mackworth Young, K.C.S.I.	6 March 1897		
Lieutenant-Governor of Burma -	Sir F. W. R. Fryer, K.C.S.I.	1 May 1897	Formerly Chief Commissioner.	
Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces.	D. C. J. Ibbetson, C.S.I. -	14 July 1898		
	A. H. L. Fraser, C.S.I. -	28 November 1899	Officiating.	
Chief Commissioner of Assam -	H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I. -	28 November 1899		
Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana and Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara.	A. H. T. Martindale -	9 March 1898		
Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg.	Lieutenant-Colonel D. Robertson, C.S.I.	10 February 1897	And officiating from 7 December 1896.	
Resident, Hyderabad -	Sir Trevor J. C. Chicholod-Plowden, K.C.S.I.	6 March 1892		
Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.	Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I.	20 March 1896		
Resident in Kashmir -	Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Adalbert C. Talbot, K.C.I.B.	14 June 1896		
Resident and Agent to the Governor-General, Baroda.	Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Martell.	25 July 1895	Retired 31 August 1899.	
	Lieut.-Col. B. W. Ravenshaw.		Officiating from 31 August 1897.	
Agent to the Governor-General for Baluchistan and Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan, Political Resident, Persian Gulf.	H. S. Barnes, C.S.I. -	14 June 1896		
	Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Mende, C.I.B.	10 March 1898		
Governor of Madras -	Sir Arthur E. Havelock, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.B.	18 March 1896		
Members of Council -	Arundel T. Arundel, C.S.I. -	12 June 1898		
	Henry M. Winterbotham -	9 November "		
Governor of Bombay -	Lord Sandhurst, G.C.I.B. -	18 February 1893	Period of office expired 17 February 1900.	
	Lord Northcote, G.C.I.B. -	17 February 1900		
Members of Council -	J. Nugent, C.S.I. -	12 July 1896		
	Sir E. C. K. Olivant, K.C.I.B. -	24 April 1897		
	H. E. M. James, C.S.I. -	29 July 1898	Temporarily to 21 Jan. 1899, and again from 23 April to 19 October.	
Political Resident, Aden -	Brigadier-General O'M. Creagh, V.C.	22 February 1899		

LEGISLATION.

LEGISLATION.

Between the 1st April 1899 and the 31st March 1900 18 Acts were passed by the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations: four each by the Legislative Councils of Madras, the North-West Provinces and Burma, three each by those of Bombay and Bengal, and one by that of the Punjab.

Three Regulations were also passed by the Governor-General in Council on the recommendation of the local governments of the provinces affected by them, in accordance with the provisions of 33 Vict. c. 3. LEGISLATION.

The following are the most important of the measures referred to :—

Act XX. of 1899, "to amend the Presidency Banks Act, 1876," confers on the local Presidency Bank power to lend money to the trustees for the improvement of the City of Bombay. INDIA.
The Presidency Banks Act, 1899.

Act XXII. of 1899, "to further amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1870, and the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1882," makes gold coins legal tender, at the rate of Rs. 15 to a sovereign. The Indian Coinage and Paper Currency Act, 1899.

Act XXIII. of 1899, "to provide for the incorporation of Kirk Sessions of the Church of Scotland in British India," declares every duly constituted Kirk Session of the Church of Scotland to be a corporate body, with full powers as trustees to deal with all funds and other property vested in them. Church of Scotland Kirk Sessions Act, 1899.

Act XXIV. of 1899, "to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards in the Central Provinces," provides for the more efficient management of the affairs of Government Wards. Central Provinces Court of Wards Act, 1899.

Act I. of 1900, "to amend the Indian Articles of War," invests commanding officers with the power of discharging from service unattested recruits whom they consider unlikely to make good soldiers. The Indian Articles War Amendment Act, 1900.

Act II. of 1900, "to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882," aims at removing the defects which have from time to time been detected in the chapter of the Act amended, dealing with the question of the assignment of choses in action and with the law of champerty and maintenance. The Transfer of Property Act, 1900.

Act III. of 1900, "to consolidate the law relating to prisoners confined by order of a court," consolidates the several enactments on this subject which have hitherto been found in various parts of the statute book. Prisoners Act, 1900.

Act VI. of 1900, "to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Courts in Lower Burma." The principal object of this Act is to establish a Chief Court in Lower Burma. Lower Burma Courts Act, 1900.

Act III. of 1899, "to make provision for the registration of births and deaths in rural districts," places on a sound basis the registration of vital statistics in the Presidency, which has hitherto been inaccurate and incomplete. MADRAS.
Madras Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1899.

Act II. of 1899, "to repeal the Civil Courts Amins Act, 1856, in Bengal," abolishes the system of employing salaried amins to make local investigations, and gives district judges power to issue commissions (under sec. 392 of the Civil Procedure Code) to duly qualified persons for such purposes. BENGAL.
Bengal Civil Courts Amins Act, 1899.

Act III. of 1899, "to amend the law relating to the municipal affairs of the town and suburbs of Calcutta, and to authorise the extension of the same to the town of Howrah." This important measure aims at removing defects in the municipal administration of Calcutta, the most conspicuous of which were the unsatisfactory state of the tax collections, the bad sanitary supervision, and the uncertainty and lack of system in the local administrative authority. The present Act follows more or less the lines of the City of Bombay Municipal Act, and its main object is the establishment of effective municipal government. It abandons the system, followed in previous Acts, of vesting the entire municipal administration in the commissioners as a body, and provides for three co-ordinate municipal authorities—the corporation, the general committee, and the chairman. Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899.

Act II. of 1899, "to make better provision in the City of Bombay and elsewhere for preventing the adulteration of ghee and other articles of human food." BOMBAY.
Bombay Prevention of Adulteration Act, 1899.

Act I. of 1899, "to amend the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1877, and the law relating to the ascertainment and determination in certain cases of the boundaries of riverain estates in the Punjab," aims at securing permanent boundaries between riparian estates, and putting an end to the previous system by which, in many cases, ownership shifted with every change in the deep stream. PUNJAB.
Punjab Riverain Boundaries Act, 1899.

4 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

LEGISLATIVE.
N.W.P. and OUDH.
North-West
Provinces and
Oudh Municipal-
ities Act, 1900.

Act I. of 1900, "to make better provision for the organisation and administration of municipalities in the North-West Provinces and Oudh."

BURMA.
Burma Military
Police Act, 1899.

Act II. of 1899, "to amend the Burma Military Police Act, 1887," adopts more suitable designations of rank and secures increased powers for the maintenance of discipline.

Rangoon Police
Act, 1899.

Act IV., "to provide for the better regulation of the police in Rangoon town."

CHAPTER II.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT, MUNICIPALITIES, SANITATION, HOSPITALS, &c.

In every province of India a great deal of local business is done, considerable funds are raised and spent, and valuable service to the public is performed, by local bodies, which are constituted and exercise their functions under different enactments. Municipal committees exist in most towns of the Indian Empire, and have charge of municipal business generally, including the care and superintendence of streets, roads, water supply, education, and hospitals. The number of such committees in each province is given in the body of this chapter. Local and district boards have charge of local roads, sanitary works, schools, hospitals, and dispensaries in rural districts. Bodies of port trustees have charge of harbour works, port approaches, and pilotage. There are, besides, less numerous local bodies discharging similar duties in towns other than constituted municipalities, and in cantonments. The importance of the work of local administration performed by these various authorities is best shown by a statement of the funds at their disposal. The income of the municipalities for 1899-1900, apart from loans, sales of securities, and such-like extraordinary receipts, was £2,975,000. The sources of this income and the yield of each source are shown in the table on the last page of this chapter. The revenue enjoyed by the local and district boards during the year, apart from loans etc., was £2,088,700, inclusive of grants and transfers from provincial revenues. Of this total, the local rates levied on land, "for expenditure on roads, schools, hospitals, and general purposes," account for nearly two-thirds; and among other sources of income belonging to the local boards are tolls on ferries and roads, school fees, the rent of corporate property, and the grants made by Government for educational and medical purposes.

The income of the port funds, exclusive of loans, etc, amounted in 1899-1900 to £1,111,300.

The revenue of cantonment funds amounted to £161,600; that of town and bazaar funds came to £61,300; that of miscellaneous funds was £134,400.

Thus, the revenue from all sources managed by the various local bodies amounted in 1899-1900 to about £1,468,600.

The following statement shows the indebtedness of municipalities and local funds at the end of the year:—

	India, General.	Central Provinces.	Burma.	Assam.	Bengal.	N.W.P.	Punjab.	Madras.	Bombay.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Transactions during 1899-1900:									
Borrowed - - -	—	—	—	904	183,733	3,267	10,224	68,234	609,256
Repaid - - -	1,826	4,020	20,810	645	25,879	21,296	10,408	25,859	428,205
Amount owing on 31st March 1900:									
To Government -	31,772	68,348	12,372	904	2,685,122	547,165	257,460	489,664	2,411,672
To the Public - -	—	18,000	303,700	—	2,618,252	641	16,467	206,700	4,712,789

MUNICIPALITIES.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Throughout India the cities and larger towns manage their own local affairs, through the agency of commissioners or committees appointed from among the citizens. The municipal bodies exist, raise funds, and exercise powers under enactments which provide separately for the special requirements of each province, and of the three presidency capitals, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. In most places the majority of the commissioners or committees are elected by the townsfolk under legal rules, but in every town some, and in a few minor

6 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

MUNICIPALITIES.

towns all the members, are appointed by the Government. In almost every municipal body one or more Government officials sit as members; the number of Indian and non-official members, however, everywhere exceeds the number of Europeans and officials. The municipal bodies are subject to the control of the Government in so far that no new tax can be imposed, no loan can be raised, no work costing more than a prescribed sum can be undertaken, and no serious departure from the sanctioned budget for the year can be made, without the previous sanction of the Government; and no rules or bye-laws can be enforced without similar sanction and full publication.

The sources of municipal revenue are, mainly,—

House tax,	Water rates,
Tax on rent,	Conservancy rates,
Octroi duties,	Rents of public lands and pro-
Bazaar or market rents,	perties,
Carriage tax,	Public gardens and parks.

The objects on which municipal funds can be spent are, mainly, water supply, hospitals and dispensaries, streets and roads, vaccination, drainage, sanitation, and education. Municipalities do more for the benefit of their citizens under these heads than was done before by Government officers; and the commissioners or committees generally evince diligence and public spirit in the performance of their honorary duties. The interest in the municipal elections, and in municipal affairs generally, is not keen, save in a few cities and large towns; but, as education and knowledge advance, interest in the management of local affairs gradually increases. It is reported from most provinces that municipal work is fairly well done, and municipal responsibilities are, on the whole, faithfully discharged, though occasional shortcomings and failures occur in particular towns. The tendency of these local bodies is to be slow in imposing additional taxes, in adopting sanitary reforms, and in incurring new expenditure. Many members of municipal bodies are diligent in their attendance to work, whether at meetings for business or on benches for decision of petty criminal cases.

Bengal
Calcutta.

The Calcutta Municipality consisted during the year of 50 elected and 25 nominated commissioners, but its constitution has been changed by a law which came into force at the expiration of the year 1899-1900, under which the number of commissioners was reduced to 50, of whom 25 are elected by the ratepayers, and the remainder appointed, four by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, four by the Calcutta Trades Association, two by the Port Commissioners, and 15 by the Local Government. There is a General Committee, with executive powers, consisting of a chairman and 12 members, who are to be selected from among the commissioners, four by the elected, and four by the nominated commissioners, and four by the Local Government. Twenty-eight of the 50 elected commissioners resigned in September 1899, and a bye-election was held. In March a general election took place for the election of one representative for each of the 25 wards of the city; only in three wards was there any contest, and four vacancies for which no candidate stood, had to be filled by nomination.

There were 26 general meetings, and 190 meetings of committees. The income of the year was £349,500, or nearly 9 per cent. more than in 1898-99; £127,900 was derived from the general rate (9½ per cent.), and £134,600 from rates for sewage, water, and lighting (aggregating 10 per cent.); the assessed valuation of the town rose to £1,463,000, and the incidence of taxation per head of population was slightly under Rs. 6, equal to 9s. The expenditure against income was £349,200, of which £88,800 was for interest and other charges in connection with the water supply, £31,300 for lighting, and £212,100 for general purposes, including drainage and conservancy. Tenders were invited for a loan of £166,700 at 4 per cent. for drainage, water supply, &c., but only £24,700 were subscribed; subsequently, however, a further amount of £33,300 was offered and taken up; £20,500 were repaid to the Government; and the total outstanding debt at the end of the year was £2,036,000. The payments for interest and sinking fund amounted to £139,800, which is within the legal limit of 10 per cent. on the valuation of the city. The sinking funds amounted to £191,600 at the end of the year.

The health of the town was fairly good, except for plague, during 1899. The birth rate in the municipal area was 16·1 per mille, and the death rate 35·1. During the first nine months of 1899-1900, i.e., up to December 1899, there were 1,948 deaths from plague in the city; but after the beginning of 1900 the epidemic became more serious, and 4,588 more deaths from that cause had occurred before the end of March. In the treatment of the epidemic entire reliance was placed upon disinfection, and it is said that the results justified that policy. MUNICIPALITIES.

The municipalities in the interior of Bengal numbered 153, or two more than in the previous year, two existing municipalities having been divided into two parts for administrative purposes. The number of ratepayers was 469,700, or about one-sixth of the population of the municipalities according to the census of 1891. The towns varied in size from Patna with 167,500 to Nalchiti with 1,675 inhabitants. A general election was held during the year; out of 457 elections or bye-elections 251 were contested, and the percentage of voters who recorded their votes was 44, compared with 41 per cent. in the general election year 1896-97. The Commissioners numbered 2,190 at the end of the year, and of these 1,163 had been elected, while 1,952 were natives of India and 362 were Government servants. The number of meetings held was 2,515 compared with 2,586 in 1898-99; 25 municipalities failed to hold the prescribed minimum of 12 meetings. The average attendance at the meetings is reported to have been satisfactory. The incomes of the municipalities, excluding debt heads, amounted in all to £252,300, of which £196,200 came from taxation. The taxes are levied either on persons, according to their circumstances and property, or on holdings at a rate generally 7½ per cent. of the assessed annual value, besides lighting and water rates; there are no octroi duties. The average incidence of taxation in all the towns, excluding Calcutta, was 17½ annas (an anna being equal to a penny), compared with 16½ annas in 1898-99, per head of the population. There were revisions of assessment, resulting in greater or less increase, in 15 towns. But the question of assessment revision presents some difficulties, and was under consideration. The total expenditure of the Funds, excluding debt heads, was £245,400, of which £16,000 was for water-supply, £8,750 for drainage, £72,500 for conservancy, £25,900 for hospitals and dispensaries, and £44,900 for public works. The aggregate closing balances rose from £32,300 to £40,100, money being kept in hand in some cases for sanitation schemes and in others to meet plague expenses; nine municipalities had practically no balance. Of the 34 towns in debt to Government all paid interest and sinking fund instalments in full, and are considered to be quite able to do so in future; only in Howrah and Bhagalpur was the financial condition considered unsatisfactory, but in those two towns it was reported that improved administration was required. The loans outstanding at the end of the year amounted to £203,900. Interior of Bengal.

There were 104 municipalities in the North-Western provinces, with a total of 1,653 members, of whom 1,249 were elected, 357 were officials, and 1,400 were Natives. Seats were contested in 64 municipalities, and a keener interest than usual was shown in all cases. The boards generally elect their chairman, but in six important towns, Agra, Allahabad, Benares, Bareilly, Lucknow and Moradabad, the district magistrate is *ex-officio* chairman. Only one municipality held less than 12 meetings in the year, excluding meetings of sub-committees. The income of the municipalities, excluding loans, was £312,600, of which £248,500 accrued from taxation. Of the taxation revenue, the octroi duties yielded £234,600, compared with £224,000 in the previous year, but against this are to be set refunds amounting to £58,600. Octroi duties were levied in 81 towns. The year was one of high prices and indifferent harvest, and in most of the towns the octroi receipts showed a decrease, but in Agra there was a large increase, due to improvement in the control of the octroi system. The average incidence of municipal taxation of all kinds on the municipal population was Re. 1½, the most heavily taxed towns by far being Naini Tal and Mussoorie, where the incidence was Rs. 9½ and Rs. 7½ per head respectively. The expenditure, excluding debt heads, was £293,300, of which £106,900 was spent on water supply, drainage and conservancy. The closing balance at credit of the municipalities was £76,700. North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

8 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

MUNICIPALITIES. Punjab.

There were in the Punjab 148 municipalities, besides 40 notified areas, which have a modified form of municipal government. Elected members serve on 110 of the municipal committees, the proportion being generally two elected to one nominated member. The total number of members of the committees of municipalities was 1,664, of whom 805 were elected; 327 were officials and 127 were Europeans. The number of vacancies to be filled during the year was 298, of which 100 were filled after contested elections. Thirty-one of the committees failed to hold the prescribed minimum of 12 meetings, but the working of the committees in the larger towns throughout the province is reported to have been satisfactory. The total income of the municipalities and notified areas, excluding loans and extraordinary receipts, rose from £305,000 to £307,500, of which £201,500 was raised by octroi duties in force in 152 towns. The famine, although more acute than that of 1896-97, did not extend to so many districts, and the falling off in the taxation revenue as a whole was therefore not so great. The expenditure rose from £304,300 to £310,700, including £46,500 on fire, lighting and police, £42,600 on education, £42,600 on conservancy, and £22,800 on roads and buildings. The Government advanced £8,500 on loan to the Simla and Delhi municipalities, and repayments were made to Government by various towns amounting to £8,000. Besides this, the Lahore municipality raised £10,700 in the market, for water and drainage works. The total debt outstanding at the end of the year was £267,500. The free cash balances at credit of the municipalities and notified areas fell from £80,800 at the beginning to £76,200 at the end of the year.

Burma, Rangoon.

In the town of Rangoon there is a municipal committee, for the most part elected by the various national communities, with a salaried president. The number of members was raised to 25 during the year by the addition of one, to be nominated by the Rangoon Trades Association; of this number, 19 were elected and 6 nominated, 11 were natives, and 3 were Government servants. The average attendance at general meetings was 67 per cent. The ordinary revenue amounted to £133,700, of which direct taxation accounts for £77,300, showing an increase owing to additional assessments; the taxes are a nine per cent. general tax, and water, lighting, and scavenging taxes, and they amount to Rs. 5 per head of the estimated population for the year. Extraordinary receipts, including a Government contribution for the town lands reclamation fund, amounted to £68,000. The ordinary expenditure was £112,600, showing an increase as compared with the previous year, chiefly under the head of civil works and for sinking two tube wells; the extraordinary expenditure was £91,900, of which £19,200 were spent on reclamation works, £1,200 on a rubbish disposal scheme, and the rest on loan charges, advances, &c. The debt of the municipality at the end of the year was £272,000, the amount of £15,500 having been paid off during 1899-1900. The birth-rate for 1899 was 13·85 per thousand of the estimated population, the death-rate 34·76; still-births are for the first time excluded, and the rates are really higher than in 1898, although they are lower than those quoted in this Statement for that year.

Interior of Province.

The number of other municipalities in Burma was 40, or one less than in the previous year. The committees contained 515 members, of whom 104 were elected, 363 were natives, and 189 were Government servants. Elected members serve on 11 of the committees; but generally little interest is shown in the elections. Only one committee held less than 12 meetings in the year; the average attendance at each meeting was 60 or more per cent. of the members in 21 towns, and in only two towns was below 50 per cent. The income of the municipalities, excluding debt heads, was £134,300, of which £51,600 came from taxation and ferry tolls, and £64,300 from markets and slaughter-houses. There are no octroi duties in Burma. The ordinary expenditure fell from £145,000 to £133,000, the expenditure in the previous year having included special charges for lighting Moulmein and for roads at Mandalay. The amount spent on conservancy, hospitals and education was higher than in 1898-99. No loan from Government was sanctioned during the year, and the total indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the year was no more than £15,300. Important works are in contemplation, for

which debt will have to be incurred, *e.g.*, waterworks at Mandalay and Moulmein, and a drainage system for the latter town, which are all much needed. But the municipal funds are for the most part small, only six, including Rangoon, exceeding £6,500 per annum. The incidence of taxation and tolls per head of municipal population was Re. 1½ in Lower Burma and Re. 1 in the Upper Province, the highest rate being Rs. 2½ at Moulmein. The balances in hand at the end of the year amounted to £29,800. Besides municipalities there are six other places in Lower Burma where town funds are raised, and are managed by committees nominated from among the townfolk, the amount during the year being £6,000. The expenditure from these funds was £6,900, and the balance fell from £4,100 to £3,200. MUNICIPALITIES.

In the Central Provinces 52 towns had municipal committees in 1899-1900; but many of them are mere villages, and only 18 have a population exceeding 10,000. The number of members was 623, of whom 441 were elected. The municipal incomes, including Government grants but excluding other advances, amounted to £91,100, of which £57,400 accrued from octroi duties, levied in 27 municipalities. The expenditure was £91,800, excluding advances and repayment of loans; of this sum £16,800 were for refunds of octroi duties on exported articles, £17,000 were spent on conservancy, £10,000 on education, and £8,600 on hospitals and dispensaries. The balance at the credit of the municipalities at the end of the year was £15,700, being considerably below that of the previous year, owing to the prevailing famine. Most of the municipalities were in a sound financial condition, though in five cases the balance was below the prescribed minimum. Central Provinces.

The number of municipalities in Assam, including two stations and three unions, remained at 14, but only one of them (Sylhet) has a population of more than 10,000. Their working is reported to have been satisfactory. The total number of members was 140, of whom 51 were elected in six of the towns, 111 were natives, and 51 were officials. The income rose from £15,000 to £18,100, which included £2,000 lent by the Government to Gauhati and Shillong. The income from taxation rose from £7,200 to £7,400. The total expenditure was £18,000, of which £7,900 were spent on water supply, drainage and conservancy. The incidence of taxation per head of population ranged from 7 annas at Nowgong to Rs. 3½ at Shillong. Assam.

On the municipality of Madras there are 33 Commissioners, 24 being elected by the ratepayers, whose numbers amounted in the year 1899-1900 to 12 per mille of the inhabitants. Six elections were held, at which 42 per cent. of the registered electors came to the poll. Eight Commissioners were Europeans and nine were officials. At 23 meetings of the Commissioners the average attendance was 22. The total income of the year, apart from loans and Government contributions, was £90,700, or £6,100 more than in the preceding year; of this total, £69,000 accrued from taxation, which fell on the population at the rate of Rs. 2½ per head; the principal tax is one of 10 per cent. on buildings and lands; there are no octroi duties. The expenditure came to £115,200, of which £30,700 were spent on water supply and drainage works, and £28,600 on conservancy. For various purposes connected with sanitation and the construction of the Moore market loans were raised from the public amounting to £54,600, besides a temporary loan of £13,300 for plague purposes, which was repaid within the year. The outstanding debt of the municipality amounted on the 31st March 1900 to £293,000, against which must be set the sinking fund, which is now £91,000. Madras. Madras City.

The number of municipalities in the interior of Madras was 60, two towns having received a municipal constitution during the year. The councils were partly elective in 53 of these towns, 2.5 per cent. of the population being registered as voters, and in 37 towns the councillors elected their own chairman. On an average 29 meetings were held by each council, and the average attendance of councillors at meetings was 8.6, as compared with 8.4 in the previous year. There were 931 municipal councillors in all, including 446 elected members, 207 who were officials, and 765 natives. The total income of the municipalities, excluding debt heads, was £198,200, including Interior of the Madras Presidency.

10 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

MUNICIPALITIES.

£114,700 from taxation. An increase of 5 per cent. in the receipts from taxation was caused chiefly by the raising of the rate of the tax on buildings and lands in several towns. The average incidence of taxes and tolls was Re. 1 per head of the municipal population; there are no octroi duties in these towns. The expenditure was £176,800, compared with £162,900 in the preceding year; of this amount £26,200 were spent on water supply, £44,200 on conservancy, and £23,800 on education. Under water supply an expenditure of £76,700 had been contemplated in the Budget, but in most of the towns for various causes the works had to be postponed, and the balance in hand, which was £44,800 at the beginning of the year, instead of being materially reduced, was increased to £67,100.

Bombay. Bombay City.

The municipality of Bombay is administered by a corporation consisting of 72 councillors, of whom 16 are nominated by the Government, 36 are elected by the ratepayers, 16 by the justices, 2 by the Chamber of Commerce, and 2 by the University. The revenue realised was £588,600, or £111,200 more than in 1898-99, and the largest ever raised in the city. Of this increase £51,200 was due to the raising of the general tax from 9 to 12 per cent., but there were also larger receipts from town duties, chiefly owing to the imports of grain, most of it Rangoon rice, on account of the famine; this latter increase is to some extent unreal, since much of it would have to be refunded, as is always the case, on re-export of the grain from the city. The expenditure was £492,800, or £26,700 more than in 1898-99, including £103,000 on drainage, waterworks, lighting, &c., £102,100 on conservancy, and £156,000 on debt services. The balance at the end of the year was £140,000, compared with £6,700 required by law, and with £50,000 at the end of the preceding year. Against this are to be set the probable refunds mentioned above, a sum of £70,600 advanced for plague purposes, which may not be recoverable, and the beginning in 1900-01 of annual payments to the City Improvement Trust.

Permanent loans were raised to the amount of £293,000, the temporary loan obtained in 1898-99 from the Bank of Bombay being repaid, and a short term loan of £40,000 was raised for plague purposes; the outstanding debt at the end of the year was £2,886,000, the sinking fund amounting to £175,600. The expenditure from loan funds during the year was £58,000 for plague purposes, £36,000 on sewerage works, £10,800 on roads, and £13,500 on minor sanitary works. The plague expenditure of the year was £63,600 in all, and the expenditure since the plague began was about £290,000 at the end of March 1900. Of this £97,000 have received from the Government, and the remainder has been met partly by the short term loan mentioned above, partly out of other loan funds, and partly as an advance out of income.

The City Improvement Trust made notification of two new street schemes for laying out the northern part of the Island at a combined initial cost of £770,000, which will, it is hoped, be more than recovered by the sale of the building sites; there were thus six schemes projected, of which three had in view the opening out of insanitary areas and congested parts of the native town, while the other three were designed to provide fresh space for building in other parts. The entire cost of the projects is estimated at about £2,170,000, and they include the construction of nearly 30 miles of new streets and the provision of two parks of 48 and 32 acres respectively. The Nagpada improvement scheme mentioned in last year's Statement received the sanction of the Government during 1899, and buildings were commenced at Agripada for the accommodation of the persons who will be displaced. A rupee loan to the amount of £333,000 was issued. Other matters which engaged the attention of the Trustees were the revision of the building regulations and private schemes for foreshore reclamation.

Interior of the Bombay Presidency.

The municipalities in the interior of Bombay numbered 165, and the total number of municipal Commissioners was 2,299, of whom 873 were elected, and the rest nominated. There were 1,674 non-officials and 2,115 natives of India on the committees. The income of the municipalities was £374,600, excluding loans and advances, and of this total £281,600 was raised by taxation, the incidence per head of population being Re. 1½ in the Northern, Re. 1½ in the Central, and Re. 1 in the Southern Divisions, and Rs. 3 in Sind. Octroi duties accounted for £161,600 of the revenues, compared with £164,000

in 1898-99, a fall due to dislocation of trade by plague and famine. The expenditure, also excluding loan heads, was £365,600, of which £25,700 was spent on water supply, £7,800 on drainage, £27,100 on plague, £125,500 on other matters connected with public health and convenience, and £44,000 on education. The Karachi municipality raised a loan of £26,700 from the Bank of Bombay for plague expenditure. The closing balances at credit of the municipal funds were £86,100. MUNICIPALITIES

The number of municipalities in Berar was 12, as in the previous year, and in six of these towns the majority of the municipal committees are elected by the ratepayers. All but one of the committees held monthly, or more frequent, meetings as required by the law. There were altogether 169 members of these committees at the end of the year, of whom 80 were elected, 139 were natives, and 49 were officials. Twenty-five vacancies occurred, for which, out of 5,500 registered voters, 889, or 16 per cent. of the electors, recorded their votes. The total income of the municipalities was £14,700, including grants and contributions amounting to £3,100 and £6,000 from rates and taxes; there are no octroi duties. The incidence of taxation stood at the low figure of 8 annas per head of population. Fresh sources of taxation were opened in nine towns during the year. The total expenditure was £14,900, exclusive of £800 for advances and repayment of loans. The committees had to deal with great difficulties in respect of the famine, and especially with regard to the improvement of the water supply in a year of great drought, and they acquitted themselves on the whole satisfactorily. Berar.

DISTRICT BOARDS.

DISTRICT BOARDS

The constitution of district boards with precise powers and responsibilities under the law took place more recently than the creation of municipalities; but in most provinces district committees had for many years given assistance or exercised control in the administration of local roads, local hospitals, and local schools. In all the more advanced provinces district boards are now constituted under different enactments. In Madras, the boards have the power of proposing local taxation, and in Bengal they are empowered to decide at what rate, within the legal maximum, the road cess shall be levied in each district; but for the most part the district boards do not possess powers of taxation; they administer funds, or the yield of specific imposts, made over to them for expenditure on roads, schools, hospitals, and sanitation, within their jurisdiction. In most provinces the district boards delegate much of their detailed work to sub-divisional, or minor boards, which are constituted under the law, and are responsible for sub-divisions or parts of a district. General.

In Bengal there were 38 district boards and 105 local boards, as in the previous year. On the district boards were 796 members, of whom 334 were elected by the local boards, 251 were officials, and 600 were natives of India; on the local boards were 1,261 members, of whom 383 were elected, 155 were officials, and 1,148 were natives of India. There were also 56 union committees entrusted with minor duties. General elections were held during the year, but aroused little interest. Each district board held on the average 15 meetings; and the average attendance at each meeting was more than 10 members. The local boards held over 1,000 meetings, but nearly one-fifth of them were adjourned for want of a quorum, and the average attendance was less than six members. The income of the district boards, apart from debt headings, rose from £415,500 to £450,700, including £275,600 from the road cess and £35,000 contributed by provincial funds. The expenditure, also excluding debt heads, was £436,400 of which £81,700 were spent on education and £286,100 on civil works. The reports on the working of the Bengal.

12 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

DISTRICT BOARDS. district boards show that these boards perform their numerous and important functions in a satisfactory manner; the local boards and the union committees have little to do and show little energy.

North-West
Provinces
and Oudh.

There were, as in the previous year, 44 district boards and four district committees in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh; the district boards consisting of members elected or nominated from the members of the local boards of sub-districts. The 48 boards and committees had 926 members, of whom 600 were elected and 98 were Europeans. The magistrate of the district is chairman of each district board. The boards held on an average 11 meetings, and the committees 9 meetings, with an average attendance of 8 and 11 respectively. The income of the boards and committees during 1899-1900 was £512,800, of which £221,600 came from taxes; the expenditure was £310,500, including £94,900 on education, £160,800 on drainage, waterworks, buildings and roads, and £38,000 on medical services and sanitation.

Punjab.

The number of district boards in the Punjab was 31, and the number of members at the end of 1899-1900 was 1,277, of whom 431 were elected by the local boards. 272 officials and 191 natives; there were also 51 subordinate local boards, with 973 members, 522 being elected, 56 officials, and 969 natives. In 12 districts, most of which are situate on or near the frontier, the district boards are composed entirely of nominated members, and in other districts the members are in part nominated or *ex-officio*, and in part are elected delegates from the local boards. As in previous years, it is noted that little or no interest was taken in elections for the local boards, and that the people prefer direct appointment. Thirteen district boards failed to hold the required minimum number of meetings; of the local boards only three held 12 meetings. The working of the district boards was on the whole good; but the local boards, with the exception of those in Kangra and Sialkot, are said to be useless. The year's income of all the boards, apart from loans and advances, came to £196,700, of which the chief items were £143,000 from local rates, and £18,500 from civil works. The receipts from local rates were lower than in the previous year by 19,800 owing to suspensions and remissions on account of the famine. The total expenditure of the year was £206,000, of which the chief items were education, £45,400; medical or sanitary charges, £25,100; and roads and other public works, £55,100. The closing balances of the district funds taken together amounted to £39,800, compared with £50,600 at the end of 1898-99. The famine reduced receipts, and also increased expenditure by £12,600, and coming as it did after a year in which expenditure had to be incurred in respect of plague, it caused much depletion of balances. Seven district funds closed without balance, most of them even requiring aid to clear them of a deficit.

Central
Provinces.

In the Central Provinces district councils and local boards have been established everywhere except in the backward tract of Mandla, and their numbers were 17 and 54 respectively. They contained 1,213 members, of whom 918 were elected; 1,190 of them were natives of India; 145 were officials. The number of meetings held by councils and boards was satisfactory, but the attendance was not very good, owing to the abnormal conditions of the year. Members, however, are said to have done good work in the matter of inspection. The income was £47,000, excluding debt heads, as compared with £55,400 in 1898-99, while the expenditure, also excluding repayment of loans, &c., remained at about the same figure, £52,200, as in the previous year. The famine was the cause of the fall of income, chiefly in school cess and ferry contracts. The expenditure included £18,600 on education, £2,300 on famine relief, and £13,600 on public works. There were eight districts in which the balances remaining at the credit of the councils fell below the prescribed minimum, owing to the bad seasons, plague and famine; but there is no reason to doubt that, when normal conditions recur, their financial stability will be regained.

Assam.

In Assam there were 19 local boards, containing 373 members, of whom 59 were officials and 148 were Europeans or Eurasians. The European non-official members are elected by the tea industry, and native non-official

members are nominated by the Deputy Commissioners, except in three districts, where a modified system of election prevails. The number of members so elected was 143. The attendance at meetings was, on the whole, fairly good. The income of the boards, apart from debt heads, was £72,800, or rather less than the receipts of the previous year, the latter having been swollen by special receipts for compensation; the local rates yielded £44,800, or £800 above their yield in 1898-99. The boards spent £76,000; 65 per cent. of the total expenditure was devoted to public works, 18 per cent. to education, and 8 per cent. to sanitary and medical objects.

DISTRICT BOARD

In Madras there were 21 district boards and 78 taluk boards, and the number of village unions remained at 381. The sanctioned number of members of the district boards varies between 24 and 40, one half being elected by the taluk boards, where such exist; the total number of members at the end of the year was 660, 40 vacancies being unfilled; this number included 309 elected members, 261 officials, and 533 natives of India. The average attendance at meetings of the boards was 55 per cent. of the members. The taluk or sub-divisional boards are not elective, the members being appointed by the Government, but some of them elect their vice-presidents; the average attendance at meetings was 52 per cent., and all but six of the boards met each month as required by the Act. The village unions deal chiefly with local sanitation and the management of elementary schools, markets and other local institutions entrusted to them by the taluk boards. The sanctioned number of members of all the unions was 3,744, and the average number of meetings was 13.

Madras.

The income and expenditure of the boards and unions was as follows, excluding debt heads:—

	1898-99.		1899-1900.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Income.	Expenditure.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
District boards - - - - -	273,200	257,200	284,800	250,800
Taluk boards - - - - -	231,200	242,100	230,200	256,300
Village unions - - - - -	34,300	39,400	35,400	39,400
TOTAL - - - - -	538,700	538,700	550,400	546,500

In this above statement the contributions by district boards to taluk boards, or by the latter to unions, have not been taken into account. The balances in the possession of all the funds at the end of the year were £112,400. The chief source of income is the land cess, levied at rates varying from one to two annas per rupee of the assessment, which yielded £334,300; the chief items of expenditure were:—public works, £235,900; education, £69,500; sanitation, £33,400.

In Bombay and Sind there were 23 district and 205 taluk (or sub-divisional) boards, nearly all of which are partly elective. There were altogether 3,554 members of all boards, of whom 1,599 were elected, while 802 were officials and 3,369 were natives of India. The income of the local boards was £265,000, of which £142,600 was derived from provincial rates and £63,200 from Government contributions. The income of the previous year was £304,000, the fall in the year under report being due to short collections of the one anna cess in the Northern and Central divisions, owing to the famine; the receipts under "provincial rates" were, from this cause, less by £43,400 than in 1898-99. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was two annas, compared with an incidence of more than three annas in the preceding year. The expenditure of the boards was £309,000, including £89,600 on primary schools, £120,700 on civil works, £19,700 on famine relief and £9,400 on plague. The actual balances at credit of the boards at

Bombay.

14 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

DISTRICT BOARDS. the end of the year amounted to £64,250; the balances of boards in the Northern and Central divisions having been reduced to less than half the figure at which they stood at the beginning of the year.

Berar. In Berar there were six district and 21 taluk or sub-divisional boards. The district boards had altogether 156 members, of whom 125 were elected by taluk boards, 31 were officials, and 149 were natives. The members of the taluk boards numbered 377, each board generally consisting of 18 members, of whom 12 are elected by the ratepayers; all the members of these boards were natives, 34 being officials. There were 115 vacancies in the taluk boards during the year, 231 candidates stood for election, and 8 per cent. of the qualified voters exercised their right of voting. All the boards, with one exception, held the required number of meetings, but the attendance of members was not very good. The income of the district boards was £41,200, of which £18,600 accrued from rates, and £5,200 from assessed taxes. The total expenditure was £45,100, of which £12,900 was spent on education and £14,400 on civil works, chiefly roads and wells. It is reported that the district boards have given valuable assistance during the famine, in spite of the curtailment of their means which it involved.

Burma. In Burma local boards have not been constituted. In Lower Burma 19 district cess funds had an income of £127,000, as compared with £119,500 in 1898-99. The expenditure was £127,500, of which £61,500 occurred under the head of Civil Works and £13,400 under Education. There were 16 district funds in Upper Burma, with a total income of £25,100, and an expenditure of £21,700. The balance to the credit of the district funds at the end of the year was increased to £11,800.

PORT TRUSTS.

PORT TRUSTS.

The custody of harbours and the administration of harbour and shore affairs are placed by law in the hands of Port Commissioners, who are appointed for each of the chief ports. Members of these Port Trusts are for the most part appointed by the Local Governments, and are usually representative of the various Indian and commercial interests of the place. Port trustees are empowered, subject to the control of the Government, to levy dues, to contract loans for port improvements, to do all that may be needed for the maintenance of the harbour and its approaches, and to erect warehouses, jetties, and docks for the convenience of traders and shipping. The Local Governments and, so far as can be judged, the public, are well satisfied with the work done by the various Port Trusts. The Commissioners of Port Trusts are the only members of local public bodies who receive a small fee for each attendance at meetings for business. No members of municipal councils, or of district or local boards, receive any fees for the performance of their local duties.

Bombay.

In spite of the famine conditions prevailing in the latter part of 1899-1900, the year was one of exceptional prosperity to the Bombay Port Trust. The revenue amounted to £355,900, or £8,300 higher than in 1898-99, and was the highest on record; and a surplus of £16,900 was realised. This good result was due partly to the large imports of Burmese rice for the famine districts, partly to receipts on account of the despatch of troops for South Africa from the port, and to other causes. The receipts for wharfage fees and dock dues at docks and quays were £168,500, and from other sources, such as port dues, warehouse fees and rents, &c., £187,400. Wheat exports, which amounted in 1898-99 to over 300,000 tons, fell to 127,000 tons; after the famine was established exports of grain to Europe ceased, and large imports of rice and other grains were made. The exports of cotton were good in the early part of the year and, though later there was a great falling off, the total is higher than

in some recent years. The total number of vessels entering the port was 1975, PORT TRUSTS. of 2,390,000 tons, against 1908 of 2,351,000 tons in 1898-99. The total expenditure was £342,600, of which £144,700 was for interest. The debt of the Trust amounted at the end of the year to £3,538,700, including £233,300 raised at 4 per cent. during the year, of which two thirds was for the replacement of loans which had matured, and the remainder for new works. The net result was that an amount of £73,300 was obtained for new works of a productive character, while the interest charge was increased by £1,500 per annum. It has been decided to set aside annually as Sinking Fund an amount sufficient to extinguish the debt in sixty years.

The receipts of the Calcutta Port Trust were £443,400, or £27,900 more Calcutta. than in the previous year, and the expenditure was £443,600, inclusive of the Kidderpore Dock Account, repayment of loans from Government (£13,400), and payments to sinking funds, (£15,400). The jetties, petroleum wharf, and tea warehouse together yielded a surplus of £4,300; receipts from charges on imports and exports alike showed some increase as compared with 1898-99. The imports of petroleum amounted to 43 millions of gallons, against 38½ gallons in 1898-99, a much larger proportion of it being now sent in bulk. The Kidderpore Docks expenditure amounted to £206,000, including £76,700 interest on Government Loan; against which is to be set a sum of £110,000, received chiefly from exports. The exports of wheat and seeds from the docks fell from 214,400 to 182,000 tons; of coal from 878,900 to 870,000 tons; but jute exports rose from 182,000 to 216,000 tons, and the total of all exports from 1,498,000 to 1,559,000 tons. The chief improvements in progress were the building of eleven receiving sheds with a floor area of 341,000 superficial feet, and a salt warehouse of 51,000 feet, and the construction of a coal wharf. The number and tonnage of vessels entering the port

Year.	No.	Tonnage.
1880-90	1,038	2,251,000
1897-98	1,236	3,562,000
1898-99	1,207	3,612,000
1899-1900	1,200	3,726,000

in recent years is shown in the margin. The number of vessels has been surpassed in the two preceding years, and in 1864-65, but the tonnage was the largest recorded. Sailing vessels numbered only 73 against 105 in 1898-99; so that the number of steamships was higher than in any previous year. A debenture loan of £100,000 at 4 per cent. was raised during the year for carrying out improvements. The outstanding debt of the port, including the dock loan of £1,918,000, and the consolidated loan from Government of £402,000, amounted at the end of the year to £2,849,000, against which are to be set £160,000 at credit of sinking funds, reserve funds £80,000, and value of properties £3,804,000, besides the valuable Strand Bank lands held from the Government.

The revenue of the port of Rangoon was £80,300, showing an increase of 2½ per cent. above the high figure of 1898-99, due to the continued growth in the import trade. This growth is considerable, whether the year's imports are compared with those of the previous year or with those of ten years ago. The tonnage of seagoing vessels entering the port was 1,457,000 tons, against 1,417,000 tons in 1898-99, and consisted almost entirely of steamers, the number of which rose from 1,033 to 1,034; 100 steamers of tonnage exceeding 4,000 tons entered the port, compared with 65 in the preceding year and only one in 1890-91. A new line of steamers running between Hamburg and Rangoon was established, and accounts to some extent for the increase in entries. The expenditure of the port in 1899-1900 was £72,300, or £12,500 less than in 1898-99, when a large sum was spent on the purchase of buildings. Three lights erected during the year are said to have facilitated night pilotage. No debt was incurred, and the balance rose from £30,300 to £34,300. It was decided to secure the services of a whole-time Chairman and a Port Engineer, and steps have been taken to engage suitable men in England for these posts. Rangoon.

The expenditure of the Madras Harbour Trust was £41,500 and its receipts were £41,300, compared with an expenditure of £53,900 and receipts amounting to £49,300 in 1898-99. The decrease in expenditure was due chiefly to the comparatively small amount spent on repairs as compared with Madras.

16 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL.

PORT TRUSTS.

the preceding year, and to reduction of establishment. The fall in receipts was largely due to the Board having given up the removal of coal from the beach. The total trade passing through the Madras port during the year showed a decline, although the exports were the highest within the decade. The number of seagoing vessels, excluding native craft, entering the port was 563, with a tonnage of 1,087,500 tons, compared with 576 of 1,131,700 tons in 1898-99. All but one of these vessels were steamships, and seven of them were Government ships or transports. No further advances were made to the Trust during the year; the Trust repaid £8,200 on account of previous advances and spent £14,300 on account of interest. The depth at the entrance to the harbour has been gradually reduced by silting to 38 feet as against 48 feet fifteen years ago. The minimum depth considered requisite is 40 feet, and it is hoped that this may be secured by dredging. A scheme of harbour improvements was under the consideration of the Government.

Karachi.

The income and expenditure of the Karachi Port Trust were respectively £79,400 and £64,800, as compared with £91,300 and £64,500 in the previous year. There was a general falling off in trade owing to the famine, to which is to be attributed the fall in the receipts. An expenditure of £16,700 was incurred out of money in hand on capital works, and a large amount of dredging, twice as much as in the previous year, was effected with the aid of a new Hopper dredger. The number of vessels which entered the port, other than native craft, was 492, against 577 in 1898-99; and, including native craft, the total tonnage was 820,000 tons, compared with about 900,000 tons in the preceding year.

There are other minor ports at which smaller sums are raised yearly and expended on improvements. The value of the total foreign trade of the five principal ports during the past five years in merchandise only, excluding Government stores, is set forth below:—

NAME OF PORT.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£	£	£
Bombay - - -	43,032,000	40,011,000	34,709,000	40,387,000	37,046,000
Calcutta - - -	48,211,000	49,841,000	47,907,000	48,553,000	52,820,000
Rangoon - - -	8,202,000	7,506,000	8,232,000	9,300,000	8,118,000
Madras - - -	7,156,000	0,841,000	6,774,000	5,747,000	6,436,000
Karachi - - -	6,780,000	5,582,000	6,152,000	8,000,000	7,034,000

STATEMENT showing the Number of Municipalities in British India, their Receipts and their Expenditure, for the Year 1899-1900.

	Bengal.		North Western Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Burma.	Central Provinces.	Assam.	Madras.		Bombay.		Minor Provinces.	TOTAL.
	Presidency Corporation.	District Municipalities.						Presidency Corporation.	District Municipalities.	Presidency Corporation.	District Municipalities.		
Number of Municipalities - - - - -	1	153	104	148	41	52	14	1	60	1	165	20	760
Population according to the Census of 1891 - - -	681,560	2,730,809	3,235,807	2,001,055	831,520	683,739	84,727	452,518	1,715,820	821,764	2,236,547	283,344	16,849,070
Receipts:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Octroi - - - - -	-	-	170,075	201,476	-	67,453	-	-	-	181,010	101,020	20,880	748,618
Other Taxation - - - - -	307,057	100,420	72,435	15,830	129,338	17,378	7,442	68,921	114,743	300,652	119,065	1,925	1,445,121
Revenue sources other than Taxation - - -	68,481	52,201	64,080	90,167	106,461	16,303	8,632	26,904	63,504	80,332	89,288	7,769	764,116
Extraordinary and Debt - - - - -	192,500	28,400	9,650	20,186	52,318	8,995	1,010	141,720	28,216	1,697,478	63,688	1,120	2,275,200
TOTAL (1899-1900) - - - £.	568,038	280,030	322,250	327,665	348,117	100,120	15,984	237,635	220,463	2,200,478	464,501	31,004	5,223,047
CORRESPONDING TOTAL (1898-99) - - - £.	972,907	260,424	318,355	329,541	355,745	107,572	14,982	127,715	198,020	1,201,658	526,031	28,080	4,437,636
Expenditure:													
Cost of Collection and Administration - - -	37,390	25,763	36,550	46,893	20,010	28,292	1,188	7,272	15,902	30,620	61,410	7,315	362,044
Public Health and Convenience - - - - -	252,548	172,646	167,771	143,911	202,280	44,806	13,848	84,035	121,432	294,301	183,866	11,683	1,083,327
Public Safety - - - - -	34,228	16,041	43,036	46,557	19,111	1,222	609	4,875	7,417	57,110	15,667	3,088	240,048
Public Instruction - - - - -	516	8,432	9,082	42,648	18,534	9,967	527	1,804	23,831	7,400	45,127	1,485	170,310
Interest and Miscellaneous - - - - -	108,302	22,500	45,937	80,699	20,445	7,563	516	17,314	13,372	108,906	28,208	5,623	499,385
Extraordinary and Debt - - - - -	180,451	26,820	22,171	13,971	64,270	12,018	58	98,434	20,034	1,740,723	81,508	3,003	2,265,270
TOTAL (1899-1900) - - - £.	613,444	272,211	315,447	324,679	653,650	104,708	16,830	213,702	202,948	2,335,635	445,770	31,197	5,230,203
CORRESPONDING TOTAL (1898-99) - - - £.	887,531	250,878	293,635	316,463	348,879	107,002	15,725	140,072	186,688	1,172,690	508,076	20,289	4,258,817

SANITATION.

SANITATION.

(Detailed information on the subjects treated in this and the two succeeding sections is contained in the annual Report on Sanitary Measures in India, which is published as a Parliamentary Paper, and a brief review only is given in this place.)

European troops.

The health of the European troops in India in 1899 was again much better than in the preceding year, and only the invaliding rate was higher than the average rate of the last ten years. The following table gives details:—

Year.	Average Strength.	Ratio per Mille of Strength.				
		Admissions into Hospital.	Constantly Sick.	Deaths.	Invaliding.	Total Loss.
1889-1898 (10 years' average)	69,108	1,468	89	16.49	28	44
1898 - - - - -	67,741	1,437	90	20.05	38	58
1899 - - - - -	67,697	1,149	78	12.75	32	44

The chief causes of admission were, as usual, venereal diseases and ague, which accounted for 27 and 20 per cent. respectively of the total sickness. The ratio of admission on account of the latter disease was 235 per mille of strength, considerably lower than usual, probably on account of the dryness of the year; venereal diseases showed an admission rate of 313.4 per mille, against 362.9 in 1898, and 485.7 in 1897; but part of the decrease is ascribed to the treatment of some venereal cases as out-patients. Enteric fever and hepatic abscess were the chief causes of mortality, showing a death-rate of 5.1 per mille and 1.3 per mille respectively. Enteric fever alone caused 40 per cent. of the total deaths, but it was very much less prevalent than in 1898, when the death-rate from that cause alone was 10.17 per mille. The liability of young and unacclimatised soldiers to enteric fever is again shown in the year's statistics, for among troops between the ages of 20 and 25 the death-rate from this disease was 7.6 per 1,000, while among men between the ages of 25 and 30, and between 30 and 35, the mortality equalled 3 and 1.7 per 1,000 respectively. Again, of soldiers with less than one year's service in India, 11.7 per mille died of enteric fever, while among those who had served between one and two years the rate was 6.8 per mille, between two and three years 3.6 per mille, and so on. There was only one case of cholera in the whole of the European troops in 1899, and only two deaths from plague.

The loss by invaliding during 1899 amounted to 2,142 men, equal to 31.6 per mille of strength, against 2,580 or 38.1 per mille in 1898. Venereal diseases were the cause of invaliding in over 19 per cent. of the number of cases, and the next most important cause was malaria. As regards the influence of age and length of residence in India upon invaliding, 24.9 per mille of the men between 30 and 35 years of age were invalided, whilst the figure for those between 20 and 25 was 37.8, and for those over 40 was 51.7 per mille; 28.4 per mille of men with from three to four years' service were invalided, 39.3 per mille of those with one year, and 27.4 per mille of those with more than 10 years' service.

Native troops.

The health of the Native troops in 1899 was better than in the preceding year. The details are given below:—

Year.	Average Strength.	Ratio per Mille of Strength.			
		Admissions into Hospital.	Constantly Sick.	Deaths.	Mortality including Deaths on Service, &c.
1889-1898 (10 years' average) - -	128,106	917	33	12.7	17.4
1898 - - - - -	126,036	816	33	11.07	18.33
1899 - - - - -	128,529	705	28	10.7	14.5

There was again an increase of influenza and respiratory disease, and there were several outbreaks of cholera, causing 68 deaths. Ague continued to rank first among the causes of admission, and accounted for 37 per cent. of the total. Pneumonia, as usual, was the chief cause of death, and represented a ratio of 3.9 per mille, against 3.8 in 1898. The mortality from fevers other than enteric fever was 1.9 per mille. From these two causes, pneumonia and malarial fever, more than half the total deaths were recorded. The death-rate from enteric fever among the Native troops was only 0.02 per mille, as compared with 5.1 among the European troops. The deaths from plague during 1899 numbered 45; the chief outbreaks were among the 21st Madras Infantry (14 deaths), and the 26th Madras Infantry (6 deaths). SANITATION.

There was a further improvement in the health of the jail population in 1899 as compared with the favourable conditions of 1898. For the jails of British India, including subsidiary jails, the ratios of admission into hospital and of daily average sick per mille were 918 and 35 respectively, against 976 and 39 in 1898. The death-rate was 23.9, compared with 25.9 in the previous year; it ranged from 13.3 per mille in Berar to 55 in Assam and 42.2 in the Andamans. The decrease in the general jail mortality was due to lower rates in Madras, the Central Provinces and the North-Western Provinces. In the Andamans there was a great increase in malarial fever, dysentery (15.6 per mille) and anæmia cases, though scurvy almost entirely disappeared owing to improvement in the vegetable diet. In Assam the high mortality was due to an outbreak of cholera at Gauhati. In seven provinces there was little or no cholera in the jails, and, except in Assam, the attacks were below the average. Jails.

The death-rates in Bengal (23.8 per mille), Burma (18.7), the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, (22.2), Berar (13.3) and Madras (16.1) shows that the year was a healthy one, and in the Central Provinces the rate, (24.6 per mille), contrasts very favourably with those of 1898 (34.6) or 1897 (135).

The accuracy of the birth and deaths statistics collected with regard to the general population is said to be improving, although the improvement is by no means uniform and much remains to be done; but as we get further away from the 1891 census the accuracy of percentages based on its figures becomes more and more open to doubt. Births and deaths were registered in all provinces during 1899, and the mean provincial birth-rates and death-rates are compared in the marginal table. In all provinces, the birth-rates of 1899 were very much higher than those recorded in the preceding year, which was about the same as the average for the preceding five years. This increase is no doubt due to the cessation of the famine distress rather less than a year before the beginning of 1899. General population.

	Mean Birth Rate.	Mean Death Rate.
Bengal	42.96	31.21
Assam	35.45	31.01
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	48.09	33.19
Punjab	48.4	29.57
Central Provinces	47.85	28.09
Berar	50.5	39.9
Madras	31.3	20.1
Coorg	25.59	28.
Bombay	36.42	35.72
Lower Burma	37.04	27.3

rather less than a year before the beginning of 1899. In every province, except the Punjab, Madras, Assam and Coorg, the death-rate was higher than in the preceding year, which was an extraordinarily healthy one, but only in two provinces, Bombay and Lower Burma, were the rates higher than the quinquennial averages.

Deaths from cholera were very few in comparison with previous years. In 1897 there were 555,035 deaths recorded as due to this cause, and the death-rate was 2.55 per mille; in 1898 the number fell to 152,703, and in 1899 it was only 171,410, the ratio (on the 1891 census population) being .78 per mille. Particulars of the plague mortality are given below in a separate chapter. The fever mortality was 18.7, compared with 17.4 in 1898, and with 20.9 in the five-year period immediately preceding; the number of deaths from this cause rose from 3,869,000 to 4,126,000. The provincial rates from fevers ranged from 7.3 per mille in the Madras Presidency to 26.5 per mille in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The mortality from dysentery and diarrhoea was also higher than in 1898, though lower than the average of the last five years; the rate was about 1 per mille for the whole of India, compared with 1.14 per mille in 1898.

20 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

SANITATION.
Vaccination.

The total number of vaccinations performed among the civil population during 1899-1900 was 8,125,000, being a decrease of 609,000 on the previous year's work. Of primary vaccinations, nearly 95 per cent. were successful, and 59 per cent. in the case of re-vaccinations, 32.9 per mille of the population having been successfully vaccinated. The number of infants vaccinated was 3,463,000, and of children between one and six years of age 2,990,000.

Some of the important sanitary works which have been completed or were in progress, or under consideration during 1899, were as follows:—

Bengal
Calcutta.

In Calcutta in the matter of water supply there is, as last year, nothing to record during the year 1899-1900 but the ordinary progress of the existing system. The average daily consumption of filtered water was 20,681,000 gallons, being at the rate of 34 gallons per head in the town and 20 gallons in the suburban area. The consumption of unfiltered water was 9,687,000 gallons per diem, or nearly 103 per cent. more than in the previous year, owing to improved machinery; the consumption per head was 17½ gallons in the municipal area, and 3½ gallons in the suburban area supplied, on the south of the town. Extensive improvements in the sewage and storm-water outfalls of the town and suburbs, and the provision of a system of sewers in the suburbs were being executed by contractors. The public sewers in use at the end of the year 1899-1900 measured over 200 miles. The presence of plague in an epidemic form rendered necessary a large amount of disinfection work, and for this purpose a staff of five European doctors, with a considerable number of inspectors, was retained. It is reported that the policy of relying entirely on disinfection was successful, and that practically all cases of plague were reported.

Interior of Bengal.

The municipalities of the interior of Bengal spent nearly 45 per cent. of their income on sanitation, as compared with nearly 46 per cent. expended in the previous year. In addition, a further sum of £20,300 was contributed by private individuals for sanitary works. The most important work was the completion of a portion of the flushing scheme of the Patna municipality. The water-works at Berhampore were opened during the year. Water-supply projects were considered by the Sanitary Board in respect to Dacca and Bhagalpur, and drainage projects for Manicktollah, Siwan, Dinajpore and other places. A preliminary estimate of £12,250 was also given for a scheme for increasing the water supply at Darjeeling, and a proposal to supply Patna with water was also under consideration. The towns in which drainage schemes have been carried out numbered six, exclusive of Calcutta, and nine towns have improved water supply.

North-Western
Provinces and
Oudh.

In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh the municipalities expended 35 per cent. of their aggregate income on water supply, drainage and conservancy. Nine towns, Agra, Allahabad, Benares, Cawnpore, Lucknow, Meerut, Mus-oorie, Dehra Dun and Naini Tal, are now furnished with waterworks and pumping machinery; these towns contain about one-third of the municipal population of the province. At Agra the water-supply arrangements were being repaired and improved during the year; in Benares the large sewerage works were in progress; in Cawnpore a new sewerage scheme was laid before the Board; and in Naini Tal the new water supply was practically completed. The Sanitary Board met four times in the course of the year. Analysis of the water from municipal waterworks showed in nearly all cases that it was pure; but the enteric microbe was detected in a sample of water from the Agra cantonment in time to prevent any ill results. Sanitary notebooks have been introduced in 22 districts.

Punjab.

In the Punjab the municipal towns spent nearly 23 per cent. of their income on sanitary objects in the year 1899. Water supply or drainage works were either completed, in progress, or under consideration in fourteen of the most important towns. The important water supply works at Simla were practically completed during the year, and work was begun on the Delhi extension scheme and other less important projects. Important works of this character were under consideration in Bhiwani and Dharmasala. Not much progress was made during the year with construction of drainage works, and operations were suspended at Delhi owing to lack of funds. Several important projects were, however, under consideration, including a scheme for Umballa, estimated to cost nearly

£7,000, and an extension scheme for Simla. Preliminary operations were in progress in connection with the Rawalpindi scheme, of which the estimated cost is £9,800. Private individuals also spent sums aggregating £5,100 on the construction of sanitary works during the year 1898-99. The Sanitary Board met seven times during the year. The system of village sanitary notebooks is in force in many villages, and is found to be of considerable value. Rewards are offered to village headmen who have shown conspicuous interest in the sanitation of their villages, and a few villages were recommended for such grants during the year. SANITATION.

The municipalities of Burma spent £133,300, or 34 per cent. of their income, on sanitary works; these figures include the ordinary sanitary work of Rangoon, which cost £101,200, or 45 per cent. of the municipal income, but they do not include the large expenditure on the reclamation works. The recently appointed Sanitary Engineer submitted six water-supply schemes, of which the following three were of importance:—Bassein, to cost £26,800, Minbu £6,700, Akyab £26,600. Progress was made with the water-supply projects for Moulmein, Maymyo, and the Meiktila and Rangoon cantonments, and an important scheme for the improvement of the Rangoon water-supply, to cost £70,000, was revised by the Engineer during the year. No large drainage scheme is at present in progress. Village sanitation notebooks are in general use, and by their aid permanent sanitary records are to be kept. In Rangoon £19,200 were spent on the reclamation of the eastern portion of the city, making the total so spent up to date £122,500. The Lanmadaw portion is still very insanitary, and reclamation work will, it is hoped, shortly be begun there. A scheme for the removal of rubbish in East Rangoon, put into operation during the year, gave good results. The drainage of the city is on the Shone system, and worked satisfactorily. Additional precautions were taken during the year to prevent a breakdown in the machinery. It has been decided to dispense with the Royal Lake as a reservoir for the water-supply. Burma

Some progress, mostly in the direction of the improvement of the water-supply, was made during the year 1899 in the Central Provinces both in urban and rural sanitation. The municipalities expended over £27,000 or 40 per cent. of their income, on conservancy, drainage and waterworks. The water-supply in Jubbulpore and Khandwa was extended by further distributories, and the works in Bhandara were completed, while the Wardha waterworks were in use for the first time throughout the year; progress was also made with the drainage of Jubbulpore. Two new villages were brought under the Village Sanitation Act during the year. Village inspection notebooks have been started in all districts, but little was done towards keeping them up. The famine was the cause of the short results not only in this direction but also in respect of the sanitary maps which have been prepared with a view to the collection of vital and sanitary statistics; the introduction of this system had to be postponed. Central Provinces.

Excluding six towns which have no separate incomes of their own, the municipal authorities in Assam spent 43 per cent. of their income on sanitation in the year 1899. No extensive sanitary work was undertaken during the year, but in almost all municipalities small sums were spent on improvements to the drainage and water-supply systems, and in one small town a proposal for a complete drainage scheme is said to be in contemplation. The sanitary improvements effected in rural tracts were chiefly in the direction of providing a purer water supply by the construction of masonry wells and the excavation of tanks at some of the larger villages; six tube wells were sunk in the Kamrup district. No formal meeting of the Sanitary Board was held during the year. Sanitary inspection books were kept up in selected villages, but owing to a lack of interest in sanitary matters on the part of the village officials the books are in many cases of little value. Assam.

In the Madras Presidency the district municipalities allotted 53 per cent., and the district boards 7 per cent., of their income for sanitary purposes. A large portion of this expenditure was on conservancy, but the allotment out of municipal incomes for water supply altogether amounted to £49,500, in addition to that of Madras city. The extensions of the waterworks at Conjeeveram and of pipe lines in Tanjore were completed in 1899, and the Madras.
Interior.

22 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

SANITATION.

water-supply scheme for Tirupati, which was estimated to cost £15,400, was also finished. Seven water-supply schemes were prepared and submitted; schemes for the water-supply of Coonoor and Tuticorin, and for the extension of waterworks at Trichinopoly at a cost of £13,900, were sanctioned by Government. Beside these, drainage projects for the Ootacamund bazaar and Kumbakonam were under consideration. The advance noted in 1898 in respect of conservancy was checked by the financial uncertainty caused by the presence of plague. Village sanitary inspection report books were in general use in 19 out of the 22 districts of the Presidency.

Madras City.

In Madras city the expenditure provided for sanitary purposes was £128,000, including £28,500 for conservancy, £12,100 for slaughter-houses, &c., and £78,100 on construction, &c. The work of taking levels and framing estimates for the city drainage was begun during the year. The Mylapore drainage system, recently completed, worked satisfactorily, the exception of the bursting of some cement pipes. An incinerator was completed and brought into use, and over 20,000 cartloads of rubbish were destroyed at a cost of about 5*d.* a load. The quantity of water supplied from the Red Hills Lake was about 5 per cent. greater than in the previous year; but the level of the lake was lower at the close of the year than at the beginning. The birth-rate of the town was 40 per mille, and the death-rate was 38.

Bombay.

Bombay City.

In Bombay City the gravitation portion of the Mazagaon sewage works was completed during the year, as also were the surface drainage works in the Kamatipoora district. Progress was made with the supply of machinery, &c., for the Parel and other sewage districts, and other important drainage works were at various stages of progress. Owing to the deficient rainfall, the water in the lakes from which the city takes its supply was affected both in quantity and quality, but the supply was sufficient. The municipality spent out of revenue £107,000 on public works, including roads, and £135,400 on public health, while £36,000 was spent out of loan funds on sewerage and £13,500 on minor sanitary works. The total expenditure on plague during the year was £63,600. The plague deaths during the calendar year 1899 were 15,796, or more than one-fourth of the total mortality. The death-rate from all causes was 68·7 per mille. The European death-rate was 16·5 per mille. A short account of the work of the Bombay City Improvement Trust, which has been created for the ventilation of densely inhabited parts, the removal of insanitary dwellings, and the prevention of overcrowding, is given under the heading "Municipalities."

Interior.

In the other municipalities of the Presidency over 49 per cent. of the income was allotted for sanitary purposes, and 10 per cent. by the local boards, though in neither case was the full allotment spent. The whole expenditure on sanitary purposes was £178,600. Of the municipal sanitary expenditure, 20 per cent. was spent on the improvement of water supply, 43 per cent. on conservancy, and the rest on improvement of town sites, markets, provision of tanks, &c. The large expenditure on plague precautions checked the prosecution of sanitary works; a drainage scheme at Ahmedabad, waterworks at Hyderabad, and water supply and drainage projects at Poona, were under consideration; but until the pressure of plague and famine has passed away funds are not likely to be available for their execution. The Bombay Village Sanitation Act was introduced in five other villages during 1899, and was abolished in four, making a total of 300 villages now under its provisions. The Act provides for the establishment of a sanitary committee or a sanitary board, consisting of members chosen by the collector of the district or by the Local Government, to supervise sanitary matters. Village sanitary inspection books were in use in 3,225 villages.

Berar.

The municipalities of Berar spent 48 per cent. and the district boards about 17 per cent. of their income on sanitary improvement in 1899. No new works of importance were in progress during the year. In the municipalities of Karinja and Buldana expenditure on drainage schemes had been sanctioned, but operations were stopped by the famine. Plans are being constructed for a drainage scheme at Ellichpur city. The District Sanitary Boards met once at each of the six head-quarter stations. The sanitary survey

of selected towns and large villages made fair progress, and the number of towns now surveyed is 37, and of villages 1,127, leaving two towns and 4,116 villages still to be surveyed. The suggestions made for improvements, as a result of the survey, caused the expenditure of £1,400 during the year by district boards, but in many cases they could not be put into effect owing to lack of funds.

SANITATION.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND LEPER ASYLUMS.

There are in India, besides the large hospitals in presidency and other important towns, a number of dispensaries which are maintained for the most part at the expense of municipal or local bodies. These are the chief agencies for the medical attendance of the rural population, but there is a large number of missionary dispensaries in many provinces, for which no statistics are available, and an attempt is being made in a district of Bengal to deal with the question by issuing simple medicine chests to headmen of villages remote from dispensaries. The latter, however, is as yet only in the position of an experiment. The following table compares the position of the various provinces, outside the presidency towns, in respect of hospital and dispensary attendance. The number of dispensaries is that for which returns were available for the year; and no account has been taken, for the reason given above, of mission dispensaries:—

Province.	Number of Dispensaries.	Square Miles per Dispensary.	Population per Dispensary.	Number of Patients per Dispensary.
Bengal - - - -	513	295	137,749	6,416
Bombay - - - -	343	364	52,581	6,916
Madras - - - -	523	270	67,264	8,081
Central Provinces - -	127	705	84,917	12,060
Punjab - - - -	272	407	76,716	11,606
North-Western Provinces -	374	287	125,414	10,692
Burma - - - -	110	1,558	69,168	7,436

The hospitals in the larger towns are in many cases on an important scale, as, for instance, the Campbell hospital at Calcutta, with its daily average of 395 in-patients in 1899, the Sir J. Jijibhoy hospital in Bombay City with 308 beds, the Government General hospital at Madras with 498 beds, the Mayo hospital at Lahore with 149 beds, the Rangoon General hospital with about 460 beds, and others. The expenses are met to a large extent by the State, especially in the presidency towns, and State subventions are frequently given to dispensaries supported by local funds or private subscriptions. In Calcutta, the Government paid £52,400 out of a total expenditure of £68,400; in Bombay City, £20,800 out of £29,300; in Madras City, £20,400 out of £27,400. Elsewhere, however, the chief contributions are from local funds; of the £72,900 spent on the Madras dispensaries in the interior, £58,200 came from local funds; in Burma, out of £37,500, 70 per cent. came from local funds, and so on. Private subscriptions do not form a large proportion of the receipts; in Calcutta they amounted to £964 in the year 1899; in the rest of Bengal to £17,100; and in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh to £7,700; elsewhere the amounts were smaller.

The year under notice shows an increase in the number of patients in attendance at the hospitals and dispensaries, and in view of the fact that the general mortality, though higher than in 1898, was considerably below the

SANITATION.

average of the quinquennium, the increase points to the growing popularity of these institutions. There is, however, an enormous mass of disease and sickness in India, which is as yet untouched by any hospitals or dispensaries.

At the leper hospital in Madras 474 patients were under treatment during the year 1899. At the six leper asylums in the Punjab 566 lepers were treated. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh there are asylums in which 1,003 lepers were inmates during the year. At the Sylhet leper asylum in Assam, which was opened in the previous year, 14 lepers were admitted.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

Bengal.

In the Province of Bengal there are five lunatic asylums for natives, situated at Dullunda, Dacca, Patna, Cuttack and Berhampore. The number of lunatics in these institutions on the 31st December 1899 was 889, of whom 714 were males and 175 females. The daily average strength of the several asylums during the year was as follows:—Dullunda, 215·01; Dacca, 219·72; Patna, 236·31; Cuttack 42·95; Berhampore, 188·85. The total number of criminal lunatics in the five asylums on 31st December was 476, 420 being males and 56 females. The total lunatic population for the year shows an increase on that of 1898, 220 patients in all being admitted, as against 159 in the previous year. 110 persons were discharged cured, while 87 died. Of the 220 admissions the cause of insanity was traced in 102 cases, a large proportion being, as usual, due to ganja-smoking. With regard to the health of the lunatics, admissions to hospital fell off by 44, while the daily average of sick shows a marked diminution. Discharges numbered 155 as against 99 in the previous year. This increase was largely due to the increased number of recoveries, and must therefore be regarded as a satisfactory state of affairs.

The total expenditure on asylums for the year amounted to £6,222.

There is an European lunatic asylum at Bhawanipur, the total strength of which was 54 (including 17 admissions and 2 re-admissions during the year). 5 persons were discharged cured, 7 transferred to the care of friends and 1 despatched to Europe as still insane. Deaths during the year numbered 4. The expenditure on this asylum was £1,363.

North-West
Provinces and
Oudh.

The population of the four lunatic asylums in these Provinces (viz: Bareilly, Benares, Agra, and Lucknow) rose during the year from 1,030 to 1,115. The average daily strength at the several institutions during 1899 was as follows:—Bareilly, 301·3; Benares, 306·1; Agra, 251·3; Lucknow, 224·1. Five Europeans and Eurasians were admitted during the year, making a total of 20 of this class confined; two were cured and discharged. Buildings for the reception of all European lunatics are under construction at Agra; pending the completion of these buildings, European patients are confined in all the asylums, except that at Lucknow. Four lunatics escaped during the year, of whom 2 were recaptured. The number of deaths was 88. The number of criminal lunatics in the four asylums on 31st December 1899 was 242. The increase (68) in the total number of criminal lunatics confined in asylums is chiefly due to the number (49) transferred from central jails.

The causes of insanity were recorded as known in about 50 per cent. of the number of cases admitted. In about 20 per cent. of the total number admitted, insanity was attributed to the use of intoxicants.

The expenditure on construction and repairs was £452, and on the maintenance of the lunatics £4,659.

Punjab.

There are two lunatic asylums in the Punjab, one at Lahore and one at Delhi. On 1st January 1899 there were 424 lunatics in confinement in these two establishments. There were 183 admissions and re-admissions, making a total of 607 during the year. 114 persons were discharged (65 being cured), 1 escaped and 35 died, so that there remained at the close of the year 457. At the close of 1899 there were 79 criminal lunatics at Lahore and 11 at Delhi. The expenditure on the Lahore asylum amounted to £2,377 and that on the Delhi establishment to £853.

On 1st March 1900, the new central lunatic asylum for the Punjab being ready for occupation, the inmates of both the old asylums were moved into it. SANITATION.

In the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) there are lunatic asylums at Colaba, Ratnagiri, Poona, Dharwar, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad. The total population of the 6 asylums was 1,114, or 71 more than in the previous year. Of this number 282 were new admissions and 21 re-admissions. Included in the number were 73 Europeans and 5 Eurasians. In all 89 inmates were discharged cured during the year and 133 (of whom 114 were classed as "improved") were handed over to friends. The general record of health shows an improvement, but the number of deaths rose from 55 to 86. Criminal lunatics numbered 148 (137 males and 11 females), of whom 105 males and 11 females remained in confinement at the close of the year. -Of the number of cases in which the cause of insanity is known, a large proportion is attributed to the use of spirits and intoxicating drugs. Ganja-smoking was responsible for insanity in 10 of the cases of persons charged with crimes of violence. Bombay.

The total expenditure amounted to £10,124, or about £30 less than in 1898.

As in the previous year, there were 3 asylums—at Madras, Calicut, and Vizagapatam. The number of patients under treatment was 577 at the beginning and 554 at the close of the year. The daily average number of sick was 81.34, as against 75.25 in 1898. There were 59 deaths during the year (51 at Madras, 6 at Calicut, and 2 at Vizagapatam), while 115 patients were discharged. 29 Criminal lunatics were admitted, against 19 in the previous year. Of the total number admitted in the course of the year (151) 113 were between the ages of 20 and 40, and 30 between 40 and 60. Madras.

The total expenditure was £5,721.

There are two lunatic asylums in the Central Provinces—at Nagpur and Jubbulpore. The total population of these two asylums rose during the year under notice from 326 to 340. There were 69 admissions, 14 deaths, and 41 discharges. The health of the lunatics was quite satisfactory: both the total number of admissions to hospital and the death-rates show a considerable drop from the figures of the preceding year. The average daily strength was 172.90 and 155.02 at Nagpur and Jubbulpore respectively. The total number of criminal lunatics remaining at the close of the year was 95. There was a total of 11 deaths at Nagpur and three at Jubbulpore. One lunatic escaped from Jubbulpore, and was not recaptured. Central Provinces.

There is one lunatic asylum in the province of Assam, situated at Tezpur. During the year 22 patients were admitted and there were nine deaths. The number of inmates at the close of the year was 119 (95 men and 24 women), as against 125. During the year 18 persons were discharged (15 cured and three improved). The number of criminal lunatics was 37 (33 men and four women). Assam.

The total expenditure for the year was £808 (excluding £19 received from paying patients).

The only lunatic asylum in Burma is at Rangoon. During 1899 the total number of inmates increased from 345 to 365. Criminal lunatics, including those under confinement at the beginning of the year, numbered 199. There seems to be a need for further accommodation for female lunatics. There were 117 admissions, 67 discharges, and 30 deaths during the year. There were four escapes, and in two cases the lunatics were not recaptured. Burma.

The total expenditure was £3,172.

CHAPTER II. A.

FAMINE, &c.

FAMINE AND PLAGUE.

The progress and prosperity of India have been materially affected during the year 1899-1900 by famine and plague; some short account of these disasters must find place in the present Statement, and the narrative is brought down to the end of 1900.

FAMINE.

FAMINE.

Rainfall.

The crops and the food supply of India depend mainly on rain. Out of a total crop area of about 225 million acres in British districts about one-sixth is irrigated from wells, canals, tanks and rivers. The main rainy season, or autumn monsoon, lasts from June till October; and the second rainy season, which on the south coast and in parts of Northern India is very important, falls between November and January. The main food supply of great tracts in Western and Central India depends upon the autumn rains. In the summer of 1899 the rain began late and with less vigour than usual; the rainfall of July and August was below the normal supply over the whole of Western and Central India, and over considerable tracts of Southern and Northern India; while throughout those regions September and October were practically rainless. When reviewing the course of the famine, the Viceroy, addressing the Legislative Council on the 19th October, spoke as follows:—

“The famine has affected an area of over 400,000 square miles, and a population of about 60 millions, of whom 25 millions belong to British India and the remainder to Native States. Within this area the famine conditions have, during the greater part of the year, been intense. Outside it, they have extended with a gradually dwindling radius over wide districts, which have suffered much from loss of crops and cattle, if not from actual scarcity. In a greater or less degree, nearly one-fourth of the entire population of the Indian continent have come within the range of relief operations. It is difficult to express in figures with any close degree of accuracy the loss occasioned by so widespread and severe a visitation. But it may be roughly put in this way. The annual agricultural production of India and Burma averages, in value, between 300 and 400* crores of rupees. On a very cautious estimate, the production in 1899-1900 must have been at least one-quarter, if not one-third, below the average. At normal prices the loss was at least 75 crores, or 50 millions sterling. In this estimate India is treated as a whole. But in reality the loss fell on a portion only of the continent, and ranged from almost total failure of crop in Guzarat, Berar, Chhattisgarh and Hissar, and in many of the Rajputana States to 20 and 30 per cent. in districts of the North-Western Provinces and Madras, which were not reckoned as falling within the famine tract. If to this be added the value of some millions of cattle, some conception may be formed of the destruction of property which a great drought occasions. There have been many great droughts in India, but there has been no other of which such figures could be predicated as these.

“It must further be remembered that, unlike previous famines, that of 1900 was separated by the short space of only two years from a drought not greatly inferior to it in extent and scarcity. Some tracts which suffered in 1896-97 have been fortunate enough to escape in 1899-1900. But the most calamitous feature of the recent famine has been that there were others which not only suffered again, but suffered in a worse degree. This was the case in the Central Provinces and in portions of Rajputana, Central India, the South-East Punjab, and the Bombay Dekkhan. Apart from this area of two-fold distress, the centre of gravity tended on the present occasion to shift towards the west. The cluster of native States lying between the Nerbudda, the Jumna and the Sutlej were swept into the area of scarcity. Finally, the fertile provinces of

* In a later speech a somewhat higher estimate was given.

Guzarat and Kathiawar, whose rainfall is generally so abundant and so steady that they have been styled the Garden of India, were attacked, and there, in proportion as the immunity hitherto enjoyed has been the longest, so was the suffering the most widespread and enduring. FAMINE.

“This was the situation with which we were confronted a year ago, and which has gradually developed since. It was not merely a crop failure, but a fodder famine on an enormous scale, followed in many parts by a positive devastation of cattle—both plough cattle, buffaloes and milch kine. In other words, it affected, and may almost be said to have annihilated, the working capital of the agricultural classes. It struck some of them when they were still down from the effects of the recent shock. It struck others who had never before known what calamity was, and who were crushed and shattered by the suddenness and directness of the blow. It attacked Native States to whose Durbars had never previously been brought home the obligation of famine relief on an extended scale and whose dearth of administrative staff was enhanced by the poverty of their financial resources. It laid its hand upon primitive hill men, unused to discipline or restraint, impulsive, improvident, lazy, living in an almost barbarous state in wild and inaccessible jungles. It sharpened the lurking nomadic instinct of wandering tribes, and sent them aimlessly drifting about the country, a terror to the famine officer, and an incubus to the camps. For a year it never left hold of its victims; and one half of the year had not elapsed before famine had brought its familiar attendant furies in its train; and cholera, dysentery and fever had fallen upon an already exhausted and enfeebled population. This is the picture of suffering that India has presented during the past year. Let us now examine the steps that have been taken to ameliorate it.

“In such diverse circumstances the methods of relief, the difficulties encountered, and the degree of success attained, have varied greatly. The preceding famine had bequeathed experiences and lessons of the utmost value, which were carefully gathered up by the Commission of 1898, and which have profoundly affected the policy of the present famine. The stress laid by the Commission on the necessity for starting relief before the people have run down; their advocacy of more extensive gratuitous relief, especially in the form of kitchen relief; their recommendations concerning the special treatment of aboriginal and forest tribes; their approval of small or village relief works in special circumstances in preference to large works,—these and other injunctions will be found to have influenced our measures and shaped our course throughout the famine. The Commission’s recommendations were generally in the direction of greater flexibility in relief methods and greater liberality of relief. The dangers of ill-regulated profusion are obvious; and apart from all considerations of cost, it would be a national misfortune if relief were ever made so facile or so pleasant as to destroy the self-respect and self-reliance of the people. But the Commission were not unmindful of this danger, and their findings amounted to this, that they recognised that in the last famine we had not succeeded in preventing great mortality and suffering, and that they thought better results might be attainable by a larger expenditure of money and a somewhat greater regard to the circumstances of special localities and classes. They said in effect that, if it was a good policy to combat a famine, it was good policy to combat it effectively. It is possible that in certain directions their recommendations erred on the side of over-liberality. Their wage scale is an instance. It was tried in all provinces at the commencement of the present famine, but was speedily reduced by the independent consent of all Local Governments. Again, their advocacy of gratuitous relief may be said by some to have led in the present famine to a scale of almsgiving unprecedented in magnitude, and likely to embarrass future famine administration. This question I will discuss in a moment. I merely mention the matter now to show that in the present famine we have broken new ground, and, acting upon the lessons of its predecessor, have accepted a higher standard of moral and financial obligation than has ever before been recognised or acted upon in this or any country.

“If, indeed, a special characteristic should be attributed to our campaign of famine relief in the past year, it has been its unprecedented liberality. There is no parallel in the history of India, or in that of any country in the world, to

FAMINE.

the total of over six million persons who, in British India and the Native States, have for weeks on end been dependent upon the charity of Government. Let me compare these figures with those of the preceding famine. In 1897, the high-water mark of relief was reached in the second fortnight of May, when there were nearly 4 million persons on relief in British India. Taking the affected population of 40 millions, the ratio of relief was 10 per cent. In one district of Madras, and in two districts of the North-Western Provinces, the ratio for some months was about 30 per cent.; but these were exceptional cases. In the most distressed districts of the Central Provinces, 15 or 16 per cent. was regarded in 1896-97 as a very high standard of relief. Now, take the figures of the present year. For some weeks in June and July upwards of 4½ million persons were on relief in British India. Reckoned on a population of, say, 25 millions, the ratio of relief was 18 per cent., as compared with 10 per cent. in 1897. In many districts the proportion exceeded 20 per cent. In several it exceeded 30 per cent. In two districts it exceeded 40 per cent. In the small district of Merwara, where famine has been present for two years, 75 per cent. of the population has been on relief. Nothing that I might say can intensify the simple eloquence of these figures.

"The next test that I apply is that of the number of officers whom we have lent, both to British districts and to Native States, to reinforce the overworked and, in many cases, undermanned local establishments. From the army 84 Staff Corps officers, 17 Native officers, 10 British non-commissioned officers and privates, and 228 Native non-commissioned officers and privates, have been deputed, for periods of various length, to famine duty in British India and Native States. They have done excellent work. Including the above, the total number of public officials deputed from civil and military employ to famine duty has amounted to 637. Among these were 35 assistant surgeons and 141 hospital assistants, 44 civil engineers, 10 Royal Engineers, and 24 public works subordinates. Large as these numbers were, we would gladly have sent more, had the men been forthcoming. Since the famine began, I cannot recall ever having refused an application, if it was possible to grant it. We literally scoured the remaining provinces of India for the loan of men, and with great generosity, wherever practicable, their Governments responded to the appeal. After my return from Guzarat, we collected and sent down a large number of additional hospital assistants, of whom I had noticed a regrettable paucity, to Bombay. Similarly in the Native States, as the Chiefs and Durbars have repeatedly acknowledged, it has only been owing to the administrative knowledge, the unflagging energy and the devotion of the British officers whom we have lent to them, that they have escaped a disastrous breakdown.

"My third test is that of financial outlay. The direct expenditure on famine relief in British India and in Berar, from the commencement of relief-operations up to the end of August, has been 854 lakhs of rupees. We estimate a further expenditure of about 150 lakhs up to the 31st March next, making in all in round numbers about 10 crores of rupees. In loans and advances to landholders and cultivators we have expended Rs. 238 lakhs. We have made advances for plough-cattle and for agricultural operations this autumn free of interest, and on very easy terms as to eventual repayment; and our expectation is that not more than one-half will be recovered. In the matter of land revenue, our latest estimate is that, of a demand of Rs. 392 lakhs in the Central Provinces and Bombay, Rs. 164 lakhs will be uncollected during the year. In the distressed districts of the Punjab suspensions aggregating Rs. 41 lakhs are anticipated. With these figures I compare those for the famine for 1896-97, calling attention, however, to the fact that in 1896-97 the area and population in British India affected by famine were considerably larger than in the present year. The total direct expenditure on famine relief was 727 lakhs of rupees; 130 lakhs were advanced as *takkavi*; and land revenue to the amount of about 2 crores was suspended. In this comparison, our further outlay in connection with relief in Native States has been omitted, for the reason that, in 1896-97, the calls upon us in that respect were insignificant. In the present famine, our loans to Native States in Rajputana have amounted to 69 lakhs of rupees; to Native States in the Bombay Presidency we have lent 78 lakhs of rupees, besides guaranteeing the repayment of loans to the amount

of 105 lakhs of rupees borrowed by other States in the market. We have also come to the assistance of the Nizam of Hyderabad, whose extensive dominions have suffered from severe drought. In all, our actual loans to native rulers in connection with the present famine amount in the aggregate to over 3½ crores. This is exclusive of the guaranteed loans. Without this assistance it may be safely said that the States would have been wholly unequal to the task of relieving their subjects, and even in some cases of carrying on the ordinary administration of their territories. FAMINE.

“I now pass to an examination of the methods of famine relief which we have adopted. In one respect they have differed materially from those of the preceding famine. Profiting by its lessons, we have learned to apply a much more flexible system. Thus in 1897 the effective relief of the aboriginal races in the Central Provinces was regarded as an insoluble problem. They suffered and perished in their jungles. This year congenial work and extensive gratuitous relief were provided for them in the forests, and the Gonds and Baigas have survived with no exceptional mortality. Again, whereas in 1897 there was a terrible mortality in the Central Provinces when the rains set in, owing to the abrupt closing of relief works without a simultaneous expansion of home or village relief, in the present year we have scattered broadcast over the country an extensive system of kitchen relief upon which, while no one disputes its general necessity or its success, the only criticism that has been passed is that it has erred on the side of liberality, and has been abused by able-bodied persons who preferred to be fed for nothing in the kitchens to earning their own livelihood in the fields. In 1897, the complaint was one of parsimony and lack of preparation. If we have now in some cases gone too far in the opposite direction, some allowance must be made for the natural recoil from earlier mistakes.

“Guzarat supplies another instance of the degree in which we have accentuated and added to the flexibility of the famine code. When the great outbreak of cholera had disorganised the large relief works, and had driven the terrified workers away to their homes, and when extraordinarily high death-rates revealed the existence of very widespread destitution and suffering, the Government of India did not hesitate to advise the Bombay Government to meet the situation by enlarging the customary bounds of gratuitous relief, and by opening petty village works to take the place of the deserted public works relief camps. The effect of this policy was that, whereas in the middle of May the number of persons on gratuitous relief in the five districts of Guzarat was little more than 50,000, at the end of June it had risen to 150,000; at the end of July to 308,000; and by the middle of August to 385,000, the last figure representing more than 12 per cent. of the entire population of those districts. Before the present famine, such a percentage would have been regarded as a flagrant abuse of famine relief. We were, however, satisfied that a strict adherence to the labour-test principle would in June and July last have failed to meet the very special set of circumstances created by the cholera outbreak in Guzarat, and I have no doubt that the satisfactory decline in the death-rate was largely due to the policy adopted.

“In drawing attention, however, to the greater liberality of relief that has been practised, the question may be asked whether it was after all only due to the superior intensity of this year's famine, or whether it has denoted greater efficiency and perfection of method, or has perhaps only been the result of promiscuous and thoughtless charity. Some part of it must no doubt be attributed to the greater severity of the recent distress which I have already demonstrated. Upon the second head we may safely claim to have profited by experience in the improvement of our relief arrangements, and in their more accurate adaptation to the special circumstances of different districts, the special requirements of different classes, and the different seasons of the year. No critic would dispute this proposition. As regards the third point, it is not without a smile that, while I now read in some quarters that the conditions of relief, notably in respect of kitchen relief in the Central Provinces, have been relaxed to a dangerous and demoralising degree, I remember that, nine months ago, the Government of India were being assailed for the alleged stringency and harshness of the warnings that they had given in the Circular of December 1899. Looking back upon our entire experience, I have now no hesitation in

FAMINE.

saying that our warning note was well timed and was wisely issued. Our inquiry was followed by a very salutary reorganisation of relief works in the Central Provinces and elsewhere, by large additions in all provinces to the superior famine staff, and by considerable improvements in the supervision and conduct of relief measures. One of its results was the exposure of inadequacy of the superior staff, and of the dangers which were certain to ensue if this were not rectified. It was in consequence of this discovery that we offered the substantial help, in respect of Staff Corps officers, medical officers, officers drafted from the Postal, Salt and Police Departments, and Engineers, of which I have already spoken.

"I should like to add that, in my opinion, there was no inconsistency between the position taken up by the Government of India in the first months of the famine, and their subsequent attitude in permitting a vast expansion of gratuitous relief during the rains in the Central Provinces, and in counselling the Government of Bombay to relax the conditions of relief in Guzarat, when cholera had disorganised the large works. Conditions are radically different at the beginning and at the height of a famine; and a degree of firmness at the outset is essential which would, at a later stage, be altogether out of place. If this be borne in mind, our policy will on examination prove to have been consistent throughout. On the one hand, we have set our face against indiscriminate and pauperising charity, and have endeavoured to insist on relief being administered with the care and method which we owe to the taxpayer and to the exchequer. On the other hand, we have been prepared to accept any expenditure of which it could be shown that it was required to save life or to mitigate genuine distress. The only intelligent and the only possible policy is based on these two principles. There is no contradiction between them. No famine has ever been, or ever will be, successfully administered that does not exhibit, according to the point from which it is scrutinised, the opposite characteristics of strictness and leniency, or that is not open to the charge—if charges are to be brought—of being at different moments profuse and grudging.

"Nevertheless, we may still be asked whether we are quite satisfied that the abnormal mortality in Guzarat, the widespread misery described by competent observers, and the temporary breakdown of the relief machinery in that part were not due to any fault in our initial instructions. That the mortality was very great cannot be denied. In Broach the monthly death-rate rose from 2·96 per mille in October 1899 to 24·83 in May 1900. In the Panch Mahals the death-rate for the same month of May was 46·60 per mille; in Kaira, 21·07; in Ahmedabad, 24. These rates include deaths from cholera, a most virulent wave of which swept over Guzarat in April; although it is impossible to distinguish accurately between the mortality for which cholera was directly responsible and that which was due to other diseases, to debility, to privations, and to the temporary disorganisation of the camps. I have seen the report of a special inquiry which had just been conducted into the Guzarat mortality by the Sanitary Commissioner to the Bombay Government. He specifies no fewer than eight causes for the excessive death-rate in that district. They were insufficient and unwholesome food; resort to Rangoon rice and other unaccustomed grains; bad cooking and bad water; the physical softness of a people who had never previously experienced famine; the unwillingness of certain classes, such as the Bhils and herdsmen, to apply for relief; and the vagabond instincts of large sections of the population. Some of these causes were preventible or reducible; the majority were not. If a perfect relief system is anywhere attainable; it is obvious that it is more likely to be realised in a district where the people are already acquainted with the principles of relief, and where they feel no natural reluctance to avail themselves of it. Neither of those conditions were present in Guzarat. The rapidity and completeness of the calamity took the people by surprise; the weakness and incapacity for resistance of the people took the Local Government by surprise. Had there been greater previous experience in either respect, the results might have been modified. The failure was certainly not due to any antecedent orders on the part of Government, or to any parsimony in the scheme of relief. On the contrary, the actual cost of relief per head in Bombay exceeded the cost-rate in other parts of India. While, therefore, I feel that the excessive mortality in

Guzarat is a phenomenon of which it is difficult to give a full explanation, and which may still call for further inquiry, I think that a good deal of weight should be attached, in a comparison, for instance, between Guzarat and the Central Provinces, to the different temperaments of the afflicted populations, and to their relative familiarity or unfamiliarity with relief methods. FAMINE.

"If we examine the death-rate elsewhere, we shall find that, in the Central Provinces, it remained satisfactorily low until the concluding months of the famine. Excluding epidemic disease, the provincial rate for April was only 3.25 per mille, and for May 3.42 per mille. These were the worst months in Guzarat. In June the rate (excluding cholera and small-pox, which carried off 23,000 persons) rose to 4 per mille, and in some parts was higher. In July it rose to 5.35 per mille, while some districts showed a local rate of from 7 to 10 per mille. In August the death-rate in one district rose to no less than 15.21 per mille. It is a curious fact, however, that this high mortality was not accompanied by any exterior evidence of starvation or even of emaciation. The people in fact did not die of want of food, but from the sudden change in climatic conditions, which occurs during and after the rains.

"In the Punjab, the mortality statistics exhibit much the same features as in the Central Provinces, though in a slightly less degree. In Hissar, where the death-rate has been highest, it has never exceeded 8 per mille, excluding cholera. The result of my examination has been to show that relief has been fully and sufficiently given in the Punjab, and that there has been no mortality from starvation, or even from direct privation, save in the case of wanderers from Native States, who arrived in too debilitated a condition to be saved.

"In Berar, the death-rate has been generally moderate, except in two districts adjoining the Nizam's Dominions, where there was much pauper emigration across the border. In the last weeks of the hot weather the mortality rose everywhere, especially in those two districts; but no one has been found to suggest that it was due to any deficiency of relief.

"I do not speak of the mortality in the Native States, which has in many cases been shocking, because the Government of India cannot be held responsible for a system which it does not control, and because my sole desire has been, while stating the best, and admitting the worst, that can be said about our own methods, to ascertain how far the latter have justified themselves, or are capable of amendment. Broadly speaking, it may be said that no endeavours which it is in the power of the most philanthropic or generous of Governments to put forward will avail to prevent an increase of mortality during a severe famine. No relief system in the world will counteract the effects of reduced food-supply, cessation of wages, high prices and break up of homes, among millions of people, or will prevent famine from being attended by its twin sister, pestilence.

"When, however, I read the records of earlier famines, and compare their results with this, I do feel some cause for satisfaction. We are sometimes told of the wonderful things that happened in India before the days of British rule, and are invited, in most unhistorical fashion, to regard it as a Saturnian age. I have looked up the statistics of the last great famine that occurred in Bengal, while that province was still under Native administration. This was in the year 1770. I speak of local administration, because, although the Diwani of Bengal had been assumed by the Company a few years before, the latter had not yet taken over the civil administration, which remained in the hands of the former native officers of the Delhi Government. Throughout the summer of that year it is on record that the husbandmen sold their cattle; they sold their implements of agriculture; they sold their sons and daughters, till at length no buyer of children could be found; they ate the leaves of trees and the grass of the field; and, when the height of the summer was reached, the living were feeding on the dead. The streets of the cities were blocked up with promiscuous heaps of the dead and dying; even the dogs and jackals could not accomplish their revolting work. Disease attacked the starving and shelterless survivors, and swept them off by hundreds of thousands. Before the end of May 1770, one-third of the population was officially calculated to have disappeared; in June the deaths were returned as 6 is to 16 of the whole inhabitants; and it was estimated that one-half of the cultivators must perish. Two years later Warren Hastings, who had assumed the Government of Bengal on behalf of the British Power, stated the entire loss as at least

FAMINE.

one-third of the inhabitants, and subsequent calculations revealed that the failure of this single crop, in the single province of Bengal, had carried off within nine months no fewer than ten out of less than thirty millions of human beings."

Dealing with the question of the mortality caused by the famine, His Excellency continued:—

"What the actual mortality may have been, it is impossible to tell with complete accuracy. At a later date the forthcoming census will throw useful light upon the problem. At the same time, from a comparison of the normal death-rate of the famine-stricken districts in British India, with which alone, of course, I am competent to deal, with the death-rate throughout the twelve months' duration of the drought, we can ascertain that there has been an excess mortality of 750,000, or $\frac{3}{4}$ million persons. But out of this total we also know that cholera and small-pox have accounted for a recorded mortality of 230,000, figures which are admitted to be below the mark. Making this deduction, therefore, we arrive at an excess mortality of half a million in British India, more or less attributable to the famine conditions of the year. To say that the greater part of these have died of starvation, or even of destitution, would be an unjustifiable exaggeration; since we know that many other contributory causes have been at work, while the figures include the deaths of immigrants from Native States, for which our administration cannot be held responsible. When further it is remembered that this total is not more than 2 per cent. of the entire population in the tracts to which it applies, it will be obvious that no very remarkable depopulation has occurred, and it will be recognised that it is with ample justification that I give the assurance that in the entire history of Indian famines, while none has been more intense, in none have the deaths been so few.

"So far my remarks have been confined almost exclusively to what has been done in the recent famine in British India. I must add a few words about the Native States, many of which have been affected in a scarcely inferior degree to our own territories. As I indicated a year ago, while we have sedulously refrained from assuming the direct responsibility for famine relief in those areas, and have shrunk from any unsolicited interference with native administration, we have yet, in the discharge of our duty as the paramount Power, and in the interests of the States themselves, tendered them constant advice; have lent them competent officers, have made them liberal loans, and have supplied co-ordination and system to their methods of relief. On the whole, we may congratulate ourselves upon the success that has attended these efforts. In a few states the duty of succouring their subjects has been so neglected by the Durbars as to need strong interference; and in others the good intentions of rulers have been frustrated by the dishonesty and speculation of subordinate officials, who could not resist turning even the starvation of their fellow-creatures to their own profit. But in the majority of cases the Chiefs have shown a most laudable disposition to accept our methods of relief, in so far as their resources and the agency at their command permitted. In some of the Rajputana States, especially in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikanir and Kishengarh, the arrangements have been admirably planned and carried out by the rulers themselves, and have aroused the admiration of persons familiar with the famine system of British provinces. Surveying the Native States as a whole, we may say that there has been an awakening to the call of philanthropic duty, which has been most gratifying.

"Nevertheless, the difference of the standards in vogue may be judged from a comparison of the measures on relief in the two areas. In Bikanir and Jodhpur, for instance, the members relieved in any month never exceeded 6 per cent. of the nominal population, while in the British districts of Ajmer-Merwara, 25 per cent. of the population were for months on relief. Even in the States under the Bombay Government, in which for various reasons the initiative and supervision of the political officers were more in evidence than in Central India and Rajputana, the scale of relief was very different from that in Guzarat. In Kathiawar, the numbers on relief never exceeded 13 per cent. of the population. In Palaupur they reached, but did not exceed, 15 per cent. in one month alone. In the same month (July 1900) one-third of the aggregate population of the four distressed districts of Guzarat was on relief. The two great States of Baroda and Hyderabad flank the Bombay territory on the

north and east. In Hyderabad and Baroda the numbers on relief never rose to 5 per cent. of the nominal population; and yet both States were visited by drought and famine not less severely than the adjoining districts of the Bombay Presidency. Meanwhile, the difference in the standards of relief was further testified by the eagerness with which thousands of fugitives streamed across the border from Native States into British territory, where they passed themselves off as British subjects, in the hope of enjoying the superior wages and comforts of our relief-works, our poor-houses, and our hospitals.

"I do not dwell on this point in order to disparage the efforts, in many cases most praiseworthy, made by Native States to relieve their people; but simply because the difference between the standard of relief at which we have by degrees arrived, and the standard of relief recognised as liberal in the best managed Native State, is one of the elementary facts of famine experience. We may gladly admit that more has been done for their people by the Chiefs and rulers of Rajputana on this occasion than in any other historic famine. There are many bright examples of benevolence and humanity. The Maharaja of Jaipur has extended his princely munificence not only to his own people, but to India at large. There is the instance of the late Maharaja of Kishengarh, who, though suffering from a mortal illness, took the keenest interest in the relief arrangements of his State, and never once alluded to his own ill-health. There is also the case of the wife of Maharaja Pertab Singh of Jodhpur, who, not content with opening an orphanage, resided there herself in order to superintend it. These instances—and their number might easily be increased—show the spirit with which the famine has been faced in Rajputana by some, at least, of its rulers. As for the people, they have borne their trials, as the Indian people always do, with exemplary fortitude and resignation.

"I now pass to the subject of the charitable help which has been rendered to us in our long struggle, from so many quarters, in so many parts of the world. An impression appears to prevail that on the present occasion this assistance has been scant and disappointing. I do not share these views. Looking to the circumstances under which our appeal has been made, and even accepting the test of comparison with the famine of 1896-97, I still hold that the amount contributed has been munificent, while its utility can scarcely be overrated. In 1896-97 the total collections amounted to 170 lakhs, of which 10 lakhs remained over at the beginning of the recent famine; in the present year the Central Relief Committee has received a sum of close upon 140 lakhs, or not far short of one million sterling.

"Analysing the subscriptions I find that India has contributed about the same amount to the fund as in 1896-97; that is to say, about 32 lakhs. If the contributions from the European community are deducted, India may be considered to have contributed at the outside less than one-fifth of the total collections of 140 lakhs. More might have been expected from the native community as a whole, notwithstanding individual examples of remarkable generosity. The little colony of the Straits Settlements, for instance, which has no connection with India beyond that of sentiment, has given more than the whole of the Punjab. A careful observation of the figures and proceedings in each province compels me to say that, in my opinion, native India has not yet reached as high a standard of practical philanthropy or charity as might reasonably be expected. Though private wealth in India is not widely distributed, its total volume is considerable. If Englishmen in all parts of the world can be found, as they have been found, twice in three years, willing to contribute enormous sums for the relief of India, on the sole ground that its people are the suffering fellow subjects of the same Queen, it surely behoves the more affluent of the native community not to lag behind in the succour of those who are of their own race and creed.

"The collections from abroad have amounted to 108 lakhs, as against 137 lakhs in 1896-97. The United Kingdom's contribution of 88½ lakhs compares indifferently with its contribution of 123 lakhs in 1896-97, but in the circumstances of the year it is a noble gift. The City of Glasgow has been especially generous, with a donation of 8½ lakhs, and Liverpool with 4½, in addition to nearly 16 lakhs from the rest of Lancashire. Australasia has given nearly 8 lakhs in place of the 2 lakhs sent in 1896-97. The Straits Settlements, Ceylon, and Hong Kong have also been extremely generous. Even Chinese native officials have collected handsome sums on behalf of the fund. The liberal donation of Germany, at the instigation of the Emperor, has already been

FAMINE.

publicly acknowledged. Finally, the United States of America, both through direct contributions to the fund, and by means of privately distributed gifts of money and grain, have once more shown their vivid sympathy with England's mission and with India's need.

"I pass to the mode in which the famine fund has been distributed. The formation of the fund was accompanied by two announcements: the one, that in the distribution of the money the four objects of relief recognised in 1896-97 would be adhered to; the other that the claims of Native States would be fully considered. These principles have been faithfully adhered to by the Central Committee. Until the detailed expenditure accounts of the Local Committees are received, we cannot accurately state the distribution under the several headings. But we know approximately that, of 137 lakhs allotted by the Central Committee, 111 lakhs have been for cattle and seed and subsistence to cultivators. The allotments to Native States aggregate nearly 50 lakhs of rupees. The allotments to Rajputana alone amount to 22 lakhs. Measured by the population of the distressed areas, Rajputana has thus been not less generously treated than the Central Provinces. In the case of wealthy States like Gwalior, Hyderabad and Baroda, the Central Committee have restricted their grants to such amounts as the political officers have thought it expedient to ask for. Speaking generally, the grants made in native territory have far exceeded the expectations of the rulers or their subjects. The gratitude of the latter has been expressed in homely and touching phrase. 'If the English had not sent us this money, the thread of our lives would have been broken.' 'These are not rupees which have come over the sea; they are the water of life.' 'We have heard of the generosity of Hatim Bai, but we have *tasted* that of the Great Queen.' How timely was the arrival of this charity, and how much it meant, is seen in scores of affecting incidents. 'Now I have got through to the other side,' said a poor cultivator, with tears in his eyes, to the English officer who had given him a few rupees to buy fodder for his famished bullocks. There is ample evidence that this gratitude is of an enduring nature. Some of the happiest memories of famine-officers are those of unexpected visits from men who had been helped back to their old life by grants of seed and bullocks, and who returned after many days to again acknowledge the value of the gift. Nor should the self-respect which in not a few cases stood between a needy person and the proffered gift, or the scrupulous regard which led to its return because it might be misapplied, be overlooked. From Rajputana comes an old-world tale of a Rajput chief, dwelling in his bare house among his destitute tenants, who distributed among the latter the grant allotted to his village, but refused any gift for himself—'I am a Rahtor. I could not take charity'—and who with difficulty was induced to take a small loan. From Rajputana also comes the story of the man who was given a little money to convey his family and himself to a relief-work because he said that he had no means of feeding them on the way, but who came back and returned the gift because, as he said, he had not spoken the truth, since he had five goats which he could kill, one each day, eating part of the flesh, and selling the remainder. It is these incidents which lead one to hope that this great national charity has not been misplaced, but has been received in the spirit in which it has been offered.

"In a famine campaign which has lasted for so long, and has provided so many opportunities for chivalry and self-sacrifice, it would not be difficult, but it might be invidious, to select any names for special mention. Numerous cases of devotion, amounting to the loftiest heroism, have been brought under my notice. I have heard of Englishmen dying at their posts without a murmur. I have seen cases where the entire organisation of a vast area and the lives of thousands of beings, rested upon the shoulders of a single individual, labouring on in silence and solitude, whilst his bodily strength was fast ebbing away. I have known of natives, who, inspired by this example, have thrown themselves with equal ardour into the struggle, and have uncomplainingly laid down their lives for their countrymen. Particularly must I mention the noble efforts of the missionary agencies of various Christian denominations. If ever there was an occasion in which their local knowledge and influence were likely to be of value, and in which it was open to them to vindicate the highest standards of their beneficent calling, it was here; and strenuously and faithfully have they performed the task.

"From this record of the past I will now turn for a few moments to the future. After the sombre picture that I have been compelled to draw it is

with no small relief that we may contemplate the existing situation and outlook. FAMINE
 The monsoon was late in coming, but it has lingered long; and except in the Eastern parts of the Bombay Dekkhan, where I hear of crops withering from the premature cessation of the rains, of a poor *kharif*, and of anxious prospects, the outlook is everywhere promising. The early autumn crops are already being harvested, and prices are steadily falling back to their accustomed level. A good cotton crop is on the ground, and, as the cotton crop of India is worth thirteen millions sterling in an average year, its importance to the agriculturist will be readily understood. Preparations for the winter crops are being actively made, and there is every expectation that the sowings in many parts will be unusually large, and will be made in the most favourable circumstances. A good winter harvest means cash to the farmer, as a good autumn harvest means cheap and abundant food to the poorest classes. If we have the good fortune to see our anticipations realised, next year should witness the export trade in agricultural produce again revive, and the import trade expand with the improvement in the purchasing power of the people.

“That the famine-smitten tracts will at once or speedily lose the marks of the ordeal through which they have passed, is not to be expected. The rapidity of the recovery will depend upon many circumstances—upon the vitality and stout-heartedness of the tillers of the soil, upon the degree of their indebtedness, upon the goodness or badness of the next few seasons, upon the extent to which their cattle have perished, and not least upon the liberality, in respect of revenue remission, of the Government. As regards the loss of stock, our latest reports are more encouraging than at one time we could have foreseen, and justify us in the belief that, if the seasons be propitious, recuperation will be more rapid than might at first sight be deemed likely. In olden times, after a famine such as we have experienced, the districts would have been depopulated, and the land would have lain waste for a generation, for lack of hands to till it. There may be isolated tracts in the jungles and mountain fastnesses of Central India and Rajputana, where the approaching census will reveal a melancholy decrease of population. But, treating India as a whole, neither in Native States nor in British territory is the widespread and lasting desolation which followed the footsteps of a famine a hundred years ago any longer within the bounds of possibility. The standard of humanity has risen with the means of combating the peril; and in proportion as the struggle has been arduous, so are its after-effects mitigated.

“I have alluded to the attitude of Government. In so far as generosity in respect of advances of loans, of suspensions, and most of all of remissions, is concerned, the figures that I have previously given will have shown that on our part there has been no hanging back. Our first object has hitherto been to pull the sufferers through. Our first object now is to start them again with reasonable chances in the world. Behind these two objects lies the further and binding duty of profiting by the lessons that the famine has taught. It will not do for us to sit still until the next famine comes, and then bewail the mysteries of Providence. A famine is a natural visitation in its origin; but it is, or should be, a very business-like proceeding when once it has started. There are many subjects into which we shall require to make careful inquiry and an investigation into which we have already suggested to the Secretary of State. We shall want to compare the various relief systems and their results as practised in the different provinces; to see in what respects our codes are faulty, where they are too rigid, and where they are too lax; to still further investigate the vexed question of large works as against small works, and of relief concentration as against relief-dispersion. We shall have to examine the rival merits of relief establishments and of unconditional gratuitous relief when the rains break. We must consider how far sudden and excessive mortality is to be explained or prevented. We must ascertain the best means of bringing home relief, in the form of revenue remissions and suspensions, with the greatest promptitude and directness to the people. We must investigate and report upon the various public works that have been undertaken in the course of the recent famine, and must provide for the execution of a continuous programme of preventive works in the future.

“In this connection I would remind my hearers that the last Famine Commission, in their report, devoted much attention to the matter. Unfortunately the recent famine came upon us before their recommendations had had

FAMINE.

time to bear fruit ; and in the rush and hurry of the overwhelming calamity of the past year, works had often to be improvised, so to speak, in a moment, to meet the demands of a particular area, whether the work was or was not likely to be of permanent value. Against this danger we shall require to guard by insisting upon the methodical preparation of district programmes, and upon the formation of provincial branches, to be charged with this special duty. Railway earthwork has been pretty well exhausted for the present. More roads exist than can be properly kept up. But there are few parts of the country where works for the storage of water are not practicable. They may not, probably will not, be directly remunerative. But if such a work will conduce to greater security of the crops, and if it can be maintained at a moderate cost, it is just the sort of work which should be taken up or kept in hand for an emergency. No direct programme of relief should be considered complete until every possible irrigation or water storage scheme in the district has been examined, until a definite opinion has been come to as to its practicability and utility, and until detailed plans and estimates have been prepared for every accepted scheme. Such works will not fall within the category of the vast productive irrigation projects such as have been executed in many parts of India. These are only possible amid certain physical surroundings, in the alluvial plains of Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, in the deltaic tracts of Madras and Sind, and within the dry zone of Burma. All the possible schemes of this character are well known, and are gradually being undertaken. Tank storage, again, is not everywhere practicable. It is often found impossible to construct new tanks without injuring those already in existence ; there is risk of water-logging the soil ; and the water-supply is apt to fail altogether and to run dry at the very moment when it is most wanted, namely, in time of famine. Nor are the average results of works of this description that have already been carried out very favourable. It is possible to reclaim land for cultivation at a cost that is too heavy. On the other hand, it would seem that the underground storage of water might be more widely and systematically undertaken, and that a more generous policy might be adopted towards the construction of wells. All these are matters which we should investigate and set on foot before the next famine comes. The annual rainfall of India we can neither regulate nor forecast. The social habits of the people we cannot alter in a decade, or in a generation. But, if we can neither prevent nor cure, at least we can do a good deal by way of precaution."

To the account thus given in the Viceroy's words, it may be well to add that in 1900 the largest number of persons in receipt of relief was 6,356,000 during the first week of August, as compared with 4,240,000 in the second week of June 1897. In August and through the greater part of the famine, about one-third of the recipients of relief were in Native States, and two-thirds in British districts. So far as recent information goes the total cost of the famine of 1899-1900 will have been :—

British India :—

	£	£
Direct relief outlay - - - -	6,390,000	
Loss of revenue and compensation for dearness - - - -	3,240,000	
Loans and advances to landholders and Native States - - - -	4,260,000	
		13,890,000

Native States :—

Relief, expenditure, and loss of revenue, over and above the 3,000,000% lent by the Government - - - -	(approximately about)	4,500,000
		<u>£18,390,000</u>

Some part of the loans and advances will eventually be recovered.

During the coming year 1901-02 there will be distress, deepening perhaps to famine, in parts of the Bombay territory ; and it is expected that considerable relief expenditure and large losses of revenue will be incurred.

There is ground for thinking that the loss of plough cattle last year could not have been so great as was sometimes feared; for in the famine-stricken provinces, where the rains of autumn 1900 were favourable, the cropped area of this season has been generally from two-thirds to three-quarters of the normal breadth; and this large area could not have been cultivated if the cattle had all, or nearly all, perished. FAMINE.

In no case, save perhaps for a short time in a remote hill tract of Rajputana, did the food supply actually run short. Throughout the famine area food from the surplus provinces was distributed by railway; but prices were double to quadruple the normal price, and were beyond the means of the ordinary peasants or labourers who could get no income and no wages in their fields.

The abstract results of the census of March 1901 show that, instead of the normal increase of 19 millions in the population of India during the decade, there has been an increase of only about 5 or 6 millions. In some of the regions stricken by famine in 1897 and 1900 there has been a loss of population compared with the figures of 1891, thus:—

Baroda State lost 460,000 or 19·23 per cent. of the population in 1891.

Rajputana States lost 2,175,000 or 18·1 per cent. of the population in 1891.

Central India States lost 1,817,000 or 17·5 per cent. of the population in 1891.

Bombay States lost 1,168,000 or 14·5 per cent. of the population in 1891.

Central Provinces lost 939,000 or 8·71 per cent. of the population in 1891.

Central Provinces States lost 177,000 or 8·19 per cent. of the population in 1891.

Bombay Presidency, excluding Sind, lost 627,000 or 3·93 per cent. of the population in 1891.

Hyderabad State lost 362,000 or 3·14 per cent. of the population in 1891.

These losses of population represent not only deaths due to famine, but the decrease of births due to famine and scarcity, which last in some provinces was felt more or less from 1895 to 1900.

A small Famine Commission was appointed in the latter part of 1900, consisting of three members, with a view to an informal and expeditious inquiry into the following points:—

- (1) How far the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1898 have been followed, with or without modification, or departed from in the different provinces in the late famine; and to what extent the fresh experience now acquired confirms their wisdom or suggests their amendments.
- (2) What light the experience of the recent famine throws upon the subjects of Relief Works, Gratuitous Relief, or Famine Relief as a whole; how far the systems adopted in the different areas have been successful or the reverse, in their bearing, primarily, upon the relief of distress, and, secondarily, with regard to economy: how they compare with each other; and whether any fresh rules or modifications of rules are required.
- (3) In what manner relief by means of the suspension or remission of the land assessment has been applied in the different provinces to their special needs: whether the existing machinery for the prompt institution of this form of relief is adequate; and whether any general instructions are called for with regard to the principles or methods by which such relief should be determined.
- (4) In what manner the famine affected the death-rate of the various provinces and districts, with an inquiry into the causes of any variation.

PLAGUE.

PLAGUE.

The Indian plague epidemic began at Bombay in September 1896; and last year's Statement brought the plague narrative down to April 1900. Reported deaths from plague in the Bombay presidency had then reached a total of 300,000, while in other parts of India 59,000 deaths from plague had been

38 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

reported; and it was surmised that the total deaths from plague in British India and Native States from the beginning until April 1900 might have reached 475,000 in all.

In the year 1900 Bombay city was again visited by plague in epidemic form; Poona city had two months of epidemic in the autumn; and Karachi suffered from a short visitation in the month of April. In the interior of the presidency of Bombay there were no bad epidemics such as affected the districts of Poona, Thana, Nasik, Dharwar and Belgaum during the year 1899. The reported plague deaths in Bombay city were 13,247, as compared with 15,692 in 1899, and 18,111 in the year 1898. For the whole of the Bombay presidency there was a great decrease in the number of reported deaths from plague, thus:—

Total reported plague deaths in British districts and Native States of Bombay from September 1896 to December	-	-	1897	-	57,349
			Total during 1898	-	104,881
			Total during 1899	-	117,176
			Total during 1900	-	38,343

The diminution in the number of plague deaths has not, so far, continued during 1901; for during the first three months of 1901 the total reported plague deaths for the Bombay Presidency, including Native States, have been 17,806 compared with 13,748 in the first quarter of 1900. In the Hyderabad territory and in the Madras presidency the severity of the plague has decreased as compared with 1900, but in the Mysore State and in Bengal it has been much worse. In Calcutta and its suburbs the largest number of plague deaths which has hitherto occurred during any week was 1,119 for the week ending the 30th March 1901, and the total plague deaths of the preceding 15 months numbered 13,200; but generally before the beginning of 1901 the disease appeared to have avoided the deltaic districts and the regions of heavy rainfall in Eastern India; though in Western India, Thana, a deltaic district of heavy rainfall, had suffered from severe epidemics. But there has recently been a widely extended outbreak in Bengal, the most seriously affected districts being Patna (with 43,400 plague deaths in 15 months), Saran (with 14,700), Monghyr (with 6,100), Gaya (with 6,900), and Shahabad (with 1900 plague deaths). The only other parts of India where plague has been severely epidemic is Mysore, with the adjoining Madras district of Salem, where the plague deaths have been nearly 18,000 in the 15 months. In the Hyderabad State the number of reported plague deaths fell to 805 during the year 1900 as compared with 4,359 in 1899; during the first three months of 1901 only 40 plague deaths have been reported from the State.

It is noteworthy that during the famine of 1900 plague in epidemic form was not reported from any of the severely distressed districts. Plague seems to have kept for the most part outside the famine zone. It did not attack any of the relief camps or relief centres.

Comparative figures of the plague mortality in the Bombay presidency have already been given; for the rest of India the corresponding figures are:—

Province or Region.	Reported Deaths from Plague.			
	1898.	1899. *	1900.	Three Months of 1901.
Bengal	166	3,288	87,265	52,402
Madras	490	1,817	687	895
Punjab	1,871	258	622	651
N.W. Provinces	116	6	116	3,312
Central Provinces	103	622	595	1
Central India States	1	6	Nil	Nil
Rajputana States	118	23	10	130
Hyderabad State	3,945	4,359	805	40

Up to the end of March 1901 the total reported deaths from plague have ^{PLAGUE.} been 336,000 in the Bombay presidency, and 144,000 for other parts of India or 480,000 for the whole of British India and Native States. Perhaps, if allowance be made for untraced and unreported plague deaths, the total plague deaths for India up to March 1901 may perhaps reach nearly to 600,000. This total mortality from plague for a period of five years is considerably less than the reported cholera mortality for British India in a single year (727,493 in 1892).

In accordance with the advice of the Plague Commission, the measures for checking movements of the people from and to the plague-stricken towns and districts have been relaxed; so also have the rules regarding the segregation of infected people and the removal of the sick from their homes. Measures for thoroughly disinfecting infected houses, persons and goods, and for cleansing places liable to infection, have been vigorously prosecuted; arrangements for treating the sick have been further improved, and the employment of Haffkine's prophylactic treatment has been extended. There has been no relaxation of the care and diligence with which all outgoing vessels, crews, and passengers are examined at plague-infected ports, whereby the departure of infected or suspected goods or persons is prevented. Under this procedure the number of persons medically inspected (in some cases two or three times before departure) at the port of Bombay alone, during the latest year for which figures are available, was 1,506,254. So effective has been this inspection that hardly a case has been substantiated in which plague was carried by steamer or ship from Bombay to any foreign port or country during the year.

The Report of the Plague Commission has not yet been received, though two chapters (on the important subjects of "Haffkine's Plague Inoculation" and "Measures for the Suppression of Plague") have been published, and are used for the guidance of Government Officers concerned with combating plague. Little that is new has been learnt during the past year regarding the causation of plague, or regarding the way in which it spreads. The terrors of the people about plague are less serious, now that the Government measures for dealing with the epidemic have been revised with the view of avoiding any conflict with popular sentiment on the subject. The great fall in plague mortality over the presidency of Bombay during 1900 gave some ground for hoping that the epidemic would abate, while the comparative immunity enjoyed by the vast populations of the Ganges Valley during the years 1896-1900 gave some colour to the anticipation that the scourge would not spread over Eastern and Northern India. But the mortality returns of the first three months of the year 1901 have not given support to these hopes. So far plague has not touched 10 per cent. of all the villages of India, and it has as yet not appeared in epidemic form in Burma, Eastern Bengal, Assam, Oudh, Rajputana, or Central India, while in the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces, the Central Provinces, Berar and Madras the epidemic has never been continuous, but has only appeared in sporadic form in parts of a few (generally two to four) districts of each province.

CHAPTER III.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

CRIME AND POLICE.

CRIME AND POLICE.

Bengal.

The sanctioned strength of the police force in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs was 3,002. A proposal to increase the force was sanctioned during the year under notice. That of the District Executive Police throughout the province of Bengal was 23,695. In addition to these there was a force of 776 railway police and another of 400 military police. The total strength of the town police (apart from the Calcutta force) was 5,573, while the rural police (consisting of village chaukidars) included 158,668 men at the end of the year. The position of the chaukidars throughout the province has of late years been raised in many ways; one essential condition, however, of substantial improvement is that their pay should be sufficient and regularly received. In this latter respect there are difficulties to be overcome, but every effort is being made to effect the desired improvement.

The expenditure on the regular police (exclusive of town and rural chaukidars, but including the military police) was £337,941 in the year under review, as against £339,516 in 1888-89. The spread of plague in the province again necessitated the employment of a large force of temporary police during the year.

The percentage of casualties due to deaths, retirements, and discharges was 9.1 as against 8.3 in 1898, the increase being chiefly under the heads of resignation and death. There were 9 charges of torture and 63 of extortion against policemen, but only two torture charges and 9 extortion charges resulted in conviction. A considerable number of charges were malicious.

Though there is undoubtedly a percentage of bad characters in the force, it is as a whole particularly liable to be harassed by malicious accusations, and an improvement in the general morale may be justly inferred from the decrease in the number of judicial punishments from 418 to 323, and of departmental punishments from 3,856 to 3,019. There was also an increase of 1,042 in the number of men wearing good-conduct stripes.

The total number of cognisable* and non-cognisable offences in the town of Calcutta fell from 65,058 in 1898 to 61,235, and in the suburbs there was an increase from 13,428 to 14,837. The Calcutta police sent up 29,913 cognisable cases, of which 27,139 (or 90.7 per cent.) ended in conviction. The amount of property stolen in the town and suburbs during the year shows a decrease from the figures of 1898, but the proportion recovered was only 59.3 per cent., as against 61.7 in 1898. Five cases of dacoity were recorded as against one in the previous year.

In the province the total number of reported cognisable crimes fell from 171,993 in 1898 to 167,642. The number of cognisable cases investigated by the police fell from 99,628 in 1898 to 98,836 in 1899. A comparison of these figures with those of other provinces indicates that, both with reference to population and crime investigated, Bengal is the most under-policed province in India.

There was in 1899 an increase of 2 per cent. in the total volume of crime reported in the North-West Provinces and Oudh. The number of cognisable cases investigated by the police was 172,450. In 48 per cent. of the total number of cognisable crimes reported the police refused investigation. The number of cases (1,950) instituted by complaints to magistrates, or by magistrates *suo motu*, which were referred to the police for investigation shows a satisfactory decrease, being only 12.55 per cent. of the total number, as compared with 13.52 per cent. 1898.

North-Western
Provinces and
Oudh.

* Cognisable offences are those for which the police can arrest without warrant.

The number of non-cognisable cases continues steadily to diminish, and the decrease is evidence of increasing care on the part of the magistrates in themselves holding preliminary inquiries. Cases of dacoity increased from 358 in 1898 to 405 in 1899, and the statistics of convictions point to less successful police work in dealing with this crime. Success was least in respect of armed gang dacoities, of which only 19 per cent. were worked out to a conviction.

The agricultural conditions of the year were much less favourable than in 1898; and, in view of the scarcity which threatened a portion of the province, the crime return, as a whole, is lighter than might have been anticipated, being still much below that of the years preceding 1898.

The total strength of the provincial police in 1899 was 24,568 and their cost increased from £371,240 in 1898 to £372,304. The town police, 3,212 in number, cost £13,806. Municipal police numbered 6,595, and cost £33,695. The force of railway police was raised from 818 to 889 men, and their cost was £18,850. The number of village chaukidars this year was 88,395, and their cost £202,282. Fair progress was made during the year in Oudh with the scheme for substituting cash wages for the previous system of remuneration, which consisted largely in the grant of pieces of land rent free. The total number of penalties inflicted on members of the district police rose from 936 to 984; there were eight charges of torture, of which three ended in conviction and five in acquittal. The increase is largely due to the number of dismissals made in the Jhānsi district owing to cowardice shown at the encounter with the Karar Khera dacoits. All other forms of punishment were rarer.

There has been a grave increase of crime of the more serious descriptions in the Punjab during 1899, the worst feature being the increase of robberies and dacoities from 598 to 765. It is thought probable that the personality of a few noted dacoit leaders gave the chief impetus to crime of this nature, but as systematic measures have been adopted for checking their depredations and hunting them down, it is hoped that this form of crime will be greatly diminished next year.

It is worthy of remark that the tracts least affected by scarcity seem to have been the most criminal. On the whole the people were prosperous in 1899, and the increased criminality cannot be attributed to want.

In certain districts, *e.g.*, Lahore and Ferozpur, a decrease is noted in the number both of thefts committed and of more serious offences, but for the most part the deterioration above referred to is consistently maintained.

The history of the frontier, with the exception of Southern Waziristán, has been, on the whole satisfactory. On the borders of the Pesháwar Division the only tribe which has given trouble is the Aka Khel section of the Afridís.

Vigorous measures were taken against the various sections of the tribes to which the Gumatti outlaws belonged, and their depredations have ceased for the present. The two ringleaders, Ján and Siálgai, went to Kabul and are said to have been detained there by the Amir. A satisfactory feature is the growing tendency among the tribes beyond direct British jurisdiction to apply to our Political officers to settle their disputes. The tribal levies in the outlying tracts are shortly to be replaced by an organised militia, when it is hoped that order may be maintained with a firmer hand. The conduct of the Mahsúds has been unsatisfactory, and for some time to come they will require firm handling.

British influence is gradually spreading in the Tochi and Kurram Valleys and Southern Waziristán.

The strength of the police force was 20,487, and it cost £241,182. During the year 117 members of the force were punished judicially, and 2,036 departmentally, as against 144 and 1,996 in 1898. The chief feature of the year was the assembly of a committee to consider improvements in the police force of the province. This committee has recommended certain reforms, the most important of which are the addition of one deputy inspector-general, an increase of 21 in the number of inspectors, and of about 600 in the number of sergeants and constables. The police again rendered good service in connection with the plague, but they will not again be used to form cordons round infected villages. The educational improvement among police officers has been maintained, but amongst the constables the number of literate men has decreased.

CRIME AND POLICE.
Burma.

There was a slight increase of 88 officers and men to the Civil Police force in Burma during 1899. The strength of the force was maintained more nearly at the sanctioned figure than in the previous year, and the total cost of the regular force shows an increase of about £4,650, while local and private forces cost somewhat less than in 1898. The railway police were reduced by 50 men, and the force was redistributed. The total number of dismissals, removals, and departmental fines and punishments during 1899 was 2,314 as compared to 2,184 in the previous year, but the conduct of the force on the whole is reported to have been good, and the number of resignations and desertions shows a satisfactory decrease. The conduct of the Karen battalion of the military police at Monywa was a blot on the year's record. Six men were convicted of a most discreditable mutiny and riot, in which British officers were wounded. As a result of the trial and of a departmental enquiry, a large number (including three native officers) were dismissed from the force. The battalion in question has been broken up, and its companies distributed over other units. The Rangoon Police Act came into force on 15 July 1899.

The total number of cognisable crimes disposed of during the year was 39,593. An increase of crime under every class heading is reported. With regard to violent crimes, however, a satisfactory decrease is to be noted. There were 32 fewer dacoities, and 38 fewer robberies than in the previous year. The number of cattle thefts rose from 3,305 in 1898 to 3,442. There were 4,703 prosecutions under the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, or 566 more than in 1898, and 3,863 persons were ordered to furnish security as against 3,280 in the previous year. The system of beat patrols appears on the whole to have been successful, though fewer cases were brought to light through their agency. A satisfactory feature of the year was the readiness with which headmen of villages, for the most part, lent assistance to the police; their co-operation in the Thaton district is reported to have been of great use in preventing cattle theft.

The total sanctioned strength of the military police was nearly the same as in the previous year. A very successful punitive expedition was carried out by a column selected from the Myitkyina battalion of this force at the end of the open season of 1898-99. There was much sickness amongst the men serving in Katha and on the Mandalay-Kunlön Railway, and the percentage of casualties rose from 2·56 to 3·27.

Central Provinces.

The scarcity which prevailed throughout the Provinces in the latter half of 1899 might have been expected to lead to a greater increase of crime than has actually occurred. The figures show less crime than there has been in any other year of scarcity, and the excess over the figures of 1898—a year of recovery from famine—is remarkable only for its comparative insignificance. This would point to the efficacy of the measures taken for the provision of labour and relief, but until the statistics for 1900 can be compared with those of the year under notice, it is impossible to pronounce a definite judgment on this point.

The increase in crime, though comparatively slight, was distributed throughout the Province and over all classes of crime. Coining cases were few in number, and of a trivial character. The increase in rioting was inconsiderable, and there was nothing remarkable in the number of serious offences against the person. The Provinces enjoy a practical immunity from dacoities of the professional type. Among the murders of the year, special attention is drawn to two or three which stand out conspicuously. In particular the murder of a dák-runner in Sambalpur is significant, as these men are under present conditions peculiarly exposed to violence owing to the lonely nature of their work.

The total number of offences reported rose from 20,756 (in 1898) to 23,995, but against these figures it must be borne in mind that the numbers for 1897 and 1896 were respectively 50,021 and 37,100. As regards cognisable crime, the police investigated 72·43 per cent. of the reported cases, and 75·45 per cent. of arrested persons were convicted.

The police force at the close of the year (including Railway Police) numbered 1,424 officers and 7,063 men. Judicial punishments of members of the force fell from 73 to 47, but departmental punishments rose from 657 to 793. It is satisfactory to note once more that there have been no prosecutions under Sections 330, 331 and 346, Indian Penal Code. The health of the

force has been no worse than in 1898, but the increasing difficulty of obtaining suitable recruits points to the early consideration of the question of offering more inducement to enter the force. Especially is the difficulty felt with regard to educated recruits who are to furnish material for future head-constables and sub-inspectors. CRIME AND POLICE

The actual strength of the total police force in Assam in 1899 was:— Assam.
 Military police, 3,008; civil police, 2,418; union police, 15; rural police, 6,762. A decrease is to be noted in the actual number of military police, though the sanctioned strength was the same as in 1898. The percentage of Civil policemen punished departmentally was 10·7, as against 11·2 in 1898. A considerable fall is recorded in the number of cognisable crimes; convictions resulted in 80·4 per cent. of the cases decided, and 85·8 per cent. of the cases reported by the police were returned as true. The total number of cognisable cases reported during the year was 15,618.

Sanction was received during the year to a scheme for the reorganisation of the Civil police to take effect from the beginning of 1900, and it is expected that the efficiency of the force will be thereby increased.

The sanctioned strength of the police in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts Berar. was 2,901. The total number of punishments inflicted on the force fell from 1,366 to 1,354. The total volume of cognisable crime showed a slight increase, 5,390 offences being reported, as against 4,883 in 1898. For the first eight months of the year, crime was actually less than in the previous year, but owing to the failure of the monsoon in September and other causes, a period of great depression set in, and the poorer classes growing restless at first, and then reckless, broke out into crime, and offences multiplied everywhere. On the whole, however, the recovery from the increased criminality due to famine conditions in 1897 was maintained. At the same time the number of dacoities rose from 58 to 210, the highest number ever recorded; these figures are rather misleading, as a large proportion of the cases that occurred in certain districts were technical dacoities only. Thefts rose 19·7 per cent., but their number is still well below the average of the 10 years preceding 1896. A large number of "Pardesis," i.e., foreigners to Berar, though natives of British India, are employed as coolies, &c., in the Province, and it is considered by some that these persons lead to increased criminality in the neighbourhoods in which they are employed. Acting on this view, steps have been taken for the careful registration and supervision of these "Pardesis," with a view to "enquiry into the antecedents of, and watching of bad characters and foreigners." The Inspector-General of Police, however, for the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, considers these measures a mistake, and deprecates any interference with the "Pardesis" as a body. They appear to be a very useful class, many of whom are in regular service in the Province, and the theory which makes them responsible for increased criminality does not seem to be supported by convincing evidence.

The percentage of persons convicted to the number arrested was, in all cases, 54·6 in 1899.

The actual strength of the police force of the Presidency, inclusive of the city of Madras, was 23,445 as against 23,086 in 1898. Madras. During the year the complete establishment of Railway police was introduced, including a separate Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. The total cost of the force showed an increase of nearly £18,700 on 1898. There were 1,946 enlistments, and 1,700 men left the force. It is satisfactory to record fewer departmental punishments, judicial convictions and desertions against members of the force than in the previous year. The proportion of men able to read and write rose from 86·6 to 86·7 per cent.

The chief event of the year were the "anti-Shánár riots," in Tinnevely and parts of Madura, which necessitated the drafting of additional police from neighbouring districts to cope with the disturbance. For the future protection of the country three special companies of police were stationed at Sivakási, Surandai and Koilpatti, the cost of this force being defrayed by the inhabitants of the disturbed area.

The total number of cognisable crimes was 180,202 as against 172,634 in 1898 of these 68·6 per cent. resulted in convictions. The decrease in the volume of crime under the Indian Penal Code was maintained, but the number

44 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

CRIME AND POLICE. of cases under special and local laws shows a considerable increase. There was a decrease among grave offences against property, but, owing to the Tinnevely riots, an increased number of dacoities have to be recorded.

Bombay. The total number of reported cognisable offences in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) was 37,241. The return of non-cognisable crimes shows an increase of 7,559 in Bombay and a decrease of 188 in Sind. The main feature of the year was the large increase in serious crimes over the figures of 1898—dacoities showing a rise of 75 per cent., attempts to murder and culpable homicide of 43 per cent., and house-breakings of 14 per cent. This increase is clearly attributable to the more widespread and intense famine of 1899–1900 following after the severe distress of 1897. The comparative impunity with which maliciously false and vexatious accusations are laid again calls for comment, and it is proposed to make more determined efforts in future to secure the punishment of offenders in this respect. The working of the police, in face of this serious advance in crime, may on the whole be regarded as satisfactory. With no increase in their numbers, the percentage of cases detected was not worse, and the percentage of convictions obtained by them was better than in the previous year. The new system of identifying criminals by their fingertip impressions has not yet been in force long enough to justify an opinion as to its working, but now that a Central Bureau has been established in Bombay, it is hoped that the result of this branch of criminal investigation will prove a valuable aid to the detection of crime.

The total sanctioned strength of the police was 19,899, the cost being £256,115, as against a strength of 19,772 and cost of £225,405 in 1898. About 57 per cent. of the force were engaged in the prevention and detection of crime. The numbers of judicial punishments inflicted on members of the force was 107 in the Presidency proper and 56 in Sind, and of departmental punishments 2,131 and 687 respectively.

Plague and famine were the leading features of the year in Bombay, and have naturally enough made their impression on the criminal statistics.

Coorg. The total number of cognisable cases in Coorg was 901, as against 840 in 1899. The increase is particularly noticeable in the number of serious offences against person and property. This increase, however, took place almost entirely in the last four months of the year and is attributable to the abnormally high prices during those months. The sanctioned strength of the police force was 226, its actual strength being nine men short. During the year 22 members of the force were dismissed and 77 punished departmentally, the corresponding figures in 1898 being 19 and 85.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Bengal. The total number of offences reported during the year fell from 350,610 to 331,118. The number of offences against property again shows a decrease, while it is satisfactory to note that the number of reported offences affecting the human body was only 70,610 as against 74,568 in 1898. Of the total number of offences reported 274,844 were found to be true. Crime decreased in 39 districts, including Calcutta. There were 4,278 (as against 4,715) reported cases against the public tranquillity, while 399 murder cases were found true, 223 persons being convicted in connection therewith (showing an increase from 1898, in which year the figures were 386 and 177 respectively). The number of reported offences against property fell from 99,606 (in 1898) to 91,514, the lowest figures since 1890.

At the close of the year there were 459 stipendiary magistrates of varying powers, including district magistrates, and 1,832 honorary magistrates, excluding Calcutta in both cases. The latter tried 24·3 per cent. of the total number of persons tried by all the magistrates' courts in the Province (excluding Calcutta).

The number of cases committed to the Courts of Session, or referred to the Session judges, rose from 1,768 to 1,816, while the number tried fell from 1806 to 1,671, leaving 394 undisposed at the end of the year, against 265 in 1898. The average duration of trials was 55·8 days, as against 54·3 days in the previous year, while the percentage of persons convicted fell from 67·5 to 64·2.

The number of persons tried by jury was 984. The Sessions judge agreed with the verdict of the jury in respect of 877 persons, and disagreed in respect of 107. In the case of 62 persons, the judge disagreed with the verdict so completely as to deem it expedient (in the interests of justice) to make a reference to the High Court under Section 307 of the Code of Criminal procedure. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 1,988. CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

The number of cases brought to trial before Presidency magistrates was 43,085. 44 trials were pending. In magistrates' courts outside the Presidency town, 152,371 cases were brought to trial, and 151,995 disposed of.

The number of appeals before the High Court from the various criminal courts of the Province, including those pending, fell from 935 in 1898 to 898, and the number decided from 937 to 871. The judgment of the lower courts was affirmed in 694 cases, reversed in 19, and modified in 70. Appeals to Session judges fell from 7,132 to 6,302, while those to district magistrates fell from 5,418 to 4,675. The percentages of decisions confirmed to decisions appealed against rose, in the case of appeals to Session judges, from 51.09 to 56.53, and of those to magistrates from 61.84 to 62.92.

The total number of persons sentenced to imprisonment by the various courts during the year was 31,020 as against 31,408 in 1898, while capital sentences were passed upon 255 persons.

The North-West Provinces and Oudh have been united for legislative purposes, but inasmuch as Oudh is not subject to the High Court of the North-West Provinces, the judicial statistics of the two are given separately. North-Western Provinces.

In the North-West Provinces 125,751 offences were reported, of which 99,063 were returned as true, and 89,806 were brought before the courts. In all 147,464 persons were brought to trial, of whom 80,528 were convicted, the figures in the previous year being 140,035 and 79,270 respectively. 42,917, or 29 per cent. of the persons brought to trial, were charged with theft or hurt, the proportion being the same as in 1898.

Of 88,406 cases disposed of in the several classes of magistrates' courts, 20,375 were tried by honorary magistrates; the average duration of cases in all the magistrates' courts rose from 7.4 to 7.8 days.

Sessions judges disposed of 2,133 out of 2,387 cases for trial, the corresponding figures in 1898 being 2,054 and 2,283; the number of cases left pending at the end of the year was 247, as against 204 in the previous year.

Sentences to death rose from 91 to 105, while sentences to transportation fell from 281 to 270. There was also a slight decrease in the number of whippings and imprisonments inflicted, while the number of sentences to fine rose from 49,074 to 51,443. Whipping was inflicted 5,635 times, or in 30.67 per cent. of possible cases, the percentage in the previous year being 30.66 and the number of whippings 6,459.

Courts of magistrates disposed of 3,220 appeals as against 3,242 preferred during the year; the average duration of cases was 11 days and the percentage of unsuccessful appellants 68. Courts of Session disposed of 7,836 appeals, against 7,815 preferred, giving an average of 17 days to cases, and finding against 78 per cent. of the appellants. The corresponding figures in the case of the High Court were 1,227 fresh appeal cases for hearing, 1,200 disposed of 29 days average duration, and 81 per cent. of appellants wholly unsuccessful.

The criminal statistics of the year present no features calling for special remark.

Out of 43,002 reported offences in Oudh (as against 42,557 in 1898), 32,104 (as against 31,879) were brought before the courts. The increase in the total number of reported offences is only 1.5 per cent. on the figures of 1898, which were the lowest recorded for many years. The increase occurred under the head of offences against special and local laws. The percentage of convictions in all courts fell from 54.8 to 52.9. A slight increase is to be noted in the number of offences against the public tranquillity, but offences affecting life, robbery, and dacoity, were less common. Theft of all kinds was also rarer. Oudh.

The percentage of convictions in magistrates' courts was 52.5—a slight decrease from 1898. Honorary magistrates disposed of 24.3 per cent. of the total number of cases. Sessions judges disposed of 634 cases, as against 623 in the previous year, and reduced the number of cases pending at the close of the year from 60 to 43. Appeals to the Court of Session decreased from

46 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

CRIMINAL JUSTICE. 2,402 to 2,333; the sentences of 77·6 per cent. of the appellants were not disturbed.

The Judicial Commissioner's court during the year consisted of three judges, and had to deal with the cases of 1,238 persons, or 120 less than in 1898. Appeals rose from 684 to 703, sentence being upheld in 511 or 71·5 per cent. of the cases, as compared with 72 per cent. in 1898.

Punjab.

In the Punjab the total number of reported and admitted offences rose from 174,221 and 119,222 respectively to 181,965 and 128,524 in 1899. The increased criminality of the province has already been remarked upon in dealing with the subject of crime and police. As has been pointed out, the increase of crime cannot be attributed to scarcity, as the province was on the whole prosperous during the year under notice. The percentage of convictions in magistrates' courts fell to 33, the lowest figure recorded since 1892. The figures, however, are a little misleading in this instance, the result being mainly due to a steady increase in the number of cases compromised.

The number of offences affecting life admitted to have occurred during the year shows an increase of 80 to 1,222, while a decided increase is to be observed under the other heads of crime. The increase of dacoity has already been remarked upon. The Peshawar district maintains its unenviable distinction in the matter of offences affecting life, the figures being practically the same as in 1898; but an increase in criminality is to be noted in almost every district. The district magistrates of Amritsar and Lahore say that there seems to be a wave of violent crime passing over their districts.

The total number of original trials in magistrates' courts in 1899 was 239,504, of which 79,052 led to conviction, committal, or reference to other jurisdiction.

As regards punishments, the chief court confirmed only 84 death sentences out of 173 referred by the Sessions Courts. Sentences of transportation have decreased slightly, while sentences of imprisonment for terms exceeding two years have increased. If this means that there is a tendency to inflict long terms of imprisonment in place of transportation, there is no cause for regret, for the Punjab criminal is said to fear the Punjab jail more than the Andamans. There was a rise in the number of whippings inflicted, which is regarded as a satisfactory sign.

The number of criminal appeals instituted in the Chief Court rose from 780 to 844; adding those pending, there were 972 appeals for disposal, of which 825 were disposed of, involving 1,125 persons. In the case of 724 persons the appeals were rejected or the orders of the lower court confirmed, and in that of 394 the decision appealed against was reversed or modified. The number of sentences reversed on revision was 407, as against 476 in 1898.

Burma.

The number of cases returned as true in Burma rose from 65,539 to 72,975, the total number of offences reported being 77,856. Offences affecting the human body increased by 134 in Upper Burma, while offences against property decreased by 322. In Lower Burma, on the contrary, the former class of offence shows a decrease of 153, while the latter increased by 658. The number of cases tried by magistrates of all classes fell in Lower Burma from 38,555 to 38,131, and rose in Upper Burma from 16,399 to 17,297. The number of cases tried by district magistrates fell by 71 in Upper and 31 in Lower Burma. The work done by honorary magistrates, including benches and special magistrates, in Lower Burma was less than last year. In Upper Burma their work increased considerably in volume, no less than 4,007 cases being disposed of by them. All the authorities concur in commending their usefulness and the care which they bestow on their duties.

The percentage of convictions was 60·60 in Lower Burma and 69·94 in Upper Burma, as compared with 60·92 and 67·40 respectively in 1898. In certain courts, however, the percentage was unusually low, and there seems to be a necessity in some cases for more careful examination of complainants under Sec. 200, Criminal Procedure Code, which would probably increase the percentage of convictions considerably, by the elimination of frivolous or vexatious charges where no offence has been committed.

19,340 persons were convicted in Upper Burma, against 17,139 in 1898. The number of whippings fell from 867 to 746, while fewer sentences of simple imprisonment were inflicted. Fines without imprisonment were more

frequently imposed than in 1898. In Lower Burma, outside Rangoon, the number of punishments fell from 35,808 to 35,173. A slight, though (as it is thought) hardly sufficient, increase in the number of sentences of whipping is reported. A considerable decrease is noted in the amount of fines imposed. CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

The Recorder of Rangoon, sitting as a court of session, tried 31 cases, 21 persons being convicted. In other Sessions Courts in Lower Burma, 718 persons were tried, the percentage of convictions dropping from 73.49 to 68.94. Upper Burma Sessions Courts tried 120 persons, the percentage of convictions being 65.71.

The previous year's increase in the number of appeals was maintained, more particularly in Lower Burma.

In the Central Provinces 26,763 cases were reported, as against 25,709 in 1898, of which 24,138 or 90.2 per cent. were declared true. Under the head of heinous crime, the most important increase was in cases of criminal trespass for the commission of serious offences, but even under this head the total number of cases was not unusually high. The percentage of convictions before the magistrates rose from 52.3 to 55.1, while that of convictions before Sessions Judges fell from 62.2 to 61. The Criminal statistics for the year do not present any very striking or unusual features. The famine in the last quarter of 1899 naturally led to a somewhat increased criminality, but the figures are insignificant when compared with those of 1897, when famine prevailed for the first nine months of the year. The total number of persons punished in magisterial courts during the year rose from 19,797 to 22,969, the most notable increase being in the number of persons on whom whipping was inflicted. Appeals to District Magistrates, to Courts of Session, and to the Judicial Commissioner, numbered respectively 1,221, 1,307, and 186, as against 996, 1,278, and 166 in 1898. Of the total number of appeals of all kinds, the original decisions were upheld in 67.2 per cent. Central Provinces.

Towards the end of the year a change was effected by virtue of which Commissioners of Divisions ceased to be Sessions Judges. They have now no judicial functions, and the officers who were formerly Additional Sessions Judges have succeeded to their duties.

Of 31,752 offences reported in Assam (as against 32,764 in 1898) 22,447 were accepted as true (70.6 per cent. of the number reported). The number of cases tried in the courts of magistrates was 15,144, affecting 24,509 persons, of whom 13,168 were convicted. Of the number of cases reported, the percentage rejected or struck off as false in 1899 was 28.9 in the Assam Valley Districts and 31.9 in the Surma Valley Districts, as compared with 28.5 and 27.1, respectively, in the previous year. Assam.

As in the previous year, two Sessions Judges and eight District Magistrates were employed in the Province. 51 Stipendiary Magistrates were also employed, as well as Honorary Magistrates. The Sessions Judges in their original capacity tried 219 persons, and convicted 128. The case of one European British subject was committed to the High Court in its original jurisdiction by the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar. The accused was acquitted. 58 appeals were instituted before the High Court, in 41 of which the original convictions were upheld. Subordinate Courts received 1,810 appeals, upholding original sentence in 1,138 cases.

The Hyderabad Assigned Districts Report on Criminal Justice covers not only Berar, but the cantonment of Secunderabad, the Residency Bazzars, and certain railway lands in the Nizam's Dominions, beside six Hyderabad Contingent stations. The total number of fresh offences reported was 19,632 (as against 22,821 in 1898), and the number returned as true was 17,487 (as against 20,401). The total number of cases brought to trial in 1899 was 17,608, affecting 30,818 persons, of whom 16,494 were convicted. Hyderabad
Assigned Districts.

In Berar 12,590 offences were brought to trial, against 16,126 in 1898, showing a decrease of 21.9 per cent. The decrease is most marked in the case of offences under "Special and Local Laws," but the previous year's decrease in offences against property was again maintained. The number of offences under "Robbery and Dacoity" shows a considerable increase. With regard to punishments, a considerable decrease is to be noted in the number of fines imposed, while the percentage of imprisonments rose. The decrease in the

CRIMINAL JUSTICE. number of persons fined is regarded as in part due to a decrease in nuisance cases. In the year under review 964 appeal cases were disposed of, previous decisions being confirmed in 56 per cent. of these trials.

Madras. The total number of offences reported in the Madras Presidency in 1899 rose from 330,634 to 333,704. The number of cases returned as true was 321,813, an increase of 1·20 per cent. on 1898; the increase being chiefly under the Madras City Police Act. The number of persons tried was 470,165 as against 480,125 in 1898, 144 being European British subjects as against 73 in the previous year. The number of cases returned as true under the Indian Penal Code showed a further decrease of 2·1 per cent.

Magistrates' courts outside Madras disposed of 232,947 cases, affecting 388,020 persons. The percentage of convictions in these courts rose to 49·5 from 48·9 in 1898, an unprecedentedly large proportion. As in 1898, the percentage was highest in Bellary, the Nilgiris, Vizagapatam Agency, Chingleput, Madura, Trichinopoly and Tanjore. Sentences of fine considerably decreased in number. Presidency magistrates in the town of Madras disposed of 64,956 cases, affecting 75,432 persons. The percentage of convictions in these cases rose from 87·3 to 90·7. Sessions Courts in their original jurisdiction decided 1,256 cases, the percentage of convictions rising from 40·8 in 1898 to 48·9. 2,971 persons were concerned in these trials, 1,185 being tried by jury, 1,564 with the aid of assessors, and 18 both by jury and assessors.

The High Court on its original side dealt with 26 cases affecting 48 persons. The percentage of convictions rose from 80 to 82.

With regard to appellate jurisdiction, magistrates received 8,268 appeals during the year, preferred by 16,070 persons, and disposed of 15,946 appellants during the year, of whom 62 per cent. were unsuccessful. Sessions Courts received 2,167 appellants, the percentage of wholly unsuccessful appellants being highest in Ganjam (89·5) and Kurnool (84·4). The High Court heard 1,082 appellants, confirming the sentences of the lower courts in 64·71 per cent. of the cases.

Bombay. Criminal jurisdiction was exercised in the Bombay Presidency by the following courts:—

Regulation Provinces.

The High Court.	198 magistrates of the second class.
15 Sessions Judges and Joint Sessions Judges.	216 magistrates of the third class.
4 Assistant Judges.	15,018 police patels (who exercise petty criminal jurisdiction, under Bombay Act VIII. of 1867, within their villages).
18 district magistrates.	
4 Presidency magistrates.	
158 first class magistrates.	

Sind.

3 Sessions Judges.	42 magistrates of the first class.
2 Assistant Judges.	62 magistrates of second class.
5 district magistrates.	45 magistrates of third class.

Of the judges of the High Court, five were Europeans and two natives; of the Sessions Judges, Joint Sessions Judges, and Assistant Sessions Judges, including those of Sind, 15 were Europeans, and 10 were natives, three of the latter being statutory civilians. 75 of the First Class Magistrates were Europeans and 162 were natives. Of the second and third class magistrates all were natives, except 11 and 6 respectively, who were Europeans. These latter include 28 special magistrates in the Presidency proper and five in Sind.

Out of 311,947 offences reported in 1899 260,768 were returned as true. The number of cases brought to trial was 198,441, involving 399,347 persons, of whom 134,148 were convicted, while cases against 99,059 remained pending at the end of the year. The ratio of the number of offences returned as true to population was, in the year under review 1 to 72. In 1898 it was 1 to 83. In certain districts, however, there was an appreciable decrease of crime, notably in the district of Belgaum.

Appellate Courts throughout Bombay and Sind (including the High Court) considered the cases of 10,428 persons, of whom 8,265 were unsuccessful in obtaining any alteration of the original sentence. The High Court itself dealt with 1,003 applicants, of whom 79·7 per cent. were unsuccessful. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Out of 2,311 fresh offences reported (against 2,712 in 1898), 1,589 were returned as true. The number of cases brought to trial was 1,730, affecting 2,716 persons, of whom 708 were convicted. The Sessions Court on its appellate side dealt with 115 appellants, of whom 71 were unsuccessful. Eleven appeals were preferred to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner during the year, the sentence in five cases being confirmed, and three appeals being summarily rejected. COORGE

JAILS.

The average number of prisoners in jail was less than in 1898 and considerably less than in 1897. The two Provinces in which there was an increase in the number of persons sent to jail were Bombay and the Punjab. In the case of the Punjab the increase is attributed to scarcity. In the Central Provinces, where in the latter part of the year agricultural conditions were exceedingly unfavourable, the daily average number of jail inmates was considerably smaller than that of any year for some time past, which is a satisfactory indication of generally efficient administration. The correct comparison, however, of the year's figures is with those of 1896, in which year, as in 1899, the rains failed. JAILS.

The variations of the jail population during the last four years are best given in tabular form:—

	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
Jail population on 1st January	102,125	109,942	109,934	101,061
Admissions during the year	484,420	465,921	568,348	476,180
Aggregate Discharged during the year	586,545	575,863	678,382	577,241
	477,167	473,736	568,429	467,307
Jail population 31st December	109,378	102,127	109,853	109,934
Convict population	93,828	101,035	99,597	94,052
Admissions during the year	174,060	174,110	215,065	182,023
Aggregate Released during the year	267,888	275,145	314,662	276,075
Casualties	167,358	177,403	209,227	172,279
	3,326	3,912	4,400	4,207
Convict population on 31st December	97,204	93,830	101,035	99,589

The cost of establishment (permanent and temporary) showed a slight increase during the year, but, deducting the cash earnings of prisoners, the net cost of jail administration was smaller than in the previous year. The total cash earnings of prisoners increased, but this apparent success is somewhat discounted by the large demands made by the Commissariat Department for the field forces in South Africa. With regard to sickness and mortality in the jails during the year, the general figures are very satisfactory, the ratio of daily average sick per 1,000 of average strength falling from 37·3 to 31·4. The death-rate per 1,000 of average strength fell to 21·86 from 25·3 in 1898 and 39·64 in 1897.

There were 41 central jails, 191 district jails, and 500 subordinate jails and lock-ups, of which 303 were in Madras alone. These figures show an increase of one central jail and four subordinate jails from 1898.

JAILS.

The number of persons imprisoned during the year was slightly smaller than in 1898, and considerably under the figures of 1897. In Madras, Bengal, and the North-West Provinces there was a marked improvement; in Bombay and the Punjab a corresponding deterioration. There was also a satisfactory diminution in the number of escapes of prisoners, which fell from 57 in 1898 to 39.

Classified according to religion, there were 47,255 Muhammedans, 105,780 Hindus and Sikhs, 14,323 Buddhists and Jains, 1,788 Christians, and 4,617 of all other classes, these figures representing fewer Hindus and Sikhs and Christians, but a larger number under the other headings than in 1898.

Classified by age, 1,715 were under 16 years of age, 137,624 between 16 and 40, 31,255 between 40 and 60, and 3,269 above 60 years of age. Compared with 1898, these figures represent a decrease of prisoners under the age of 40, and an increase of those over that age, the number between 40 and 60 rising from 30,896 to 31,255. The number of juveniles (under 16) shows a further decrease from 1,871 to 1,715, but the number is still too high, and the Government of India has again drawn attention to the provision of the law which permits of alternatives to imprisonment in the case of juveniles.

Reformatory schools for juvenile offenders exist at the following places:—Chingleput, Yerrowda, Alipore, Hazaribagh, Bareilly, Insein, and Jubbulpore. The total number of inmates of these schools at the close of the year was 1,230, as against 1,249 in the previous year. It is hoped that the proposed reformatory at Delhi will shortly be opened for the reception of juvenile delinquents. These schools have been, during the past year, transferred to the control of the Education Department.

Of the convicts admitted into jail in 1899, 10·9 per cent. were able to read and write, 2·6 per cent. could read only, while 86·5 per cent. were illiterate. The corresponding percentages in 1898 were 10·5, 2·6, and 86·9 respectively.

Of 164,093 male convicts, 94,733 were persons engaged in agriculture or with animals, 14,796 were in service, 7,620 engaged in commerce and trade, and 5,860 were professional persons. The number of "professional persons" imprisoned shows a decrease of 14 per cent. on the figures of 1898, while there was also a diminution of 10 per cent. in the case of persons in service. Under the other heads the increases and decreases amounted to less than 5 per cent. as compared with the previous year.

Female convicts numbered 9,770, as against 10,528 in 1898, and their condition was as follows:—Married, 5,971; unmarried, 557; widows, 2,810; prostitutes, 432.

There was a slight decline (from 13·9 to 13·75 per cent.) in the number of admissions of persons who had been previously convicted. The proportion of such convicts was highest in Burma (23·02 per cent.) and the Central Provinces (20·99 per cent.). The system of identification by finger impressions was introduced into the Madras Jail Department during the year, and over 1,000 impressions were successfully taken. In the Bombay Presidency 94 old offenders were identified by this means. In Bengal 57 criminals were identified by anthropometry and 580 by finger impressions, as against 148 and 345 respectively in 1898.

The proportion of sentences not exceeding one month fell from 33·55 to 32·77 per cent. of the total admissions to jail. Sentences with the limits of 3, 6, and 12 months were 19·08, 16·34, and 16·76 per cent. respectively of the total admissions. The corresponding percentages in 1898 were 18·72, 17·02, and 15·68. Sentences of 1 to 2, and 2 to 5 years amounted to 8·08 and 4·19 per cent. respectively, as compared with 8·3 and 3·91 per cent. in 1898. The proportion of sentences of 5 to 10 years and exceeding 10 years fell from 1·51 and ·07 to 1·49 and ·06 per cent. respectively. Transportations for life or for a term fell from ·89 to ·88 per cent., while death sentences formed the same proportion (·35 per cent.) as in the previous year.

The average number of convicts who were sentenced to labour fell from 94,234 to 90,714, of whom 8·44 per cent. were employed as prison officers, 10·29 per cent. as prison servants, and 38·88 on manufactures.

The number of recorded offences committed by convicts rose from 184,500 to 184,782 in the year under review. The proportion of offences to the daily average population shows a slight increase from 190·5 to 197·4 per cent.

The figures showing the ratio of offences to the daily average population in the jails of the various provinces are given below in tabular form. On the

whole it may be said that an improvement has been made in the standard of discipline enforced in jails, and that prison life is becoming to a satisfactory degree more irksome and deterrent. The number of punishments* inflicted by criminal courts increased from 316 to 335. JAILS.

OFFENCES DEALT WITH BY SUPERINTENDENTS.

	1899.		1898.		1897.	
	Daily Average Population.	Offences.	Daily Average Population.	Offences.	Daily Average Population.	Offences.
Madras - - - - -	8,801	14,865	9,150	14,005	8,835	12,056
Bombay - - - - -	9,145	9,064	8,575	10,789	7,760	9,390
Bengal - - - - -	17,265	39,484	17,183	38,439	17,366	38,406
N. W. P. and Oudh - - - - -	27,439	39,734	30,246	35,163	33,382	27,452
Punjab - - - - -	12,080	31,138	11,524	31,010	11,648	29,965
Burma - - - - -	12,205	41,775	12,360	45,853	13,063	37,177
Central Provinces - - - - -	3,812	6,133	4,776	5,987	6,838	7,311
Assam - - - - -	1,401	978	1,439	694	1,371	757
Coorg - - - - -	102	226	78	199	72	125
Berar - - - - -	1,250	1,150	1,521	1,603	1,697	1,024
	93,690	184,442	96,852	184,202	101,832	104,568

The number of major punishments inflicted rose from 26,811 to 30,174, the increase being most noticeable in the Central Provinces and the North-West Provinces and Oudh. In Madras and Bombay, however, the figures show a decided decrease. The punishment of separate cellular and solitary confinement was again chiefly resorted to in the Punjab, though the figures even there show a considerable decrease. The number of cases in which fetters were imposed rose, in the North-West Provinces and Oudh from 2,473 to 4,502, and in the Punjab from 2,014 to 4,660. Corporal punishment was practically stationary in 1899, the total number of cases being 1,686, as against 1,691 in the previous year. The punishment of penal diet with solitary confinement showed a marked decline, notably in Bombay and Burma, where the figures decreased from 320 and 804, respectively, to 88 and 522. The general proportion of corporal to total punishments was 9 per cent.—the same figure as in 1898.

The number of convicts who came under the mark system rose from 30,927 to 30,995, of whom 107 failed to earn remission. Of the 30,888 convicts who earned remission, the majority (24,068) were under sentences not exceeding 2 years. The maximum remission (899 days) was earned by a convict in the Bombay Presidency, under a sentence not exceeding 10 years. The maximum gratuity (Rs. 58-1) was paid to a convict released in the same Presidency. The average gratuity earned rose from Rs. 1-5-1 (in 1898) to Rs. 2-5-9 in the year under review.

Increased attention has been paid to the provision of cellular accommodation for prisoners, which is an important matter from the point of view of the improvement of discipline. In the Madras Presidency, the work of converting the Salem Central Jail into a cellular structure is in progress, while steps are also being taken for the construction of 100 additional cells in the Bellary District Jail. Activity in a similar direction is also reported from other provinces, though it cannot be said that any great progress has yet been made. Lack of funds, owing to the recurrence of famine, is quoted as having prevented the progress of this work in the Punjab, although the rigid isolation of at all events the worst criminals is recognised as one of the most pressing needs of the Punjab Administration.

The gross expenditure on jails fell from £438,735 in 1898 to £410,550, the gross cost per head of average strength declining at the same time from Rs. 62-4-6 to Rs. 59-10-5. This decrease extended over all the provinces

JAILS.

except the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, and is due in almost all cases to improvements in the terms of purchases of food supplies. In many cases purchases were made in bulk, previous to the rise in prices which occurred late in the year. The cost of establishment, as noticed above, rose slightly, while that of dieting fell from £202,116 to £172,063. Hospital charges decreased from £22,863 to £19,510, the average hospital expenses of a sick prisoner being again highest in Bengal (Rs. 139-7-9) and lowest in the North-West Provinces and Oudh (Rs. 53-8-5). The former average represents a decrease. In the Hyderabad Assigned Districts a considerable increase in the average cost per head is recorded, the figures rising from Rs. 83-1-10 (in 1898) to Rs. 134-8-7. The figures in the Central Provinces also show a considerable rise in this respect. The total cash earnings of prisoners rose from £86,364 to £89,388. The increase was most marked in Bombay, Bengal, and the Central Provinces, but a decided decrease has to be recorded in Madras, Berar, and, to a lesser extent, in Burma. The average cash earnings per head of average strength (excluding Coorg) were highest in the Central Provinces (Rs. 24) and lowest in the North-West Provinces and Oudh (Rs. 6-8). Deducting these earnings from the gross cost, the result is a net cost to the Government of £321,161, averaging Rs. 46-10-7 per head of average strength, the corresponding figures for 1898 being £326,882 and Rs. 50-0-4.

The improvement in the health of prisoners during the year has already been alluded to. The ratio per 1,000 of admissions to hospital fell from 916·6 (in 1898) to 792·05, these figures being the lowest in the last six years. The death-rate increased in Bombay, Bengal and Assam, but showed a decrease in all the other provinces. The most noticeable decrease was in Madras, where the rate fell from 28·09 per 1,000 to 16·70. In the North-West Provinces and Oudh the death-rate was, with a single exception (1893), the lowest on record, a fact which deserves especial note, as the year under review was not an exceptionally healthy one for the general population. The Central Provinces' rate shows a great recovery from the untoward conditions of the previous four years. A review of the records of the last 20 years points to the fact that a fairly consistent advance has been made in the control of the causes of sickness and mortality in nearly every provincial group of jails.

The feature of the year's administration was the varying effect on the statistics of the different Provinces of the scarcity, which began to assert itself before the close of the year under review. This resulted for the most part in increased admissions to jail, but, in spite of the strain on the administration of the department, the figures of the general health are highly satisfactory. Judicious management has largely enabled the various jails to tide over the period of high prices without loss.

Penal settlement
at Port Blair.

The total convict population for the year was 12,444, the number of prisoners at the end of the year being 11,465. This number included 39 Christians, of whom one was an European. The Hindus formed about 61 per cent., and the Muhammadans about 24 per cent. of the convicts. 85·09 per cent. of the total number were life convicts.

Owing to favourable weather, the result of the year's working of the tea gardens shows a satisfactory improvement, while the number of convicts that escaped, fell from 54 to 38. Only 9 Burmans made good their escape, as against 33 in the previous year.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Bengal.

The number of civil suits for disposal on the original side of the Calcutta High Court was 2,236, as against 1,973 in 1898; 786 suits were decided, the number pending at the end of the year being 1,450 (as compared with 1,275 in the previous year).

Out of 3,616 first and second appeals to the High Court from the decrees and orders of subordinate courts in Bengal, 2,857 were decided. In cases affecting the lower courts their decisions were revised or varied in 18·3 per cent. of the appeals from original decrees, in 4·2 per cent. of the appeals from appellate decrees, and in 7·7 per cent. of the miscellaneous appeals. The corresponding percentages for 1898 were 19·6, 11·8, and 12·6 respectively.

The figures of 1899, therefore, point to a decided improvement in the work of CIVIL JUSTICE the subordinate courts.

The number of suits instituted in the Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court rose from 591,792 in 1898 to 607,630 in 1899, and the number decided from 608,763 to 619,637 (the figures including cases left pending at the close of the previous year). The pending file still continues to grow, rising from 95,219 in 1898 to 101,225 in 1899. The pending suits now represent 16·1 per cent. of the total number brought before the courts, and 1,493 of them were more than a year old, 5,599 more than six months old, and 34,740 more than three months old.

In Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court, the number of appeals instituted and determined fell from 21,381 and 22,679 in 1898 to 18,309 and 19,462 respectively, and the pending file was still further reduced from 10,259 to 9,606. The decisions of the lower courts were reversed or modified in 29·08 per cent. of the total number of appeals.

In the Presidency small cause court institutions fell from 22,730 to 21,366, and the number determined from 23,478 to 22,242. The number pending at the close of the year was 1,205, as against 1,401 in 1898, showing a satisfactory decrease. Institutions in the provincial small cause courts rose from 13,067 to 13,608.

Institutions of civil suits in the North-West Provinces fell from 99,172 in 1898 to 87,440 in 1899, of which 62,187 were for money or moveable property; the total for disposal fell from 109,602 to 98,633, and the number disposed of from 100,275 to 90,099. The pending file shows a decrease from 9,327 to 8,534. The general decrease in the number of suits instituted during the year is attributed to various causes in different districts. In Moradabad it is attributed to scarcity, while in Sháhjahánpur the falling-off is ascribed to the high price of food grains, owing to bad seasons and the exportation of grain to famine-stricken areas. Another reason given is the poorness of the sugar-cane crop, for which advances are taken by a large proportion of cultivators, and which therefore affects litigation. North-West Provinces.

The percentage of contested suits was 29·9; 32 per cent. of suits were decided *ex parte*, while plaintiffs were successful in 59·1 per cent. of the cases, as compared with 59·4 per cent. in 1898. In contested cases the average duration rose from 62 to 68 days, but is still lower than the figure for 1896, which was 71 days.

The number of appeals for disposal in courts other than the High Court, rose from 13,294 in the previous year to 13,873 in 1899, of which 7,955 were disposed of, 5,918 being left pending (as against 5,102 in 1898). The percentage of sentences upheld was 64·3, practically the same as in the previous year.

The High Court had before it 3,998 cases (30 more than in 1898); disposed of 1,994, and left a slightly reduced pending file of 2,004. The Court confirmed 66·8 per cent of decrees in contested first appeals, and 66·4 per cent. in second appeals.

In Oudh there was a decrease in the number of suits instituted, from 51,506 to 48,842, the persistent falling-off since 1894 being maintained. The suits for money and moveables are mainly responsible for this. The total work for disposal on the original side was 116,128 cases against 123,648 in 1898. There was an increase in the number of cases disposed of by the Honorary Munsifs, and a decrease in the work of the Stipendiary Munsifs. Oudh.

There were 2,892 appeals for disposal by the judge and subordinate judges, as against 3,033 in 1898; of these 2,240 were disposed of, the number of cases pending being reduced from 834 to 691. The average duration of appeals in the subordinate judges' courts was reduced to 90·34 days, while the average duration of appeals in the district judges' courts decreased from 452·76 (in 1898) to 264·15 days.

In the court of the Judicial Commissioner, the number of cases for disposal fell from 4,506 to 2,635. The disposals fell from 3,756 to 1,774, the number of cases pending at the end of the year showing an increase from 750 to 861, which cannot be regarded as a satisfactory state of affairs.

The number of original civil suits instituted in the Punjab in 1899, was 232,901, as against 248,801 in the previous year, the decrease in the number Punjab.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

instituted in district courts being mainly responsible for the falling-off. The decrease is generally ascribed to the scarcity which made itself felt in the second half of the year. Probably, scarcity and high prices were the main causes. Most people of small means had not the wherewithal to pay their debts, and the money lender who sued merely wasted time. The figures for the district of Jhang are striking; the population of this region has almost doubled since colonisation began in 1893, yet institutions have remained to all intents stationary. The aggregate of suits about land shows a considerable diminution from the abnormally high figures of the two previous years. Suits for money and immoveable property constitute the bulk of litigation in the Province, and it is in these that the fall in numbers is most marked. Suits for enforcement of matrimonial rights show a small rise. The total value of suits was £1,464,221, as against £1,632,972 in 1898. Of 272,823 suits for disposal in district courts, 217,728 were disposed of, and the pending file, which had risen steadily during the past six years, was reduced from 25,373 to 25,095. The percentage of contested cases (28) was normal, and their average duration was the same as last year. Arbitration is evidently not popular; the difficulty of finding persons in whom both parties have confidence seems insurmountable. The honorary civil judges did creditable work.

The appellate business of the Chief Court once more proved beyond the powers of the judges, though six of them sat during the year, instead of five, as in 1898. Of the 3,565 suits before the court, 1,511 were disposed of, leaving 2,054 pending at the end of the year. The corresponding figures for 1898 were respectively 3,405, 1,400, and 2,005. It will be observed that the addition of a sixth judge enabled 111 more cases to be dealt with than in the previous year, and at the close of the year rules were framed largely increasing the powers of single judges, both as regards the pending file and future institutions. What effect this will have upon disposals remains to be seen.

Burma.

The number of civil suits instituted in Burma during 1899 was 54,257, as compared with 51,075 in 1898. The increase was common to both Upper and Lower Burma. In both parts of the province the increase was entirely due to a rise in the number of suits for money or moveable property. No explanation is offered for this increase, which appears to be somewhat abnormal. The appointment of Civil Myooks, who have nothing to do except to try civil cases, in place of officers who could only devote a portion of their time to this work, and who are constantly absent from headquarters, seems to be a decided improvement from the litigant's point of view. These officers, however, do not seem to be everywhere popular, and the Deputy Commissioner, Thongwa, ascribes the decline of litigation in his district to their unpopularity.

The total value of suits in Lower Burma rose from £442,878 to £468,215, and in Upper Burma from £96,010 to £98,294.

Out of 54,185 suits disposed of in Burma, 10,828 were decided without trial and 25,309 without contest. In contested cases judgment was given for the plaintiff, in whole or in part, in 12,336 or 69 per cent. There was no change in the average duration of suits in Lower Burma, excluding Rangoon. In Upper Burma there was an increase in the average duration of both contested and uncontested suits. In the Moulmein court there was a very marked increase in the duration of suits, except on the small cause side. The average duration of suits in this court has steadily increased during the last few years, and no satisfactory explanation is offered. It is hoped, however, that the changes consequent on the passing of the Lower Burma Courts Act will enable the judge to remedy this state of affairs.

The number of regular appeals in both parts of the Province rose from 4,614 to 4,689; the percentage of confirmation increased in Lower Burma from 61·82 to 63·31, and in Upper Burma from 58·7 to 61·6.

Considerable progress was made with the translation of the Burmese digest of Buddhist law, and portions of it are already passing through the press.

Central Provinces.

The total number of suits filed in the Central Provinces declined from 97,838 in 1898, to 72,514, or less than in any year since 1870, when the total stood at 72,183. This abnormal decrease was distributed over all the districts of the Provinces and is to be attributed mainly to the prevailing agricultural distress. Of the total number of suits 68·4 per cent. were for money or

moveable property. The percentage of cases disposed of by Civil Judges is slightly higher than in the two previous years, while Assistant Commissioners, Munsifs, and Small Cause Courts show percentages of 11·2, 29·7, and 9·1 respectively, as compared with 10·7, 29·6, and 8·8 in 1898. The average duration of contested suits was 91·7, and of uncontested suits 48·1 days. The total number of appeals instituted shows a decrease from 6,226 to 5,950. The number of appeals for disposal by District Appellate Courts was 5,916 (as against 6,321 in 1898), of which 4,955 (as compared with 5,455) were disposed of. The number of regular second appeals instituted in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner was 525, as against 592 in 1898. The number disposed of was 556. The pending file at the end of the year was reduced from 213 to 182, and the number of cases pending over four months from 128 to 26.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

The number of civil suits instituted in Assam decreased from 27,863 (in 1898) to 27,335. The decrease was confined to the Assam Valley and Sylhet, Cachar showing an increase. The total value of the suits rose from £149,812 to £175,369, the district of Cachar being largely responsible for the result. 27,990 suits were disposed of, of which 6,114 were contested. This is a slight increase on the figures (6,103) of 1898, but is well below the average of the last five years.

Assam.

936 appeals were instituted in the appellate courts subordinate to the High Court, as against 889 in 1898. The number decided fell from 1,194 to 795. The decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 65·4 per cent. of the suits.

Eighty-two appeals were preferred to the High Court, of which 72 were decided. The decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 59 cases.

Thirty-three officers were employed on civil judicial work in Berar in 1899, as against 36 in the previous year. The number of suits instituted during the year was 18,149, as against 26,348 in 1898, and shows a decrease of 33·4 per cent. as compared with the average of the last five years. This marked decrease in litigation took place chiefly during the last five months of the year and is attributable to the famine. The total number of suits for disposal (including those pending from the previous year) was 24,193, as against 32,760, and of these 20,337 (as against 27,188) were disposed of. The pending file was greatly reduced in all the courts in every district, except in the station courts at Akola. Of the suits instituted, 14,627 were for money or moveable property, showing a decrease of 31·6 per cent. from the figures of 1898. The aggregate value of the suits was £190,347. As compared with the preceding five years, the year under review shows the highest proportion of contested cases and the lowest proportion of uncontested cases. This points to the fact that more attention was paid to the disposal of old cases during the year. It is satisfactory to note that the number of cases decreed on confession has considerably fallen. Including 394 cases pending from 1898, there were 1,386 appeals for disposal during the year, as against 1,547 in 1898, and 1,061 (as against 1,068) were disposed of.

Berar.

In the Madras Presidency, besides the Presidency Court of Small Causes, the City Civil Courts, and the High Court, the following tribunals administered civil justice during 1899 :—

Madras.

5,164 Village Courts.	138 District Munsifs' Courts.
65 Revenue Courts.	21 Subordinate Judges' Courts.
1 Cantonment Court of Small Causes.	23 District Courts.

The number of original suits instituted in all courts decreased by 1,966 to 371,826, and that of appeals by 560 to 10,617. The number of institutions in the Village Courts amounted to 102,704, the highest figure on record. The number of suits filed in the Presidency Court of Small Causes decreased from 24,109 to 20,651.

On the original side of the High Court the number of suits instituted rose from 233 to 311, and of 404 suits in all for disposal 291 were settled, of which 134 were contested. On the appellate side the suits received numbered 2,027, as against 2,316 in 1898. The amount of work for disposal by the court decreased on the whole, considerably, but disposals also fell off very markedly, and in

56 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

CIVIL JUSTICE. consequence arrears accumulated. It must, however, be remarked that owing to changes during the year, the court was for some months without its full complement of judges.

Among the conspicuous features of the year's statistics is the increase in the number of Village Courts, and the unprecedented rise in the number of institutions before them. The burden of litigation which fell upon the District Munsifs' Courts, though somewhat lighter than in 1898, continued to be very heavy.

Bombay. The number of suits instituted in all the Civil Courts in the Bombay Presidency in 1899 decreased from 213,034 to 183,301, and the aggregate value of the claims involved from £2,225,665 to £2,191,402. The proportion of decrease in number was most marked in suits before Subordinate Judges. The number of suits disposed of was 189,411, as against 211,786 in the previous year, while the number of suits pending at the close of the year was reduced from 38,457 to 34,070. There was a decrease in the average duration of suits in the Mámulatdárs' Courts, District Courts, and in the High Court.

The total number of appeals before all the Appellate Courts during the year was 9,510, of which 6,282 were disposed of. The arrears at the end of the year numbered 3,228, or 1,420 less than at the end of 1898. Notwithstanding this improvement, the arrears appear still to be heavy and show the necessity of an increased appellate establishment to deal with them. Applications for execution of decrees fell from 276,404 to 236,226, and the sum recovered by all the courts from £344,610 to £308,382.

With regard to the working of the Dekkan Agricultural Relief Act, XVII. of 1879, there was a considerable decrease in the number of suits instituted in the four districts of Poona, Satara, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur, which are subject to the operation of the Act in question. The number of conciliation agreements and institutions before the Village Munsifs decreased to 5,012 and 6,667 respectively, the corresponding figures in 1898 being 6,796 and 8,790. The number of Village Munsifs holding jurisdiction under the Act was 92.

Coorg. The total number of suits instituted in Coorg during the year was 2,346, while the number disposed of was 2,396. The corresponding figures in 1898 were 2,835 and 2,913. The progressive decrease in litigation in Coorg since 1895 is ascribed to a decline in the material prosperity of the Province. There were 61 appeals, the percentage of reversals rising from 10.29 to 16.38. The number of applications for execution of decrees fell from 3,620 to 3,302.

CHAPTER IV.

REGISTRATION.

THE Registration Law of 1877 makes compulsory the registration of non-testamentary documents affecting immovable property of the value of 100 rupees and upwards. Under the Transfer of Property Act of 1882, deeds of sale of immovable property of whatever value require to be registered, though if the value of the property affected is less than 100 rupees, transfer may, as an alternative, be effected by delivery. This latter Act is in force now generally throughout India, with the exceptions of Sind, the Punjab, and Burma, in which provinces, if the value is less than 100 rupees, registration of the sale deeds is optional, in Upper Burma, which is under special conditions, registration is required of all deeds affecting immovable property. In all provinces the registration of other documents is permitted, at the option of the executing parties. Officers are established in every district for the registration of documents, and for keeping copies of such documents. *Ad valorem* fees are charged for registration, and a small fixed fee for searching the records. At the end of 1899-1900 there were in British India more than 2,000 registration offices; the total number of documents registered during the year was 2,776,000 or 2 per cent. less than in 1898-99; this total does not include the 137,000 registrations under the Dekkhan Agriculturists Act. The total registration receipts of the year 1899-1900 were £288,000 as compared with £293,000 in the preceding year; and the cost of the registration offices was £168,000, leaving a surplus of £120,000 against £128,000 in the year 1898-99. The system of identification by thumb impressions, which was introduced a few years ago, has been gradually extended, and is reported to work well in many provinces.

REGISTRATION.
General.

There was in 1899-1900 a further fall in the total number of deeds registered in Bengal from 1,318,000 to 1,259,000, which is attributed to the continued good harvest. Of this total, 838,000 deeds were under the compulsory heading, the decrease as compared with the previous year being shared by this class as well as by optional registrations. The aggregate value of the property affected by the documents registered amounted to £14,013,000, against £13,331,000 in the previous year; about a quarter of that amount is contributed by the comparatively small number of deeds (3,156) registered in Calcutta. The number of registered transfers of holdings by tenants paying at fixed rates or enjoying occupancy right was 246,900 as in 1898-99; the figures are high, and it is considered probable that the recent increase in these transactions is due to the operation of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which has led the peasantry to understand the rights secured to them; the transfer was made in 166,500 cases to other ryots, and in 29,500 cases to traders or money-lenders. Occupancy holdings realised 15.6 years' purchase, against 11.6 years' in 1898-99, when the price of these holdings was exceptionally low. The Muhammadan Marriage Act was in force in 30 districts, and one new office for registrations under the Act was opened in the year. The number of such registrations was 20,960, against 19,833 in the previous year.

Bengal.

Registrations under the Bengal Land Records Maintenance Act of 1895 were in progress during the year 1899-1900 in parts of the Champaran and Mozaffarpur districts, but at present the operations are on a small scale, as the final records of only 1,621 villages have been handed over by the settlement officer. The mutations registered during the year numbered 3,276, or 1,526, *i.e.*, 32 per cent., less than in 1898-99.

The number of documents registered in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh rose from 198,400 to 207,200, of which 170,000 affected immovable property. The number of registered sales of such property rose from 44,500 to 47,400, and that of mortgages from 76,700 to 80,800, the value of the immovable property affected by the two classes of transactions being £4,809,000. The value of property affected by all deeds registered during the year was £7,287,000, against £6,403,000 in the preceding year.

North-Western
Provinces and
Oudh.

REGISTRATION.
Punjab.

The number of documents registered in the Punjab in the year 1899-1900 was 154,000, or 9 per cent. more than in the preceding year, though there is not such a marked increase as occurred in 1896-97, at the beginning of the last famine. All classes of documents contribute to the increase, but the number of registrations relating to movable property is always insignificant. Registrations of deeds affecting movable property numbered 146,000, of which 47,400 were sales and 91,000 were mortgages, against 36,100 and 89,400 respectively in the previous year. The increase is ascribed to two causes, the anticipation of the Punjab Alienation Bill and the pressure of famine. The numbers of transfers of land, by sale and mortgage, in favour of "old agriculturists" was above that of the transfers to "new agriculturists," *i.e.*, persons not hitherto agriculturists. The total value of all classes of property transferred was £3,680,000, of which £2,304,000 is under sales and mortgages of agricultural land. The latter figure, however, is of necessity not so complete as those given in the revenue returns, which are dealt with below in the Land Revenue chapter.

Burma.

The number of registrations in Lower Burma increased from 18,000 to 19,300, the increase occurring both in optional registrations and in deeds of which registration is compulsory, and the aggregate value of immovable property affected was £1,635,000, or 28 per cent. above that of the previous year. This increase occurred mainly under the heads of sale and mortgage, and chiefly in Rangoon town.

The registration system of Upper Burma was altered during the year 1898-99 by a notification that all documents of which the registration is not compulsory are permitted to be registered; it still differs from that of Lower Burma in that all deeds relating to transfers of land, however small the value, must be registered. The registered deeds affecting immovable property showed a decrease as compared with the previous year, but the value of the property affected was higher, amounting to £215,000; 322 deeds affecting movable property were filed under the new system. The total number of documents registered was 5,400, or about the same as in the preceding year.

Central Provinces.

1896-97	-	39,494	the year, as is shown in the margin; up to 1896-97 there
1897-98	-	86,975	had been a steady increase, but the agricultural depression,
1898-99	-	29,449	which at first stimulated alienations of land, has in recent
1899-1900	-	18,630	years made capital scarce and business sluggish. The fall

may also be partly due to restrictions on registration introduced by the Central Provinces Tenancy Act, which came into force in 1898. Of the 18,630 registrations, 13,605 were compulsory, the decrease in this class being 41·6 per cent. compared with 1898-99. All kinds of deeds shared in the fall. The aggregate value of the property affected also fell, from £738,000 to £460,000, of which £145,000 was under sales, and £163,000 under mortgages of immovable property. The number of sales of agricultural land fell from 6,591 to 2,751 and of mortgages from 6,626 to 2,717. But it is clear that this reduction is not wholly due to the Tenancy Act above mentioned, because in the case of plot-proprietors and others unaffected thereby there is a proportionate fall in the number of deeds of sale and mortgage registered.

Assam.

In Assam 40,700 documents were registered, or 7·6 per cent. less than the total of the preceding year, which was exceptionally high; 75 per cent. of the registrations occurred in the Sylhet district, and it was there that the decrease occurred. The heaviest falling off was in instruments of sale or exchange, and it is ascribed to the low price of food grains. The aggregate value of property affected by the deeds registered was £458,000, of which £358,000 related to immovable property; the corresponding figures of 1898-99 were £471,000 and £371,000. The marriages registered under the Muhammadan Marriage Act were 352, as compared with 382 and 305 in the two preceding years. The Act is reported to be not popular among the Muhammadans of Cachar and Sylhet, in which districts it is in force; in Cachar there was no transaction under the Act during the year.

Madras.

In Madras there was a further decline in the number of registrations in 1899-1900 of one per cent. as compared with the preceding year, the numbers having fallen from 862,400 to 854,000. The number of registered sales of land was 271,000, or little less than in the preceding year; more than half of

that number affected land worth less than 100 rupees; the number of other deeds affecting immovable property was higher than in 1898-99, while those relating to movable property show a decline. The value represented by the registered transactions affecting immovable property amounted to £7,782,000, by those affecting movable property £670,000; in each case the figures being lower than in 1898-99. REGISTRATION.

The number of registrations in Bombay was 177,500 or 2·3 per cent. less than in 1898-99, and smaller than in any year since 1892-93. The decrease occurred in deeds of which registration is compulsory. Registered deeds of sale or exchange and mortgages of immovable property numbered 62,700 and 72,200 respectively, against 64,200 and 72,000 in the previous year; but the registration of deeds transferring land of value less than 100 rupees is not compulsory in Sindh. The aggregate value of the property affected by instruments registered in the year was £6,007,000, or £106,000 less than in 1898-99. Bombay.

Under the special law for the protection of agriculturists in the four Deccan districts of Poona, Satara, Ahmednagar and Sholapur, there were 137,000 registrations, which was slightly below the total of the previous year. Of the registered sales, leases and mortgages of land, nearly 50 per cent. were between agriculturists on both sides. The aggregate value of property concerned in these special registrations was £458,000. Of the whole value affected by registration under both the above systems, £6,288,700 represented immovable property.

The number of registrations in Berar amounted in 1899-1900 to 40,000, which is a higher total than had previously been recorded. Conveyance and mortgages, but especially mortgages, were much more numerous than in recent years; and the increase is said to be a direct result of the famine. The total value of property transferred, £729,800, does not show a proportionate increase, owing to a diminution of the average value affected by the deeds. Berar.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

During the year 1899-1900, in all provinces of India, the number of new joint stock companies registered was 91, with a nominal capital of £1,616,000 and a paid-up capital of £308,500; while 170 companies, with a paid-up capital of £1,824,000, ceased to work. The number of new companies registered in the previous year was 179. At the end of the year there were in operation 1,340 companies, with a nominal capital of £33,444,000 and a paid-up capital of £23,626,000. The companies work chiefly in the provinces of Bengal and Bombay, and 84 per cent. of all the paid-up capital pertains to those two provinces; in Madras the number of companies (335) was almost as large as in Bombay, but the paid-up capital was only about one-sixth as large; in the North-Western Provinces the paid-up capital of the 71 companies aggregated £1,011,000; in no other province did the aggregate paid-up capital of registered companies reach £500,000. The Bombay companies are, taking the figures as they stand, the richest, the average of paid-up capital for the 344 companies in that presidency being £28,500; while for the 402 companies of Bengal it is £24,900, for the 335 of Madras £5,000, and for the 71 of the North Western Provinces and Oudh £14,200; the average in Bengal has risen much in the last two years, owing to the extinction of most of the native provident societies with practically no paid-up capital. In Bombay, on the other hand, companies of this kind are still active, and though the number of them started during the year was less than the number of those which ceased to exist, there were still 182 of them at work in March 1900. The distribution of paid-up capital among registered companies for different classes of industry was somewhat as follows:—

	Paid-up Capital. £		Paid-up Capital. £
Banking and insurance	- 3,162,000	Mills and presses	- - 11,951,000
Trading and shipping	- 3,839,000	Tea and planting	- - 2,305,000
Mining and quarrying	- 1,106,000		

The group of companies with the largest aggregate subscribed capital, £11,951,000, were for weaving and spinning or for pressing cotton, jute, wool

REGISTRATION.

and silk ; and nearly two-thirds of the capital of such undertakings belonged to the Bombay presidency. The capital invested in mills of these kinds increased by about two per cent. during the year, but the number of the companies was less by two than in 1898-99. In the 16 years from 1884-85 to 1899-1900 the number of joint stock companies at work has risen from 694 to 1,340; the paid-up capital has risen from 13½ to over 23½ millions of pounds.

Bengal.

In Bengal 15 new companies were registered during the year 1899-1900, with a paid-up capital of £267,000; while 102 companies, with a paid-up capital of £1,087,000, were wound up during the year. Of the 356 Native provident companies, many of them possessing little or no paid-up capital, which were working at the end of 1896-97, all but 27 had been wound up by the end of 1899-1900. The total number of companies working in Bengal at the end of 1899-1900 was 402, with a paid-up capital amounting to £1,002,000. The province contains nearly all the tea companies and the great bulk of the mining and quarrying companies of India.

Bombay.

In Bombay 44 new companies were registered in the year 1899-1900, including 25 provident societies, compared with 104 such societies registered in the preceding year. The number of other companies registered was 19, against 44 in 1898-99, the fall being due largely to depression in the cotton industry. Fifty-six companies went into liquidation, and at the end of the year 522 joint stock companies were in existence, of which 344 companies had a paid-up capital of £9,793,000, and the rest no paid-up capital at all; 221 companies, with a paid-up capital of £8,832,000, were working cotton and other mills and presses.

Madras.

In Madras 38 new companies were registered in the year 1899-1900, or 9 less than in the previous year. The total number of companies working at the end of 1898-99 was 335, with a paid-up capital of 1,687,000, as compared with 321 companies possessing a paid-up capital of £1,886,000 in the previous year. The decrease was chiefly due to the transfer of the registered offices of two large banks to Calcutta and Bombay respectively. Of the newly registered companies, 23 were banking and loan associations, and 15 were trading, manufacturing, or planting companies; four had no capital, the nominal capital of the other 34 companies was £125,900, and the paid-up capital £14,900. The number of companies wound up or removed from the register during 1899-1900 was 22, and there were 351 companies on the register in March 1900.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS.*

PATENTS.

The total number of applications filed in 1899, the latest year for which statistics are to hand, for the registration of inventions under the Patents' Law was 481, as in the preceding year. Of these, 19 were refused or abandoned, and 87 were undecided at the end of the year. Thirty-four only of the applications were made by natives of India, 118 by Anglo-Indians, and 329 by other persons. The number of specifications filed during the year was 415, or six more than in the preceding year. The number of exclusive privileges kept alive by payment of the prescribed fees was 330. There were 20 applications for the registration of designs, of which six were rejected. Of the inventions for which protection was sought 48 were connected with railways, 46 with electrical contrivances, 21 with lamps and burners, 15 with acetylene gas, 14 with the treatment of fibres, and 11 with telegraphy.

CHAPTER V.

FINANCE.

FINANCE.

FORM OF ACCOUNTS.

IN the Moral and Material Progress Statement for 1898-99 an explanation was given of the change that has been made in the form of the accounts of the Government of India. From 1886-87 to 1898-99 the accounts were so rendered as to show the revenue and expenditure under each head, both in India and in England, in tens of rupees (Rs.). But, since sovereigns have been made legal tender in India, and are at present interchangeable with rupees at the rate of one sovereign for fifteen rupees, the accounts of the Government of India are now drawn up so as to show the total revenue and expenditure under each head in pounds, the rupee being taken as one-fifteenth of a pound. The comparatively small sums which have to be brought to account owing to the facts that the remittances are not effected at exactly sixteen pence to the rupee, and that the Government is under obligations to carry out various transactions at fixed rates differing from the rate of sixteen pence to the rupee, are included in a single line under the head of Exchange in the Miscellaneous group of Revenue and Expenditure.

The new system was adopted in the Moral and Material Progress Statement for 1898-99, and is followed in the present issue.

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The gross revenue and expenditure of British India in 1899-1900 may be thus compared with the figures for 1898-99:—

Gross Revenue and Expenditure.

	1898-99.	1899-1900.	Difference.
	£.	£.	£.
Revenue - - - - -	67,595,815	68,637,164	+ 1,041,349
Expenditure - - - - -	64,954,942	65,862,541	- 907,599
Surplus - - - - - £.	2,640,873	2,774,623	133,750 (better)

In the gross revenue are included very large receipts, amounting altogether to about one-third of the whole, which (being derived from the working of the railways and canals, the operations of the Postal and Telegraph Departments, the interest received on loans to municipalities, landholders, &c., and on the investments of the Currency Department, the contributions by officers towards their pensions, the sale of stores, and the receipts of the various administrative departments,) are rather of the nature of a set-off against the corresponding charges than revenue proper; and, on the other hand, there are included in the gross expenditure, first, the refunds and drawbacks, assignments and compensations, which are a direct set-off against the revenue; secondly, the charge incurred for the production of opium, which is subject to variations caused by the state of the season and of trade; thirdly, the charge for the maintenance of public works, which necessarily increases as more works are brought into operation. The financial position of the Government can be much better appreciated by looking at the Return of Net Income and Expenditure, which is annually laid before Parliament.* The following is a statement for 1898-99 and 1899-1900 of the net revenue, i.e., the revenue after the deduction

* See Parliamentary Paper H. of C. 146 of 1901.

62 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

FINANCE.

of the refunds and drawbacks, assignments and compensations, and opium charges; and the net expenditure, i.e., the expenditure after the deduction of the various departmental receipts:—

NET REVENUE.

Net Revenue and Expenditure.

	1898-99.		1899-1900.		Net Revenue Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Land Revenue, &c.:						
Land Revenue - - - -	17,547,611		16,444,825		-1,102,786	
Forests - - - -	1,230,910		1,232,085		+ 1,175	
Tributes from Native States - -	579,560		580,003		+ 443	
		10,304,071		18,264,113		-1,099,958
Opium: Net Receipts - - - -		2,230,308		2,070,580		+ 440,281
Taxation:						
Salt - - - -	5,813,057		5,073,775		-£739,282	
Stamps - - - -	3,101,472		3,225,020		+ 123,548	
Excise - - - -	3,782,622		3,810,530		+ 27,908	
Provincial Rates - - - -	2,000,000		2,105,458		+ 105,458	
Customs - - - -	3,127,230		3,078,795		-48,435	
Assessed Taxes - - - -	1,274,020		1,292,720		+ 18,700	
Registration - - - -	293,176		287,164		-6,012	
		20,062,330		19,744,380		-317,950
Miscellaneous Receipts:						
Mint - - - -	-37,713		289,183		+ 326,896	
Miscellaneous - - - -	217,984		100,382		-117,602	
		180,271		388,565		+ 208,294
Exchange - - - -		28,628		-50,979		-79,607
TOTAL NET REVENUE - £.		41,870,617		40,080,608		-1,790,009

NET EXPENDITURE.

	1898-99.		1899-1900.		Net Expenditure Increase + or Decrease (-).	
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Debt Services:						
Interest on Public Debt (other than that charged to Railways and Irrigation) and other Obligations.		1,311,263		1,342,283		+ 31,020
Military Services:						
Army - - - -	15,385,042		14,165,743		-1,219,299	
Buildings and Roads: Military -	771,403		801,782		+ 30,379	
Special Defence Works - - - -	974		874		-100	
		16,157,500		14,968,300		-1,189,200
Collection of Revenue - - - -		4,302,149		4,448,830		+ 146,681
Commercial Services:						
Post Office - - - -	-125,919		-126,068		-149	
Telegraph - - - -	-36,115		-105,591		-69,476	
Railways - - - -	620,165		-76,756		-696,921	
Irrigation - - - -	-179,760		-156,357		+ 23,403	
		278,371		-445,102		-723,473
Famine Relief and Insurance - - - -		791,543		2,008,848		+1,217,305
Civil Services:						
Civil Departments - - - -	9,335,813		9,507,644		+ 171,831	
Miscellaneous Civil Charges - -	3,411,739		3,513,138		+ 101,399	
Construction of Railways (charged against Revenue, in addition to that under Famine Insurance).	668		2,356		+ 1,688	
Buildings and Roads: Civil - -	2,670,856		2,901,000		+ 230,144	
Provincial and Local Surpluses or Deficits.	978,231		-206,220		-1,184,451	
		16,397,600		15,708,808		-688,792
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE - £.		30,230,744		38,212,075		+8,000,000

Thus there was a decrease in the net revenue by £892,919, and in the net expenditure by £1,026,669, making the position better by £133,750, and producing a surplus of £2,774,623 in 1899-1900, as compared with a surplus of £2,640,873 in 1898-99. This is the result of a decrease in the net revenue in India by £859,895, a decrease of net expenditure in India by £1,062,312, and an increase of £68,667 in the net disbursements of the Home Treasury.

FINANCE.
Net Revenue and
Expenditure.

The decrease of £892,919 in the net revenue was mainly due to the following causes:—The net receipts from land revenue, salt, and provincial rates, showed a falling-off of £1,102,796, £240,182, and £114,205 respectively, the decrease under each head being chiefly brought about by the famine which prevailed during the latter half of the year; on the other hand, the opium receipts showed an increase of £440,281 due to the larger sales and higher price of Bengal opium, and the mint receipts were higher by £312,896, due partly to a larger coinage of British dollars for Hong Kong and the Straits Settlements and of copper coin for use in India, but mainly to the gain on the coinage of 13,018,078 rupees, (£867,870). This gain, amounting to about £219,000, was credited to the revenues of the year, but it has been decided that in future the profit on the coinage of silver shall be credited to the gold reserve fund which has been established with a view to the maintenance of a stable exchange. This decision takes effect from the 1st of April 1900.

On the net expenditure side of the account there was an increase of £1,307,305 under Famine Relief and Insurance; but this is more than counterbalanced by the savings under "Army" (£1,219,299), by the increased revenue from railways (£696,921), and by the larger extent (£1,184,454) to which the total expenditure was met from the balances of the Provincial Governments.

In 1898-99 the expenditure entered under the head of Famine Relief and Insurance was £791,543, viz.:—Famine relief £26,703; construction of protective railways £460,236; construction of protective irrigation works £7,779; reduction or avoidance of debt £296,825. In 1899-1900 there was spent on the relief of famine £2,074,918, and on the construction of protective irrigation works £23,930.

The decrease in Army charges is due to the fact that troops, which would in ordinary circumstances have been stationed in India, were transferred at the request of the British Government to South Africa, Ceylon, and Singapore.

The improvement under railways is largely due to the movement of food-grains to famine districts, and to the additional military traffic caused by the transport of troops ordered to South Africa.

In 1898-99 the Provincial Governments, after providing for their expenditure for the year, added £978,234 to their balances out of the assignments allotted to them under their agreements with the Government of India. In 1899-1900 they drew from their balances £206,220 to assist them in meeting the expenditure of the year. The position of the Imperial account was thus improved in the latter year by £1,184,454.

The tables in the Appendix show the net revenue and expenditure in India of the several Provinces under the chief heads for the years 1898-99 and 1899-1900, and the net payments in England. The revenue and expenditure of Berar, which form no part of the general finances of the Government of India, are not given in this chapter, but are referred to under Hyderabad, in the chapter on Native States. The surplus revenues of the various Provinces, as shown in the summary on page 9 of the Appendix, were applied to meet the general charges in India and in England in approximately the following proportions:—In 1898-99: Bengal 31·82, North-Western Provinces 19·08, Bombay 14·37, the Punjab 12·03, Madras 11·97, Burma 7·50, Central Provinces 2·56, and Assam 0·67. In 1899-1900: Bengal 37·72, North-Western Provinces 20·98, Madras 15·13, the Punjab 11·08, Bombay 8·44, Burma 7·73, and Assam 1·43, while the Central Provinces showed a deficit of 2·51 per cent.

64 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

FINANCE.

Capital outlay on public works.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PUBLIC WORKS.

The total capital outlay on railways and irrigation works, during the two years, was as follows :—

	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Amount supplied by Ordinary borrowing or from the Cash Balances, without being charged against the Revenue of the year:	£.	£.
State Railways - - - - -	2,840,354	2,437,712
Irrigation Works - - - - -	435,000	597,000
Amount met by Debenture Stock issued by the East Indian Railway Company - - - - -	—	1,057,487
Amount defrayed from Revenue:		
Provincial Railways - - - - -	969	2,356
Surveys of Railways charged to Revenue in previous years - - - - -	8,141	—
Protective Railways - - - - -	400,236	—
Protective Irrigation Works - - - - -	7,770	23,930
Other Irrigation Works* - - - - -	9,568	6,061
TOTAL Direct Outlay by the State -	3,768,745	4,126,500
Outlay by companies guaranteed or subsidised by Government - - - - -	3,183,291	2,734,200
Outlay by railways outside Government accounts - -	453,800	300,067
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY ON RAILWAYS AND IRRIGATION - - - - - £.	7,405,836	7,220,673

* Excluding capital outlay on the minor works, against which interest is not charged in the accounts.

DEBT.

Debt.

The following table shows the alteration in the amount of the debt that took place in 1899-1900, the amount of the rupee debt in India being expressed in pounds at the rate of Rs. 15 = £1 :—

	Amount of Debt on 31st March 1899.	Amount of Debt on 31st March 1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
In India - - - - - £.	76,103,132	74,983,134	—	119,998
In England (permanent) - - - - - £.	119,768,606	110,644,401	—	124,204
„ (temporary) - - - - - £.	4,500,000	4,500,000	—	—

No permanent debt was created in 1899-1900, either in India or England. In India debt to the amount of £119,998 was discharged, including £80,000 of the Gwalior Loan of 1887. In England the permanent debt was reduced by £124,204, of which £122,904 was cancelled by the operation of Sinking funds. The amount of the temporary debt in England underwent no change during the year. The average rates at which new India (sterling) bills were issued in place of those falling due in the year were £2 13s. 10½d. (June), £3 6s. 11½d. (September), £4 2s. 11d. (December), £3 17s. 10d. (March).

SAVINGS BANKS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS.

FINANCE.
Savings banks
and other
obligations.

The following table shows the amount received and paid on account of savings banks, loans to municipalities, and other obligations in India:—

	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.
Savings Banks, &c. (net increase in deposits) - - - -	173,937	254,748
Loans to Port Trusts, Municipalities, Native States, &c. by the Imperial Government (net receipts or disbursements) - -	27,869	- 706,194
Loans by the Provincial Governments (net receipts or disbursements) - - - -	204,618	- 153,605
Other obligations (net receipts) - - - -	249,399	60,009
TOTAL - - - £	715,814	- 545,102

CASH BALANCES.

The following statement shows the amount of the cash balances, and the extent to which they were increased or reduced by the transactions of the year:—

	On 1st April			Increase or Decrease.	
	1898.	1899.	1900.	In 1898-99.	In 1899-1900.
In India - - - £.	10,654,962	11,177,069	8,425,827	+ 522,707	- 2,751,842
In England - - - £.	2,534,244	3,145,768	3,330,943	+ 611,524	+ 185,175

COINAGE AND PAPER CURRENCY.

The value of the coinage at the Mints in India was:—

Coinage and
Paper Currency.

	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.
Silver - - - - -	465,576	1,484,025
Copper - - - - -	32,810	53,421
TOTAL - - -	498,386	1,537,446

The silver coinage in 1899-1900 consisted of 13,018,708 rupees, 9,033,671 half-rupees, and 208,001 eighth-rupees. There were also coined at Bombay, from silver tendered by exchange banks, 30,743,159 British dollars; and from those coined during the year and in the previous year 30,813,000 were issued to the banks, and exported to Singapore, Penang, and Hong Kong.

The receipts and expenditure of the Indian Mints were as follows:—

	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.
Receipts - - - - -	51,954	345,901
Expenditure - - - - -	75,677	55,008
Net Receipts or Expenditure (—)	- 23,723	289,903

66 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

FINANCE.

On the 31st of March 1900 the value of notes in circulation was £19,158,150, being greater by £355,966 than on the corresponding date in 1899. The reserve was, in gold £9,000,012, in silver coin £3,491,475, and in Government securities £6,666,663.

RATE OF EXCHANGE.

In 1898-1899 the Secretary of State for India in Council sold Bills and Telegraphic Transfers on the Treasuries in India for Rs. 28,07,63,671, and received for them £18,692,377. The average rate was thus 1s. 3·9784578*d.* per rupee. The Bills and Telegraphic Transfers sold in 1899-1900 amounted to Rs. 28,48,00,943; the sterling received was £19,067,022; and the average rate was 1s. 4·067662*d.* per rupee.

CHAPTER VI.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

SURVEY OF INDIA, ETC.

THE work of "The Survey of India" is divided under five heads, SURVEYS, namely:—

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Trigonometrical Survey. | 3. Cadastral Survey. |
| 2. Topographical and Forest Survey. | 4. Special Surveys and Explorations. |
| 5. Map Production. | |

Cadastral Surveys are separately treated below. The account given of progress under heads one, two, four and five relates to the work of the survey year ending on the 30th September 1899.

The field operations of the year were carried on by two double and 17 ordinary parties. Of these, one party was employed on trigonometrical surveys; eight parties on topographical surveys; one double and two ordinary parties on forest surveys; two parties on cadastral surveys; one double and one ordinary party, and a detachment, on traverse surveys; and three parties on scientific operations. The operations of the Forest Survey Branch were continued in addition to the above.

Owing to continued disturbances in Mekran, No. 24 party was transferred to Burma, where the important work of linking up the Burmese with the Indian principal triangulation was satisfactorily completed. It was at the same time ascertained that the earthquake of 1897 in Assam had not, as had been conjectured, caused any displacement in Southern Assam.

The transfer of one party from cadastral to topographical work raised the number of parties employed on the latter branch to eight, of which four were in Burma. The total area topographically surveyed during the year was 18,280 square miles, against 15,109 square miles in 1897-98. Parties Nos. 10, 11 and 21 were engaged in Upper Burma, and the aggregate area completed by them amounted to 5,996 square miles on the one-inch scale, while 9,448 square miles were triangulated in advance. The two latter parties were to some extent hampered by having to supply surveyors for the Burma-China Delimitation Commission. Another party, No. 3, transferred from cadastral work, had the satisfactory record of 1,963 square miles of survey and 3,512 square miles of triangulation, in a hilly and thickly wooded country. No. 12 party continued the survey of Sind on the two-inch scale, and completed an area of 2,813 square miles. The work of No. 15 party consisted in topographical survey of 3,821 square miles, chiefly in the Rawalpindi district and in Kashmir, but also in the western portion of Sind. The Himalaya party, No. 18, surveyed 156 square miles on the four-inch scale in Kangra, and 622 on the two-inch scale, besides other minor operations. The survey of the Lushai hills, begun in the previous season by party No. 14, was carried on with fair success, though the outturn, 649 square miles of topographical survey, fell short of expectations, the difficulties of the country having been underestimated. As there are no Great Trigonometrical Survey stations in these hills, a series of secondary triangles had to be made as a basis for detailed survey. This was completed during the year, and an area of 1,423 square miles was triangulated in advance.

In Madras two Forest Survey parties (Nos. 9 and 19), which were amalgamated in the preceding year, completed detailed survey on the four-inch scale over 1,350 square miles, besides triangulation over 950 square miles, and 717 miles of traverse survey. Surveys of reserved forests were carried on in the Kurnool, Cuddapah and North Coimbatore districts. In Bombay a party (No. 17) completed the following work: in the districts of North Kanara and Nasik 429 square miles of forest reserves on the four-inch scale; in Thana, Nasik and Kolaba, 254 square miles of teak forest on the eight-inch scale; and in Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Nasik, 55 square miles of *babul* reserves on the sixteen-inch scale. This was in addition to the usual amount of preliminary work, which was done by native agency. In Lower Burma, party No. 20, which was transferred to the Forest Survey Branch during the year, completed

68 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

SURVEYS.	472 square miles of detailed survey on the four-inch scale in the Pegu, Shwegyin, Thayetmyo and Rangoon reserves, and 87 square miles on the two-inch scale in unreserved forests, besides 1,200 square miles of triangulation and traverses extending over 186 miles. The Forest Survey Branch completed surveys over 2,257 square miles, chiefly on the four-inch scale, in the Central Provinces, in the Chamba State, the Punjab, and in Upper and Lower Burma. The total of forest surveys for the year amounts to 5,217 square miles, compared with 4,132 in 1897-98.
Cadastral Survey.	The work of the cadastral and traverse survey parties is noticed below under each of the provinces where they were employed.
Geodetic.	Two parties (Nos. 22 and 23) were employed on latitude observations. The former party worked along the East Coast, taking observations at eight stations. The latter resumed the determination of latitude on the group system, originated by Lieutenant Herschel, R.E., working in the neighbourhood of Agra. The observations were not sufficiently analysed to draw any conclusion. The object in view is the determination of the direction and magnitude of the deviation of the plumb line in the area examined.
Map printing.	The number of new maps or sheets, and new editions, in hand in the Engraving Office during the year was 306; these included eight quarter sheets of the Atlas of India (scale of four miles to the inch) which were completed and 64 which were in progress. A new map of India on the scale of 64 miles to the inch has been projected, as it has become impossible to bring the existing map on that scale up to date. A third edition of the map of India on the 32-mile scale was published.
Tidal and levelling operations.	The recording of tidal curves by self-registering tide gauges, their reduction, and the publication of tide tables, were continued during the year at 13 stations, of which seven are permanent and six are temporary. The observations at Diamond Island having been completed in 1898-99, that station was closed, and work was to be started at Port Albert Victor in the ensuing season. The number of Indian ports for which tide tables for 1900 have been published is 39. Levelling operations, which had been suspended in 1897-98, were resumed in the year under report. The programme, which was successfully carried out, was to complete the great line of levels from Vizagapatam to Allahabad, and then to carry a branch line from Katni, along the Indian Midland Railway, to Kethora, and thence to the two ends of the Sironj Base Line.
Magnetic.	A magnetic survey of India is under consideration, and steps are being taken to provide the necessary instruments and suitable observing stations.
Geographical surveys and explorations.	Under this head are included surveys and reconnaissances which are executed on the scale of half an inch to a mile or smaller scales. During the year an area of 2,043 square miles of survey on the half-inch scale was completed in Kashmir and Gilghit, and a very large addition made to our knowledge of the Indian frontier geography, including 26,850 square miles of quarter-inch survey in Upper Burma (Yunnan), 26,274 square miles in Sistan, Dir and Chitral on the North-Western frontier, besides nearly 12,000 square miles surveyed by the Burma-China Boundary Commission.
Marine Survey.	The marine survey vessels "Investigator" and "Nancowry" began and completed a survey of the Moulmein river and approaches, and the "Nancowry" then proceeded to the Andaman Islands to continue the survey from the point to which it had been carried in 1897. The "Investigator" ran a meridian distance to the North Andamans from Rangoon, in order to test the longitude of the islands. Subsequently detailed examination was made of shoals in the neighbourhood of the Andamans, and a visit was paid to Invisible Bank.
Geological.	Among the subjects which occupied the attention of the Geological Survey Department during the year was an investigation of the gold fields of Burma and the Wynaad in Madras. In Burma gold was found in "paying" quantities in the Wuntho district, but it is doubtful whether there is enough to repay working on a large scale. In the Wynaad the inquiry was not completed, but it appeared that the majority of the reefs are too poor to repay working. An examination of the coal fields of Rampur and Sohagpur was carried out. Further inquiries were also made as to the possibility of irrigation by artesian wells in various parts of India. A full report on this subject was in course of

preparation, but in the meantime it is stated that while the Indo-Gangetic plain and the peninsula proper do not show favourable conditions, it is possible that in Gujarat, Kathiawar and Rajputana there may be artesian water; and experimental boring to a depth of 1,000 feet was to be undertaken. In addition to these economic inquiries, geological investigations were also made in various parts of India. SURVEYS.

The Archæological Survey of Western India toured in Kathiawar, but the tour was a short one, the Superintendent of the Survey being occupied for some part of the season in photographing the sculptures on the gateways of the Sanchi tope near Bhopal. The expenditure on the conservation of antiquarian remains in the Bombay Presidency amounted to £740. In the North-Western Provinces attention was chiefly directed to the shrines and temples at Agra and Fatehpur Sikri, and reports were made with a view to conservation work, on which £6,100 were spent in the province during the year from Government revenues. In the Punjab no archæological survey work was done during the year; £480 were spent on repairs from the provincial funds. In Madras, in the early part of the year, survey work was in progress in the Cuddapah district, and subsequently a tour was made among the temples in the Tinnevely district, where important results were obtained. The new Archæological Department in Burma devoted its attention chiefly to conservation of ancient monuments, for which a sum of £350 was allotted. A list of buildings of archæological interest is being prepared, with a view to their conservation by Government. It is proposed to establish a Provincial Museum. An interesting discovery of relics, dating from the 14th century, was made at Tagaung. Archæological.

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Meteorological
Department.

Meteorological observations were recorded during the year 1899-1900 at 227 stations, of which 179 are maintained by the Government of India. Of these latter, seven were first-class observatories and 39 second-class, the remaining 133 belonging to class 3, in which less frequent observations are taken. The area under observation embraces not only India, but the whole of the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean down to Zanzibar and the Seychelles, and the area northwards up to Resht and Kashgar. Besides observing stations, inquiries are made from ships entering Indian ports, which give valuable meteorological data. The points investigated are rainfall, snowfall, barometric and thermometric readings, cloud movements, storms, and earthquakes; daily charts and weekly and monthly reviews, as well as seasonal forecasts and storm warnings are issued. The monthly reviews contained, among other information, rainfall data from 2,301 stations.

The forecast of the probable rainfall for the monsoon of 1899, published in June of that year, was founded mainly on information regarding the snowfall on the mountain region to the north and north-west of India, and on the distribution of barometric pressure in India and over the Arabian Sea during the month of May, as compared with the meteorology of previous years. The forecast predicted a rainfall slightly above the normal over the greater part of India, but indicated that the rainfall might be in slight to moderate defect in Assam, North Bengal, Berar, the Bombay Deccan, and Mysore. This forecast proved, unfortunately, to be wrong over the greater part of India. In Burma and North Eastern India it was generally verified; but elsewhere the monsoon was very deficient. In the Punjab it was 50 per cent. below the normal, 46 per cent. below it in the Central Provinces, 36 per cent. below in Central India, in Rajputana 57 per cent. below, in Berar 71 per cent. below, and in Bombay and Madras respectively it was 60 and 19 per cent. in defect.

The forecast of the winter rains, from December 1899 to February 1900, was issued in December 1899, and predicted slightly deficient rainfall in Upper India and in the Gangetic plain, and slight excess in Central India, the North-Western Provinces, and the Central Provinces. This was in fair accordance with the facts.

Warnings of approaching storms are sent to ports on the Bay of Bengal from Calcutta, and to ports on the Arabian Sea coast from Simla. The revised system of storm signals introduced in 1898 provides for fuller signals being sent to the larger ports, the port authorities deciding in each case whether

70 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

Surveys.

they will have the full or the less complete signals. On the Bay of Bengal 22 ports received warnings, three of them on the "brief" system. On the western side of India also, warnings were sent to 22 ports, to seven of them on the "extended" system. The system of flood warnings to canal, civil, and railway officers, to military officers, and to private firms, continued to be useful; 304 such warnings were issued by the Meteorological Department during the year. The warnings are generally stated by the recipients to have been timely and satisfactory, but criticisms and suggestions are invited, and, in cases where they have been received, have been adopted.

Rainfall.

The average rainfall and the actual rainfall of the three years 1897 to 1899, in the regions into which India has been divided, were as follows:—

Meteorological Division.	Area, Square Miles.	Number of Stations.	Normal Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall.		
				1897.	1898.	1899.
			Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Punjab Plains - - -	120,000	20	21.71	18.41	18.07	8.93
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	88,500	44	38.07	41.30	43.35	35.43
Rajputana, East - - -	67,000	20	27.02	24.43	19.28	11.90
Rajputana, West - - -	68,000	10	12.51			
Central India States - - -	91,000	26	44.26	37.53	46.36	24.26
Behar - - - - -	30,000	15	44.75	50.48	54.92	62.65
Western Bengal - - -	38,000	14	52.75	52.50	55.19	50.71
Lower Bengal - - -	54,000	28	65.53	64.53	70.38	76.63
Assam and Cachar - - -	61,000	17	95.19	94.48	89.80	105.57
Orissa and Northern Circars	27,000	32	52.75	52.10	47.85	42.18
Central Provinces, South - -	61,000	19	53.46	50.21	48.49	26.11
Berar and Khandesh - - -	43,000	13	30.41	32.72	28.50	14.79
Gujarat - - - - -	54,500	13	33.82	33.08	29.30	7.33
Sind and Cutch - - - - -	68,000	10	8.59	9.87	5.44	.77
North Deccan - - - - -	48,000	13	30.83	33.12	35.40	18.79
Konkan and Ghâts - - - - -	16,000	11	139.95	152.28	150.62	71.96
Malabar and Ghâts - - - - -	18,000	8	114.50	140.33	107.79	89.98
Hyderabad - - - - -	74,000	17	34.58	28.72	30.57	16.53
Mysore and Bellary - - - - -	58,000	18	29.28	32.19	31.93	21.57
Carnatic - - - - -	72,000	36	36.04	32.25	47.05	31.00
Arakan - - - - -	11,000	6	152.36	144.47	142.15	180.40
Pegu - - - - -	32,500	7	72.24	72.01	71.25	74.52
Tenasserim - - - - -	10,500	4	173.30	177.65	178.30	162.29
Upper Burma - - - - -	?	13	39.02	35.67	37.81	44.93

Over the whole of India the rainfall of 1899 was 10.41 inches below the normal.

In the early part of 1900 the absence of rain, after the great drought of 1899, caused great anxiety. In January there was good rain in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and in the Panjab, but in Bombay and Rajputana the fall was very deficient. In February and March also it was short of the normal, and though in April it was better, it was again deficient in May, with the exception of Rajputana, the Indus Valley and Gujarat. In June the south-east monsoon broke strongly, but the south-west current was late and weak, the fall of the month in Northern Bombay, Rajputana and Southern Panjab being almost *nil*. At the beginning of July this weakness continued, but by the end of the month the rain had reached all parts of India usually supplied by the south-west monsoon. In August the rainfall was irregular, but while the fall in the Gangetic area was slightly below the normal, there was a large excess in Rajputana, Central India and Gujarat, while the Deccan also received more than the usual quantity for the month. In September the general rainfall of India was in excess, in some parts considerably and in others very largely, though the interior and north of the Bombay Presidency received less than the usual amount. Assam received nearly 50 per cent. less rain in August and September than the normal of those months. In October practically no rain fell in North-Western and Central India, and everywhere but in Burma the amount was below the average. It was in the Bombay Deccan that the failure of rain was most marked and persistent throughout the year. The Arabian Sea monsoon was weak as a whole; the Bay, or north-east monsoon was, on the whole, fairly good.

SETTLEMENTS AND CADASTRAL SURVEYS.

The term "settlement" is applied in Indian revenue affairs to the process of assessing the land revenue demand. Occasionally, in newly acquired or specially backward tracts, the land revenue is assessed for a short term of years on a general review of the circumstances and capabilities of the land and people concerned; such a process is called a summary settlement. But a regular settlement is a more complicated affair, and consists of many stages. In the first place, every separate estate or holding is demarcated by permanent marks on the ground; and disputes between neighbouring right-holders are investigated and decided. Every estate or holding is then surveyed and mapped, all boundary marks, wells, and buildings being shown on the field or cadastral maps. Sometimes these field surveys and maps are made by trained professional surveyors belonging to the Survey Department. When the field surveys are made by local or village surveyors, such agents are trained by, and their work is independently tested by, professional surveyors. The work of the professional survey, whether cadastral maps or traversing, is based on, and is checked by, the independent scientific work of the Grand Trigonometrical and Topographical Surveys. After the field maps are prepared, the next process is to classify or record each field according to its productive value, as evidenced by its soil, by the amount of its produce, or by the rent it pays. A record is at the same time drawn up of all rents paid, and of all rights, whether landlord rights, or tenant rights, or rights of user, over all the ground, buildings, wells, and trees shown in the map. Then the assessing officer (or settlement officer, as he is often called) compiles the information obtained for all the lands in a circle of villages; and on a review of all these data, of the past fiscal history of the tract, of the range of prices, of the accessibility of markets, and of other general considerations, he proposes rent rates or revenue rates for the several classes of lands in the circle. In the determination of rent rates or revenue rates for any tract, the rainfall, the subsoil water level, and irrigation facilities are important factors; but improvements made by the owners or occupiers themselves are not held to enhance the assessable value of the land. In re-settlements in the North-West Provinces and Oudh, the rents now enjoyed by the owner of the land are practically the main basis on which the new land revenue is assessed. The rent rates or revenue rates proposed by the settlement officer, and the grounds on which they were based, are then investigated by a superior officer, and are not adopted until they have been accepted or modified by the latter.

In provinces where the zemindari tenure prevails, that is, where single proprietors or proprietary brotherhoods possess large estates of several hundreds or thousands of acres, the State revenue is assessed at an aliquot part (usually about one-half) of the ascertained or assumed rental. The revenue, though it is fixed with reference to acreage rates on the land actually cultivated, is assessed on, and is payable by, each estate as a whole; the assessment remains unchanged for the 30 years or other period of the settlement; the proprietor can bring as much as he likes of his waste or fallow land under the plough; and it is only on re-assessment at the end of the term of the settlement that the State obtains any increase of revenue on account of the extensions of cultivation during the settlement period. In provinces where the ryotwari tenure prevails, that is, where each petty proprietor holds directly from the State, generally cultivates his own land, and has no landlord between himself and the Government, the revenue is separately assessed at an acreage rate on each petty holding, and land revenue becomes payable at once, or after a short term of grace in the case of uncleared lands, on all extensions of cultivation. The ryotwari proprietor is at liberty to throw up his holding or any portion of it, at the beginning of any year, after reasonable notice; the zemindar or large proprietor engages to pay the revenue assessed upon him for the term of the settlement.

After the revenue is assessed and the assessment is sanctioned, copies of the field map, of the schedule of fields, and of the record of rights are made; one copy is given to the proprietor; one copy is lodged in the district court house; and usually a third copy is placed in the subdivisional or tahsil office. Through the agency of the local officials of each village or circle the

SETTLEMENTS
AND CADASTRAL
SURVEYS.

field maps and record of rights are corrected or written up year by year, so as to make them at all times faithful accounts of current rural facts and circumstances. When revisions of assessment are undertaken at the end of the settlement, the village maps and records serve, after adequate testings and corrections, as the basis for re-assessment; and in this way a re-settlement is a shorter and less costly affair, and causes much less harassment to the people than is involved in an original settlement. At the present time re-settlements have been practically completed in Bombay, and are being made in some districts of Madras, the Punjab, Oudh, Berar, and the Central Provinces; also in outlying parts of Bengal. Original settlements are still being prosecuted on the west coast of Madras and in Lower Burma; while in Upper Burma the first settlement of the land revenue has been begun.

Bengal.

The Bengal report brings the account of survey and settlement affairs down to the end of September 1900. In Orissa, all field work had been completed in previous years, and it remained to prepare and submit the final report. This was done in the course of the year, but orders had not yet been passed on it by Government. Of minor operations in temporarily settled estates, the work in the Seven Sunderbans has been finished, the report on the last six small estates having been submitted during the year; settlement work progressed satisfactorily in the Noakhali and Backerganj Government estates, the increase of revenue in the latter being at the rate of 23 per cent.

In North Behar cadastral surveys and settlements were prosecuted in the Saran and Darbhanga districts, the total area of which is 5,875 square miles. In the Mozufferpore and Champaran districts operations had been brought to a conclusion. In Saran the survey and record of rights had been completed before the beginning of the year, but over an area of 526 square miles the records still required to be attested. This work, together with rent settlement, was carried out, and all that remained at the end of the year was to settle disputes and recover costs in the above-mentioned area, and to submit the final report on the whole. It is noteworthy that among 1,051 villages, the records of which were attested in the year, one was discovered in which the status of the "settled ryot," or small cultivator with occupancy rights, secured by the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885, was unknown either to landlords or tenants. Of the settlement costs claimed during the year, 97 per cent. was collected. In Darbhanga the full programme of work was not completed, owing to lack of funds, but an area of 741 square miles was surveyed and records written for the 623 villages comprised in it; records were attested for 571 villages, and the rents of 1,884 tenants were settled, the result being an increase of 9 per cent. in the rent. In addition to these and minor operations, survey and settlement of rents was in progress, on the application and at the expense of the proprietors, in some private estates in the Sonthal Parganas, where 502 square miles were surveyed, and records were written for 1,301 villages, and attested for 1,905 villages.

North-Western
Provinces and
Oudh.

In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh reports of the completion of settlement operations in six districts and in the Lalitpur sub-division of Jhansi were received during the year. Settlement work in Meerut, Shahjahanpur, Kheri, and Bahraich, is now approaching completion, and in Bareilly and Almorah the work of assessment has begun. In the Meerut district rates were finally sanctioned during the year for five tracts resulting in an increase of 26 per cent., yielding £11,700; in Bahraich three revised settlements were declared, showing an increase of 31 per cent., or £8,400; in the Lalitpur sub-division of the Jhansi district five revised assessments, yielding 6 per cent. more than the former demand, and in the Kheri district three revised assessments were declared, with an increase of £1,900, or 21 per cent. Elsewhere no settlements received sanction during the year, though work progressed satisfactorily. Survey and record writing operations by local agency were continued in Gonda, and commenced in Farukhabad, Azamgarh and Pilibhit. They were completed in Bareilly, Kheri, and the hill tracts of the Naini Tal district. The total area surveyed was 3,312 square miles, comprising 4,376 villages, while the records of 4,338 villages were brought up to date. The staff for these purposes comprises 1,720 village accountants who have been trained in survey work.

As in the previous year, the Imperial Survey Department was not employed on revenue or cadastral survey in the Punjab. Some work was done by provincial detachments in boundary surveying and the laying down of base lines in riverain tracts. Settlement operations were in progress in parts of six districts. In the Montgomery, Jhelum, Mooltan and Hazara (Agror Valley) districts, measurements have to a greater or less extent been completed, and new assessments were announced for several sub-divisions, showing moderate advances in the revenue. In the Mozuffergarh and Dera Ismail Khan districts measurements are in progress, the settlement in the latter having been begun in January 1898. In one other settlement area, Sirsa-Fazilka, operations had to be postponed owing to the prevailing scarcity.

SETTLEMENTS
AND CADASTRAL
SURVEYS.
Punjab.

One party of the Survey of India (No. 7) resumed the survey of the Upper Chindwin district of Upper Burma, where 800 square miles of traversing; and 228 square miles of cadastral survey were completed. A detachment of this party was also employed on revision survey in the Pegu district of Lower Burma, completing 185 square miles of surveying. Local surveys, revision surveys, and minor field-to-field operations were carried on by special staffs in various parts of the province. The area under supplementary survey, that is, the area for which the field maps and records are tested and corrected yearly, increased from 22,993 to 23,860 square miles in Lower Burma, and it was 5,352 square miles in Upper Burma. The 20 Government survey schools (13 in Lower and seven in Upper Burma) had 523 students on the rolls at the end of the year, including many sons of village headmen. The system of revenue collection by village headmen was introduced into several new circles in Lower Burma during the year, and there were at the end of the year 424 of these circles or groups of villages in which the system is in force. These headmen are reported to work well on the whole, their faults being in the main due to illiteracy.

Burma.

In Upper Burma outdoor settlement work was continued in the Magwe district, and operations were concluded in the Sagaing district; work was also in progress in the Yamethin district. The Meiktila settlement report has been fully approved; the increase in the revenue is 20 per cent., but this is to be reduced for the present by imposing a lower rate of household tax; the net total of land revenue and household tax is £42,800, and the term of settlement is seven years. In Lower Burma 679 square miles in the Toungoo district were brought under regular settlement, the new rates giving an increase of £12,000. Revision settlement operations were continued in the Hanthawaddy, Henzada, and Pegu districts, in the latter of which the programme was completed.

Assessment operations were continued in four districts of the Central Provinces, and good progress was made. In Nimar the balance of assessment work was completed by the declaration of rates for the remaining portion, showing an increase of 42 per cent. on the previous amount. In Betul, too, the work was completed during the year, the total revenue assessment showing an increase of 46 per cent. The Bhandara assessment was almost but not quite brought to a conclusion, and little remained to be done in Balaghat. Progress was made with preliminary attestation, &c., in Chanda, Raipur and Bilaspur. In Raipur, 224 villages belonging to landed proprietors had their records attested, and 22 were surveyed. In connection with the comparatively small area held by peasant proprietors in the Central Provinces, 92 square miles were cadastrally surveyed in Betul, and 46 villages were assessed in Nimar; the area of lands allotted during the year was 24,700 acres, and over 408,000 acres, or more than the total area allotted, still remains for allotment.

Central Provinces.

The Survey party (No. 6), which had been employed since 1883 in Assam, was disbanded, and cadastral surveys are now to be carried out by local agency on the basis generally of a theodolite traverse. During the year 1899-1900, besides traversing over about 900 square miles, cadastral survey was thus carried out in the Goalpara, Darrang and Sylhet districts, over an area of 78 square miles. The re-settlement reports of the Jaintia parganas and of Cachar were published in 1898-99, and are noticed in last year's Statement; the only re-settlement work requiring to be done in 1899-1900 was in the few

Assam.

SETTLEMENTS
AND CADASTRAL
SURVEYS.

temporarily settled estates of the Sylhet district, and this was completed and report submitted after the close of the year. The settled area now constitutes 40 per cent. of the total area in Cachar, 87 per cent. in Sylhet, and 19 per cent. (omitting permanently settled estates) in the Brahmaputra Valley.

Madras.

In Madras cadastral re-survey prior to re-settlement was in progress during the year 1899-1900 in the Kistna and Kurnool districts, and the area covered was 1,284 square miles, including revision, against 404 square miles in the preceding year. Besides this work, 89 square miles of original survey was carried out over Government lands excluded from former surveys, and 608 square miles in proprietary estates, under the Act of 1897, which authorised the survey of such estates, either upon the request of the landholders or, in special cases, on the initiative of the Government. The work was done under the Madras Survey Department in six divisions, and the outturn, as shown above, compares very favourably with that of 1898-99, while it is about 5 per cent. higher than the estimated amount for the year. In Nellore, Kistna and Kurnool, 4,000, 1,182 and 3,594 square miles respectively remain to be done; there is also an area of 2,479 square miles on lands excluded from former surveys, and 277 square miles of hill and jungle survey awaiting completion. For the ensuing year the estimated outturn was fixed at 3,178 square miles of survey and re-survey altogether. Settlement parties were at work in the Nellore, Anantapur, South Canara, Godavery, Kistna, Malabar and Salem districts, chiefly engaged on minor operations. The re-settlement of the Godavery district and of the Masulipatam portion of the Kistna district went on during the year, and the settlement of Malabar was pending, as a report was being prepared as to whether the registration of titles was in a sufficiently forward state to admit of the introduction of settlement. A scheme for the settlement of South Canara was also under consideration. No final settlement report was approved during the year. The total cost of survey and settlement operations, since operations began in 1858, has been £2,460,000; while the net increase of revenue secured has been £633,500, or nearly 26 per cent. on the outlay.

Bombay.

Of the three revenue surveys in Bombay, viz., the Deccan, Konkan and Gujarat, the two first have been disbanded on completion of their programmes, a small establishment being retained to wind up the surveys. The Gujarat survey was reduced to one party, which was employed in 1899-1900 in the Panch Mahals district on re-examination of lands of which the records had been lost. Revision survey settlement was introduced into the Olpad taluka of Surat, besides some isolated Government and alienated villages, the total of villages dealt with being 170. The settlements introduced during the previous year resulted in an annual increase of £17,500, or 23 per cent., in the British villages. The total approximate cost of the Bombay revision settlement up to the 31st March 1900 was £510,000; this expenditure has resulted in an increase in the revenue demand of £310,000, or 30 per cent. on the former revenue, being equal to a return of 61 per cent. on the total expenditure. In Sind five irrigation settlements were sanctioned, but too late for the introduction of the rates, which was accordingly postponed until the ensuing year.

Berar.

The field operations of the revision survey of Berar had been brought to a close in June 1899, and there was no work of the nature done in the year ending in July 1900. Settlement registers were completed for 622 villages. Proposals for revision settlement of four talukas in the Amraoti and Basim districts were prepared and submitted during the year, and sanction was given to four other revised settlements, the introduction of the new rates of assessment being postponed owing to the famine. Report was to be made after the harvest as to the condition of the peasantry and their ability to pay the increased rates. The settlements will be for a period of 30 years, and provision is made for the gradual introduction of the higher rates.

CHAPTER VII.

LAND REVENUE, INCLUDING FISHERY RECEIPTS AND CAPITATION TAX ; AND WARDS' ESTATES.

LAND REVENUE.

THE subjoined table shows the receipts and disbursements on account of land revenue for each province, as entered in the public accounts for the year 1899-1900.

DETAILS of LAND REVENUE and EXPENDITURE.

	India, General.	Bengal.	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Burma.	Central Provinces.	Assam.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
REVENUE.										
Ordinary Land Revenue - -	£. 68,042	£. 2,029,065	£. 4,355,910	£. 1,383,431	£. 1,087,653	£. 379,319	£. 388,503	£. 3,485,563	£. 2,036,398	£. 15,811,286
Recovery of Survey and Settlement Charges.	—	28,728	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28,728
Sale of Proprietary Right of Government in Land.	42	5,483	20	1,718	—	—	18	194	—	7,474
Assessment of alienated lands, less quit-rents.	—	5,599	—	13,812	—	—	—	—	631,903	671,316
Sale of Waste Lands and Redemption of Land Revenue.	46	22,007	1,924	68,009	846	2,224	465	2,594	—	91,161
Capitation Tax, or House Tax levied in lieu.	955	493	—	—	680,710	—	—	—	—	682,160
Receipts for the Improvement of Government Estates.	—	41,684	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41,684
Fisheries and other Receipts classed as Miscellaneous.	8,325	13,856	29,518	61,818	214,797	2,560	39,717	160,463	17,787	534,438
Total Gross Revenue - Rs.	74,910	2,746,740	4,887,372	1,533,584	1,984,006	384,003	418,702	3,049,814	2,706,090	17,976,330
Deduct portion credited to Public Works for irrigation.	—	—	82,739	62,199	—	—	—	448,099	87,151	670,174
Total credited to Land Revenue for 1899-1900 } £.	74,910	2,746,740	4,304,633	1,471,382	1,984,006	384,003	418,702	3,201,722	3,018,939	17,306,056
Total for 1898-99 - £.	99,318	2,626,324	4,424,787	1,710,416	1,871,687	382,607	418,941	2,338,832	2,144,331	16,807,311
EXPENDITURE.										
District Administration - -	17,803	206,711	228,812	131,305	183,066	54,684	28,324	274,812	195,179	1,280,146
Survey and Settlement - -	9,328	88,668	25,926	31,388	44,931	14,262	3,770	28,298	28,288	244,826
Land Records and Agriculture -	7,406	8,643	245,074	106,019	24,081	40,271	18,054	132,451	146,296	731,235
Charges directly connected with the collection of Land Revenue.	818	26,483	12,166	5,601	112,037	1,582	9,839	223,899	89,418	491,828
Total Charges in India - £.	35,408	306,505	512,968	274,283	324,106	110,699	66,997	639,260	458,179	2,748,094
Charges in England - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£. 645
Total Charges, 1899-1900 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£. 2,748,739

In India the State, or the monarch, has always enjoyed a share in the rent or profits from the land. This revenue is levied according to an assessment fixed, either permanently or periodically, on estates or holdings. The assessment was fixed permanently 100 years ago on certain tracts paying about £2,850,000 a year; and it is fixed periodically, for terms of 12 to

LAND REVENUE.

30 years, over the rest of India. On large estates, ranging from a few hundred to many thousand acres each, the periodical assessment is a share, generally about one-half, of the rental enjoyed by the proprietors; on small estates cultivated by peasant proprietors the periodical assessment is imposed on the cultivated area at a rate per acre fixed with reference to the productiveness of the land, and representing about one-half of the estimated letting value. The permanently settled tracts comprise the greater part of Bengal, about one-third of Madras, and certain southern districts of the North-West Provinces. Of the temporarily settled tracts, the North-Western Provinces, the Punjab, Oudh, the Central Provinces, and Orissa mainly contain estates held by proprietary brotherhoods or large proprietors; while in Bombay, Burma, Assam, and Berar, and in the greater part of Madras, the land is held and tilled by petty proprietors.

The appended table gives the acreage of land held under various tenures, and the amount over which proprietary right was transferred, either by order of court or by voluntary gift or sale (including generally mortgage with possession, and excluding inheritances and temporary transfers) during the year 1898-99. The figures are in thousands of acres:—

	Rayatwari (peasant Proprietors).	Zamindari (larger Proprietors) and Village Communities.		Total.	Transfers.
		Permanently settled.	Temporarily settled.		
Upper Burma - - -	50,488	—	6	50,494	28
Lower Burma - - -	53,316	5	155	53,476	485
Assam - - - - -	21,360	3,980	1,198	26,488	69
Bengal - - - - -	—	81,879	16,136	98,015	*
North-Western Provinces	—	6,160	46,437	52,597	984
Oudh - - - - -	—	1,113	14,225	15,338	289
Punjab - - - - -	—	—	70,975	70,975	1,055
Sind - - - - -	29,954	—	—	29,954	*
Bombay - - - - -	44,615	—	3,945	48,560	*
Central Provinces	1,313	—	42,870	44,183	691
Berar - - - - -	11,333	—	—	11,333	258
Madras - - - - -	60,773	29,665	—	90,438	444

* Figures not available.

In the permanently settled tracts of Bengal the land revenue falls at about two-thirds of a rupee per acre of cultivated land, and represents on an average about one-fifth of the rental, or perhaps one twenty-fourth of the gross value of the produce; in the permanently settled tracts of the North-West Provinces the incidence is about Rs. 1½ per acre of cultivated land; in Madras it is considerably lower than this. The average advantages of soil and climate are on the whole greater, and the prevailing rates of rent are, on the whole, higher in the permanently settled than in the temporarily settled tracts. In the latter tracts the land revenue represents something less than one-half of the actual or estimated rental, and is probably about one-tenth to one-twelfth of the gross value of the produce; the average incidence of the land revenue in the temporarily settled tracts, as given in the returns for 1898-99, is approximately Rs. 2 in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Rs. 1½ in the Punjab, Rs. 1½ in Berar, Rs. 2 in Lower Burma, Rs. 2½ in Assam, Rs. 2½ in Sind, Rs. 1½ in Bombay, 9½ annas in the Central Provinces, Rs. 2½ in Madras and rather over a rupee in Bengal. Rates of rent and revenue vary greatly according to the productive power of the land, according to the advantages of climate and

rainfall, and according to the facilities for carrying produce to markets or to the sea-board. In Sind and Madras the land revenue rates given above include the charge for irrigation supplied by the State; elsewhere payment for water, supplied by State canals or reservoirs for purposes of irrigation, is made over and above the land revenue, either according to the area irrigated or according to the quantity of water used; but the State demand on any land is not enhanced on account of increased productiveness due to improvements made by the proprietors or occupiers themselves.

The fluctuations of the land revenue in past years may be seen in the following table:—

	Land Revenue Receipts excluding Receipts due to Irrigation.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	Per Cent.
1861-66 (five years' average) - - -	13,287,000	
1866-70 " " - - -	13,227,000	+0.3
1871-75 " " - - -	13,977,000	+5.0
1876-80 " " (includes the great famine of South India) - - -	14,076,000	+0.7
1881-85 " " - - -	14,748,000	+4.6
1886-90 " " - - -	15,444,000	+4.7
1891-95 " " - - -	16,521,000	+7.0
1896-98 - - - - -	17,467,000	+5.7
1898-97 (famine year) - - - - -	15,988,000	-8.5
1897-98 - - - - -	17,123,000	+7.1
1898-99 - - - - -	18,307,000	+6.9
1899-1900 (famine year) - - - - -	17,205,000	-6.0

A part of the increase during later years was due to the acquisition of Upper Burma, which yielded £111,000 of land revenue in the year 1886-87, and £626,000 in the year 1899-1900.

The progress of the land revenue, the condition of the landed classes, and the relations of these classes to each other are now noticed province by province. The figures are taken from the land revenue reports, and differ in some instances slightly from those given above, which are from the corrected Accounts of the Government of India.

The rainfall of 1899-1900 was generally unfavourable in Bengal owing to its bad distribution, the early monsoon rains being excessive and the winter rains deficient. The early autumn crops, consisting chiefly of millets and rice, covered 15½ millions of acres, or 800,000 acres less than in 1898-99, and the yield was only 70 per cent. of the normal; the important winter rice crop was fair, both in area and in yield, covering more than 31 millions of acres; the spring crops, which covered an area of less than 14 millions of acres, compared with 14½ millions in 1898-99, were much affected by deficient rain, the crops in Chota Nagpur and Behar barely escaping total failure.

The collections of land revenue during the last four years resulted as follows:—

	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£	£
Demand on account of current year -	2,683,537	2,594,544	2,625,884	2,656,709
" " arrears - -	86,810	95,344	110,176	114,356
Collection on account of current year -	2,499,074	2,499,530	2,535,628	2,590,019
" " arrears - -	66,455	77,094	84,168	87,667
Remissions - - - - -	11,546	9,960	12,924	8,125

LAND REVENUE.

The total amount collected during the year under report, including arrears was 100½ per cent. on the current demand, 97½ per cent. of the current year's demand being realized in the year. These percentages are exceptionally high, owing to the favourable character of the year, to which also was due the fact that remissions granted on account of poverty or failure of crops fell from £8,800 to £2,600. The number of estates which became liable to sale for non-payment of Government dues was 17,326, and of these 1,686, or less than 10 per cent., were sold, against 1,790 in the previous year. Under the Public Demands Recovery Act 226,400 certificates were filed for recovery of arrears of revenue, cesses, &c., compared with 211,300 in the previous year; attached property was sold in 7,981 cases, and 98 defaulters were imprisoned. Defaulters may deposit the amount due with a penalty within 30 days after the sale of the property, and thus have the sale set aside. The current demand for the four years was thus distributed:—

	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£	£
Permanently settled estates - - -	2,153,486	2,153,586	2,154,654	2,154,841
Temporarily settled estates - - -	192,992	194,504	211,066	228,218
Estates held direct from Government - -	237,060	246,454	260,166	273,650

The gross rental of the 43 districts in which the Bengal Cess Act was in force was returned for road cess purposes at £11,063,000 for the year 1899-1900, as compared with £8,755,000 for 40 districts in 1873. The current land revenue demand of these districts was £2,631,000, or 23½ per cent. of the assessed rental. The registration of landowners had previously been completed for the whole of Bengal; the total number of interests registered under the initial registration is 989,087, and the number of applications to register fresh interests, whether on account of succession by inheritance, purchase, or otherwise, amounted to 65,230 during the year under report.

The number of estates under Government management was 2,866, of which 241 belonged to private individuals. The cost of management was £16,300, or 5.9 of the current revenue demand, and £14,500 was spent on works of improvement, agricultural or sanitary. The condition of the tenants on Government estates is reported to have been generally good.

Advances to agriculturists under the Loans Acts amounted to £8,200 as compared with £4,100 in the previous year and £104,000 during the year 1897-98, in which the effect of the previous famine was still felt.

The Bengal Tenancy Act continues to work smoothly, and is reported to be increasingly appreciated by all classes owning and cultivating land. The relations between landlords and tenants were on the whole fairly satisfactory, though there were frequent exceptions. The Board of Revenue, however, are of opinion that, owing among other reasons to the general spread of education, the improvement of communications, the gradual weakening of the caste system, and the introduction of the Bengal Tenancy Act, the old personal or patriarchal relations between landlords and tenants are rapidly being replaced by relations based solely on law and contract. The levy of illegal cesses by landlords from tenants still continues in many places, the tenants frequently paying such cesses although aware that they cannot be legally enforced.

North-Western
Provinces
and Oudh.

The latest report on land revenue affairs in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh pertains to the year ending 30th September 1899. The season was less prosperous than the exceptionally good year preceding it; rainfall was ample and on the whole well distributed; but in some tracts crops were injured either by lack of rain or by its excess. The rice crop is stated to have been about 87 per cent. of the normal average, maize 100 per cent., millets 87 to 100 per cent., and cotton 81 per cent. The area under wheat was extended to 6½ millions of acres, and there was 94 per cent. of a normal crop. The total area of crops was 41,015,000 acres, as compared with 40,142,000 acres in 1897-98 and with 40,136,000 acres in 1895-96, the year before the famine.

The demand and collections of land revenue in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for the last three years, also of various rates, cesses and other sources of income connected with the land, are given as follows :—

	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Current demand :	£	£	£
Land revenue - - - - -	4,050,466	4,077,324	4,187,303
Rates, cesses, &c. - - - - -	1,400,814	1,472,214	1,875,280
Collection on account of the current year :			
Land revenue - - - - -	3,077,008	4,000,210	4,046,787
Rates, cesses, &c. - - - - -	1,208,080	1,364,268	1,281,081
Total receipts under all heads, current and arrear - - - - -	4,368,074	5,695,068	5,691,716

In spite of enhancements of demand owing to revision, the amount of the year's land revenue collected was nearly 98 per cent. of the demand; of the recoverable balance, two-thirds were outstanding in the Allahabad division. The demand on account of arrears of land revenue from previous years was £574,200, of which £327,000 were collected and £122,500 were under suspension. The total number of coercive processes of all kinds fell from 60,236 to 53,180, and the latter included 15,191 attachments of property for arrears as compared with 13,341 in 1897-98.

The suits instituted under the Rent Law, both in the North-Western Provinces and in Oudh, show a large increase chiefly under the heading of suits for arrears of rent. In Oudh, suits for ejectment or to contest ejectment also increased. The total number of suits in the whole province was 161,282, against 152,238 in 1897-98, the former figure being the highest previously recorded. Applications to revenue courts under the Rent Acts in the North-Western Provinces for decision of points connected with tenancy and rent fell from 176,827 to 158,360, owing almost entirely to a decrease in the applications connected with the ejectment of tenants-at-will. The area of holdings in the North-Western Provinces is given as 27 millions of acres, of which 3 millions were uncultivated; of this total 8½ millions were held by tenants with occupancy rights, and 10½ millions by tenants without declared rights, and one million by ex-proprietary tenants with privileged rights, while the remainder was rent free or nominally rented. In Oudh, the holdings amounted to over 9 millions of acres, of which all but 2 millions was held by tenants without occupancy rights. The rent-rolls for all districts of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh show that the rental demand of the year 1897-98 was £8,230,000, against which the landlords realized £7,557,000 during the year, £1,400,000 being on account of arrears of previous years. In consequence of the depression caused by bad seasons, the percentage of rent collections to the total rent demand had fallen to 79 per cent. in 1896-97; in the year under report the proportion of collections was reported to be 92 per cent.; but the statistics are probably not complete. The rent-rolls include the reduced rents paid by privileged tenants, and include no computed rents on account of lands cultivated by proprietors.

There was a further decline in the total number of land transfers in the North-Western Provinces, as compared with the previous year, owing to the return of agricultural prosperity; the following table shows the numbers for the last six years, putting aside transfers by order of court or by succession :—

	Sale of Revenue Paying Land.		Mortgages.	
	N.W.P.	Oudh.	N.W.P.	Oudh.
1893-94 - - - - -	17,107	2,639	7,655	6,483
1894-95 - - - - -	17,052	2,717	8,256	7,144
1895-96 - - - - -	20,030	3,070	9,486	8,255
1896-97 - - - - -	22,600	3,487	13,388	8,205
1897-98 - - - - -	21,329	4,035	12,077	8,606
1898-99 - - - - -	18,935	4,944	8,262	10,374

LAND REVENUE.

The increase in Ondh is entirely due to the inclusion of transfers which had remained unregistered in previous years. The amount of the loans sanctioned under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists Loans Act was still smaller than in the previous year. The total outstanding of these loans up to and including the year under report was £188,900, of which, £128,900 fell due during the year; but only £71,900 were collected. The outstanding balance at the end of the year of principal and interest under both Acts amounted to £117,000, a great part of the heavy advances made in 1896-97, largely without interest, having been recovered.

Punjab.

The latest Punjab land revenue report is for the year ending on the 30th September 1899. Owing to the late arrival and early cessation of the monsoon, there was an extensive failure of crops in all but the northern districts, the inundation canals throughout the province failing in the autumn months. The total area of matured crops was 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ millions of acres, compared with 26 millions in the good year 1897-98. The only crop that did well was maize; the millet, gram and rapeseed crops were exceptionally poor, and the cotton crop the poorest for many years, while the wheat crop, which covered 7 millions of acres or nearly 20 per cent. less than in the preceding year, also was deficient. The area under irrigation was 9 millions of acres, or 43 per cent. of the crops actually harvested, against 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions in 1897-98, the decrease being due to the failure of the inundation canals noted above.

The total collections of land revenue amounted to £1,672,000 or nearly 5 per cent. less than the collections of the previous year, including fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue which together amounted to £246,000 in 1898-99. The amount under suspension at the beginning of the year was £91,100, and £67,900 were suspended during the year; against this, £14,300 have been recovered. Remissions amounted to £4,000; the rule being that remissions should not be given until the revenue has been under suspension for three years. The number of writs and warrants issued against defaulters rose from 45,400 to 49,900; the increase is, however, almost entirely confined to the writs, which are a less severe form of process. The total advances during the year under the Land Improvement Act and the Agricultural Loans Act amounted to £29,500, excluding £20,000 advanced in connexion with the Chenab colonisation.

Fifty-two per cent. of the cultivated land in the Punjab is now held by rent-paying tenants. In 1888-89 the proportion so held was 40 per cent., and it has grown steadily since that date. At the same time, the number of tenants-at-will has been increasing, until in the year 1897-98 it was 80.5 per cent. of the total number of tenants; but in 1898-99 the percentage was reduced to 79.6 by the grant of occupancy rights to the colonists on the Chenab Canal. There has been an increase in recent years of the proportion of tenants-at-will paying in kind; but this tendency was not maintained in 1898-99. Rates in kind vary between 25 and 50 per cent. of the produce.

The following table gives details regarding transfers of cultivated land during recent years:—

	Area of Cultivated Land			Average Prices realised per Acre of Cultivated Land sold.
	Mortgaged.	Redeemed.	Sold.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.
Average of five years 1888-1893	381,760	211,036	164,952	54
1893-94	465,410	317,453	218,703	66
1894-95	432,573	259,584	185,823	64
1895-96	453,061	292,505	203,469	59
1896-97	471,809	309,572	199,160	71
1897-98	554,959	413,412	218,940	73
1898-1899	491,089	345,727	208,098	75

The last column shows the average price paid for all ownership or occupancy rights together; for simple ownership the price in 1898-99 was Rs. 80 per acre. The total area of cultivated land under usufructuary mortgages at

the end of the year was rather less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres, or 12 per cent. of the whole. The area sold or mortgaged to "new agriculturists" was 8 per cent. less than in the previous year, and amounted to 26 per cent. of the area so transferred. The following table shows the course of land prices in the Punjab for 37 years :—

	Price per Acre of Cultivated Revenue Paying Land.	Number of Years' Purchase of the Land Revenue which the Price represents.
Average for the period 1861-65	Rs. (approx.) 7	9
" " 1866-71	11	18
" " 1871-76	10	26
" " 1876-81	19	28
" " 1881-86	18	36
" " 1889-92	57	54
" " 1893-97	66	62
1897-98	73	70
1898-99	75	72

In Lower Burma the rainfall of the year 1899-1900 was favourable, and the rice crop a heavy one. Prices of food grains were high, and the area under cultivation increased by 3 per cent., while the margin of cultivation has not nearly been reached. In Upper Burma the year is said to have been the most prosperous of any since the annexation of the province. The gross demand under the various heads of revenue now under review was as follows :—

Lower Burma.			Upper Burma.		
	1898-99.	1899-1900.		1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.		£.	£.
Land revenue	867,910	932,593	Household tax	396,879	390,568
Capitation tax	280,058	295,289	Ordinary land revenue	106,706	133,414
Fisheries	125,196	135,129	Miscellaneous	91,319	102,188
Other sources	21,795	23,99			
Total	1,303,965	1,387,007	Total	594,903	626,170

Grand total for Burma 1898-99, £1,898,868; for 1899-1900, £2,013,177.

To deal first with Lower Burma, the increase in land revenue proper was due partly to the extension of the cultivated area, owing to the good harvests of the preceding years, and partly to revision of rates or the introduction of provisional rates prior to settlement. There was also a growth under capitation tax, due to the increased number of assesses, who numbered 1,066,000, more than three-fourths of them being agriculturists.

In Upper Burma there was some decrease in the amount collected as household tax (*thathameda*) as compared with the previous year, owing to the assessment of lands in three districts for ordinary land revenue. This change is to be continued in other parts of Upper Burma, and the "ordinary land revenue" may therefore be expected to grow at the expense of "household tax". The number of households assessed for the latter tax during 1899-1900 was 631,244. The ordinary land revenue also includes the revenue from State lands, which is levied either by assessment or by a rent fixed at a share of the produce. The heading "miscellaneous" includes receipts from petroleum royalties (£27,200), from ruby mines (£21,100) from fisheries (£23,600), and from water rate (£16,800).

Taking the province as a whole, the revenue demanded was paid without friction, and the amounts which had to be remitted were insignificant. About one-fifth of the occupied area in Lower Burma is cultivated by tenants at an average rent, paid generally in kind, equal to about Rs. 8 per acre, which is

82 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

LAND REVENUE.

less than one-third of the gross produce. There was a decrease during the year in the areas sold in Lower Burma, but the area mortgaged rose by 35 per cent.; in some of the coast districts and particularly in the Hanthawaddy district in which Rangoon is situated, a considerable amount of land is held by non-agriculturists and non-Burmans. The price of paddy at Rangoon is reported to have ranged from Rs. 79 to Rs. 112 per 100 baskets standing at Rs. 89 in March 1900.

Central Provinces.

The latest land revenue report from the Central Provinces is for the year ending in September 1899. The monsoon of 1898 was very heavy and continuous until September, when it stopped prematurely. The result was a good autumn harvest, but an indifferent spring crop. The crop area was 17 millions of acres, of which less than $\frac{2}{3}$ million acres was on land irrigated by wells or tanks. There were signs of recovery from the distresses of recent years, in an increased area under wheat, and in the substitution of transplanted for broadcast rice; but a further famine has followed after the end of 1898-99. The figures given in the margin afford a comparison between the results of the harvests of recent years, taking into account both area and yield. Of the year's crop area, 33 per cent. was under the more valuable spring crops, compared with 30 per cent. in 1897-98 and 44 per cent. in 1893-94. Prices were low at the beginning of the year, but there was a sharp rise, with violent oscillations, towards the end. The collections of ordinary land revenue and cesses on account of the current year amounted to £502,200, out of a demand of £612,600, and on account of arrears to £30,100, out of a demand of £133,300. The demand for the year increased by £11,500, mainly owing to revision of assessments. After careful examination of the circumstances remissions were granted amounting to about £70,000. In addition to the above demand, there was a demand, current and arrear, of £24,500 for miscellaneous land revenue, of which £14,200 was collected. Coercive processes on the whole showed some decrease, but the number of cases in which estates were attached and put under direct management rose from 58 to 214. Advances under the Land Improvements Act and the Agriculturists Loans Act amounted to £41,100, against £82,300 in the previous year. The areas transferred during the last four years compare as follows:—

	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.	Acrea.
Private sales	385,045	337,044	301,470	322,280
Sales by order of court	142,184	84,044	111,036	158,214
Mortgages with possession and leases	97,198	64,051	98,642	99,036

Applications for the purchase of occupancy rights were slightly more numerous than in 1897-98, but it is reported that generally speaking the extent to which tenants resort to the means of relief provided by the Tenancy Act continues to be trifling. The relations between landlords and tenants were generally satisfactory.

Assam.

In Assam the rainfall was above the average, but it was well distributed, and the most important crops, rice and tea, yielded good harvests. The area under all crops was rather more than two millions of acres, nearly three quarters of the whole being under rice. The price of rice fell very considerably, owing to the bountiful crop. The current land revenue demand fell from £384,500 to £383,400, but the decrease is not a real one, the figures of the earlier year having been inflated by a special receipt of £9,000. Including arrears, the amount collected was £384,100, or about 92 per cent. of the total demand, collections being difficult in some parts of the province owing to the fall in prices of produce. The number of sales of land for non-payment of revenue was 462, against 688 in the previous year.

For the Madras Presidency the latest report deals with the year ending in June 1899. The season was generally favourable, except in parts of the Deccan districts. The area of crops sown was $27\frac{3}{4}$ millions of acres, of which 26 per cent. was under rice, 56 per cent. under other food grains, and 5 per cent. under cotton. The yield of food grains generally is reported to have been good, but other crops were not quite so satisfactory. Prices were lower than in 1897-98, but still ranged from 24 to 41 per cent. above the normal level. The total demand on account of the year for land revenue, water rate and cesses was £4,320,000, of which £4,230,000, or 98 per cent., were collected; £118,800 were also collected on account of arrears, and the total outstanding in July 1899 was £110,400, most of which was received before the end of the calendar year.

LAND REVENUE,
Madras.

Of the above demand, £330,000 was due from permanently settled estates, and £49,700 from villages held under special tenures, the remainder coming for the most part from the assessment and water rate paid by peasant proprietors. The number of ryotwari (peasant proprietors') villages was 22,900, and the area of their holdings was $22\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres. The land revenue assessment on this area was £2,924,500, having slightly increased owing to the re-irrigation of lands for which water was relinquished in 1895-96, when the water rate was enhanced. The number of notices for attachment of property issued was large, owing partly to the arrears of famine years which fell to be collected, and partly to the fall in the price of grain. Notices of sale were issued in 275,666 cases, and sale was carried out in 18,287 cases. The area of land so sold was 60,800 acres, against 25,400 in the previous year; 29,000 acres were bought in by the Government. Advances under the Land Improvements Act and the Agriculturists Loans Act amounted to £20,400.

The latest report available from Bombay is for the year ending in the autumn of 1899. The early rainfall of this year was sufficient, and though a slight failure in the latter rains caused a poor return of cotton the crops were on the whole only slightly below the average. The area of crops grown in the Presidency proper, excluding Sind, was $24\frac{2}{3}$ millions of acres, against $24\frac{1}{2}$ millions in 1897-98; in Sind the area fell from 4 millions to $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres, owing to a low inundation and deficient rainfall.

Bombay.

In the Presidency proper the collections of land revenue amounted to £2,033,000, or about one per cent. more than in any year but 1897-98, when receipts for arrears were high. The balances outstanding in August 1899 amounted to £51,800. The total amount of remissions granted during the year under report, which does not include the famine period, was £9,200. To meet famine exigencies full orders were issued in the ensuing year as to the principles on which remissions both of current and arrear demand should be granted. Coercive processes for the recovery of land revenue showed an increase in 1898-99 although the figures of the previous year were high. Advances under the Land Improvements Act and the Agriculturists Loans Act amounted to £35,400, against £61,600 in the preceding year.

In Sind the collections of land revenue and village cess on account of the year amounted to £467,700, as compared with £585,500 in 1897-98, the demand having fallen to a corresponding extent by the exemption from assessment of lands lying fallow. Remissions amounted to £24,800, and the outstanding balance at the end of the year was £31,000. Agricultural advances amounted to £18,700, compared with £4,200 in the previous year. The number of coercive processes for the collection of the revenue was not large, but the cases of distraint rose from 41 to 91. Comparison with the year 1895-96, in which the inundation failed in a very similar way, shows a satisfactory improvement in the agricultural conditions of Sind, as the area cropped was higher in 1898-99, the revenue was much larger, and fewer remissions had to be granted.

The rainfall of 1899-1900 is the smallest on record in Berar, and the result was severe famine and drought. The area from which crops were harvested was 2 millions of acres, of which rather more than half was under cotton and one-third under the large millet; the outturn of these crops, as of others, was exceedingly small. The land revenue demand, including cesses, amounted to £522,900, of which £383,200 were collected, leaving 26 per cent. of the year's demand outstanding. Revenue officers received authority to suspend collection of revenue from those who appeared unable to pay, and it is reported that due leniency was shown, only one person having been imprisoned for default,

Berar.

LAND REVENUE.

and the number of sales of property being below those of previous years. The amounts advanced under the Land Improvements Act and the Agriculturists Loans Act, are reported to have totalled £20,800, but this figure does not include advances under the latter Act during the latter part of the famine. The area of land sold was 564,443 acres, compared with 169,279 acres in the preceding year, chiefly owing to very large voluntary sales in the Basim and Amraoti districts; the average price received rose from 16 times to 20 times the assessment.

WARDS' ESTATES.

WARDS' ESTATES.

In most of the larger provinces a Court of Wards has been established, which undertakes the management of estates belonging to minors, idiots, or other persons declared incapable of managing their own affairs. The position and powers of the Court of Wards are prescribed by law; and recent enactments have enabled indebted proprietors to place their estates voluntarily under the Court of Wards. The duty of the Court is to manage the estates under their charge to the best advantage of both proprietors and tenants, to support the family of the proprietor, and to educate young wards; to pay off debts due by the estates, and to spend the surplus income on the improvement of the property in the best attainable way. During the year reported on below, *i.e.*, generally the year ending in September 1899, the number of estates managed by Courts of Wards in different parts of British India was about 1,100, including a large number of small estates in northern Bombay, and their total annual income amounted to about £1½ millions. The period for which an estate remains under the Court of Wards is generally from 10 to 12 years.

Bengal.

In Bengal, 68 wards' estates and 68 attached estates, or one more than in the preceding year, were under the management of the Court of Wards for the whole or part of the year 1899-1900, with a total rental of £807,600; the collections on account of the current rental came to 64 per cent. on the current demand against 66 per cent. in the preceding year. Eighteen of the estates had a rental demand of over £3,500, and five of over £14,000. Eight estates were taken under management and eleven were released. Of the latter the most important, Bhawanipur, had been under management for 15 years, during which the rental grew from £9,600 to £10,500, irrecoverable arrears due to the estate, amounting to £188,300, were written off, and £10,200 were spent on improvements; Government securities and cash balance to the amount of £10,000 had been accumulated, and were handed over to the owner. The management charges of the estates under the Court for the whole of the year amounted to 7 per cent. of the current rental demand. There was spent on schools and dispensaries, on surveys, and improvement and maintenance of estates, a sum of £73,200, £115,000 for the maintenance of the wards, and £4,600 on their education. Debts to the amount of £98,000 were paid off during the year, and the outstanding debts due from all wards' estates were £802,000 at the close of the year. The cash balances at credit of the estates were £140,100 on the 31st March 1900, and the investments in Government securities were valued at £465,400.

North-Western
Provinces and
Oudh.

The number of estates under the Court of Wards in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for the whole or part of the year ending in September 1899 was 202, with a yearly rental of £497,000. Eight fresh estates were taken under management and 12 estates were restored to their proprietors during the year. All of the latter estates had been relieved, some entirely and some partially, from debt, either out of surplus income or by sale of portions of the property, and in many of them improvements had been carried out. The most important was the Bhur estate in the Kheri district, which had been under management for three years, during which time the rental of the property was increased by £2,000 by the settlement of new tenants on fresh land, and debts to the amount of £6,700 were paid off. The total of debts and loans amounted to £2,732,000; but this included £805,000 raised for the purpose of repaying debts bearing a higher rate of interest. The total paid off out of money in land or by sale of property was £693,000 up to the end of the year under report. The cost of management averaged 7 per cent. on the total receipts, compared with 6 per cent. in 1897-98 and 7 per cent. in the preceding year. The amount spent on improvements was £19,600, rather less than in 1897-98,

the decrease occurring in the North-Western Provinces, while estates in Oudh WARDS' ESTATES. showed a slight increase. Of the current rental of the year 90 per cent. was collected, leaving the total balance, current and arrear, at £133,000.

At the end of September 1898 the number of estates under the management Punjab. of the Punjab Court of Wards was 70, and during 1898-99 ten estates were released and six brought under management; the total at the end of the year was therefore 66. Six of the estates have an income of over £3,500 a year, and six of them have an area of more than 10,000 acres, but there are still many petty estates under management, including eight with an income below £70 per annum. Of the estates released the most important were the Pabbat estate, with an income of £350 and debts to the amount of £3,000, which were paid off during eight years' management, and the Jaiwan estate, the management of which was also thoroughly successful. The gross income of the estates was £72,200, and the expenditure was £49,600. The cost of management was 7½ per cent., against 8 per cent. in the previous year, of the gross income; £6,000 were spent out of income on paying off debts and interest; the debts of all the wards, which had been £130,900, were reduced to £48,000 by the end of the year. The expenditure on works of improvement was £5,600, and on personal expenses, family allowances, and education of wards, £15,000.

In the Central Provinces Central Provinces. the number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the end of September 1898 was 173, as compared with 178 at the beginning of the revenue year. The total receipts of these estates amounted to £108,500, of which £59,500 came from rents and cesses and £14,500 from forests. The season was not a very good one, the spring crops being deficient, so that the amount collected, current and arrear, only equalled 75 per cent. of a full year's demand. The expenditure was only £95,800, owing to remissions of Government revenue and cesses which reduced the sum spent under that head by £13,000 as compared with 1897-98; £10,100 was spent on improvement of the estates and £10,300 on repayment or on consolidation of debt. As was to be expected in an unfavourable season, both the improvements and repayment of debt suffered by the want of funds. The total indebtedness of the estates under management at the close of the year was over £179,700.

Three estates in Madras were released during the agricultural year ended on Madras. 1st July 1900, and three taken under management, so that 39 remained under the control of the Court as in the previous year. Of the three released estates, one only was of importance, the Ettiyapuram estate in Tinnevely, which was under management for nine years, during which time the yearly revenue rose from £24,200 to £25,400, while land was purchased to the amount of £56,700, and the balance in hand rose from £19,300 to £29,600. The season was unfavourable on most of the estates; 339,000 acres, or 80 per cent. of the total area of all holdings on these estates was cultivated. The rent collections on account of the current year amounted to £115,600, or 73 per cent. on the current demand; the demand on account of arrears amounted to £100,100, of which £38,400 were collected during the year. The balance at the credit of all estates, invested and uninvested, at the end of the year was £307,400; the debts due were £1,047,500, including a sum of £733,600, the particulars of which had not yet been investigated, alleged to be outstanding against an estate newly taken under management. The expenditure on works of irrigation and other improvements was £13,600.

In Bombay the estates under the Court of Wards, or under Government Bombay. management, during the year ending in September 1899, were of several kinds, namely:—

	No.	Aggregate Income.
		£.
(1.) Estates under the Court of Wards, outside Gujarat -	43	12,800
(2.) Encumbered estates in Gujarat, &c., managed under Acts of 1862, 1881, 1888 and 1890, and under the Civil Procedure Code - - - - -	494	53,800
Villages under revenue charge in Gujarat - - - - -	—	27,500
(3.) Encumbered estates in Sind - - - - -	483	79,000

86 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

WARDS' ESTATES.

Outside Gujarat the estates were of small area. The estates of the second category are all in Gujarat, and are under the care of a special revenue officer, who is reported to have managed them successfully during the year. The total collections of these Gujarat estates were £53,800. Payments to creditors were £10,300; £14,200 were paid as Government land revenue; maintenance of the owners and their families cost £20,100; and £19,800 was the amount of the balance in hand at the close of the year besides an outstanding balance of £10,400. Each minor talukdar was receiving education either at the Jubilee institute at Ahmedabad or at village schools. The income of the talukdari villages under revenue charge amounted to £27,400. Besides two small estates under management in the Karachi collectorate, there were 481 encumbered estates under protection in Sind, with an income of £79,000.

Assam.

One estate was under the management of Revenue officers in Assam during 1899-1900. After paying all charges for management, maintenance, &c., including Government revenue (£1,700), and reducing the debt by £800, a small surplus was left. A survey was undertaken, to be completed as funds are available.

Burma, &c.

There were no wards' estates under the management of public officers in Burma, Berar, or Ajmere during the year.

CHAPTER VIII.

OPIUM REVENUE AND TAXATION.

OPIUM.

OPIUM.

General.

THE opium revenue is raised partly by a monopoly of opium in Bengal and partly by the levy of a duty on all opium exported from Native States. Though the poppy can be grown in most parts of India, its cultivation in British territory is permitted only in parts of Bengal and of the North-West Provinces and Oudh; and the area on which cultivation is permissible is calculated each year with a view of obtaining a stated amount of opium. A few thousand acres of opium are grown in the Punjab for local consumption. The cultivator of opium in the monopoly districts receives advances to enable him to prepare the land for the crop, and he is required to deliver the whole of the produce at a fixed price to opium agents, by whom it is despatched to the Government factories at Patna and Ghazipur to be prepared for the foreign market. The price for some years had been Rs. 5 per seer (two lbs.); and was raised to Rs. 6 per seer, with effect from the spring of 1895. The chests of manufactured opium are sold by auction at monthly sales which take place in Calcutta; and, in order to prevent speculation and to steady prices, the quantity to be offered at each sale during each year is notified in the previous year. Opium (known as Malwa opium) is grown in the Native States of Rajputana and Central India. Some of these States have agreed to assimilate their internal opium arrangements to the British excise system, and to prevent contraband dealings. They levy heavy dues on opium exported from their territories for the China market, and such opium pays to the Indian Treasury a duty, which had been £40 per chest (of 140 lbs.) for several years until December 1894, when it was raised to £43½. The duty was reduced to £40 in July 1896, and to £33½ in October 1897.

The yield of the opium revenue during recent years has been :—

	1892-93.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Opium Receipts : ^o	£	£	£	£	£
Auction sales of monopoly opium	4,064,151	3,233,568	2,660,697	2,775,878	3,394,290
Duty on Bombay or Malwa opium	1,117,102	892,189	647,092	888,909	852,792
Cost of opium issued to the Excise and other Departments, and miscellaneous.	147,533	147,068	145,392	152,099	154,000
Total - - -	5,328,786	4,272,825	3,453,181	3,816,886	4,401,982
Opium expenditure, chiefly in Bengal	1,068,330	1,657,795	1,592,741	1,582,193	1,727,154
Net Opium Revenue - £	4,260,456	2,615,030	1,860,437	2,234,693	2,674,828

^o These receipts are outside the provincial opium receipts of £676,977 shown in the Excise section of this Statement.

The number of chests of Bengal opium sold, and the average price obtained per chest in recent years, are as follows :—

	Number.	Average Price.		Number.	Average Price.
1890-91	57,000	Rs. 1,037	1898-99	39,450	Rs. 1,055
1895-96	37,605	1,390	1899-1900	31,700	1,217
1897-98	39,300	1,023	1900-01	45,300	1,361

The exports of Bombay opium to China averaged 24,053 chests in the ten years 1889-1899, and were 25,400 chests in 1899-1900. The amount of Malwa opium which entered the Bombay Presidency was 27,489 chests, or 9 per cent. less than in 1898-99, the fall being chiefly due to the fact that in the

88 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

OPIMUM.

earlier year there was a very large demand for opium for export to China, but also in a less degree to the famine, which restricted the consumption in the Bombay Presidency,

Bengal.

The net area cultivated with the poppy in the Ganges Valley in recent years, excluding areas on which the crop was sown but failed, is shown in the margin. The area of the year under report was specially high in the Benares agency owing to the good outturn of opium in the previous year, the failure of part of the sugar cane crop, and the low prices of cereals, all of which causes led agriculturists to engage themselves to grow poppy. In Behar great damage was done to the poppy crop by unfavourable weather; in the Benares agency on the whole a fair crop was obtained; but in both tracts the outturn per acre was below the amount estimated by the Government of India, and as a consequence the total production of the year was 52,400 chests of "provision" opium for export and 6,300 maunds of excise opium for consumption in India, as compared with estimates of 54,000 chests and 7,000 or 8,000 maunds respectively. The opium is received and prepared at the Government factories at Patna and Ghazipur, where also small amounts of morphia and codeia are manufactured for the London and Shanghai markets. With the opium already in stock the amount of "provision" opium available for sale in 1901 was 69,849 chests, and the number of chests to be sold each month has been fixed at 4,000, leaving a reserve of 21,849 chests; in 1899 the number sold each month was 3,400, and in 1900 it was 3,700. In 1861 the average price of opium sold by auction for the China market was as high as Rs. 1,850 per chest of 140 lbs. weight, but since that year it has fallen; in February 1895 it rose to Rs. 1,540, the highest average at any monthly sale for 23 years; it fell to Rs. 923 in May 1898, but has since risen to Rs. 1,450 in October 1900.

	Acres.
1886 -	594,900
1894 -	458,200
1896 -	510,000
1897 -	562,000
1898 -	540,000
1899 -	554,000
1900 -	613,000

SALT.

SALT.

General.

The salt revenue is raised by a duty on all salt imported into, or manufactured in, India. The rate of duty has in past times ranged from $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a rupee (in Burma) to $3\frac{1}{4}$ rupees (in Bengal) per maund of 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; during the year 1899-1900 the rate was 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ rupees over the whole of India, except Burma, where it was one rupee per maund. The Indian sources of salt supply are the coast, where salt is manufactured for the consumption of all southern and western India, and part of Burma and Central India; the salt lakes and pits of Rajputana, which supply the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and a part of Central India; the salt mines of the Punjab, which supply that province and a varying area southward; and importations from beyond the sea, which supply Bengal and the greater part of Burma. The duty is levied on salt at the place of manufacture, or at the port of importation, before it passes into consumption. The regions supplied from each source contract or extend, according to varying circumstances of the season, or of markets, or of means of carriage; for instance, when an unusually wet season prevented salt production by solar evaporation at the Sambhur Lake in Rajputana, special supplies from the Bombay coast factories were carried inland, and partly made up for the deficiency; when a railway was opened to the Punjab mines, salt made its way thence further south and east.

The SALT REVENUES and CHARGES in the Year 1899-1900 were as follows:—

PROVINCE.	Price of Government Salt, and Excise on Salt made Locally.	Duty on Salt Imported from England.	Duty on Salt Imported by Sea from other Sources.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.	Charges.	Net Salt Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern India - - -	1,280,828	—	—	10,885	1,297,713	67,310	1,230,397
Burma - - -	15,021	81,614	5,811	—	102,446	504	101,912
Bengal - - -	10,914	874,187	822,064	11,500	1,710,625	17,051	1,702,574
Madras - - -	1,228,808	440	818	6,031	1,236,092	127,585	1,108,107
Bombay - - -	1,440,297	724	950	43,016	1,493,987	118,800	1,375,327
TOTAL, 1899-1900	3,965,863	956,965	830,543	72,002	5,860,403	331,116	5,519,547
TOTAL, 1898-99 -	4,244,240	1,247,876	499,631	74,832	6,066,581	310,468	5,756,113

The charges above shown do not include a sum of about £200,000 paid **SALT.** under treaties to Native chiefs who have assigned the management of their salt sources to the British Government. The rate of salt consumption per head of the population differs widely in the several provinces. As there are no means of accurately estimating the present population, the real rate of consumption, and its growth from year to year, cannot be given, but the amount of licit salt consumed in 1899-1900 per head of the population of the 1891 census is given as follows:—it was about 19½ lbs. in Burma, 17 lbs. in Madras, 11½ lbs. in Orissa, 10½ lbs. in inland Bengal, 12½ lbs. in Bombay (excluding Guzerat, where the consumption is small), 10½ lbs. in the Central Provinces and Berar, nearly 9 lbs. in Behar, 7½ lbs. in the North Western Provinces and Oudh, 8 lbs. in cis-Indus Punjab, and 6½ lbs. in Rajputana. If the totals of licit consumption are compared with the population shown by the census of 1901, the following results appear:—in Burma the rate of consumption of licit salt was 16½ lbs. per head, in Madras 18 lbs., in Bengal (taken as a whole) 11½ lbs., in Bombay (excluding Sind) 11½ lbs., and in the North Western Provinces 7½ lbs.

During the last eleven years the total salt consumption of India has been as follows:—

In the Year	Total Actual Consumption of Duty-paid Salt in India, inclusive of Burma.
1885-86	32,289,000 maunds, each maund being equal to 82½ lbs. avoirdupois.
1886-87 - - - - -	34,330,000 "
1888-89 (the rate of duty was raised in January 1888 from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2½ per maund).	31,474,000 "
1890-91 - - - - -	33,722,000 "
1892-93 - - - - -	35,451,000 "
1893-94 - - - - -	34,029,000 "
1894-95 - - - - -	34,555,000 "
1895-96 - - - - -	35,090,000 "
1896-97 - - - - -	34,639,000 "
1897-98 - - - - -	35,123,000 "
1898-99 - - - - -	36,066,000 "
1899-1900 - - - - -	35,996,000 "

The amount of local salt consumed in Burma is not precisely known, but in the foregoing figures it is estimated at 630,000 maunds in 1899, at 500,000 maunds in 1898, at 600,000 maunds in 1897 and 1896, at 500,000 maunds for the year 1895, at 400,000 maunds in the years 1889-95, and at 560,000 maunds in earlier years.

The salt sources under the control of the Northern India Salt Department are (1) the Rajputana sources, including the Sambhar Lake and the brine springs at Pachbadra and Didwana in the Jodhpur State, and (2) the Punjab sources, including the Mayo, Warcha and Kalabagh mines, the Kohat mines, the Mandi mines, and the brine springs at Sultaunpur. From these are supplied the wants of the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, parts of the Behar districts of Bengal, the northern districts of the Central Provinces, and the greater part of the Rajputana and Central India States. The most important sources are the Sambhar Lake and the Mayo mine. At the Sambhar Lake the drought following on three years of short rainfall resulted in the most unsatisfactory season on record, and the output of salt, 1,639,000 maunds, was less than one third of that of the preceding year, which was not a large one; the quality of the salt obtained was bad. Sambhar salt is sold at a uniform price of 4 annas per maund; the sales in 1899-1900 fell from 4,127,000 to 3,201,000 maunds. The financial result of the working of the Lake, since the Government of India leased it in 1870, is a credit balance of £196,000. In the Mayo mine 2,336,000 maunds of salt were excavated, or 27 per cent. more than in the previous year. This salt was sold at 9 pies per maund; the price of Didwana salt was also 9 pies; Pachbadra salt was sold at the rate of 1½ anna; Kohat salt fetched rather under one anna per maund. The total

90 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

SALT.

amount of salt which passed into consumption was 7,824,570 maunds, distributed as follows:—

	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Maunds.	Maunds.
Punjab, cis-Indus, including Native States and Kashmir.	2,466,780	2,001,959
Punjab, trans-Indus (Kohat salt) - - - -	311,240	277,079
North-Western Provinces and Oudh (chiefly Sambhar salt).	3,304,089	3,123,201
Behar - - - - -	146,460	151,060
Central Provinces - - - - -	120,888	106,800
Rajputana - - - - -	948,808	881,740
Central India - - - - -	410,557	570,657
Other places, including Afghanistan - - -	109,240	110,974
TOTAL - - - - -	7,946,470	7,824,570

The gross receipts of the Northern India Salt Department fell from £1,364,000 in 1898-99 to £1,286,000 in the year under report.

The rate of consumption of salt from all sources per head of population in the above provinces cannot be accurately stated as there is no means of ascertaining for certain the ultimate destination of the salt consigned to each province,

	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Punjab, cis-Indus, and Kashmir.	7.59	7.93
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	7.84	7.23
Behar - - - - -	8.76	8.89
Central Provinces and Behar.	10.84	10.26
Rajputana - - - - -	6.84	6.49
Central India - - - - -	7.05	7.04

but an approximate estimate is given in the margin,* based on the population of the 1891 census returns. The retail prices per maund which prevailed during the year were, in the Punjab, cis-Indus, Rs. 3½; in the North-Western Provinces (Sambhar salt), Rs. 3½; in the Central Provinces (Bombay salt), Rs. 4. Of the provinces with which this paragraph deals, the Central Provinces show the highest average retail price and the highest rate of consumption.

Bengal.

The salt consumed in Bengal comes from abroad or from other parts of India; but there is also in most years a small amount manufactured in Orissa. During the season 1899 this manufacture was stopped, but as the existing stock is sufficient for five or six years' demand, the issue was not checked; it only amounted, however, to 62,000 maunds. In the maritime tracts of the province, other than Orissa, the manufacture of salt is prohibited. The amount of salt imported by sea during the year 1899-1900 was 10,781,000 maunds, as shown in the margin; there was an increase of 5 per cent. as

	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Maunds.	Maunds.
From United Kingdom -	6,277,000	6,164,000
" Germany - - - - -	609,000	1,416,000
" Red Sea and Persian Gulf - - - - -	2,928,000	2,651,000
" Madras - - - - -	79,000	31,000
" Bombay - - - - -	557,000	519,000
Total - - - - -	10,350,000	10,781,000

compared with 1898-99. The supply of Liverpool salt was smaller than in the previous year, the sale having suffered by the increase in the consumption of crushed salts brought from Red Sea ports. There was a remarkable revival in the amount of salt brought from Germany, and it is said that salt to some extent took the place of sugar as cargo in the vessels from that country. The amount of Madras salt carried into Orissa by rail rose from 486,000

maunds to 562,000 maunds, or more than 20 per cent. This salt has been improved in quality and competes successfully with Liverpool salt. The

average price of salt, including duty (Rs. 2½ per maund), at the chief marts of Bengal, was Rs. 3½, having decreased by 1½ anna or nearly 3 per cent., as compared with the previous year. The wholesale price of Liverpool salt, exclusive of duty, ranged from Rs. 124 to Rs. 72 per 100 maunds in 1896-97; from Rs. 73 to Rs. 61 in 1898-99; and from Rs. 68 to Rs. 56 in 1899-1900.

The net amount of salt consumed in the province was 10,194,000 maunds, as compared with 9,833,000 maunds in 1898-99.

	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Orissa - - - - -	11·15	11·49
Other saliferous tracts - -	10·03	10·8
Rest of province - - -	10·28	10·41

The consumption of salt per head of the population of the 1891 census, during the last two years, is given in the marginal table. The gross salt revenue was £1,721,000, or £45,000 more than the previous year, a result which was due to increased payment of import duty. The number of cases in

which contraband salt was confiscated was 1,351, as compared with 981 in the previous year. There were in all 851 prosecutions for salt offences; 53 persons, out of a total of 902 accused people, were acquitted. In the previous year there were 966 prosecutions.

There were in Madras available for the manufacture of salt by solar evaporation 23 Government and 45 other factories; but of these, 4 Government and three other factories were not at work during the year 1899-1900, owing to the existence of large stocks. The number of Government factories closed in the previous year was 15, of which most were re-opened, but the season was unfavourable. The amount of salt produced was 7,322,000 maunds, or nearly 7 per cent. more than in 1898-99, but the figures of both years were considerably below those ordinary years; of this amount, 4,978,000 maunds were manufactured in private factories. An improved method of manufacture was employed at three factories owned by the Oriental Salt Company, which is extending its operations. The average wholesale price of "excise" (i.e., private factories) salt was 3½ annas per maund, or about the same as in 1898-99. Government salt is sold at fixed prices with a view to controlling the price of "excise" salt; it is reported that the average retail price of salt, which varied in the several districts between Rs. 2½ and Rs. 4, was not excessive. Excluding the salt used for fish-curing, the total consumption of the Presidency during the last three years was as follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
Government, excise, and sea imported salt -	8,379,313	8,378,535	8,605,509
Salt imported from Bombay by railway -	639,887	699,324	610,802
	9,019,200	9,077,859	9,216,311

Leaving out of account the three northern districts, the two west coast districts, and large Native States, the rate of consumption per head of the population as shown in the 1891 census was 17·6 lbs., against 17·39 lbs. in the preceding year. The East Coast Railway is said to have carried a largely increased amount of Madras salt to the Central Provinces.

The stocks of Government and excise salt in hand at the end of the year on the east coast were sufficient to last for 14½ months, compared with a supply of 17½ months in hand at the end of 1898-99. The gross revenue from Madras salt was £1,237,000, as compared with £1,332,000 in the preceding year; the decrease occurred in the excise duty on salt manufactured at private factories, which yielded £746,000, compared with £881,000 in 1898-99. During the year 1899-1900 there were 129 bonded yards in the Madras Presidency open for curing fish under special regulations, whereby cheap salt is sold to fish-curers. The quantity of fish brought to be cured was 54,600 tons, or 16,000 tons more than in the previous year. The cost of the yards to the Treasury was more than covered by the amount realised for salt. Pro-

92 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

SALT.

secutions under the salt laws were, as usual, numerous in comparison with other provinces; 9,075 persons were charged with salt offences, of whom 1,453 were released by departmental officers with a warning and 7,523 were sent for trial. More than half of these were contributed by nine circles in the southern portion of the Presidency.

Bombay.

The salt supply of Bombay comes from the Government salt works (Baragra salt) on the Runn of Cutch, from sea-salt works on the coast, and by importation. The sea-salt works numbered 342, of which one belongs to the Government; the imports of salt come chiefly from Goa. The following table shows the issues of salt from each source for the last two years:—

	1898-99.		1899-1900.	
	Total Issues.	For Local Consumption.	Total Issues.	For Local Consumption.
	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
Baragra salt - - -	1,937,951	542,071	1,956,100	458,058
Sea salt - - - -	7,385,794	2,259,208	7,187,704	2,899,628
Imported salt - - -	267,837	230,392	229,112	213,881
TOTAL - - -	9,591,582	3,031,731	9,372,930	3,071,567

The consumption in the whole Presidency was at the rate of 11·06 lbs. per head of the population given in the 1891 census return, and 8·2 lbs. per head in Gujarat, compared with 10·92 lbs. and 9·5 lbs. (revised figures) in 1898-99. The decline in Gujarat was undoubtedly to a large extent due to the famine, but it is remarked that natural deposits of salt were formed early and abundantly, and that the use of illicit salt was thus facilitated. The bulk of the Baragra salt is exported to the North-Western Provinces, Central Provinces and Central India; while the Madras Presidency, Hyderabad, Calcutta and the Central Provinces take large amounts of sea salt. The cost price of Baragra salt was 1½ annas per maund, and the generally prevailing price, exclusive of duty, of sea salt was 2 annas, though very much higher prices were recorded in places; the average market price per maund ranged between Rs. 3, the price in the Ahmedabad district, and Rs. 4½ in Kanara. The gross salt revenue receipts were £1,444,000, or £100,000 below the total of the previous year. Twenty-seven fish-curing yards were open at the end of the year, being nine more than in 1898-99. The quantity of fish brought to be cured in bond was 157,106 maunds, and 45,271 maunds of cheap salt were issued to fish-curers; the fish-curing operations of the year were most successful.

Sind.

The Sind salt supply is derived chiefly from the sea-salt works at Maurypur, and in smaller quantities from salt deposits at Saran and Dilyar on the edge of the desert, and by importation. The amount passed into consumption during the year was 281,000 maunds.* The consumption per head of the population of the 1891 census was 8·05 lbs. against 7·86 lbs. in 1898-99. The average market price of salt was about Rs. 3½, showing a slight decline. The salt receipts were £51,000, which was slightly higher than in the previous year. One fish-curing yard was worked during the year, and used 777 maunds of salt and 4,000 maunds of fish. All the salted fish manufactured was exported.

	Maunds.
* From Maurypur -	232,000
" Saran -	16,000
" Dilyar -	21,000
Imported -	9,000

BURMA.]

The amount of foreign salt which paid duty in Burmese ports during 1899 was 1,208,000 maunds, or 30,300 maunds less than in the previous year. This comes almost entirely from England and Germany, and pays a duty of Re. 1 per maund. The excise duty on locally manufactured salt is raised by a fee on vessels used for boiling brine, the amount of which varies in different parts of the province. The estimated output of locally manufactured salt in 1899 is

632,651 maunds against 496,056 in 1898, and the revenue received works out at six annas per maund. It is perhaps the case that local salt actually pays about half the rate levied on salt imported into the province. The imports of salted fish fell from 296,500 to 253,900 maunds. Prices of foreign salt were lower, owing to increased imports of the cheaper German salt; the retail price at Rangoon fell steadily from 28 to 25 annas per maund; the price in inland markets varies, but was generally over Rs. 2. The price of local salt is usually less than that of the imported article; the rates did not vary much from those of the previous year except in the Tenasserim division, where there was a heavy fall. The net amount of duty-paid salt available for consumption was 106,279 maunds in excess of the figures for 1898, but the increase is to a great extent due to a more liberal and more correct estimate of the outturn of local salt in certain districts. The number of cases of illicit manufacture of salt detected during the year was 21, and fines were inflicted in many cases for the use of cauldrons in excess of the capacity allowed. Legislation was proposed during the year with a view of bringing the latter class of offenders within the penal sections of the law. The gross revenue obtained from salt in Burma during the year 1899 was £96,400, as compared with £97,500 in 1898.

EXCISE.

EXCISE.

The excise revenue of India is raised partly from the following sources:—
 (1) Monopolies for the sale of liquors and intoxicating drugs, over defined areas; (2) Still-head duty on all spirits manufactured at distilleries; (3) Licenses for the working of stills at specified places; (4) Licenses for the sale of various kinds of liquor.* Tobacco, which is grown in almost every village, and is consumed by nearly all men and by many women in India, is not subjected to any duty; tea and coffee, which are grown largely for Indian consumption and for exportation, are also free from all duties. The excise duty on cotton yarns of counts above 20s. is dealt with under the heading of "Customs." Over almost the whole of Bombay and the Punjab, over the populous parts of Madras, the North-Western Provinces, Oudh and Burma, and over some parts of Bengal and the Central Provinces, a still-head duty is levied on all Indian spirit according to its alcoholic strength; but in some cases the duty is levied on the raw material from which the spirit is distilled. The still-head duty ranges as high as five rupees per gallon of London proof spirit; if the cost of licenses be added, the total duties are in some places more than seven rupees per gallon of London proof spirit. The system of excise management followed in these tracts is called the central distillery system, and assumes different forms in different provinces; in Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and elsewhere, the distillery is a Government establishment at which private individuals distil spirits; or sometimes, as in the Madras private distillery system, there is competition between the owners of private establishments manufacturing their own liquor. Efforts are continually made to adapt the systems of excise as far as possible to the conditions of each province. Over a large part of Bengal and most of the Central Provinces, the whole of Assam and about half of Berar, and in limited tracts in other provinces, revenue is levied on Indian spirits by leasing the spirit monopoly to the highest bidder, which is called the farming system; or by licensing the establishment of private stills, which is called the out-still system. The central distillery system is admittedly the best for preventing the spread and consumption of cheap liquor; and the Government of India have in past years declared their intention to restrict the farming and out-still systems as narrowly as possible. The difficulties are that in sparsely-peopled forest tracts the materials for illicit distillation are everywhere available; the tribes addicted to drinking often live in these regions; an adequate and trustworthy preventive staff cannot be kept in such places; and illicit practices prevail, to the consequent demoralisation of

General

* A customs duty is also levied on all imported spirits, wines and beer. The import duty is six rupees per gallon on London proof spirit; 2½ rupees per gallon on sparkling wines; one rupee per gallon on other wines; and one anna per gallon on beer.

94 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

EXCISE.

the people, if weak liquor cannot be obtained in some lawful way. Licensed out-stills are sometimes the only means of meeting the requirements of such exceptional tracts.

The following table gives the excise revenue of 1899-1900 for each province under the different heads, as shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts :—

	India, General.	Bengal.	North-West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Burma.	Central Provinces.	Assam.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
License and Distillery Fees, and Duties for the Sale of Spirits, Fermented Liquors and Drugs, viz. :—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Foreign liquors, &c.	6,601	76,026	30,720	21,945	76,414	859	1,694	19,395	16,230	237,284
Country spirits	59,954	421,331	294,237	91,106	67,708	80,784	44,320	333,981	600,463	1,875,864
Toddy	1,094	69,632	6,921	-	28,329	1,355	18	409,436	89,210	606,611
Opium and its preparations.	1,469	48,384	10,057	25,580	101,084	13,188	21,073	28,925	1,850	246,590
Other drugs	2,020	96,279	72,973	22,274	2	8,699	12,731	4,440	21,636	247,979
Duty on opium consumed in India.	620	120,165	31,191	10,021	51,113	22,258	98,907	26,591	64,190	429,172
Acreege on land cultivated with the poppy.	-	-	-	1,315	-	-	-	-	-	1,315
Duty on ganja	-	82,546	-	-	-	6,659	12,103	7,376	461	116,445
Fines, confiscations, miscellaneous.	3,147	1,385	127	214	2,675	1,205	62	4,212	5,325	18,692
TOTAL Revenue	74,617	931,018	424,656	172,985	322,325	132,605	100,906	394,365	709,805	3,659,948
Deduct—Charges	1,723	46,438	4,203	3,707	12,951	3,208	495	66,069	22,559	101,507
Net Revenue, 1899-1900	72,894	884,580	420,453	169,278	310,374	129,207	100,411	328,296	687,246	3,608,485
Net Revenue, 1898-99	73,428	849,832	375,200	189,821	292,945	126,674	101,837	345,099	739,483	3,644,627

The sum of £467,905 was yielded by import duties on liquors and spirits imported into India during the year 1899-1900, and thus the total drink and drugs revenue of India amounts to about 4½ annas a head on the whole population of British India as shown in the recent census. There has been a considerable increase in the excise revenue during the past 30 years; but this increase, though in part due to enhanced consumption of liquors caused by the growth of population and the general increase of earnings, is yet largely, and in some localities mainly, the result of improved excise administration, which has doubled or trebled the rates of taxation, and has, at the same time, restricted the use of illicit intoxicants. The totals of the net excise and customs revenues on liquors and drugs consumed in India during the past 24 years compare thus :—

	£	£	
1874-75	1,755,000	1895-96	4,118,000
1880-81	2,343,000	1897-98	3,940,000
1883-84	2,840,000	1898-99	4,107,000
1894-95	3,965,000	1899-1900	4,166,000

For the 231 millions of people who inhabit the several provinces of British India and Berar, the total number of shops licensed for the retail

sale of spirits, fermented liquors, opium and drugs, is as follows, province by province :—

PROVINCE.	Number of Retail Shops licensed in 1899-1900 for the Sale of					Quantity of Opium sold for Local Consumption, so far as known.	
	Country Spirits made in India.	European Liquors Imported or made in India.	Toddy and Rice-Beer or other Indian Fermented Drinks.	Opium.	Narcotic or Intoxicating Drugs, other than Opium.		
Bengal	3,288	528	14,645	1,645	3,106	2,189	
North-West Provinces and Oudh.	6,044	311	4,583	1,131	3,652	1,618	
Punjab	1,345	320*	37	1,550	1,340	1,416	
Burma	68	450	1,116	55	None	617	
Central Provinces	6,002	90	509	903	991	664	
Assam	221	00	16	746	273	1,301	
Madras	10,205	773	18,111	1,008	433	856	
Bombay, Sind, and Achen	2,732	129	1,659	1,151	1,183	1,351	
Berar	1,091	18	837	429	174	304	
TOTAL	1899-1900	31,086	2,091	41,601	8,708	11,152	10,416
	1898-99	31,273	2,750	41,569	8,093	10,911	10,201

* For imported liquors only.

There are thus 95,238 licensed shops for the retail sale of intoxicants and narcotics in British India, or one shop to an average of 2,426 of the population. In the United Kingdom in 1899-1900 there were more than 172,000 licenses for the retail sale of beer, wine and spirits, or one shop to about 250 of the population. In neither computation are occasional or part-year licenses reckoned; of these latter licenses, more than 33,000 were issued in the United Kingdom during the year, while the temporary or part-year licenses in India are under 2,000 a year.

In Bengal the total excise revenues of 1899-1900 and the two previous years were as follows :—

Receipts from	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£
Country spirits	372,067	406,320	434,249
Foreign liquors and rum	47,087	41,464	43,389
Fermented local liquors, toddy, and rice-beer	92,389	99,674	102,302
Opium	154,574	160,068	163,659
Ganja, bhang, and their compounds	182,863	187,895	186,006
Miscellaneous	891	1,031	1,459
TOTAL EXCISE REVENUE	849,871	895,152	931,066
Add duties levied in the Presidency on imported liquors.	122,937	133,173	133,573
TOTAL REVENUE FROM DRINKS AND DRUGS	972,808	1,028,325	1,066,639

EXCISE.

The excise revenue was 4 per cent. higher than the figures for 1898-99, and was the highest on record. More than half of the total was collected in the shape of license fees. The revenue accruing under the outstill system in the year under report exceeded that under the distillery system, the order of 1898-99 being thus reversed. Under both heads, however, there was a considerable increase, which amounted to 7 per cent. on the country spirit revenue taken as a whole. The incidence of gross excise revenue per head of the population of the 1891 census returns was $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas, compared with $2\frac{5}{8}$ annas in the previous year.

The out-still system is in force in the Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions, and in parts of Western Bengal, containing altogether a population of 38½ millions; the rest of the province, containing over 32 millions, is under the central distillery system. No change was made in this respect during the year. The number of central distilleries was 30, as in the previous year, in addition to 33 depôts; that of out-stills rose from 2,042 to 2,070. The stillhead duty levied on central distillery liquor ranged from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 per gallon of proof spirit. The consumption of country spirits in the out-still area cannot be accurately stated, but is estimated from statements furnished by the vendors, at 1,454,000 gallons at London-proof; the amount of imported spirits consumed in the province cannot be stated; other figures as to consumption and sale in 1898-99 are as follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Issues of country spirits from central distilleries in gallons, at London proof.	442,100	530,100	674,900
Issues of spirits manufactured in India by European method.	78,000	50,000	53,200
Shops licensed for retail sale of—			
Country spirits - - - - -	3,211	3,262	3,288
Rum and imported liquors - - - -	513	500	526
Pachwai, or rice beer - - - - -	1,592	1,000	1,610
Toddy (fermented) - - - - -	13,233	13,262	12,935
Shops licensed for retail sale of opium - -	1,067	1,066	1,645
" " " hemp drugs - - - -	3,000	3,105	3,106
Consumption of licit opium, in maunds - -	2,080	2,164	2,189
" hemp drugs (chiefly ganja), in maunds.	5,636	5,783	5,896

The revenue from toddy was £69,600, as compared with £68,500 in the previous year; in addition to the shops shown above as having been licensed to sell fermented toddy, 1,819 licenses were issued in 1899-1900 for the sale of unfermented palm-tree juice. Attempts have been made to raise *tari* revenue in selected districts by imposing a tree-tax on the Madras system; but on a consideration of the results the Government decided not to undertake legislation for that purpose. The number of licenses for home-brewing of rice-beer for domestic consumption rose from 8,641 to 8,701. Ganja is grown under close supervision in the Rajshahi district, and its cultivation elsewhere in the province, including the Tributary States of Orissa, is forbidden. A large amount is annually exported, the chief items in 1899-1900 being, to North-Western Provinces, 411 maunds; to Assam, 762 maunds; to Nipal, 159 maunds. The year was marked by a considerable extension of cultivation; the area of land estimated to have been so employed is about 2,500 acres, and the produce was 7,500 maunds, or 39 per cent. more than in the previous year; the increase was due to high prices. There was no change in the rate of duty. Special attention continued to be paid to the prevention of smuggling opium to Chittagong and Burma, with good results. No shops are licensed for selling

opium prepared for smoking after the Chinese fashion, known as *chandu*, or *Excise*, opium prepared for smoking after the Bengali manner, known as *madak*, and it is believed that those habits have thereby received a check.

The latest excise report for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh relates to the year ending in September 1899. For the last three years the excise revenues have been :—

North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Gross Receipts from	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	£.	£.	£.
Country spirits - - - - -	158,895	192,085	251,590
Foreign liquors and rum - - - - -	28,951	34,533	37,152
Opium - - - - -	40,118	40,909	43,714
Other drugs - - - - -	48,799	59,175	68,438
Toddy and miscellaneous - - - - -	5,702	6,872	6,909
TOTAL - - - £.	282,525	332,574	407,803

The total of 1898-99 is higher than that of any previous year; the increase occurred under all heads, and shows how satisfactory had been the recovery from the famine of 1896-97.

The changes in the revenue system in connection with country spirits during the year were chiefly from the farming to the out-still system in the Agra and Naini Tal districts. The revenue was raised as follows :— 88 per cent. under the central distillery system, which extended over 67,500 square miles, inhabited by 38 millions of people, and 12 per cent. under the out-still and farming systems, which extended over 39,600 square miles, inhabited by 9 millions of people. Twenty-nine distilleries were at work throughout the year, one having been closed in October 1898; six bonded warehouses for spirits have been established. The general rate of still-head duty charged was Rs. 2 per gallon of London proof spirits, and Rs. 1½ per gallon for spirit 25° below proof. The number of combined stills and shops under the outstill system rose from 1,058 to 1,155, while under the farming system, now confined to five districts, there were 291 shops against 336 in the previous year.

The consumption of spirits under the farming and outstill systems cannot be stated, but the following figures are of interest :—

	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Issues of country spirit from distilleries, public and private, in gallons, at London proof.	912,000	661,000	885,000	1,169,000
Consumption of rum from the Rosa distillery -	30,700	30,500	34,900	37,500
Shops licensed to retail country spirits -	6,209	6,126	6,029	6,044
" " rum and imported spirits	273	300	291	311
" " opium - - - - -	1,108	1,112	1,100	1,131
" " hemp drugs - - - - -	3,637	3,587	3,621	3,652
" " toddy - - - - -	4,464	4,477	4,597	4,583
Sales of licit opium, in maunds - - - - -	1,532	1,356	1,416	1,518
Net import of hemp drugs (chiefly <i>bhang</i>), in maunds - - - - -	13,388	11,210	12,216	14,143

The system of taxing hemp drugs by a quantitative duty in addition to license fees, which came into force in 1896-97, is reported to work satisfactorily. The amount was fixed at Rs. 6 to Rs. 9 per seer for Bengal ganja and Rs. 1½ for ganja from other places; while the duty on charas is Rs. 2½ to Rs. 2 per seer. These rates are receiving further consideration. The area under opium cultivation in the province continues to increase; it was in 1898-99 nearly 55 per cent. higher than in 1893-94, while the outturn has increased nearly 70 per cent. The Madras system of taxing toddy trees was given a further trial in the Farukhabad district.

In the Punjab the equalisation, dating from the preceding year, of the still-head duty on country spirits and spirits made in India by European methods had the effect during 1899-1900 of stimulating the production of the latter in the licensed private distilleries, and checking the consumption of the more crude spirit made in the pot-stills in the central distilleries. The private distilleries produce, besides whisky and rum, a white molasses spirit

98 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

Excise.

which is, excepting for its greater purity, identical with the country spirit; the result will be therefore to substitute a purer and perhaps rather higher-priced spirit for the cruder form. The new rates for country spirit are:—

		Rs.
10 per cent. under proof to London proof	-	4
20 " " " 10 per cent. under proof	-	3½
30 " " " 20 " "	-	3
45 " " " 30 " "	-	2½
More than 45 per cent. under proof	-	2

Private distillery spirit pays Rs. 4 if of London proof, and if below this strength, at the exact percentage rate according to its actual strength. The result of the change is shown in the decline of the issues of country spirit from 247,300 gallons in 1897-98 to 142,500 gallons in 1899-1900, and the increase of the issues of private distillery spirit to licensed vendors from 14,400 to 86,200 gallons in the same two years. Three new private distilleries were opened, making six in all, and six of the central distilleries, of which there were eleven at the end of 1898-99, were, after due notice and consideration, closed.

The gross excise revenues in the last three years were raised as follows:—

Receipts from	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.	£.
Country spirits - - - - -	85,213	98,929*	98,973
Imported liquors and beer - - - - -	16,677	14,988	13,838
Opium - - - - -	38,180	37,329	37,893
Other drugs and miscellaneous - - - - -	16,300	21,965	22,764
TOTAL - - - £.	166,460	173,211	172,958

* In 1898-99 private distillery spirits were for the first time included under the first head, which embraces all spirits made in British India.

The slight decrease is fully explained by the smaller numbers of troops on the frontier and the consequent fall in the consumption of beer. The total of licit spirits and drugs supplied to the public, and the number of licensed shops for the past three years, are returned as follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Consumption of country spirits computed at London proof, in gallons.	237,500	181,500	142,500
Consumption of rum and whisky, manufactured at private distilleries.	50,000	97,700	123,300
Consumption of imported spirits - - - - -	61,700	59,600	53,800
Licensed retail shops for country spirits* - - - - -	1,286	1,363	1,345
Licensed retail shops for rum* and imported liquors, including hotels, refreshment rooms, and travellers' rest-houses.	483	311	320
Consumption of licit opium, in maunds - - - - -	1,490	1,379	1,416
Licensed retail shops for opium - - - - -	1,552	1,556	1,550
" " for hemp drugs - - - - -	1,445	1,306	1,340

* From the beginning of 1898-99 all spirits made in British India were sold at the shops licensed for country spirit.

The opium revenue remained at about the same figures as in 1898-99. The import duty on Malwa opium was Rs. 4 per seer. The acreage under poppy cultivation in the province continues to decline, the figures reading as

follows:—1895-96, 12,741 acres; 1896-97, 9,757 acres; 1897-98, 10,412 acres; 1898-99, 6,875 acres; 1899-1900, 6,577 acres. This contraction occurred in the opium growing districts in the plains, where there was strong temptation to grow wheat, owing to the famine; in the hill districts opium was grown as much as in previous years.

In Burma the gross excise revenue during the past three years was raised thus:—

Receipts from	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.	£.
Liquors imported or made in Burma by European methods.	64,331	72,465	74,031
Country spirit - - - - -	7,290	7,904	8,699
Toddy - - - - -	25,401	26,190	28,091
Rice-beer - - - - -	40,440	52,034	58,941
Opium (after deducting prime cost of Government opium).	140,965	135,626	160,164
Fines - - - - -	6,667	7,556	7,151
TOTAL - - - £.	285,094	302,465	337,077
<i>Add</i> ,—Duty on imported liquors - - - - -	69,680	76,574	77,628
TOTAL - - - £.	354,774	379,039	414,705

The increase was general, but it was especially large under opium, owing to increased receipts for licenses. The excise duty on distillery spirits in Burma is Rs. 6 per gallon, which is the same as the import duty on foreign spirits, and the large increase in the output in recent years seems to show that the rate is not too high; the number of distilleries at work was four, and there was one brewery producing malt liquor. Rice-beer, which is chiefly consumed in the Pegu and Irrawaddy divisions, is increasing in popularity, and the receipts from license fees, as in the previous year, show a decided rise. The right to manufacture and sell country spirit is sold by auction; but the manufacture of it is free in some of the hilly tracts of Upper Burma. The spirit is for the most part consumed in Lower Burma. It is found extremely difficult to check the illicit manufacture of country spirits; the number of illicit stills suppressed in 1898-99 was 158, and in 1899-1900 it was 195.

No statement can be given of the amount of country spirit made at the out-stills, or of the production of toddy or rice-beer; other figures are as follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Imported spirits in gallons - - - - -	186,621	195,229	195,860
Distillery spirits in gallons, at London proof -	35,827	59,045	63,281
Shops licensed for sale of—			
Distillery or imported liquors - - - - -	456	447	450
Country spirit - - - - -	68	72	68
Toddy - - - - -	817	839	838
Rice-beer - - - - -	252	255	278
Opium - - - - -	52	53	55
Licit opium consumed, in maunds - - - - -	752	771	817

100 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

EXCISE.

Local opinion was considered when proposals were made for issuing new licenses. From the 1st January 1894 opium could not be legally sold to or possessed by Burmans, unless they had registered themselves as consumers before the end of June 1894. Non-Burman residents are allowed to buy and possess opium under the same restrictions as before. A maximum supply of opium is fixed for each licensed shop, calculated according to the number of legitimate consumers that are likely to frequent such shop. These arrangements were being reconsidered, and it was decided, among other things, to reopen the registers and to admit those who omitted to register themselves in 1894. The amount of licit opium consumed cannot be taken as representing the total consumption, as there is a great deal of smuggling; during the year 1899-1900 sixty-six maunds of illicit opium were seized, and in the previous year the seizures amounted to 103 maunds. The work of the Special Excise Establishment was not altogether satisfactory, though greater activity was displayed and more arrests made than in the previous year.

The number of offences against the opium and excise laws detected in 1899-1900 was less than in the previous year, and seizures of opium and ganja fell considerably. Fifteen special detective establishments were employed, but their working was not altogether successful.

Central Provinces.

In the Central Provinces the excise receipts of the past six years have been as follows:—

Receipts from	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Country spirits - - -	115,610	99,106	88,165	68,716	70,558	79,904
Opium - - - - -	65,208	61,282	51,001	40,788	48,072	50,842
Ganja - - - - -	18,055	10,334	12,048	11,011	11,647	12,341
Toddy - - - - -	1,403	1,374	1,307	1,415	1,268	1,353
Miscellaneous, including foreign liquors.	1,937	2,294	1,820	1,707	2,076	3,023
TOTAL - - £.	202,432	130,480	155,000	120,727	130,606	147,553

The figures again show a recovery from the low total of 1897-98; but the increase occurred almost entirely in the receipts for the sale of excise monopolies, which took place before the famine of 1899-1900 began. The sales for the succeeding year, which took place in 1900, showed a large decrease. The gross excise revenue from all sources falls at the rate of about 3½ annas per head of the population.

The greater part of the country is supplied with spirits from out-stills, from which nearly half of the country spirit revenue is derived; but the number of these is being steadily decreased in pursuance of the policy of substituting the central distillery system in tracts where it is considered possible to do so. The number of central distilleries was increased by one during the year. In two districts, Nagpur and Nimar, the modified bonded warehouse system was for a third year on its trial. Under the out-still system the revenue is raised by license fees, under the central distillery system by license fees and by a duty varying between one and four annas per seer on the raw material (*mohwa* flower); under the new system it is raised by license fees and a duty on liquor consumed, fixed at Rs. 3 per gallon of spirit 10 degrees below London proof and Rs. 1½ per gallon 50 degrees under proof.

PROGRESS AND CONDITION OF INDIA, 1899-1900. 101

Particulars of consumption and sale, so far as available, are as follows:— Ex

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Issues of country spirit from central distilleries, in gallons at London proof - - - - -	150,000	166,000	159,600
Shahjehanpur rum imported - - - - -	7,983	7,161	8,897
Number of distilleries supplying bonded warehouses - -	4	4	4
" " " central distilleries - -	20	20	21
" " " out-stills - - - - -	1,504	1,496	1,458
Shops holding permanent licenses for retail sale of—			
Country spirits - - - - -	5,985	6,022	6,002
Imported liquors - - - - -	90	89	99
Toddy - - - - -	654	596	599
Opium - - - - -	916	921	903
Hemp drugs - - - - -	978	980	991
Total issues of licit opium, in maunds - - - - -	597	619	664
" " ganja " - - - - -	760	805	823

The number of licenses for the cultivation of ganja rose from 181 to 205, and the area cultivated was 254 acres, or eleven acres less than in 1898-99.

The excise demand of Assam for the year 1899-1900 and previous years was distributed thus:— Assa

Receipts from	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.	£.
Country spirits - - - - -	35,168	41,895	43,079
Imported liquors and rum - - - - -	1,002	1,837	1,095
Opium and its compounds - - - - -	122,393	122,532	119,897
Ganja and its compounds - - - - -	23,740	25,447	24,458
Miscellaneous, including toddy, &c. - -	189	118	313
TOTAL - - - - £.	183,092	191,829	189,342

The revenue, though rather lower than that of 1898-99, was higher than in any previous year. The returns from country spirits continued to increase. These spirits are for the most part consumed by the immigrant population, which has grown rapidly during the past few years. Owing to the sparse population of the province the central distillery system has not been introduced, and the out-still system everywhere prevails. Under this system, the sites of shops are fixed; the right to have one still, and to sell spirits, at each shop, is sold annually by auction. Much of the liquor is weak, being sold at from six annas to one rupee per quart bottle, according to strength. The indigenous population consume chiefly opium and ganja, the use of the latter being especially prevalent in the two Surma Valley districts; and there is little demand for the other hemp drugs, known as *charas* and *bhanga*. Taking the province as a whole, the consumption of opium per head of population is twice as large as in any other part of India, and eightfold that of Bengal or the North-Western

102 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

Excise.

Provinces. The figures of sale and consumption, so far as they can be given, are as follows :—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Estimated consumption of country spirits, in gallons at London proof.	Figures not available.	867,000	892,000
Consumption of licit opium, in maunds	1,332	1,342	1,301
" " ganja "	623	618	620
Shops licensed for retail sale of—			
Country spirits - - - - -	217	218	221
Opium - - - - -	758	751	746
Ganja - - - - -	272	281	278

The amount of rum imported from the North-Western Provinces or from Bengal was 4,858 gallons; no rum was manufactured in the province. Licenses for the sale of rum and foreign spirits fell from 70 to 66 in number. There is a very limited consumption of toddy and rice-beer, which does not require notice.

Madras.

The gross excise revenue of Madras during the last three years was raised thus :—

Receipts from	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.	£.
Country spirits - - - - -	406,903	367,680	333,667
Toddy - - - - -	474,277	462,016	468,093
Foreign liquors and miscellaneous - -	32,482	29,020	23,632
Opium and other drugs - - - - -	55,674	57,802	67,228
TOTAL - - - £.	969,298	917,418	892,620
<i>Add.</i> —Customs duties on imported liquors -	73,283	64,440	68,847
TOTAL REVENUE FROM DRINK AND DRUGS } - - £.	1,042,581	981,857	961,467

The total excise revenue showed a decrease of £24,800, or 2·6 per cent. as compared with the previous year; the fall was due to smaller consumption of country spirits and less active bidding for retail licenses.

Central distillery systems are in force over the greater part of Madras, and the number of distilleries, which in Madras are all private concerns, was 15 during the year, compared with 18 in 1898-99. In the Ganjam and Vizagapatnam districts and in most of the Kistna and Malabar and part of the South Canara districts the right of manufacture and supply at a fixed price to retail vendors was sold to contractors, of whom there were six. In the Godavari district and in other small tracts, containing a population of about 2½ millions, non-distillery systems are in force, but these areas are being restricted. Under these "renting" systems the privilege of retailing spirit was sold, either with or apart from the manufacturing right, by areas or by separate shops. Still-head duty is levied on all spirits issued from contract or other distilleries; the rate varies, but generally speaking is Rs. 4½ per gallon at proof strength. Much of the spirit is made from sugar at large distilleries worked with modern appliances. Over nearly the whole of the Presidency a tree tax, ranging from one rupee to six rupees a year, is imposed on all palm trees tapped for fermented toddy, while the shops for retail sale of toddy pay a license fee, or are sold by auction to the highest bidder. The amount of toddy consumed in the

Presidency cannot be stated; other figures of consumption and sale are as Excise follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Consumption of country spirits, in gallons at London proof.	1,112,700	949,700	895,700
„ imported spirits, in gallons-	188,800	171,100	190,800
„ opium, in maunds - -	901	795	866
„ hemp drugs „ - -	1,625	660	1,022
Shops licensed for retail sale of—			
Country spirits - - - - -	10,387	10,371	10,295
Toddy - - - - -	17,002	17,523	18,111
Opium - - - - -	1,067	1,059	1,098
Hemp drugs - - - - -	272	308	438

In August 1897 the possession or transport of ganja was placed under restriction and unlicensed cultivation was prohibited, and in August 1898 an excise duty was imposed as follows: ganja Rs. 4 per seer, bhang 8 annas, charas Rs. 6. These changes necessarily involved the establishment of a sufficient number of shops for retail sale, and, at first, a decline in the reported consumption. The amount of licit hemp drugs consumed in 1899-1900 has, however, increased considerably, owing to the repression of illicit cultivation and smuggling. No opium is cultivated in Madras, the supply being procured from Indore; the pass duty, which is credited to Excise, falls at the rate of about Rs. 5 per lb.; the right to retail opium is farmed. The number of persons sent for trial for offences against the excise laws was 18,807, against 21,369 in the previous year, and among these 90 per cent. of convictions were obtained.

The central distillery system obtains through practically the whole of the Bombay Presidency, but it differs from the similar system of Madras. In the most prevalent form in Bombay, the monopolies of manufacture and sale of country spirit over an excise area are sold together to one contractor, and most of the revenue is obtained from still-head duties; in the Madras distillery system the monopoly of manufacture is separated from that of retail vend, and much of the revenue is obtained from the auction sale of shop licenses. In the Bombay Presidency spirits are distilled from fermented *mhowra* (or *mhowa*) flower and from fermented toddy, or juice drawn from incisions in the trunk of three or four species of palms. In several of the minor Native States the British system of excise management has been adopted; in some others the chiefs have engaged to manage their excise affairs so as to avoid competition with British excise arrangements. The general fiscal results of the excise management in Bombay, Sind and Aden during the last three years were:—

Gross Receipts from	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.	£.
Locally-made liquors, including toddy - - - - -	625,061	616,720	597,096
Foreign and Indo-European liquors - - - - -	10,900	11,242	11,325
Opium - - - - -	83,367	73,182	58,418
Intoxicating drugs - - - - -	32,062	28,555	32,328
Miscellaneous items - - - - -	6,439	6,276	6,203
TOTAL EXCISE REVENUE - - - - -	757,829	735,955	705,370
<i>Add.</i> — Customs duties on imported liquors - - - - -	121,000	189,519	188,302
TOTAL REVENUE FROM DRINK AND DRUGS } - - - - -	878,829	925,274	893,672

The rate of still-head duty ranges from Rs. 5½ to Rs. 1 per gallon of London proof spirit; and the average over the greater part of the Presi-

104 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

Excise.

gency is about Rs. 3 per gallon. The incidence of excise revenue, excluding opium, per head of the population was 8½ annas in Bombay, and 6¼ annas in Sind. The details of consumption and sale in the Presidency were as follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900
Country spirit, in gallons at London proof -	2,193,000	2,216,000	1,784,600
Shops licensed for sale of country spirit - -	2,823	2,818	2,732
" " toddy - - - -	1,294	1,876	1,659
" " opium - - - -	1,148	1,153	1,151
" " ganja - - - -	1,193	1,188	1,183
Licit consumption of opium, in maunds - -	1,469	1,392	1,351

The amount of hempdrugs sold during the year included 3,353 maunds of bhang, 1,930 maunds of ganja, and 184 maunds of other preparations.

Berar.

In Berar the gross excise revenue of the last three years has been as follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Country spirit and toddy - - - - -	£. 54,717	£. 62,075	£. 54,946
Opium - - - - -	21,565	24,122	18,512
Ganja - - - - -	1,520	1,880	1,978
Foreign liquors and Miscellaneous - - - -	1,425	1,428	462
TOTAL - - - £.	79,227	89,505	73,897

The figures for the year 1899-1900 are the lowest on record, the heaviest fall as compared with the previous year occurring under country spirits.

The distillery area comprised the Ellichpur, Amraoti and Akola districts and part of the Buldana district; in these tracts the Bombay system was during the year replaced by the Madras system, the main feature of the change being the separation of the right of retail vend from that of manufacture and wholesale supply. The rest of Berar was supplied with country spirits by outstills, which numbered 576. The famine had the effect of reducing the amount of country liquor consumed, and special concessions had to be made to the retail vendors, who were unable to maintain their guarantee to take a minimum quantity of spirit (90 per cent. of the previous year's sales). Figures relating to sale and consumption are given below:—

	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Consumption of distillery spirit, in gallons at London proof.	125,700	166,300	147,800	120,300
Consumption of opium, in maunds -	337	307	323	304
" hemp drugs - - - -	531	595	119	177
Shops licensed for retail sale of—				
Country spirits (including outstills)	1,105	1,141	1,118	1,091
Toddy - - - - -	971	971	971	937
Opium - - - - -	471	461	450	429
Hemp drugs - - - - -	139	127	163	174

New rules regulating the importation and sale of opium came into force at the beginning of the year. The revised system respecting ganja, introduced in 1898-99, worked satisfactorily during 1899-1900.

STAMPS.

STAMPS.

The stamp revenue is leviable under Act VII. of 1870 (the Court Fees Act), which imposes fees on plaints, petitions, and other documents filed before civil, criminal, or revenue courts, and under Act I. of 1879 (the Stamp Act), which imposes duties on commercial transactions recorded in writing, such as conveyances, bonds, cheques, bills of exchange, receipts, and the like. The following table gives the stamp receipts, province by province, for the year 1899-1900:—

	India, General.	Bengal.	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Burma.	Central Provinces.	Assam.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Sale of court fee stamps -	16,914	697,820	384,803	184,050	78,193	63,475	45,914	371,673	228,228	2,272,070
Sale of commercial and other stamps.	8,239	316,379	116,183	98,635	48,994	24,709	16,649	176,111	132,323	937,221
Fines and miscellaneous -	136	4,194	1,806	4,797	1,923	856	396	9,344	42,994	66,166
GROSS Stamp Revenue of 1899-1900	25,289	1,218,593	502,792	288,382	129,120	88,770	61,869	556,128	393,544	3,265,477
TOTAL of 1898-99 -	26,863	1,188,739	494,482	284,900	117,709	103,029	64,707	551,120	397,683	3,198,433

The refunds of the year were £39,556, and the charges of collection came to £63,375. The increase in revenue, which had been checked in the previous year, amounted to 2 per cent. in 1899-1900.

CUSTOMS.

CUSTOMS.

Import duties, which had been abolished in India in 1882, and were re-imposed in 1894, amount, generally speaking, to 5 per cent. of the value of the goods. The chief, though not the only, exceptions are railway material and industrial machinery, food grains, raw materials such as coal, jute, or wool, and gold and unset precious stones, which are all admitted free of duty, petroleum, which pays one anna per gallon, and iron and steel, on which an import duty of 1 per cent. is levied. For a time cotton goods were exempted, but in December 1894 a five per cent. duty was imposed on imported cotton goods and yarns; while a countervailing excise duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* was imposed on all yarns of counts above 20 spun at power mills in British India. In February 1896 the cotton duties were revised; all cotton yarns, whether imported or manufactured in India, were freed from duty, while a uniform duty of 3½ per cent. *ad valorem* was imposed on all woven cotton goods either imported from abroad or manufactured at power mills in India. A duty is levied on exported rice and rice-flour at the rate of three annas per maund of unhusked rice.

The appended table shows the net customs revenue for six years, namely, 1894-95, during which the new tariff was in force, with the addition of the 5 per cent. duty on cotton goods from the 27th December; 1895-96, during which the tariff remained as at the end of the previous year, until the reduction of the cotton duties in February 1896; and the four subsequent years, during the whole of which the tariff remained unchanged, the duty on woven cotton goods being 3½ per cent., and cotton yarns being on the free list:—

105 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

CUSTOMS.

	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Sea Customs, import duty:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Arms and ammunition.	10,126	11,403	13,113	11,866	9,343	8,217
Liquors - -	406,355	440,000	437,374	430,826	462,020	467,005
Petroleum and other oils.	213,118	270,782	284,157	360,583	323,402	294,884
Cotton manufactures.	256,631	776,483	598,788	522,845	558,043	609,730
Silver bullion and coin.	230,557	231,859	214,650	285,733	188,914	159,812
Other metals -	135,077	168,641	131,220	145,889	129,851	110,900
Other articles -	630,450	686,725	633,319	660,272	678,525	710,767
Export duty on rice	594,018	609,581	491,513	472,857	658,926	570,337
Miscellaneous -	6,094	1,770	7,317	7,344	8,561	18,593
TOTAL Sea Customs	2,483,026	3,197,013	2,811,851	2,925,214	3,016,774	2,951,451
Land Customs - -	15,884	13,397	10,768	20,082	13,445	12,013
Excise duty on cotton manufactures.	6,897	40,682	72,773	76,930	90,208	87,301
Miscellaneous (including warehouse and wharf rents).	10,773	18,672	13,293	15,539	18,377	18,963
TOTAL Customs Revenue } £.	2,516,680	3,270,614	2,914,783	3,036,715	3,138,804	3,070,628

The most noteworthy features of the above figures are the decrease under petroleum imports and rice exports, and the continued growth of receipts from cotton manufactures. An Act imposing a duty on imports of bounty-fed sugar equivalent to the amount of the bounty came into force on the 20th March 1899. Some account is given below, in the part of this Statement dealing with agriculture, of the effect of the measure on the sugar industry so far as it can be ascertained. The yield of the duty to the Indian exchequer in 1899-1900 was about £50,000, and in the first ten months of 1900-01 it was about £100,000.

Regarding the working of the excise duties on cotton goods, complete report is available for the Bombay Presidency, where 57 cotton factories produced excisable woven goods, including three hosiery factories, while 75 were factories for the production of yarn only. Fourteen new mills were opened during the year, but 28 were closed owing to the failure of the cotton crop, to the famine or the plague, or to other causes. The total output of the cotton mills in the British districts of Bombay for 1899-1900 was 371 million lbs. of yarn and 78½ million lbs. of woven goods; these figures showing an increase of 1 per cent. and a decrease of 5 per cent. respectively as compared with the output of 1898-99. The excise revenue realised on cotton goods in the Presidency was £73,000, as compared with £75,000 in the previous year.

PROVINCIAL RATES.

PROVINCIAL RATES.

Provincial rates are levied for the most part on the land. They are imposed to meet charges for local roads, local schools, local sanitary work, local postal arrangements, and in some provinces for village police. In the temporarily settled provinces the rates take the form of a percentage on the land revenue, and the revenue payers and tenants have to pay that percentage in addition to the land revenue. In Bengal the cesses are levied by a rate upon the rental, and are payable partly by landlord and partly by tenant. Again, in the latter province about half of the rates belongs to the Provincial Government; in the North-Western Provinces nearly one-quarter is similarly

credited; in other provinces the whole, or almost the whole, of the income from provincial rates is spent on local objects by local bodies. The provincial rates increase with the land revenue, and in Bengal the road cess may be increased by votes of the district boards within the legal maximum, or by alteration in the periodical valuations of the rental. The provincial rates are, for the most part, collected punctually with the land revenue and by the same agency.

PROVINCIAL RATES.

The following is a table of the rates and cesses collected during the year:—

	India, General.	Bengal.	Assam.	North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces.	Burma.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
REVENUE										
District Local Fund:—	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Cess on Land for expenditure on Roads, Schools, Hospitals, and general purposes.	1,365	310,570	44,724	394,524	136,216	20,993	92,604	366,815	146,989	1,504,708
Provincial:										
Cess on Land for expenditure on Roads, Schools, &c.	—	310,595	—	—	—	195	—	—	—	310,790
Cess on Land for Famine Assurance, Canals, and Railways.	—	—	—	87,660	35,733	6,864	—	—	—	130,176
Cess on Land for District Post	—	24,212	—	—	6,704	2,257	—	—	—	34,233
Cess on Land for Village Service and Patwarries.	2,163	—	—	168,490	82,258	29,559	—	141,670	26,993	253,113
Assessment on Wards' Estates for Establishment Charges.	—	11,238	—	—	1,400	—	—	—	—	12,704
Miscellaneous	2,092	—	—	46,999	239	—	—	2,641	—	52,871
TOTAL Receipts	6,613	657,621	44,724	667,602	263,076	59,637	92,604	512,136	173,982	2,498,785
Refunds and charges of collection	1	773	33	300	231	166	126	1,164	532	3,325
Net Receipts, 1899-1900	6,612	656,848	44,691	667,302	262,845	59,471	92,478	510,972	173,450	2,495,460
Net Receipts, 1898-99	8,474	636,344	43,872	717,119	299,251	83,297	86,255	512,060	220,501	2,609,633

INCOME TAX.

INCOME TAX.

There was no change in the income tax law (Act II. of 1886) during the year, or in the rate at which the tax was levied. The principal provisions of the Act are that incomes derived from salaries, pensions, and interest on securities, (classed as Parts I. and III. in the returns), if amounting to Rs. 2,000 per annum, should pay five pies in the rupee (2.6 per cent.), and if less than Rs. 2,000, four pies in the rupee (about 2 per cent.); that companies (Part II.) should pay five pies in the rupee on their net profits; and that income derived from other sources (Part IV.) should pay according to a graded scale from Rs. 10 on Rs. 500 to Rs. 42 on Rs. 1,999, the tax on incomes of Rs. 2,000 and upwards being five pies in the rupee. All incomes of less than Rs. 500 a year are exempted, and the tax is not levied on profits or incomes derived from agriculture (which are otherwise taxed under legislation imposed in 1877-78), or on military salaries of less than Rs. 500 a month.

General.

The receipts on account of income tax in each province were as follows:—

Provincial details.

	Gross Collections.	Refunds.	Net Receipts.
	£.	£.	£.
India, General	95,539	407	95,132
Bengal	353,554	1,795	351,759
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	168,341	1,322	167,019
Punjab	102,161	530	101,631
Burma	72,549	183	72,366
Central Provinces	31,485	424	31,061
Assam	22,527	71	22,456
Madras	195,436	1,396	194,040
Bombay	258,703	1,438	257,265
TOTAL, 1899-1900	1,300,295	7,566	1,292,729
TOTAL, 1898-99	1,281,460	7,441	1,274,019

The charges for collection amounted to £22,158.

INCOME TAX.
Bengal.

In Bengal the collections in 1898-99 amounted to £347,000, compared with £339,000 in the previous year. The realisations under Part IV. amounted to £222,000, showing a slight increase. Calcutta contributed £150,000, of which £84,000 was under Part IV. The total number of objections against 118,452 assessments was 10,855, as compared with 10,890 in the previous year; 33 per cent. of the objectors were more or less successful, as against 34 per cent. in 1898-99; and the final demand was 2·7 per cent. below the original assessments. The proportion of persons assessed to the total (1891) population of Bengal was 1 to 610. The incidence of the tax over the whole province was Rs. 44 on each assessee. About half the assesseees had incomes between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750 per annum, and about 11 per cent. of the receipts was contributed by this class.

North-Western
Provinces and
Oudh.

In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh the receipts for the year were £162,800, or about 2 per cent. more than in 1898-99. Of this amount £31,000 accrued under Part I., and £121,200 under Part IV. The final number of assesseees in Part IV. was 64,537; 6,378 persons were assessed for the first time, of whom 18·7 per cent. were struck off on appeal; enhancements were made by the assessing officers in 7,671 cases, and were fully maintained in 75 per cent. of that number. The system of enlisting the aid of non-official assessors was given an extensive trial, and it has proved to be a valuable aid in assessment, especially in the direction of fair distribution, as the opinion of the assessors as to the comparative wealth of their neighbours is more to be trusted than their statement of the actual figures of the incomes. One person was assessed in every 684 of the population, and the average assessment per assessee was Rs. 30. Assesseees possessing an income of less than Rs. 750 per annum were 43 per cent. of the whole, and paid 14 per cent. of the amount levied.

Punjab.

The total receipts in the Punjab were £92,300, showing an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. compared with the receipts of the previous year, although they are still less than the receipts of 1897-98, in which year speculative dealings in grain had abnormally swollen the incomes which were assessed. Under Part IV. a net total of £70,200 was realised, 6·2 per cent. having been struck off the initial assessment on objection. The number of objections was 30 per cent. of the total number of assesseees, as compared with 28 per cent. in the preceding year, but the percentage of objections accepted fell from 36 to 34. Money-lenders are stated to have paid nearly 40 per cent. of the receipts under Part IV. Eighteen per cent. was paid by assesseees having an income less than Rs. 750 per annum.

Burma.

The income tax is still of very restricted application in Lower Burma, and only applies to the town of Mandalay in Upper Burma; one fresh village in the Lower province was brought under the Act during 1899-1900. The year was one of prosperity, and the collections rose from £67,500 to £70,000, the highest figure on record. Under Part IV. twelve per cent. of the original assessment was remitted on appeal, against 15 per cent. in 1898-99; the final assessment was £34,600, payable by 15,267 assesseees, of whom 11,147 had incomes between Rs. 500 and Rs. 750 per annum. In Rangoon town 4,192 persons were originally assessed for a total of £19,800; but this was reduced to £17,100 by successful objections.

Assam.

In Assam the yield of the tax was £21,800, which was higher than in any previous year, and 73 per cent. above the yield in 1886-87. The chief increase of the year occurred in Part IV., under which $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more was realised than in 1898-99. The largest item was still the tax on salaries paid by companies, which constituted over 42 per cent. of the whole yield. The profits of the tea companies, on which the prosperity of the province mainly depends, are taxed in Calcutta and in London. The number of objections was 1,134 against 5,906 assessments; 480 objections were successful in whole or in part.

Madras.

The collections in Madras amounted to £179,200, showing an advance of 5 per cent. above the figures of 1898-99. Of this amount, £133,200 or 74 per cent. was under Part IV. The total amount paid in the city of Madras was £35,500. One in every 380 of the population was taxed, the average amount per taxpayer being Rs. 29½. Against 73,497 assessments under Part IV., 27,444 objections were preferred, of which 21 per cent. were wholly or partly successful;

and the final demand was $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. below the original assessment. Of the persons finally assessed 47 per cent. were in receipt of incomes less than Rs. 750 per annum. INCOME TAX.

In the city of Bombay, where nearly half the income tax of the Presidency is paid, the receipts on account of the year were £117,000, or one per cent. lower than in 1898-99, owing to the depression in the milk industry and to the fact that business is seriously hampered by the annual exodus of traders and native bankers from the city owing to the plague. The initial demand in the city was £200,000, or 50 per cent. higher than in 1898-99, as in the absence of any system of compulsory returns of income it was considered advisable to fix the assessment high. This demand was finally reduced to £122,000, of which nearly all had been collected, either during or after the close of the year. The average incidence on each taxpayer in the city rose from Rs. 65 to Rs. 69. The total receipts, including arrears, throughout the Presidency were £252,600, or slightly less than in the previous year, the final demand having been rather more than in that year. Bombay.

In the Central Provinces the yield in 1899-1900 was £25,400, or rather less than that of the previous year, mainly owing to the removal of the headquarters of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Calcutta. There was a slightly higher return from profits of companies; under Part IV. the final demand for the year was £15,350, due from 7,269 assesses, and of this amount 98 per cent. was collected. 43 per cent. of the assesses are shown as money-lenders, but nearly 90 per cent. of these money-lenders had incomes less than £133 per annum. Central Provinces.

CHAPTER IX.

FORESTS.

FORESTS.

THE subjoined tables give the forest receipts, expenditure and net revenue for each province during the year 1899-1900 :—

	India, General.	Bengal.	North Western Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Burma.	Central Provinces.	Assam.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
REVENUE.										
Receipts - - -	£. 30,671	£. 78,927	£. 107,850	£. 93,395	£. 320,803	£. 54,617	£. 37,873	£. 182,468	£. 161,013	£. 1,235,425
EXPENDITURE.										
General direction - -	£. 6,318	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£. 6,318
Conservancy and Works -	£. 13,336	£. 18,979	£. 24,731	£. 27,009	£. 97,062	£. 31,040	£. 10,434	£. 54,476	£. 77,652	£. 391,689
Establishments, &c. - -	£. 11,916	£. 20,368	£. 23,005	£. 23,765	£. 66,100	£. 33,369	£. 12,876	£. 35,809	£. 64,343	£. 321,351
Charges in England - -	£. 10,822	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£. 10,822
TOTAL Expenditure -	£. 41,707	£. 39,347	£. 47,736	£. 50,774	£. 163,162	£. 64,409	£. 23,310	£. 110,286	£. 141,995	£. 780,175
Net Revenue or Forest Surplus, 1899-1900 -	£. -11,036	£. 39,580	£. 44,924	£. 12,631	£. 367,641	£. -14,319	£. 14,563	£. 43,261	£. 10,118	£. 505,280
Net Revenue or Forest Surplus, 1898-99 -	£. - 8,184	£. 32,400	£. 39,734	£. 41,273	£. 394,980	£. 9,251	£. 6,188	£. 34,390	£. 30,398	£. 579,425

Some beginning was made in the forest administration and conservancy of Southern India in 1844; 10 or 12 years later similar work was begun in Western and Northern India, and was taken up systematically all over India when the Mutiny troubles were over. Within the last 20 years forest laws have been enacted for, and forest administration has been placed upon a permanent basis in, every province of India. The superior officers of the forest service have been, for the most part, selected by competition, and have been trained in forestry, either in Germany, or in France, or at Cooper's Hill College. During the year 1893-94 it was decided that 20 per cent. of the 210 superior posts in the Forest Department should eventually be filled by selected officers, chiefly Natives of India, from the subordinate or provincial branch of the Department. Some of the subordinate officials are trained at a forest school near Dehra, in the sub-Himalayan country of the North-Western Provinces, and this system of professional training at local centres will be gradually extended. The first object of the forest administration is to select, acquire, and mark off as reserves an area of State forest in every province sufficient to supply the wants of the neighbourhood and the province in respect of timber, firewood, bamboos, canes and other forest produce, and sufficient also for supplying the foreign demand for such articles as teak timber, sandal wood, and rubber. The reserves are, or will be, surveyed, conserved and worked on sanctioned plans designed so as to obtain the largest possible permanent yield in the most economical way. Private rights in the reserves are bought out or compromised. Among the most important measures of conservancy are the exclusion of the yearly fires which used to devastate forests, the maintenance of adequate seed-bearing trees, and the regular reproduction of timber of the more valuable kinds. At the present time the reserves cover an area of more than 80,000 square miles; and they may hereafter be further extended in Madras and Burma, where the work of reservation is as yet incomplete. Outside the reserves are over 30,000 square miles of State forests, some part of which will be eventually brought within the reserve area, and all of which are managed and worked for the benefit of the people, of their cattle, and of

the public revenue. The limited areas of private forest are, except where they have been leased to the Government, being gradually exhausted; and as yet few private, and no communal, forests have been successfully brought under conservancy. In every province a very few of the most valuable timber trees are declared to be reserved trees, and can only be felled under special license. Outside the reserves, the country folk are generally allowed to obtain from the State forests timber, bamboos, firewood, and grass for their own use, free of charge; inside the reserves, only persons specially licensed are allowed to extract timber or other produce on payment of fees. Forest revenue is raised by royalties on, or by the sale of, timber or other produce, and by the issue at specified fees of permits to graze cattle, or to extract for sale timber, firewood, charcoal, bamboos, canes, and other minor forest produce. Some of the better-managed Native States, such as Mysore, Travancore and Baroda, have followed the example of the British Government, have organised systematic forest administration, and enjoy a considerable forest revenue; Kashmir is now adopting the same policy, Mysore has more than trebled its forest revenue since the country was restored to the Native Rule, in the year 1881.

FORESTS.

The following paragraphs treat of forest administration in each province. The figures of revenue and expenditure, being compiled from administrative returns for the year ending in June, do not agree precisely with the figures given in the table on the preceding page, which are taken from the finally corrected financial accounts for the year ending in March 1900.

In Bengal, at the end of the year, the areas of reserved and protected forests were 5,881 and 3,675 square miles, the latter figure showing a decrease, owing to the exclusion of forests in the Sundarbans, which were to be taken into cultivation. A party of the Imperial Forest Survey began work in the Singhbhum forests during the year, and accomplished 185 square miles of detail survey on the 4-inch scale, besides 150 square miles of triangulation and some levels. Working plans had been sanctioned by the end of the year for 4,479 square miles of forest, and were being compiled for 841 square miles; there was, therefore, an area of 4,236 square miles of reserved or protected forests for which they have still to be made. The year 1899-1900 was on the whole favourable for natural reproduction, and the area of plantations and nurseries rose to 6,684 acres. Attempt was made to exclude fire from 2,114 square miles, and the effort succeeded over 91 per cent. of that area, a result which, though less successful than that of the previous year, was very favourable in view of the conditions of the year. The yield of the forests rose under all heads, timber from 6,420,000 cubic feet to 7,340,000 cubic feet, and other produce in a less proportion. Of fuel, 34,566,000 cubic feet were extracted, the number of bamboos was 21 millions, and the minor produce, including grazing, was valued at £21,500. The chief increases in timber and in fuel occurred in the Sundarbans, and were ascribed to the general prosperity of the people. The area open for grazing was about the same as in 1898-99; the question of the regulation of grazing in protected forests has been left in abeyance. The financial results, if the amounts received for the sleepers in former years are eliminated, were equally favourable, the surplus for the financial year 1899-1900 being £39,600.

Bengal.

The reserved forests of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh rose from 4,005 to 4,049 square miles in 1899-1900; there was also an area of 9,198 square miles of protected forests under the Forest Department at the end of the year. Satisfactory progress was made in the preparation of working plans, and the area for which plans have yet to be provided is now small. Protection from fire was attempted over 3,223 square miles, or more than three-quarters of the forests, and it was successful over nearly 98 per cent. of that area, although, owing to its dryness, the season was unfavourable for these operations. More than half of the reserves, *i.e.*, 2,136 square miles, was thrown open to cattle, and the number of cattle grazed rose from 461,000 to 514,000, besides sheep, goats and other animals; the increase occurred entirely in the classes grazing free or at privileged rates, and shows the effect of the distress experienced in parts of the province during the year. The yield of the forests was 4,398,000 cubic feet of timber and 9,073,000 cubic feet of fuel, the latter figure being 16 per cent. less than, and the former being 7½ per cent. in advance of the yield of 1898-99. The forest receipts were £106,200, and the

North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

112 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

FORESTS.

expenditure was £65,700, leaving a surplus of £40,500, compared with a surplus of £43,100 in the previous year.

Punjab.

At the end of 1899-1900 the reserved forest area administered by the Punjab Forest Department was 2,891 square miles, besides 128 square miles under military or other control. The protected forests aggregated 2,605 square miles, and the unclassed forests increased from 2,119 to 3,837 square miles, chiefly owing to the inclusion of 1,727 square miles in the Multan district. The survey of the reserved Himalayan and other forests was continued during the year, and the Forest Survey Branch completed 904 square miles of detail survey in the Chamba and Montgomery districts. A working plan for the forests of the Kaghan range in the Hazara district received sanction, and several others were in different stages of preparation. The year was exceptionally favourable as regards forest fires; the area burnt was 2 per cent. of the total area under the Forest Department, and about 2 per cent. of the area over which protection was to a greater or less degree attempted, the number of fires falling from 311 to 227. Natural reproduction was generally fair; the area of regular plantations remained at 696 acres, as in 1898-99, but the area under cultural operations rose from 5,056 to 5,876 acres. The total yield of the forests for the year was returned at 3,095,000 cubic feet of deodar and pine timber and 31,406,000 cubic feet of firewood, in each case rather less than in 1898-99; 27½ millions of cubic feet of timber and fuel were removed by free-grantees and right-holders without charge, 5¼ millions were worked out by Government agency, and nearly two millions by purchasers. The area available for grazing under the charge of the Department was increased from 7,484 to 9,201 square miles, and of this 80 per cent., as compared with 75 per cent. in 1898-99, was thrown open to cattle, while an additional 15 per cent. was open during part of the year. The total forest revenue of the year was £93,700, against an outlay of £80,000, yielding a surplus of £13,700, as compared with £37,000 in 1898-99.

Burma.

An addition of 1,485 square miles was made to the reserved forest area in Burma during 1899-1900, bringing it up to 17,153 square miles. The inclusion of forests in the reserves, chiefly for the provision of fuel, is making good progress; in the Tenasserim circle the area so reserved was at the end of the year 12 per cent. of the forest area, in the Pegu circle 27 per cent., and in the Southern and Northern circles 22 per cent. A survey of India party was at work and completed 353 square miles of survey on the 4 inch scale, besides traverses and triangulation. Working plans were being prepared in several circles; in some of the Shan States it was in contemplation to hand over the working of the forests to the chiefs under a five years' agreement. In other parts of the province the monopoly of teak extraction in defined areas is granted to contractors, who pay a tonnage royalty, and become the owners of the timber extracted. There are also departmental contractors who work on behalf of the Government. Fire protection operations were attempted over 3,809 square miles, and were successful in 91 per cent. of that area, compared with a percentage of 77 in 1898-99, special efforts having been made in the year under report. Experiments with *Hevea* rubber in Mergui were continued with a fair degree of success, and it was decided to establish a plantation of this rubber in the South Tenasserim division at a cost of £14,000. The quantity of teak extracted by the principal lessees from the forests held by them under the system above described fell from 201,700 to 185,400 tons; and, besides this, about 180,000 tons were taken out by Government agency or by purchasers, compared with over 200,000 tons in 1898-99. The total of teak exports from Burma was 272,300 tons, compared with 268,300 tons in 1898-99, and the average value per ton is stated at £5½. The forest receipts were £532,500, and the expenditure was £179,800, leaving a surplus of £352,700, which was lower than the surplus of the preceding year but 28 per cent. above the average surplus for each of the five years before.

Central Provinces.

The area of reserved forests in the Central Provinces was 19,096 square miles, of which 13,167 square miles were at the end of the year 1899-1900 classed as A. or permanent reserves, and 6,748 square miles were classed as B. reserves. The B. reserves are available either for eventual transfer to the A. class or for possible extensions of cultivation in future years. The Forest Survey parties turned out 1,757 square miles of detailed survey, leaving a

balance of 2,780 square miles still to be done. Working plans for an area of 999 square miles were sanctioned during the year, the total area supplied with such plans being 7,537 square miles at the end of the year. Fire was excluded from over 96 per cent. of the 4,755 square miles over which special fire protection was attempted, and from 84 per cent. of that partially protected. The drought was everywhere, but especially in the Northern Circle, unfavourable to natural reproduction. No regular plantation work is attempted in the Central Provinces, but efforts are being made to induce villagers to plant groves, especially of sandal trees. The number of animals grazed in the forests was 2,267,000, of which 818,000 were allowed into the forests without fee owing to the famine. The amount of timber and fuel removed from the forests by purchasers during the year was 5,989,000 cubic feet, as compared with 11,651,000 in 1898-99, but the amount removed by free grantees rose from 520,000 cubic feet to 10,183,000 cubic feet. Departmental operations were 27 per cent. less than in the preceding year. The forest revenue of the year was £62,700, against an expenditure of £75,800, leaving a deficit of £13,100, compared with a surplus of £8,700 in 1898-99. FORESTS.

The State forests in Assam are divided into reserved forests and unclassed State forests, the latter including lands recently cultivated and all lands at the disposal of the State other than reserved forests. An increase of 72 square miles occurred in the area of reserved forests, which stood at 3,609 square miles at the end of the year. The area of unclassed forests is given as 16,453 square miles; but of this large area perhaps one-half consists of grass or treeless tracts. In Goalpara and the Garo Hills the more valuable of the reserved forests are worked under sanctioned working plans, but for the rest of the forests in the province yearly plans of operations are drawn up. Special fire protective measures extended over 993 square miles, and were successful in respect of 97.6 of that area; 196 square miles were protected on a less ambitious scale in Goalpara, and for the second year in succession escaped all damage from fire. A large portion of the produce of the forests consists of sal trees (*shorea robusta*); there are also plantations of rubber trees, some of which were tapped during the year with good results. The gross results of the forests is given as 17½ millions of cubic feet of timber and fuel, against a total of 29½ millions in 1898-99; but some doubt has been thrown on the accuracy of these figures. The revenue from other products was higher than in 1898-99; the forest surplus rose from £7,900 to £13,000. Assam.

Nearly a quarter of the total area of Berar is classed as State forests, which at the close of 1899-1900 covered 4,176 square miles, including 1,553 square miles of timber and fuel reserves, 89 of fodder and thatching grass reserves, and 2,534 of pasture. The forests yielded 367,000 cubic feet of timber, which was only half the out-turn of the previous year, and the yields of fuel and of bamboos were 69 and 36 per cent. respectively lower than in 1898-99. In each case the demand suffered by reason of the famine, although a considerable quantity of timber, fuel and bamboos was supplied at reduced rates as a famine concession. Every possible assistance was given to cattle owners in the matter of grazing, 90 per cent. of the total forest area being thrown open; and by this means, as well as by the supply of cut fodder, many cattle were kept alive which would otherwise have perished. Permanent working plans were complete for 725 square miles, and provisional plans for 3,311 square miles. With respect to fire protection, though the dry period was exceptionally long there was little depth of grass, and only about 1 per cent. was burnt of the area, 943,000 acres, over which protection was attempted. The surplus receipts were £13,200. Berar.

There was a net increase of 55 square miles in the reserved forests and lands in Madras during the year ending in June 1900. The corresponding increase in the preceding year was 341 square miles, but the area available for reservation is more or less limited, the process having been completed in several districts. The total area of reserves at the end of the year was 19,649 square miles, of which 15,862 square miles were forests, the reserves thus forming 38 per cent. of the unoccupied area of the presidency. Of the 15,862 square miles of reserved forests, 974 square miles were finally included during the year under report. Two parties of the Survey of India completed 1,429 square miles of triangulation, 312 miles of traverse survey, and 1,524 square miles of Madras.

FORESTS.

topographical survey, and minor survey operations were also in progress, while 1,859 miles of permanent demarcation were completed. As regards the management of the forests, working plans were sanctioned for 219 square miles during the year, and plans for 768 square miles were under preparation; but plans have still to be provided for by far the greater part of the forests. Protection from fire was undertaken over 5,136 square miles, and was successful in 94 per cent. of that area, against 96 per cent. in 1898-99. Owing to short rainfall it became necessary to throw open the reserves as much as possible for grass cutting and grazing, sheep and cattle being admitted to 96 per cent. of the whole area, compared with 90 per cent. in the previous year. Natural reproduction was to some extent retarded by the drought. The timber plantations, covering 25,300 acres, consist chiefly of teak in Malabar, eucalyptus on the Nilgiri and Palni hills, and casuarina on the eastern coast. The yield of the forests according to the returns was 2,902,000 cubic feet of timber, and 14,593,000 cubic feet of fuel, besides 28 millions of bamboos and other minor produce; the timber out-turn was rather larger, and the fuel out-turn and yield of bamboos considerably larger, than in the previous year. The value of the timber and other produce removed by purchasers rose from £101,200 to £116,300; the total receipts were £154,200, which was the highest on record; and the surplus was £41,700.

Bombay.

At the end of the forest year 1899-1900 the area of the reserved forests in Bombay was 13,695 square miles, besides 1,251 square miles of protected forests. A party of the Survey of India continued its work in three forest circles of the Presidency, and completed 671 square miles of detail survey and 189 miles of traversing, besides triangulation over 256 square miles. In each of the forest circles permanent working plans were being prepared, though no such plan received final sanction during the year; further progress was made with the demarcation of the forest into compartments for working in rotation. There was a sensible improvement respecting the frequency of forest fires in the Central and Sind circles, but the percentage of failure in the area over which fire protection was attempted in the Southern circle was abnormally high. In the Khandesh and Nasik districts certain areas were thrown open for the free collection of leaves for fodder. Neither natural nor artificial reproduction were satisfactory, owing to the failure of the monsoon, and no planting of importance was undertaken. The total expenditure amounted to £147,000, and left a surplus of £17,000, the Central circle only showing a deficit of £25,000 on the year's working. The forest surplus in 1898-99 had been £29,000.

Coorg.

The area of reserved forests in Coorg was 238 square miles, as in 1898-99, besides 661 square miles of other forests; the chief timbers are teak and sandalwood. The greater part of the Coorg revenue-paying reserves is now under regular working plans, of which two received sanction during the year. The great drought resulted in the worst record of forest fires in Coorg that has been known for ten years, the number of fires rising from 23 to 51, and the area burnt from 6,000 to 34,000 acres. There was an increase in the quantity of timber removed from the forests, which amounted, including all the forests, to 221,000 cubic feet, compared with 169,000 cubic feet in 1898-99. The quantity of sandal wood extracted from the forests was 175 tons, as compared with 137 tons in the previous year. The forest surplus rose from £5,000 to £5,600.

CHAPTER X.

AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL RESOURCES.

AGRICULTURE.

IN every large province of India an Agricultural Department has been organised, which is charged with the duty of supervising the maintenance of the village records of land tenures, rent, produce, and land transfers, and with the work of organising and directing State undertakings for the furtherance of agriculture, and for the improvement of stock. The Agricultural Departments also keep the public and the Government informed concerning the condition and the out-turn of the crops, the range of prices, and the approach of dearth or famine in any particular tract.

The following table is intended to show what are the staple crops of each province, as given in the returns for 1898-99; in cases in which the percentage is much less than one, the column has been left blank, and in all cases fractions have been neglected :—

PROVINCE.	Total Crop Area.	Percentage of the Crop Area of each Province under										
		Food-Grains.						Oil-seeds.	Sugar.	Cotton.	Jute.	Indigo.
		Rice.	Wheat.	Barley.	Millets and Maize.	Gram.	Other.					
Upper Burma	Acres. 2,419,700	47	—	—	28	2	5	12	—	4	—	—
Lower Burma	6,665,600	92	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	5,321,500	73	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	—	—
Bengal	65,708,800	61	2	2	5	2	8	6	2	—	3	1
North-Western Provinces	50,189,600	18	16	11	17	12	14	2	2	2	—	1
Oudh	11,413,500	24	14	18	10	13	20	2	2	—	—	—
Punjab	20,732,700	4	34	5	21	7	9	4	2	3	—	—
Sind	3,285,600	37	11	—	20	2	6	9	—	2	—	—
Bombay	24,689,000	7	7	—	21	3	13	6	—	11	—	—
Central Provinces	17,043,900	20	15	—	11	6	20	11	—	4	—	—
Berar	6,787,800	—	6	—	40	2	6	6	—	26	—	—
Madras	27,784,800	25	—	—	34	1	21	5	—	5	—	1

Particulars of the relative distribution of the area under each staple among the various provinces are given below under the heading "Agricultural Produce." Of other crops, not mentioned in the above statement, occupying a small area, but of great value, Bengal had a large area of opium, tea, tobacco, and garden produce; Assam of tea; the North-Western Provinces and Oudh of opium; Madras of tobacco, condiments, and garden produce; and the fodder crop of the Punjab covered eight per cent. of the crop area.

The following provincial details refer, unless it is otherwise stated, to the year 1899-1900, and therefore differ frequently from the particulars given in the Land Revenue part of this statement, where the year under discussion is in several cases an earlier one.

The season of 1899-1900 in Bengal was generally unfavourable, both in the case of the autumn and of the spring crops. Exceptionally heavy rain fell in July and August and the distribution of the rainfall in the rest of the year was not good. In Chota Nagpur and in some neighbouring tracts the rainfall was deficient and the crops were poor. The area under autumn crops was 15½ millions of acres, or nearly 5 per cent. less than in the preceding year; the winter rice crop covered 31½ millions of acres, against 31½ in 1898-99; and less than 13½ millions were sown with spring crops, against 14½ in 1898-99. The final estimate of the out-turn of autumn crops was 70 per cent. of the normal; the winter rice crop was estimated to be 95 per cent. and the spring crops 87 per cent. of an average crop. The total area under rice during the year was 39½

AGRICULTURE.

millions of acres, under wheat $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions, under millets and maize 3 millions, under jute 2 millions, and under sugar rather less than one million. Indigo is reported to have occupied 452,700 acres.

At the Botanical Gardens at Calcutta special attention was, as usual, given to plants of economic importance, 63,500 plants of various kinds, including a number of rhea plants, having been distributed. The demand for rhea plants was due to the invention of a machine for extracting the fibre, which it was hoped would prove satisfactory. An investigation of sugar-cane diseases was in progress, and inquiry into the sources of economic products of doubtful origin went on as usual, one of the questions investigated being the origin of padouk timber.

At the experimental farms on the Burdwan and Dumraon estates, and at the Sibpur Government farm, experiments were continued with different kinds of manure, with selected and imported seed, and with different methods of cultivation. At the Burdwan farm experiments with varieties of sugar-cane resulted in favour of the *samsara* kind. On the Dumraon farm experiments with wheat were continued. Nineteen students from the agricultural department of the Sibpur College received training on the Sibpur farm, and four on the Dumraon farm. It is hoped that the students trained at the Sibpur College will contribute materially to agricultural investigations, which are already undertaken on many Government, Wards', and private estates throughout Bengal.

The Silk Committee, formed in 1898-99 for the promotion of Pasteur's method of silkworm rearing, continued its operations in the Malda, Birbhum, and Murshidabad silk rearing districts. The total number of rearers to whom the system was being taught was 106, against 57 in the previous year, while a much larger number worked under the supervision of officers experienced in the system, which is making good progress.

There is no land record staff in Bengal, but in the tracts which have been cadastrally surveyed, a considerable amount of statistical information is available as to cultivation, stocks, and crops. Reference has already been made, in the Registration chapter of this Statement, to the working of the Bengal Land Records Maintenance Act of 1895.

North-Western
Provinces and
Oudh.

The agricultural year 1898-99 was less favourable than the preceding year in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, but both harvests were fairly good throughout the province, the autumn harvest being in some places as good as in 1897-98. The total area under crops in the united provinces in 1898-99, was over 41 millions of acres, of which $6\frac{1}{2}$ millions were under wheat, $7\frac{1}{2}$ millions under rice, $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions under barley, and 8 millions under pulse. The out-turn of the principal crops is estimated as follows:—maize and small millets, a full normal crop; other millets, rice, barley, sugar-cane, gram and peas, 87 per cent. of an average crop; wheat 94 per cent. Prices for the greater part of the year were low, but in the autumn of 1899 the uncertainty of the rainfall, which at one time threatened to have serious consequences in the province, sent them up again. The good rainfall of September, however, prevented failure of crops and consequent famine in all but a few small areas of the province, though the general harvests in 1899-1900 were not good. There were 29,500 village accountants under the Land Records Department during the year, of whom 86 per cent. had passed through school courses; their work is reported to need careful testing.

At the Cawnpore experimental farm experiments were continued with manures and varieties of cotton, wheat, potatoes, &c. Special attention is given to thorough cultivation of the soil; on one field wheat has grown for 19 years in succession without any manure, and the yield in 1900 was at the rate of 31 bushels per acre. American rust-proof wheat was again tried, but did not escape the attacks of rust. The Meerut farm, the management of which was taken over by the District Board in April 1898, was made a centre for the distribution of improved seed, and was also used for manure experiments and for the maintenance of a small stud of stallions and a bull. Experiments for the improvement of fruit trees, notably the date palm, and the cultivation of flowers and vegetables, were continued at the Sapanpur and Lucknow gardens.

On three tracts, the soil of which is damaged by saline efflorescence, experiments were continued with some success, as it has been found that valuable trees can be cultivated by the use of deep holes filled with a better soil; broadcast sowings, however, were generally unsuccessful. Dairy experiments are now left entirely to private industry, and the Government dairy farm at Cherat, in the Aligarh district, has been sold. AGRICULTURE.

The season of 1899 was characterised by short rainfall all over the Punjab; the northwest monsoon gave moderate rain in June, and lighter rain in July, while in the latter month the western part of the province derived some benefit from the Bengal current; but August and September were practically rainless. The cold weather rains were also short of the normal over the greater part of the province. The year 1899 was as a whole the driest of which there is record in the Punjab. The area of crops harvested was 15 millions of acres, as compared with 20½ millions in 1898-99, and an average of 23 millions in the preceding ten years; this is the lowest crop area known in the province since the famine of 1877-78. Six millions of acres were under autumn crops in 1899 and nine millions under spring crops in 1900. Wheat occupied 36 per cent. of the area harvested, millets and maize together 17 per cent. More than one third of the total crops sown resulted in failure. Crops harvested with the aid of irrigation formed 62 per cent. of the total harvest of the year. A considerable portion of the cotton crop failed, and the sugar-cane crop was everywhere bad. The average price of wheat in 1900 is given as 55 per cent. higher than that of 1899, and that of millets as being generally nearly 100 per cent. higher. Punjab.

The total irrigated area during the year ending in September 1899 was about nine millions of acres. Colonisation on the Chenab Canal, the extension of the Western Jumna and Sirhind Canals, and construction of new canals elsewhere, have resulted in the following increase of the area irrigated by Government canals during recent years:—

	Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
1893-94	- 2,523,378	1895-96	- 3,161,008	1897-98	- 4,395,453
1894-95	- 2,567,982	1896-97	- 3,733,267	1898-99	- 3,981,889

On the Chenab Canal the area allotted to cultivators in 1898-99, mainly on the Gugera branch, amounted to 325,751 acres, and the matured area of crops for the year was 823,874 acres, against 604,993 acres in 1897-98, an increase of 36 per cent.

The number of village accountants (*patwaris*) employed under the Land Records Department was 8,400, practically all of whom have passed the prescribed examination, besides 658 higher officials (*kanungos*). The working of this staff was about the same as usual; some men were dismissed for corrupt practices or inefficiency, but the work on the whole is fairly done. It consists chiefly in the maintenance of a record of rights and the observation of changes in cultivation, rent, &c.

Trials of American corn were continued during the year; the average out-turn was considerably lower than in the previous year. Experiments with sugar-beet were in progress in the Government Agri-Horticultural Gardens. The year was an unfavourable one for agricultural experiments.

The monsoon of 1899 failed disastrously in the Central Provinces, as it was short up to July, and after that month no rain fell. The total area cropped in the agricultural year 1899-1900 was 15 millions of acres, against 17 millions in the preceding year. The wheat area, normally 4 millions of acres, shrank to 1½ millions, compared with 2 millions in the earlier famine year 1896-97. The total cropped area was less than that of 1896-97. The result of the drought was a widespread failure of the crops in all districts; in the rice districts hardly any crops came into ear; and the millet crop was almost everywhere lost. The irrigated area in 1896-97 was 790,400 acres; but in 1899-1900, owing to the scarcity of water, only 255,300 acres could be irrigated. Prices were at famine rates. Central Provinces.

Owing to the character of the season no agricultural experiments of value were carried out on the Nagpur experimental farm. It is, however, to be noted that in spite of the drought cotton crops on the farm gave a good yield as regards quantity, though the quality was inferior.

AGRICULTURE.

The revision of the Land Records arrangements in the Central Provinces was by the end of September 1898 fairly complete in all districts but one, for which preliminary proposals were under consideration; the circles allotted to the accountant surveyors (*patwaris*) had been arranged; each village officer of this rank has to reside and hold an office in his circle; the inspectors (*kanungos*) have also been organised and have been made to reside within their charges. The reports on the working of these village officials were fairly satisfactory, though the list of fines and other punishments for neglect of their duties was still a large one.

Burma.

The rainfall throughout Burma was favourable in 1899-1900, and the crops were good; in Upper Burma it is reported that the season was the best since the annexation. The area under crops in Lower Burma rose from $6\frac{5}{8}$ to $6\frac{7}{8}$ millions of acres, of which $6\frac{1}{2}$ millions were under rice. The yield of rice was very heavy; prices rose in the middle of the year, owing to the famine in India, but declined before its close. The total exports of rice from Lower Burma were 1,551,400 tons in 1899, and 1,907,000 tons in the first ten months of 1900, this figure being much the highest on record, and only approached by the exports in 1898, which amounted to 1,819,000 tons. In Upper Burma the crop area was about 4 millions of acres, of which 799,000 acres were irrigated; rather less than half the total was under rice, while $\frac{2}{3}$ million acres were under millet. Prices varied locally, the railway facilities not yet being great enough to give free markets in all parts of the province, but they were, on the whole, lower than the normal. Wheat cultivation has now been, to some extent, effectually introduced into the Shan States, and experiments with wheat were discontinued in the Western States, though they were continued in Keng Tung.

The Land Records Department in Lower Burma has recently been reorganised and increased, and it has now been decided to apply the system to Upper Burma, which will necessitate a further increase of the staff. For admission to the lower grade of the department a certificate is required, to be obtained at one of the survey schools, and a practical surveying course is also necessary.

Assam

In Assam the rainfall of 1899-1900 was above the average throughout the province. The area under crops was 5 millions of acres, of which $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions were under rice and $\frac{1}{2}$ million under tea. The out-turn of early rice was not good in the Brahmaputra Valley, but late rice yielded a bumper crop. The out-turn of tea in Cachar and Sylhet was abnormally large; other crops yielded returns somewhat below the average. Owing to the good crop the price of rice was rather lower than in the preceding year.

At the newly started Shillong experimental farm, experiments were conducted with potatoes on ground manured with oilcake, with varieties of paddy, and various other crops. An attempt to grow oats as a grain crop failed, but they do well as a fodder crop; silage was again successfully made from wild hill grasses. A Bengali tea planter, who has been experimenting with sugar-cane and Egyptian cotton on a tea estate, has made an application for a grant of land for the cultivation of sugar, tobacco, india-rubber and other crops new to the province. Another gentleman has profitably cultivated sugar in Golaghat during recent years; but some loss was caused in the year under report by a disease which attacked the plants.

The number of village officials under the Land Records Department was 1,134, besides five not paid by the Government; and of these all but 90 have obtained a certificate in surveying. There are three survey schools in the province, at which 114 certificates were granted during the year. Fifty-six supervisors are employed in checking the work of the above-mentioned officials. Cadastral maps and land records are maintained in spite of the shifting of cultivation so prevalent in the province. Satisfactory progress is being made in the introduction of a system of inquiry into and tabulation of agricultural conditions. Books for this purpose have been instituted in 4,400 villages, covering an area of 4,300 square miles, and, in addition to this, prices were registered and crop operations conducted, while detailed notes on the economic condition of over 200 villages were prepared.

Madras.

The season of 1899-1900 was on the whole unfavourable for agriculture in the Madras Presidency, as in many parts there was a partial failure of both monsoons. The crop area, excluding permanently settled estates and

those held on exceptional tenures, fell from $26\frac{1}{2}$ to $24\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres, of which 6 millions were irrigated, against $6\frac{3}{4}$ millions in 1898-99. The rice crop, covering $7\frac{1}{8}$ millions of acres, resulted in an estimated out-turn of 9,40,000 tons of cleaned rice, which is about 30 per cent. less than the out-turn of the normal year 1898-99. Prices were high, and in the case of most food grains rose considerably towards the end of 1899-1900 owing to the demand for export to other parts of India; but the price of rice was only 22 per cent. above the average.

AGRICULTURE.

The Land Records Department have further developed the system under which survey schools are maintained for the education and testing of village officers in each sub-division; and it was decided to require more thorough training of the inspectors. Fresh arrangements of the salaries and of the numbers of the village accountants are being gradually introduced. The danger of famine caused a large amount of work to the Department in inquiries respecting the need of State loans and remissions of revenue. The village statistical registers for the revenue year 1898-99 were prepared and checked. The proposals made during the preceding year to establish eight experimental farms in the Presidency, and for the general extension of agricultural enquiry, still awaited final decision. The farm at the Saidapet Agricultural College is maintained for educational and not for experimental purposes. Sugar-cane disease was investigated, and a large quantity of fresh ground-nut seed imported, as it was thought that the indigenous seed had deteriorated; experiments were made in the use of various manures for the latter crop. At the Saidapet College there were 47 students, and the course consisted of lectures in agricultural science, field work, and veterinary instruction. The veterinary hospital continued to increase in popularity, and the number of students rose to 804.

In Bombay, the rainfall of 1899-1900, especially in the Northern and Central divisions, was very deficient, and resulted in almost total failure of the crops, only $7\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres yielding crops of any kind in the areas for which statistics are available, out of a total sown area of $19\frac{1}{2}$ millions. The areas yielding matured crops of millets, wheat, pulses, oil-seeds and cotton were from 33 to 80 per cent. below the areas of the previous year; paddy was 48 per cent. less, and other cereals 40 per cent. less. In Sind the inundation was even smaller than that of the preceding year, and there was practically no rain at all; three millions of acres were sown, but crops were reaped only on about $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions. The irrigated area in the Presidency, $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres, was rather smaller than in the less favourable year preceding; it consists chiefly of lands in Sind irrigated by Government canals, but 658,000 acres were irrigated from wells in the Presidency proper.

Bombay.

At the Poona demonstration farm the crops were only saved by irrigation. Experiments were conducted with various fodder crops, with rhea, the cost of growing and preparing which appeared to be so heavy that it is doubtful whether the crop can be profitably introduced into the Deccan, and with Egyptian and Brazilian varieties of cotton. The result of the latter experiment was to show once again the impracticability of introducing exotic varieties of cotton. At the Surat farm experiments were continued, but, owing to the unfavourable season, no results were obtained. A small herd of first class cattle was started on the dispersal of the Gujarat famine camps, with a view to supplying the future demand for bulls.

A Land Record Staff was introduced into the Surat district in 1900, and is now at work in all districts of the Presidency proper, with the exception of Broach, Panch Mahals and Thana. In the Northern and Central divisions, however, the circle inspectors were employed exclusively on famine duty during the year, and to a large extent in the Southern division, but inspections of crops, waste lands and boundary wastes were carried out in 271 villages in the latter division.

Following on a succession of years of short rainfall, the season 1899-1900 was most unfavourable in Berar, and resulted in almost complete failure of crops, combined with serious drought in many parts of the country. The rainfall of the year was the smallest on record; the autumn crops began to wither when the rains failed in July, and spring crops were generally not sown. The total area cropped was two millions of acres, against $6\frac{3}{4}$ millions in the previous year, and a total occupied area of 8 millions. About one half of the crop area

Berar.

AGRICULTURE.

was under cotton, and one third under large millet. The yield of all crops was very small indeed, millet giving 32 lbs. per acre against 274 lbs. in 1898-99, and cotton 30 lbs. against 178 lbs. Prices were very high in the first part of the year, but fell to a lower level at the end. The voluntary sales of land amounted to 559,071 acres, as compared with 162,048 acres in 1898-99, and the average price rose from 16 to 20 times the amount of the assessment. The food stocks in the province were estimated to have increased considerably in 1898-99, owing to the low selling prices, and the stock of millet at the beginning of the year under report was $6\frac{2}{3}$ millions of maunds; at the end of the year it is estimated to have sunk to $1\frac{2}{3}$ millions.

A scheme for an agricultural staff of district and circle inspectors was tentatively sanctioned, and the rules for their guidance were approved; but the famine prevented the scheme from being put into operation during 1899-1900. Of the 62 officials who are to be circle inspectors, 52 have been trained in survey work, and the remainder will be replaced by trained officials when possible. When the new staff gets to work the system of maintaining village note-books will be started. The village headmen worked very well throughout the famine, the whole of the village relief arrangements having depended on them; but necessarily the collection of village records suffered in the pressure of other work.

 HORSE-BREEDING, AND VETERINARY COLLEGES.

The improvement of the breeds of horses, ponies, mules and cattle, the prevention of horse and cattle disease, and veterinary instruction, are in charge of the Civil Veterinary Department, which consisted during the year of 19 officers, besides three fresh posts created but not filled during the year. There is also a considerable number of veterinary assistants who are being organised into a subordinate veterinary establishment for each province. Operations are carried on throughout India, but chiefly in Northern India, which is most favourable for horse-breeding; their objects are the provision of remounts and mules for military purposes, and the preservation and improvement of native breeds of horses and cattle. For the first of these objects the Government of India imports and maintains horse and donkey stallions, and registers are kept of mares suitable for producing useful remounts. For the second object stallions are kept by provincial governments, local authorities, and private individuals; investigations into cattle and equine diseases are carried on, both locally and at the Imperial Bacteriological Laboratory at Muktesar; and numerous veterinary dispensaries are maintained by the provincial governments. The following paragraphs give particulars for the year under various heads:—

Horse-Breeding.

During the year 1899-1900 operations were very seriously hampered by the great scarcity of fodder. In the Punjab, in Sind, and in Baluchistan, in all of which there are important horse-breeding tracts, fodder was often unprocurable, so that, in many cases stallions had to be removed from their stands in the breeding districts, while mares were generally in such low condition that few foals were thrown. It is stated that the effects on horse-breeding in India of this disastrous year will be long felt. The number of Government horse stallions was 373, of which 293 stood at stud during the year; but besides these there were at stud 78 horse stallions and 114 pony stallions, chiefly Arabs, belonging to provincial governments or others. The Government of India imported eight stallions from England and eight from Australia; two Australians and 30 Arabs were bought by the Government in India. At the end of the year there were 148 Arab stallions, 40 Norfolk trotters, 33 hackneys, 89 English and 53 Australian thoroughbreds. In addition to these there were 17 Government pony stallions, chiefly Arabs.

The number of stock got by Government stallions during the year, so far as is known, was 3,880 horse and pony foals, but the result of a large proportion of coverings is not known. The Army Remount Department and cavalry

regiments purchased 1,920 horses, or 157 more than in 1898-99; it is being abundantly proved that the produce of thorough-bred sires is best for army purposes. Of the stallions belonging to local governments, district boards, &c., 179 were at stud during the year, chiefly in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab. Horse-Breeding.

The number of donkey sires bought by the Government of India during the year was 70, including 18 imported from Spain and 27 from Cyprus, whence a good yearly supply is obtainable. The number in the possession of the Government was 437, of which 346 were at stud during the year, besides 14 owned by provincial governments and others. Of the Government donkey stallions, 155 were Italian, 119 Cyprian, 41 Spanish, and 25 Persian; attempts are being made to improve the native breeds of donkeys for mule-breeding purposes. The number of pouy mares covered by the donkey stallions was 19,444, against 18,151 in 1898-99; that of donkey mares was 1,489 compared with 1,379. The reported number of mule foals rose from 3,382 to 3,766. A considerable number of horse and donkey stallions are kept by Native States. Mule-breeding.

Of mules 377 were purchased by the Department as ordnance or baggage mules, and 1,256 for transport. Effort is being made to extend mule-breeding in every part of India where it is likely to be a success.

With a view to improve native breeds of cattle, bulls are kept by local authorities in many provinces; but a great deal remains to be done, as the importance of the subject is not yet fully recognised either by breeders or by local officers. The Civil Veterinary Department have been investigating the requirements of each district, in order to find the proper means for improving local breeds. The Hissar Cattle Farm was taken over by the Department at the beginning of the year, and 40 bulls were sent out to Bengal, the Punjab, Kapurthala State, Allahabad, and elsewhere. The class of stock is not yet as good as could be desired, but by careful breeding it is hoped that this will in a short time be remedied. The primary object of the farm, however, will be to produce suitable siege train bullocks, and local authorities will rely principally on well bred bulls locally purchased. The system recommended is, that indigenous bull calves should be bought by the district boards, and after being well fed up, turned out in absolute freedom among the herds at 3½ years old. Cattle-breeding.

Owing to the scarcity of fodder no less than 11 horse shows were abandoned for the year, and there was a decrease of 20 per cent. in the total number of horses and mules shown, while those competing for prizes numbered 7,784 only. The number of remounts purchased at the fairs for the army and the police was 1,218, and 371 mules were purchased by Government. There is a large trade in horses and mules apart from Government requirements. Many cattle fairs were attended by veterinary officers who paid attention to the state of the animals with regard to contagious diseases. Horse and cattle fairs.

Reported cases of glanders and farcy were very numerous during the year, owing in some degree perhaps to the larger powers of inspection given in the Amended Act of 1899. Cases were reported from Quetta, Karachi, the Punjab, Kashmir, Benares, and especially Calcutta, and special suppressive measures were taken to prevent the extension of the disease. Horse and cattle disease.

The amount of cattle disease was naturally large in consequence of the low condition of most of the cattle; 224,000 cases of rinderpest were reported, of which nearly one-half were fatal, while the total reported attacks of all diseases, including rinderpest, anthrax, foot and mouth disease, &c., numbered 429,000, of which 34 per cent. were fatal. Rinderpest was prevalent in Bengal, where 67,000 animals were affected. In that province it was not found possible, owing to the absence of properly trained officers, to introduce the new system of inoculation for the disease; but a beginning was made with preventive inoculation in Bombay and Madras, where 550 cattle were inoculated. At the Imperial Bacteriological Laboratory at Muktesar, as elsewhere throughout India, experiments on the rinderpest disease were in progress; the preparation of various bacterial antitoxins was undertaken, and investigations were continued respecting a fungus alleged to be fatal to locust swarms. The laboratory was during the year unfortunately burnt to the ground, and many valuable records and specimens were destroyed. There were 11 veterinary

HORSE-BREEDING. dispensaries in the Punjab, 12 in Bengal, 7 in the Central Provinces, 16 in Bombay, 4 in Sind, 3 in the North-Western Provinces, and 2 in Berar. The number of cases treated was 55,404. In addition to these, there is a large staff of veterinary assistants, who during the year visited 32,827 villages and treated 181,536 animals in all provinces with the exception of Madras and the Central Provinces, for which no report is available.

Veterinary instruction.

A conference was held during the year to formulate a scheme for securing greater uniformity in education at the various veterinary colleges of India; a curriculum for a three years' course was laid down, and is now under the consideration of the various Local Governments. At the Bengal College 15 out of the 16 final year's students who presented themselves for examination were successful. At the Bombay College 19 students came up for the final examination, and nine passed. The Lahore school showed more satisfactory results, 47 having passed out of 54; at the Rajputana school 16 out of 24 passed. At the Burma school 15 youths passed out. These institutions supply not only the needs of India, but also, in recent years, those of the Uganda Railway Committee.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

Agricultural Statistics.

The following figures are extracted from the annual returns of agricultural statistics of British India, and relate to the year 1898-99; they include figures for Bengal which must for the most part be regarded as estimates; the figures of irrigated area and of number of stock included in respect of that province are mere approximations.

	Acres.	Acres.
Total area according to Survey - - - - -		732,200,000
Deduct feudatory and tributary States - - - - -	127,000,000	
Deduct area for which no returns exist - - - - -	60,200,000	
		187,200,000
Net area - - - - -		545,000,000
Forest areas - - - - -	64,700,000	
Area not available for cultivation - - - - -	136,500,000	
Culturable waste other than fallow - - - - -	106,200,000	
Current fallows - - - - -	41,200,000	
		348,600,000
Net area yielding crops during year 1898-99 - - - - -		190,400,000
of which bore two or more crops during the year - - - - -		27,200,000
Total crop area - - - - -		223,600,000
Total irrigated area (including 6,000,000 acres estimated for Bengal) - - - - -		86,400,000

	Acres.	Acres.
Area of rice crop - - - - -	74,800,000	
Area of millet crops, including maize - - - - -	42,900,000	
Area of wheat crop - - - - -	20,200,000	
Area of gram crops - - - - -	9,900,000	
Area of barley - - - - -	7,100,000	
Area of other food grains, including pulses - - - - -	27,100,000	
Area of orchard, garden, and miscellaneous food crops - - - - -	5,200,000	
Total of the above food crops - - - - -		188,200,000
Area of sugar - - - - -		2,900,000
Area of tea, coffee, spices, and condiments - - - - -		1,000,000
Area of oil-seeds - - - - -	12,200,000	
Area of cotton - - - - -	9,200,000	
Area of jute and other fibres - - - - -	2,400,000	
Area of indigo - - - - -	1,000,000	
Area of poppy (opium) - - - - -	600,000	
Area of tobacco - - - - -	1,100,000	
Area of fodder crops - - - - -	2,900,000	
Area of other non-food crops - - - - -	1,500,000	
Total of non-food crops - - - - -		30,900,000
Number of cattle (including 25 millions estimated for Bengal) - - - - -		109,000,000
Number of sheep and goats (including 6 millions estimated for Bengal) - - - - -		39,000,000
Number of horses, ponies, mules, and donkeys (including 300,000 estimated for Bengal) - - - - -		2,600,000

AGRICULTURE
PRODUCE.

The crop areas given above include the total areas actually sown, whether the crop came to maturity or not, except in cases where fields, owing to the failure of the first sowings, were devoted to other crops. In cases where two or more crops were sown together, an estimate of the area covered by each is included. The total areas of crops sown, including re-sowings and the areas cropped more than once, are returned for the last five years thus :—

	Millions of Acres.				
	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Total area of crops sown - - - - -	234	214	209	230	232
Including area cropped more than once - - - - -	27	25	23	27	27

Regarding some of the more important staples of Indian agriculture, some account of the crops of 1899-1900 is given below.

124 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCE.
WHEAT.

The ascertained and estimated area under wheat is given thus :—

	Average Wheat Area for preceding Five Years.	Areas Cultivated with Wheat in	
		1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Punjab - - - - -	7,640,900	7,720,200	6,866,600
North-Western Provinces and Oudh -	4,332,300	4,818,500	4,800,700
Bengal - - - - -	1,518,600	1,582,500	1,556,800
Central Provinces - - - - -	2,846,200	2,505,300	1,620,000
Bombay - - - - -	2,175,500	2,471,000	1,259,900
Sind - - - - -	503,200	369,700	357,600
Berar - - - - -	669,900	430,400	17,900
Rajputana - - - - -	1,400,700	1,196,000	360,700
Central India - - - - -	1,853,800	1,613,800	676,100
Hyderabad and Mysore - - - - -	1,406,500	1,200,600	422,400
TOTAL - - - - -	24,332,200	23,923,000	17,437,600

In the Punjab, Bengal, and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the wheat harvest was on the whole a fair one, although it was not as good either in the Punjab or in Bengal as that of 1898-99, and the satisfactory result was very largely due to extensive irrigation, 63 per cent. of the Punjab crop having been grown on irrigated land. Elsewhere the abnormal dryness of the season proved disastrous to the crop.

	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Tons.	Tons.
Bengal - - - - -	656,400	672,600
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	1,808,500	1,950,800
Bombay and Sind - - - - -	818,600	168,900
Punjab - - - - -	1,977,800	1,823,200
Central Provinces - - - - -	456,200	194,100

In the Central Provinces, on an area 35 per cent. below the wheat area of 1898-99, the estimated yield was 57 per cent. below that standard. In other parts of Central and Western India sowings could not, in very many cases, be made at all, even irrigated lands failing for want of water in the wells and canals; in Berar and Hyderabad there was practically no wheat harvest, and conditions were almost as bad in Bombay,

while in Central India and Rajputana from two-thirds to three-fourths of the crop was lost. The estimated out-turn of the year in the chief wheat growing provinces is given in the margin, in comparison with the yield of 1898-99. The total estimate for India was 4,890,600 tons, against 6,339,600 tons in the preceding year and a quinquennial average of 6,039,800 tons. Wheat exports of recent years have been as follows :—

1,053,000 tons in - - - 1885-86	95,000 tons in - - - 1896-97
689,000 " - - - 1889-90	120,000 " - - - 1897-98
1,516,000 " - - - 1891-92	976,000 " - - - 1898-99
500,000 " - - - 1895-96	485,000 " - - - 1899-1900

It is reported that the prospects of the wheat crop of 1901 in Northern India could hardly be better, but that in the Central Provinces and Berar, and especially in Bombay, conditions are not so favourable.

The area under, and the yield of, the main oil-seeds crops, namely, linseed, rapeseed and mustard, for all India, may be approximately given thus :—

AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS.
OIL SEEDS.

		Average for preceding Five Years.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Area in acres	{ Linseed, rapeseed, and mustard.	18,650,000	18,128,600	15,824,000
	{ Sesamum oil-seeds	2,542,000	2,959,000	2,490,000
	TOTAL	21,192,000	21,087,000	18,314,000
Yield in tons estimated for all seeds		1,480,000	1,638,000	1,291,000

The failure of the rains affected the oilseed crops as it did grain crops, and in Bombay and Berar the yield was practically nil, while in Hyderabad and the Central Provinces it was miserably poor. In these four tracts the total yield of linseed, rape and mustard was 6,500 tons, as compared with an average of 125,000 tons. It is, however, in the North Western Provinces and in Bengal that far the larger part of the crop is grown, and there these crops were quite up to the average. The sesamum crop did well in the Central Provinces, where the area sown was much larger than usual. Elsewhere, however, and especially in Western India, the sesamum crop was very poor, and the total yield is estimated to be not much more than half the average. The quantities and value of the above-mentioned oilseeds exported from India during the three years is as given in the margin.

The cultivation of ground-nuts is practically confined to the Bombay and Madras presidencies. The crop was again a bad one in the season 1899-1900; the area sown was only 173,000 acres, against 218,000 acres in 1898-99 and an average of about 335,000 acres for each of the preceding five years. The yield is estimated to be not more than an eighth part of the previous year's crop, being far below that of a normal crop on the area sown. The prospects for 1900-01 are more favourable, especially in Madras; the total area sown is estimated at 261,000 acres, and the latest report available shows that the Madras crop promises well, although, with the exception of Khandesh, Bombay will probably not have a good crop. The exports of ground-nuts in recent years are shown in the margin.

The rice crop of the season 1900-01 is stated to be rather below the normal in Madras and considerably below it in Bengal, but exceptionally good in Burma. The figures returned for the last two years are as follows :—

	Area in Acres.			Yield in Tons of Cleaned Rice.		
	1900-01.	1899-1900.	Average of preceding five years.	1900-01.	1899-1900.	Average of preceding five years.
Bengal	37,115,000	39,490,000	38,802,000	16,646,000	17,898,000	17,321,000
Madras	6,503,000	6,429,000	6,730,000	2,423,000	1,972,000	2,480,000
Burma	6,307,000	6,050,000	5,590,000	2,842,000	2,708,000	2,159,000

126 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCE.

Other provinces, notably Assam, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Sind, and the Central Provinces, produce a large quantity of rice, a considerable proportion of their cultivable area being thus employed, as may be seen from the table at the beginning of this chapter. In these provinces the rice crops of 1899-1900 were generally bad. The quantity of rice exported from India and Burma beyond the sea in 1899-1900 was 1,610,000 tons, or nearly 15 per cent. below the total of the preceding year. More than two-thirds of the exports went from Burma, which also exported 664,000 tons of rice to India. The exports to foreign countries in the first ten months of 1900-1901 amount to 1,071,000 tons, as they are restricted by the same causes as have been in operation in recent years, namely, high prices in India and the diversion of Burma rice to the Indian famine tracts. It is estimated that Burma has this year (1901) an exportable surplus of 1,797,000 tons of cleaned rice.

The Indian export duty of three annas per maund on rice yielded to the Indian Treasury £570,600, in 1899-1900, against £658,000 in the previous year. Siam and Saigon, which with Japan constitute the only other considerable rice-exporting countries of the world, levy the same or a slightly higher rate of duty on rice exports.

COTTON.

The area under cotton in India is returned and estimated as follows:—

	Average Cotton Area for preceding Five Years.	1899-1900.	1900-01.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Madras	1,474,000	1,383,000	1,403,000
Bombay, Sind, and Bombay Native States (estimated)	8,200,000	3,187,000	3,881,000
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	1,303,000	1,213,000	1,266,000
Punjab	1,076,000	988,000	1,216,000
Central Provinces	642,000	713,000	1,008,000
Berar	2,220,000	1,084,000	2,522,000
Nizam's Dominions (estimated)	1,574,000	1,292,000	1,609,000
Burma	No estimate available.	149,000	143,000
Central India (estimated)	454,000	479,000	528,000
Rajputana (estimated)	500,000	325,000	*128,000
Bengal	180,000	161,000	154,000
TOTAL	15,029,000	11,874,000	13,943,000

*Incomplete.

The acreage would be considerably higher than the average if it were not for the great decrease in Bombay, ascribed chiefly to the extensive sowing of food grains after the famine. The total yield is estimated at 2,032,000 bales against an average for five years of 2,201,000 bales, and against 760,000 bales only in 1899-1900.

The exports of raw cotton from India were—

1894-95	3,387,000 cwts., valued at £ 5,806,000
1895-96	5,248,000 " " 9,406,000
1896-97	5,216,000 " " 8,047,000
1897-98	3,723,000 " " 5,914,000
1898-99	5,411,000 " " 7,459,000
1899-1900	4,374,000 " " 6,618,000
1900-01 (10 months only)	2,451,000 " " 4,700,000

PROGRESS AND CONDITION OF INDIA, 1899-1900. 127

The following is an estimate of the cultivation and the production of tea in India during recent years :—

AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCE.
TEA.

	Area under Tea, in Acres (Mature and Immature Plants).			Production of Tea in Lbs.		
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Bengal - - -	119,190	130,241	132,923	38,951,000	40,726,000	44,910,000
Assam - - -	310,826	325,823	331,151	107,266,000	109,287,000	127,576,000
Madras - - -	6,335	6,512	10,164	398,000	352,000	646,000
North-Western Provinces -	7,965	7,924	7,854	2,043,000	1,897,000	2,197,000
Punjab - - -	9,970	10,259	10,135	2,302,000	2,179,000	2,152,000
Native States - - -	14,672	19,701	23,115	2,546,000	8,414,000	8,776,000
Burma - - -	1,160	1,220	1,390	276,000	224,000	263,000
TOTAL - - -	470,119	501,680	516,732	163,782,000	163,079,000	186,525,000

The addition to the acreage under tea made in 1899 was, therefore, 15,052 acres, compared with an average addition in each of the last five years of 23,241 acres; during the past fifteen years the average has increased by 82 per cent. The production has increased during that period by 161 per cent., the increase in 1899 (23,445,966 lbs.) being far the largest in any one year. In Assam the season 1899 was favourable in most districts, and the out-turn was 18 million lbs. greater than in 1898. Chiefly as a consequence of this rapid increase of production the prices of tea at the auctions at Calcutta have been low in recent years. In 1899 they were, except in the case of the cheapest kinds, lower than in any previous year. The tea gardens of India are reported to have employed in the year under report 558,000 labourers permanently and 96,600 temporarily, or 654,600 labourers in all. The total exports of Indian tea by sea are returned as follows :—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
To United Kingdom - - - - -	137,055,857	139,245,905	154,161,492
To Australia - - - - -	6,792,654	6,306,135	8,362,797
To United States - - - - -	929,704	1,413,024	2,744,854
To Canada - - - - -	593,532	1,044,236	1,932,943
To Persia - - - - -	1,464,394	3,456,791	1,953,900
To Russia - - - - -	689,271	500,889	467,451
To other Countries - - - - -	3,326,405	5,502,982	5,414,690
TOTAL - - -	151,451,817	167,470,672	175,036,127

The total exports of Indian tea in 1886-87 were 78½ million lbs. only. During the year under report 2,126,000 lbs. of tea were also exported from India by land into neighbouring countries, chiefly on the North Western Frontier. The value of India's sea exports of tea in 1899-1900 was £6,061,000, or £698,000 more than in 1898-99. In both the years 1899 and 1900 there is said to have been an accumulation of surplus stock on the year's working. During the first ten months of 1900 1901 the exports of tea from India amounted to 178,445,000 lbs., as compared with 169,717,000 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1899-1900.

128 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCE.

According to the British returns the tea imported into the United Kingdom for home consumption or re-export has come from China, India and Ceylon in the following proportions:—

In the Year	From China.	From India.	From Ceylon.
1865 - - - - -	93 per cent.	2 per cent.	0 per cent.
1875 - - - - -	86 "	13 "	0 "
1886 - - - - -	66 "	30 "	2 "
1895 - - - - -	16 "	46 "	32 "
1898 - - - - -	10 "	52 "	36 "
1899 - - - - -	12 "	50 "	35 "
1900 - - - - -	7 "	52 "	38 "

The quality of the Indian tea crop was not up to the average, and this, with the over-production, caused a fall in the average price obtained in London from 8½*d.* in 1899 to 7¾*d.* in 1900, the figure for the latter half of the year being even lower than this. Ceylon tea fetched an average of 7½*d.*, against 8*d.* in 1899. Efforts are being made both in India and in Ceylon to promote the manufacture of green tea for the American market. The price of Chinese tea in the London market was very much depressed, reaching a level between 5½*d.* and 6½*d.*

COFFEE.

The area under coffee was all, with the exception of 450 acres, in Southern India; cultivation of coffee is, in fact, restricted for the most part to a limited zone in Mysore, Coorg, and the Madras districts of Malabar and the Nilgiris. The area reported as under coffee at the end of 1899, with corresponding figures for the two preceding years, is given below:—

	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Coorg - - - - -	86,165	82,576	72,296
Madras - - - - -	56,895	63,983	66,473
Mysore - - - - -	125,876	128,079	128,010
Travancore and Cochin - -	7,624	6,384	7,069
Burma, Assam, &c. - -	524	548	450
TOTAL - - -	276,074	281,569	274,298

London prices of coffee have fallen from 101*s.* per cwt. in 1895 to 65*s.* in 1899. The exports from India have not, however, been checked. The figures for recent years are as follows:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
To United Kingdom - -	114,048	156,290	157,500
To France - - - - -	76,856	83,543	96,853
To other Countries - -	34,104	31,223	27,000
TOTAL - - -	225,008	270,056	281,353

The normal yield of coffee per acre may be taken at 2½ cwt. for the best European plantations, and 1 cwt. for Native plantations. It is reported that 27,624 persons were permanently and 82,656 temporarily employed on the coffee estates.

CINCHONA.

The area under cinchona, according to the not very trustworthy figures which are obtainable, is given as 7,591 acres in 1898-99 compared with 4,406 acres in 1897-98; no figures are available for the year 1899-1900. The

Government plantations consisted in the latter year of 1,461 acres in Darjeeling and 874 acres in the Nilgiris, the former figure being larger by 161 acres than that of 1898-99. For several years cinchona cultivation has been declining in Bengal and Madras, while in Coorg it has been almost entirely abandoned. A large amount of the yield of private plantations is taken to the Government factories, but there is also a considerable export from Madras, averaging about 1,800,000 lbs. during the last 14 years, and amounting to 3,290,000 lbs. in 1899-1900.

On the Government cinchona plantations of the Darjeeling district in Bengal 161 acres were planted during 1899-1900, but about 65 acres under cinchona were injured or destroyed by landslips. The continuous wet weather which prevailed from April to September was unfavourable to the growth of the trees. The number of trees uprooted for bark was 196,000, and 224,000 young trees were planted out; the total of the plants at the end of the year was 2,207,000. The quantity of dry bark harvested on the plantations was 208,600 lbs., and the purchases of bark from private plantations amounted to 153,700 lbs. The factory, which supplies Bengal, the Punjab and Assam, used 117,000 lbs. of mixed *succirubra* and hybrid barks, yielding 4,046 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge, and 390,000 lbs. of quinine-yielding bark, from which 8,800 lbs. of sulphate of quinine were extracted. The issue of quinine fell from 8,766 lbs. to 7,725 lbs. and that of cinchona febrifuge from 2,993 lbs. to 2,756 lbs., owing to a smaller demand from some Government institutions, now supplied from Madras. The quinine supplied to the public is sold at post offices in five grain packets; the febrifuge is sold at the factory; but a large part of the issues are to Government officers for dispensaries and medical depôts. There was a small profit on the operations of the year.

The season in the Madras Cinchona Gardens was slightly unfavourable, although a dry season is preferable for cinchona to an abnormally wet one; the chief damage was done in the older portion of the Hooker estate. The year's crop amounted to 140,300 lbs. of bark, taken chiefly by coppicing sickly trees and by thinnings, besides 207,200 lbs. purchased from private plantations, and 16,600 from a plot of land on the Kundah hills. Experiments with home grown seed have been so satisfactory that the supply from Jamaica has been discontinued. The amount of bark worked up in the factory was 344,300 lbs. which produced 10,188 lbs. of sulphate of quinine and 4,615 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge. From this factory are to be supplied the requirements of Madras, Bombay, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the Central Provinces, Ajmere, Burma Coorg, Berar and Mysore, and it is estimated that a yearly output of 10,000 lbs. will be sufficient to meet all requirements. The sale of quinine at post offices decreased in 1898-99 owing to the raising of the price from two to three pies, but in the year under report there was a good recovery, and for the ensuing year the price was lowered again to two pies per five grain powder. The price of issue to the public, regulated on the basis of the market price, was Rs. 18 per lb. for quinine, and Rs. 12 per lb. for the febrifuge.

In Bengal, where nearly the whole of the jute crop is grown, the season was favourable, in spite of a break in the rains in August, and 92 per cent. of a normal out-turn is estimated to have been secured. The area under jute in the province was 2,043,000 acres, or nearly 4 per cent. more than in 1899, but lower than the normal area, which is stated as 2,164,000 acres. The total yield, in bales of 400 lbs., is estimated at six million bales in 1900, against five million bales in 1899. The fluctuations of the jute export trade during recent years have been as follows:—

YEAR.	Raw Jute.		Jute Manufactures.	TOTAL EXPORTS.
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	VALUE.
	Cwts.	£.	£.	£.
1883-84 - - - - -	7,018,000	3,062,000	890,000	3,952,000
1891-92 - - - - -	8,632,000	4,566,000	1,675,000	6,241,000
1895-96 - - - - -	12,267,000	6,662,000	3,165,000	9,827,000
1897-98 - - - - -	15,023,000	6,754,000	3,954,000	10,708,000
1898-99 - - - - -	9,865,000	4,628,000	3,866,000	8,494,000
1899-1900 - - - - -	9,725,000	5,381,000	4,178,000	9,559,000
1899-01 (ten months) - - - - -	10,670,000	6,297,000	4,377,000	10,674,000

130 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCE.

Of the raw jute exports in 1899-1900, 46 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, nearly 20 cent. to Germany, and nearly 15 per cent. to the United States; of the manufactured jute, 15 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, and 29 per cent. to the United States.

INDIGO.

	Average of preceding Five Years.	1899.	1900.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Bengal - - - -	637,800	440,200	361,100
N.W. Provinces and Oudh	363,700	231,400	271,400
Punjab - - - -	104,000	97,300	118,700
Madras - - - -	400,700	249,000	215,700
TOTAL - - - -	1,406,200	1,026,900	963,900

The area under indigo in the four indigo growing provinces, as reported, is given in the margin. There is a considerable decline, as compared with the average of the preceding five years, everywhere except in the Punjab; and in Bengal and Madras there was a large fall as compared with the acreage of 1899. The fall is to be attributed to the substitution of other crops owing to the low prices; it is to be noted that the five years'

average includes some years when the acreage was exceptionally large owing to high prices. The yield in all tracts, with the exception of Lower Bengal, was on the whole a good one, and the total for 1900 is estimated to be about 141,400 cwt., against 111,900 cwt. in 1899 and an average of 198,100 cwt. for each of the last five years. The total exports of recent years have been:—

	Cwts.	£	
1888-89 - - - -	142,000	valued at 2,633,000	Exports by sea, besides about 2,500 cwts. annually exported across the land frontiers of India.
1890-91 - - - -	118,000	" 2,040,000	
1894-95 - - - -	166,000	" 3,104,000	
1895-96 - - - -	187,000	" 3,670,000	
1896-97 - - - -	170,000	" 2,914,000	
1897-98 - - - -	134,000	" 2,938,000	
1898-99 - - - -	135,000	" 1,980,000	
1899-1900 - - - -	111,000	" 1,795,000	
1900-01 (ten months)	60,000	" 830,000	

SUGAR.

The area under sugar in India is estimated as follows for the provinces mentioned:—

	Area in Acres.			Out-turn in Tons.	
	1900-01.	1899-1900.	Average of Five Preceding Years.	1900-01.	1899-1900.
Bengal - - - -	868,000	884,000	904,000	897,400	817,200
North - Western Provinces and Oudh.	1,206,000	1,259,000	1,243,000	1,193,200	839,000
Punjab - - - -	356,000	366,000	—	447,000	196,700
Madras - - - -	55,000	54,000	53	82 per cent of normal.	83 per cent of normal.

Besides these amounts, however, there is a certain amount of sugar cultivation in most of the other provinces, and the total area under sugar in 1898-99 is given as 2½ millions of acres. It is estimated that the annual yield from this area amounts to three millions of tons, or possibly more. The imports of sugar during recent years are given as follows:—

	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
From Austria-Hungary -	246	5,775	47,287	53,187	38,801
" Germany - - - -	35,910	37,940	60,165	20,698	3,726
" Mauritius - - - -	68,336	74,442	70,302	106,205	92,099
" China - - - -	10,302	6,065	14,558	9,284	16,849
" other Countries - -	11,450	6,098	19,444	14,001	18,178
TOTAL - - - -	126,244	134,120	211,756	203,875	168,043

Shortly before the close of the financial year 1898-99, a law was passed empowering the Government of India to impose countervailing import duties on articles which receive direct or indirect bounties from their country of origin, and such duties were at once levied on bounty-fed sugar. The chief result of this in the year 1899-1900 was a very considerable fall, almost a cessation, of the imports of German sugar, and a considerable reduction in imports of Austrian sugar, while sugar imports from China and the East increased. In the first ten months of the year 1900-01 there was a recovery in the sugar imports, which amounted to 215,000 tons, as compared with 143,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1899-1900, and 158,000 tons in the first ten months of 1898-99. All the importing countries shared in this increase, including Germany; the imports from Mauritius were 42 per cent. larger than in the first ten months of 1899-1900, while sugar imports from Austria-Hungary show an even larger rate of increase.

Proposals were made for the promotion of sugar cultivation on indigo estates in Behar, and an investigation was begun into the matter.

MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES.

The output of coal in India for the last three years is contrasted below with the amount produced ten years ago.

	Coal produced in			
	1889.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bengal - - - -	1,641,000	3,142,000	3,622,000	3,883,000
Central Provinces - -	145,000	132,000	150,000	157,000
Assam - - - -	117,000	186,000	200,000	226,000
Punjab - - - -	23,000	93,000	86,000	82,000
Baluchistan - - - -	8,000	9,000	11,000	12,000
Burma - - - -	Nil	11,000	7,000	8,000
Rewah State - - - -	53,000	125,000	135,000	164,000
Nizam's Dominions - -	59,000	365,000	394,000	401,000
TOTAL - - -	1,946,000	4,063,000	4,805,000	4,933,000

The importations of coal by sea fell from 747,000 tons in 1895-96 to 248,000 tons in 1897-98; in 1899-1900 it was 398,000 tons, of which about 75 per cent. came from the United Kingdom. Against this must be set an export to foreign countries amounting to 305,000 tons. On all Indian railways 1,629,000 tons of coal were used in 1899, of which 1,548,000 tons, or 95 per cent., were Indian coal. At the end of 1899 there were in Bengal 206 coal mines, including some very small ones, 42 new mines having been opened, while 16 were not worked, during the year. There are some important mines in Assam, and two, including the Government mine at Warora, in the Central Provinces; the largest of all the mines are the East India Railway Company's mines near Giridhi, which produced 462,000 tons, and the Singareni mine in Hyderabad, which produced 401,000 tons of coal during the year. The number of persons employed in the coal-mining industry in 1899 was 72,000, of whom 19,000 were women and 3,000 children.

MINERAL
RESOURCES.
IRON.

The iron ore produced in India in 1899 amounted to 60,700 tons, a larger figure than that of any previous year, but insignificant in comparison with the future possibilities of this industry. The question of the utilisation of the coal and iron supply of India in the establishment of a steel industry has received much attention of late, and a report has been drawn up, and a brief summary of its conclusions was given in the last number of this statement. At present the only ironworks in India are those at Barrakur, in Bengal, at which during the year 1900 the total production of pig-iron was 22,583 tons; of which 9,333 tons were consumed in the Barrakur foundries. The Company raised over 49,500 tons of coal, of which 9,200 tons were sold; but the output was restricted by the flooding of a large section of the colliery. The foundry turned out 9,177 tons of castings during the year, and it is claimed that these castings are equal to the best British manufacture. Arrangements have been made to send regular supplies of pig-iron to China and Australia, as well as to other parts of India. The plant is capable of largely increasing the production when required. There is also a small local iron industry in other parts of Bengal and in the Central Provinces, but as now produced the iron is unable to compete for cheapness with imported metal, although it is of good quality.

MINERAL OIL.

The production of crude petroleum from the principal oil-fields has been returned thus:—

Produced in	Average of Three Years 1894-1896.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Burma - - -	12,004,000	14,816,000	18,905,000	18,424,000	32,810,000
Assam - - -	148,000	230,000	222,000	548,000	623,000
Punjab - - -	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,000
TOTAL - - -	13,054,000	15,057,000	19,129,000	18,973,500	32,934,000

In Upper Burma a yield of 10 millions of gallons as compared with 6 millions in the preceding year was obtained in 1899 from the Yenangyaung field by three oil companies. The northern section of the Upper Burma oilfield, known as the Yenangyat field, gave an output of 22 millions in 1899, against 15½ millions of gallons in the preceding year. The Assam Oil Syndicate again increased their yield of oil during the year. In Baluchistan the attempt to work the oil sources was not renewed. Up to the present the petroleum produced in India supplies Indian requirements to but a small extent, and the amount of oil imported, chiefly from Russia, though it has declined slightly in the last two years, is still very large. Particulars of recent years are as follows:—

IMPORTATIONS of Mineral Oils into India.

	1888-84.	1893-94.	1895-96.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Kerosene :	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
From United States - -	12,715,000	49,226,000	22,494,000	23,985,000	21,006,000	12,733,000
„ Russia - - -	—	34,045,000	89,876,000	50,634,000	50,800,000	57,658,000
„ elsewhere - - -	892,000	841,000	943,000	8,177,000	4,820,000	49,000
Other sorts - - -	777,000	2,997,090	3,335,000	4,530,000	5,326,000	4,519,000
Total - - -	13,884,000	86,709,000	93,648,000	87,325,000	81,952,000	74,959,000

The import duty on petroleum was doubled in March 1894, and is now one anna (about one penny) per gallon, but the increased duty does not appear to have permanently or seriously affected consumption. The value of the oil imported during 1899-1900 was £2,120,000, and that of the locally-produced oil is estimated at about £126,000 for the year 1899.

The out-turn of the Indian gold mines in 1899 was higher than in previous years, as shown in the margin; in spite of an outbreak of plague, which made labour scarce in the early part of the year. Eleven companies produced gold during the year, but of these only four show figures of any importance. The Coromandel mine fell off from the increased output which it had shown in the previous two years. The principal mines are—

	Oz.
1896 - - -	321,878
1897 - - -	389,779
1898 - - -	416,238
1899 - - -	448,071

MINERAL
RESOURCES.
GOLD.

The Champion Reef, which produced 140,158 oz. in 1898 and 159,101 oz. in 1899.

„ Mysore	„	159,374 oz.	„	155,786 oz.	„
„ Nundydroog	„	31,223 oz.	„	43,654 oz.	„
„ Ooregum	„	52,585 oz.	„	61,282 oz.	„

A report on the Kolar Goldfield in Mysore, which includes the above mines and others, has been prepared by Dr. F. H. Hatch, a specialist engaged for this purpose by the Government of India; and it was published in 1901 among the memoirs of the Geological Survey of India.

The Burma ruby mines were worked by the company and by native licensed miners under the company; the value of the rubies recovered is said to have been £90,800, including one large stone valued at more than £26,000, compared with a total of £57,900 in the previous year.

RUBIES.

CHAPTER XI.

PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC WORKS.
General.

DURING the year under review the Public Works Department was represented in the Council of the Governor General by Sir A. C. Trevor, K.C.S.I. The post of Public Works Secretary was held throughout the year by Mr. F. R. Upcott, C.S.I.

The engineer establishment of the Department, including Bombay and Madras, but excluding the now separate Military Works Department, was maintained at a strength below that of the preceding year.

The following statement shows the composition of the superior engineer establishment, as it stood on the 30th June in 1899 and 1898:—

	Government of India List.	Government of Madras List.	Government of Bombay List.	TOTAL
Royal Engineer officers - - -	60	5	3	68
Other military officers - - -	6	—	—	6
<i>Civil Engineers:</i>				
Appointed from Europe - -	200	50	50	405
Europeans appointed in India - -	149	5	8	162
Natives appointed in India - -	67	17	23	107
TOTAL for 1899 - - -	581	83	86	750
TOTAL for 1898 - - -	580	83	87	750

The upper subordinate engineering staff is largely composed of natives. The numbers of this establishment in the three Presidencies were as follows:—

	India.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
Europeans - - - - -	201	66	22	279
Natives - - - - -	340	113	170	623
TOTAL - - - - -	541	179	192	912

The engineering branch of the Department is divided into two services, Imperial and Provincial, the former of which is recruited in England and the latter in India. The pay, and leave and pension rules, of the two services are different, but in other respects there is no distinction between the members of the two divisions, and the highest posts in the Department are open to both. The civilian element of the Imperial service is recruited from the Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill; the Provincial service draws its recruits from students of the Indian colleges who are natives of India, and from upper subordinates of the Public Works Department.

The operations of the Department deal with three kinds of works, viz., Railways, Irrigation, and Buildings and Roads. The Railway Department is an Imperial service under the direct control of the Government of India: the establishment employed on irrigation, and on buildings and roads, is subdivided into different Provincial services, controlled by the local administrations subordinate to the Supreme Government. Under the head of "Buildings and Roads" are included many miscellaneous works, such as improvements in towns, paving, water supply and drainage, harbours, lighthouses, &c.

The annual expenditure on public works is met partly from money raised by loan, and partly from the ordinary revenues of the year. The class of works on which borrowed money is expended comprises the railway and large irrigation works, which are expected to yield sufficient net revenue to cover the interest on the capital expended on them. For the railways and more important irrigation systems, distinct capital and revenue accounts are kept, but for the smaller works of irrigation, and most of the works included in the class of buildings and roads, such accounts are not kept, though a distinction is made in the accounts between expenditure on new works and expenditure on repairs to existing works.

The following statement of the total receipts and expenditure under the head of "Public Works" for 1899-1900 is compiled from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the year :—

RECEIPTS.		£.
Railways	- - - - -	16,687,845
Irrigation	- - - - -	2,309,662
Buildings and Roads	- - - - -	440,880
TOTAL		19,428,587

EXPENDITURE (exclusive of £874 charged under Special Defence Works).

	Charged to Revenue.	Not Charged to Revenue.
<i>Railways:</i>	£.	£.
Construction	2,856	2,437,712
On Revenue Account	10,511,099	—
<i>Irrigation:</i>		
Construction	69,820	597,060
Ditto - from Famine Relief Grant	23,930	—
On Revenue Account	2,193,655	—
<i>Buildings and Roads:</i>		
Military Works	836,562	—
Civil Works	3,298,090	—
TOTAL	22,935,502	3,035,672

The expenditure charged against revenue includes the following items of "Interest on Debt" :—

	£.
Railways	3,845,281
Irrigation	896,749

On the 31st of March 1900 £104,485,985 of permanent public debt had been incurred on account of railways, and £22,840,866 on account of irrigation.

The amount paid under the head of "Annuities in purchase of railways," which is included in the Railway Revenue Account, is £1,718,591.

RAILWAYS.

RAILWAYS.

A full account of the results of railway operations in India is given in the Railway Administration Report annually presented to Parliament, and the aim of the following section is merely to give a short summary of the chief facts. As the accounts of the several railways had not been finally closed when the following statistics for the year 1900 were prepared, the figures must be accepted as only approximately correct.

The railways of India may be broadly divided into the Guaranteed, the State, and the Assisted. In the early days of railway enterprise the agency of private companies guaranteed by the State was exclusively employed, and nearly all the great trunk lines were made under this system. The chief terms of the contract between the old guaranteed companies and the State were as follows: the Government gave the land required free of charge; it also guaranteed interest, generally at the rate of 5 per cent., on the share capital raised with its consent, and a lower rate upon debenture capital. A general control and supervision over the proceedings of the company was also retained, and Government stores and troops were to be carried on favourable terms. If the net profits in any half-year fell below the amount of guaranteed interest, the Government made up the deficiency. If they exceeded this amount, the surplus was equally divided between the Government and the company. Moreover, the Government had the right of buying the undertaking at specified dates, on payment of the value of the stock calculated at its market price on the average of the three preceding years. In this way the East Indian Railway was acquired in 1880, the Eastern Bengal Railway in 1884, the Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi Company's lines in 1885-86, the Oude and Rohilkund Railway at the end of 1888, and the South Indian Railway in 1890. Notice of intention to purchase the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was served on the Company on the 18th August 1899. In 1870 a new policy of railway development

RAILWAYS.

by the direct agency of the State was inaugurated; and in 1880-81 the system of encouraging private enterprise by State assistance was again resorted to. Both agencies are now employed side by side. The experience gained of the working of the old guarantee system has, however, suggested various modifications in the relations between the State and the companies which have more recently been formed for the construction and working of railways, and the nature of the assistance granted now varies considerably. In some instances, of which the Bengal and North Western Railway is the most important, lines have been constructed without any direct pecuniary assistance; in others a subsidy or limited guarantee has been granted. Special terms have been offered by the Government to attract private enterprise to the construction of branches and feeder lines to the larger systems. Those terms include the concession by the parent line of favourable working rates, and sometimes a rebate on traffic interchanged between the two lines or a guarantee. The agency of private companies has also been employed by the Government both in the construction and working of State lines. In all cases the Government has the power of taking over the railway at specified periods on stated terms.

It is worthy of notice that for the first time since the commencement of railways in India, over half a century ago, the year under review shows a surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to £76,759, and this result has been coincident with an addition of 2,760 miles to the whole system during the past two years. The table below is taken from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of 1899-1900 and is for the year ended 31st March 1900.

	Imperial.	Provincial and Local.	England,	TOTAL
REVENUE.				
(Railways.)				
	£	£	£	£
State Railways—(Gross traffic receipts) - - - - -	14,015,890	37,103	230	14,653,223
Guaranteed Companies—(Net traffic receipts) - - - - -	1,907,215	-	-	1,907,215
Subsidised Companies—(Repayment of advances of interest) - - -	20,384	-	1,023	27,407
TOTAL - - -	16,649,489	37,103	1,253	16,687,845
EXPENDITURE.				
(Railway Revenue Account.)				
State Railways:				
Working expenses - - - - -	7,119,363	28,441	-	7,147,804
Interest on debt - - - - -	2,885,638	-	659,043	3,544,681
Annuities in purchase of railways - - - - -	-	-	1,718,591	1,718,591
Interest chargeable against companies on advances - - - - -	120,370	-	218,863	339,233
Interest on capital deposited by companies - - - - -	10,825	-	844,326	855,151
Guaranteed Companies:				
Surplus profits, land and supervision - - - - -	343,400	-	-	343,400
Interest - - - - -	8,559	-	2,172,336	2,180,895
Subsidised Companies:				
Land, &c. - - - - -	35,422	2,673	-	38,095
Miscellaneous railway expenditure - - - - -	42,311	305	-	42,616
TOTAL - - -	10,605,888	31,419	5,013,770	16,611,066

In the figures for expenditure are included all charges falling on the Government for management and working expenses of railways, for interest on their capital outlay, as well as for the gradual redemption (by charge to the revenue account) of the commuted capital of the East Indian, Eastern Bengal, and Sind, Punjab, and Delhi Railways, through the agency of sinking funds and annuities, and of that portion of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway debt incurred in excess of the money raised through agency of the "discount" sinking fund; the figures also include charges for land required by the

companies, for control, and for miscellaneous items, such as headquarters establishment and surveys. RAILWAYS.

After meeting all these expenses, the gain to the State in 1899-1900 was £76,759.

The statistical results of the working of the various classes of railways during 1900 are given in the following table. The aggregate net earnings of all Indian railways amounted to 5.50 (a) per cent. on the total capital outlay on open lines, including steamboat service and suspense items, but excluding other indirect charges, against 5.38 (a) and (b) per cent. in the previous year:—

RAILWAY STATISTICS, 1900.

CLASS.	Length of Lines open on the 31st December 1900.	Total Capital Outlay on Open Lines to the 31st December including Steamboat and Suspense.	Total Number of Passengers carried.	Total Weight of Goods carried.	Gross Earnings, including Steamboat Service.	Working Expenses, including Steamboat Service.	Net Earnings, including Steamboat Service.	Percentage of Net Earnings on Capital Outlay on Open Line.
	Miles.	£	No.	Tons.	£	£	£	
<i>Standard Gauge.</i>								
State lines worked by companies - - -	4,407.36	51,278,572	28,294,883	14,053,136	6,294,066	2,308,812	3,086,154	
State lines worked by the State - - -	5,197.92	53,380,779	36,450,859	9,700,514	3,984,060	2,177,841	1,806,210	
Lines worked by guaranteed companies (c) - - -	2,602.57	35,163,133	41,088,137	5,645,109	4,186,000	2,221,167	1,964,833	
Assisted companies - - -	874.76	4,494,309	4,114,556	726,999	311,579	143,007	168,512	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies - - -	700.15	4,642,925	2,912,344	1,332,750	505,484	176,740	328,735	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by State Railway Agency - - -	122.07	511,085	1,001,882	165,173	44,422	24,443	19,974	
Total for 1900 - - -	13,971.72	149,470,893	113,952,601	31,692,780	15,326,511	7,052,084	8,274,427	5.33
Total for 1899 (b) - - -	13,453.58	143,308,220	105,438,509	29,994,123	14,471,140	6,735,064	7,736,085	5.40
<i>Metre Gauge.</i>								
State lines worked by companies - - -	7,246.53	39,116,489	40,197,045	8,228,083	4,421,006	2,313,734	2,108,262	
State lines worked by the State - - -	650.48	3,570,080	4,524,033	975,012	470,479	213,533	202,946	
Assisted companies - - -	448.70	1,754,003	2,164,604	620,945	168,054	80,555	87,498	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies - - -	611.98	2,268,284	2,004,765	508,435	122,002	66,634	55,428	
Lines owned and worked by Native States - - -	1,063.48	2,520,284	2,814,472	781,162	297,533	143,984	153,550	
Total for 1900 - - -	10,027.17	49,259,109	60,705,609	11,114,237	5,486,124	2,818,440	2,667,684	5.42
Total for 1899 (b) - - -	9,310.09	45,952,255	54,467,387	10,100,270	4,956,048	2,480,302	2,476,556	5.39
<i>Special Gauges.</i>								
State lines worked by the State - - -	30.00	83,373	59,739	23,533	6,060	8,875	-2,815	
Assisted companies - - -	194.37	537,497	1,900,178	111,747	98,749	50,858	38,891	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies - - -	242.31	407,860	525,489	89,563	23,407	18,733	4,674	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by State railway agency - - -	33.78	86,206	118,748	14,478	6,356	2,800	3,490	
Lines owned and worked by Native States - - -	94.36	182,266	290,800	48,868	28,227	17,666	10,561	
Total for 1900 - - -	594.82	1,317,202	2,954,048	288,179	162,799	107,992	54,807	4.16
Total for 1899 (b) - - -	590.18	1,301,526	2,637,299	281,466	153,110	102,380	50,724	3.90
TOTAL of all Railways for 1900 - - -	24,593.71	200,047,204	117,613,218	43,095,106	20,075,434	9,978,516	10,996,018	5.50
TOTAL of all railways for 1899 (b) - - -	23,354.45	190,562,007	102,543,195	40,465,850	19,681,207	9,317,842	10,263,365	5.39

(a) Excluding the West of India Portuguese, Pondicherry and Karaikkal-Perlam Railways.
 (b) As corrected from later information.
 (c) Including the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for the whole of the year 1900.

138 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

RAILWAYS.

It will be observed that, with an increase of 1,239·26 (a) miles, or 5·31 per cent., in the open mileage as compared with 1899, the gross earnings and working expenses show increases of £1,394,227, or 7·12 per cent., and of £660,674, or 7·09 per cent., respectively, resulting in an increase of £733,553, or 7·15 per cent., in the net earnings.

The total number of passengers carried show an increase of 15,070,023, and the quantity of goods handled of 2,629,337 tons as compared with the previous year.

Mileage opened.—The total railway mileage on each gauge opened during the year, and the sections opened, were as follows:—

	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
STANDARD GAUGE.			
East Indian—Moghal Sarai to Gya	- - - -	125·48	
Bengal-Nággpur—Kola Ghát to Howrah	- - - -	36·30	
North-Western State—			
Mari-Attock section—Bahá-uddín to Rasul	- 0·04		
Toba Tek Singh to Khánawal	- 55·58		
Hyderabad to Kotri	- 5·00		
		60·57	
Oudh and Rohilkhand State—Gháziabad to Moradabad	- - - -	86·00	
Eastern Bengal State—Banera diversion	- - - -	0·25	
East Coast State—			
Naupada to Government Salt pans	- - - 2·61		
Rajahmundry to Kovvúr	- - - 4·55		
		7·16	
Great Indian Peninsula—			
Jaigaon to Amalner	- - - - 34·28		
Mohpáni to coal fields at Gotitoria	- - - - 0·13		
Chuligaon to Dhulia	- - - - 34·54		
		69·25	
Madras—Rayapuram to Beach	- - - -	1·02	
Hardwar-Dhara—Hardwar to Dhara	- - - -	32·04	
Tápti Valley—Nardana to Amalner	- - - -	16·89	
			444·86
METRE GAUGE.			
Bengal and North-Western, Tirhoot section—			
Barauni Junction to Thana Bihpur	- - (b) 80·17		
Sahabpoor Kamal to Monghyr Ghát	- - - 7·00		
Hujeepore to Bachhwara	- - - 44·11		
New entrance into Mozufferpore	- - - 8·25		
		80·53	
South Indian—			
From a point near Madras station to new branch station	- - - - 0·11		
Capper quarry siding	- - - - 0·86		
		0·97	
Assam-Bengal—			
Jauuna Mukh to Lumding	- - - 34·34		
Lumding (temporary station) to Lumding	- - - 3·10		
		37·44	
Burma—			
Myohaung to Naymyo	- - - 30·10		
Maymyo to Nawngkio	- - - 34·10		
Sagang to Alon	- - - 70·50		
		143·70	
Shadipalli-Bálotra, (British section)—			
Jodhpur frontier to Shadipalli	- - - -	69·00	
Eastern Bengal State—			
South bank of the Kaljani river to Alipur Duar	- 0·71		
Alipur Duar to Rajabhat Khawa	- - - 9·07		
		10·68	
Brahmaputra-Sultanpur—			
Bogra to Dewantola	- - - 22·02		
Dewantola to Bonarpara	- - - 4·00		
Bonarpara to Fulehbari	- - - 8·07		
		34·09	
Bengal Doars—			
Burnes junction to Baura	- - - 28·45		
Baura to Lálmónir Hát	- - - 37·35		
		65·80	
	Carried forward	- - -	

(a) For difference between this figure and the total length shown as opened during 1900 in paragraph 3, see footnote (b) and (c).
 (b) Of this length, 40·00 miles from Sahabpoor Kamal Junction to Thana Bihpur, which were closed from 13th June 1900, have been excluded from the total.

	Brought forward	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Hyderabad-Godavari Valley—				
Sailu to Purbhani - - - - -		28.44		
Secunderabad to Sivunagon - - - - -		150.73		
Sivunagon to Nanded - - - - -		17.68		
Nanded to Purbhani - - - - -		36.16		
			231.00	
Jodhpur-Bikaner—				
Barmer to Jodhpur frontier - - - - -			(c)75.00	
				748.81
SPECIAL (2FT. 6IN.) GAUGE.				
Raipur-Dhamtari—				
Raipur to Kúrú - - - - -		31.50		
Kúrú to Dhamtari - - - - -		14.49		
Abhanpur to Rajim - - - - -		10.25		
			56.24	56.24
	TOTAL.			1,249.91(d)

Mileage sanctioned.—The additional lengths sanctioned for construction were—

METRE GAUGE.			
Máyavaram-Mutupet—			
Mutupet to Arantangi - - - - -		45.47	
Vijapur-Kálol-Kadi—			
Kálol to Kadi - - - - -		12.20	
			57.67
SPECIAL (2FT. 6IN.) GAUGE.			
North Western-State—			
Khushálgarh-Kohat-Thal, Khushálgarh to Thal - - - - -		88.12	
			88.12
	TOTAL		145.79

The total mileage under construction or sanctioned for commencement at the close of the year, *i.e.*, on the 31st December 1900, was as follows:—

STANDARD GAUGE.		Miles.	Miles.
State lines worked by companies - - - - -		895.94	
State lines worked by the State - - - - -		15.64	
Lines worked by guaranteed companies - - - - -		59.77	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies - - - - -		20.78	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by State railway agency - - - - -		79.02	
			571.65
METRE GAUGE.			
State lines worked by companies - - - - -		964.20	
State lines worked by the State - - - - -		48.16	
Assisted companies - - - - -		50.42	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies - - - - -		106.48	
Lines owned and worked by Native States - - - - -		233.00	
			1,402.26
SPECIAL (2FT. 6IN.) GAUGE.			
State lines worked by the State - - - - -		128.22	
Assisted companies - - - - -		33.32	
SPECIAL (2FT.) GAUGE.			
Assisted companies - - - - -		58.00	
			219.54
	TOTAL		2,193.45

The following gives a brief abstract of the important works completed and in progress during 1900:—

East Indian Railway.—The Moghal Sarni-Gya extension, 125.48 miles in length, was opened for traffic on the 1st March 1900. On the 1st August

(c) Excluding Palana coal siding, 9.50 miles, omitted from railway accounts.
(d) See foot-note (a) above.

RAILWAYS.

1900, the second line of rails on the Jherriah branch, from mile 143·48 to mile 147·07, was opened for traffic. The Pandra branch line, 3·24 miles, and the Sitarámpur-Domohani extension, 6·99 miles, are expected to be completed and opened for traffic shortly. Work on the Bárun-Daltonganj line is in progress.

Kalka-Simla Railway.—Construction of the Kalka-Dharpore section was commenced in April, and the Dharpore-Solon section in June 1900.

Bengal Central Railway.—The construction of the siding from the Dum-Dum Cantonment station to the Small Arms Ammunition factory was completed on the 25th June 1900, and that from the Dum-Dum Cantonment station to Pattipooker is in progress.

Bengal-Nágpur Railway.—Of the Calcutta-Cuttack extensions, the Kola-Rajapur Khal section, 18·80 miles, was opened for all descriptions of traffic on the 24th May 1900, and the Rajapur Khal-Howrah section, 17·50 miles, for passenger traffic, on the 14th December 1900. The large bridges, which were under construction on these extensions, were completed and opened for traffic during the year.

Of the Khargpur-Midnapore extension, the Cossye bridge and the line into Midnapore, are nearing completion. Commencement of work on the Midnapore-Bujudih extension, 114·77 miles, was sanctioned in December 1900.

The Raipur-Dhamtari feeder railway was opened during the year for goods traffic by sections, *viz.*, from Raipur to Kúrú, 31·50 miles, on the 10th September, from Abhanpúr to Rajim, 10·25 miles, on the 15th October and the remaining portion from Kúrú to Dhamtari, 14·49 miles, on the 17th December 1900.

North-Western State Railway.—On the 16th April 1900, the extension from Toba Tek Singh to Khánawal, 55·53 miles in length, was opened for public traffic. The Indus bridge at Kotri, together with the lines connecting it with Hyderabad and Kotri, was opened for traffic on the 25th May 1900. The construction of the Pesháwar-Jumrood extension, 11 miles in length, and of the Nowshera-Dargai railway, 40 miles on the 2' 6" gauge, was completed during the year. These lines were opened for traffic on the 1st January 1901. The construction of the Hyderabad-Rahoki section, 6·25 miles is in progress. The construction of the Khusálgahr-Kohat-Thal railway, 88·12 miles on the 2' 6" gauge, was sanctioned on the 31st October 1900, and work has been commenced thereon.

Ludhiána-Dhuri-Jakhal Railway.—Work on this line, about 80 miles in length, is in progress, and it is expected that the line will be opened for public traffic during the 1st quarter of 1901.

Oudh and Rohilkhand State Railway.—The Moradabad-Gajroula section of the Gháziabad-Moradabad railway, a distance of 33·40 miles, was opened for traffic on the 1st April 1900, and the portion from Gajroula to Gháziabad, 53·50 miles, on the 25th November 1900. This railway has now become an integral part of the Oudh and Rohilkhand State railway. The permanent bridge over the Ganges at Garhmukhtesar is not yet complete; trains run over a temporary pile bridge.

Hardwar-Dehra Railway.—The railway from Hardwar to Dehra Dun, 32·04 miles in length, was opened for traffic on the 1st March 1900, and is being worked by the Oudh and Rohilkhand State Railway.

Eastern Bengal State Railway.—On the Eastern section, the Fakirabad line, 6 miles in length, which has been constructed as an alternative approach to the Pudda river in case of sudden failure of the present station at Goalundo, is practically complete and will be opened when required.

On the Northern section, the Teesta bridge is nearly complete and will, it is expected, be opened shortly. The conversion of the line from Teesta to Mogalhát, 12·23 miles, from 2' 6" to metre gauge has been delayed owing to non-receipt of rails; they are, however, now being received from England and it is expected that the work will be completed early next official year. The Mogalhát-Dhubri extension, 38·83 miles, will probably be opened for traffic in April 1902.

Of the British section of the Santrabari extension, the line from the south bank of the Kaljani river to Alipur Duar, 0·71 mile, was opened for traffic on the 18th January 1900, and that between Alipur Duar and Raja Bhat Khawa

9.97 miles, on the 5th April 1900. The remaining portion (up to Jainti) will shortly be opened. RAILWAYS

Cooch Behar State Railway.—The portion of the native state section of the Santrabari extension from Kholta to the south bank of the Khaljani river, 0.49 mile, was opened for traffic on the 18th January 1900, and the permanent bridge over the Torsa river, on the 16th May 1900.

Brahmaputra-Sultanpur Railway.—Of the portion under construction, the line from Bogra to Dewantola, 22.02 miles, was opened for traffic on the 5th April 1900; that between Dewantola and Bonarpara, 4.60 miles, on the 1st August 1900; and the remaining length from Bonarpara to Fulchari, 8.07 miles, on the 1st September 1900.

East Coast State Railway.—The construction of the Godavari bridge and its approaches, 4.55 miles in length, was completed during the year. The bridge was opened for goods traffic on the 6th and for passenger traffic on the 30th August 1900. The branch from Naupada station to the Government salt pans, 2.61 miles, was completed and opened for goods traffic only from the 4th July 1900. The doubling of the track between the Junction and the Waltair station, 4.24 miles, was completed, and the second line opened on the 12th December 1900.

Great Indian Peninsular Railway.—Of the Amalner-Jalgaon extension, the section from Jalgaon to Dharangaon, 19.00 miles, was opened for goods traffic on 20th February 1900, a temporary diversion being made across the Girna river, and the section from Dharangaon to Amalner, 15.28 miles, on the 4th April 1900. The line was closed on the 31st May and re-opened for goods traffic on the 15th November 1900.

The Chalisgaon-Dhulia extension, 34.84 miles in length, was opened for goods traffic on the 15th October and for passenger traffic on the 10th December 1900.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway.—The doubling of the line up to Baroda has been completed with the exception of the portion between Daman Road and Sachin, a distance of 49 miles. The protective works of the Nerbudda bridge are in progress. The extensions of the Parel workshops are in hand and will shortly be completed.

Tápti Valley Railway.—The remaining portion of this railway, viz., from Nardána to Amalner, 16.89 miles, was completed and opened for traffic on the 15th March 1900.

Pettáid-Cambay Railway.—Works on this railway, 20.78 miles in length, are in progress, and will probably be completed by April 1901.

Vijapur-Kálol Railway.—Funds for the construction of this line, 29.60 miles, have now been made available and work will be put in hand as soon as possible.

Jaipur Railway.—During the year, all earthwork, ballast collection, major and minor bridges and station and staff quarters were completed with the exception of the Banas bridge, the station building and locomotive yard at Siwai-Madhampur and the locomotive shed at Jaipur, all of which are in hand. Plate-laying and the girder work are still postponed on account of want of funds.

Madras Railway.—The extension of the Madras railway from Ráyapuram to opposite the General Post Office on the Beach, 1.02 miles, was opened for traffic on the 22nd January 1900. Work on the Calicut-Azbikal railway, 59.76 miles, is in progress.

Shoranur-Cochin Railway.—The construction of this railway, 64.68 miles, is in progress.

Hyderabad-Gódavari Valley Railway.—The remaining portion of this railway was opened for traffic during the year by sections, viz., from Sailu to Purbhani, 26.44 miles, and Secunderabad to Sivungaon, 150.73 miles, on the 25th April; from Sivungaon to Nanded, 17.68 miles, on the 23rd August; and from Nanded to Purbhani, 36.15 miles, on the 9th October 1900.

Bengal and North Western Railway.—The temporary bridge over the Gogra river at Turtipur was reconstructed and opened for traffic on the 9th February

RAILWAYS.

1900. It was again removed on the 1st June and re-opened on the 22nd December 1900. Work on the permanent bridge over the river at this place (18 spans of 200 feet) was commenced in January 1900.

Of the Hajee-pore-Katihár extension, the portion from Barauni Junction to Thanah Bihpur, 66·17 miles, and the Monghyr Ghât branch, 7 miles, were opened for passenger traffic on the 1st March 1900, and the Hajee-pore-Bachhwara section, 44·11 miles, for goods traffic on the 15th April 1901. This section, together with the section from Sahebpur Kamal to Thanah Bihpur were, however, closed on the 12th and 13th June 1900, respectively, for the rainy season. The former was re-opened for all kinds of traffic on the 2nd November 1900. Plate-laying on the remaining length of the extension is complete and work on the Kosi bridge (15 spans of 200 feet) is in progress. Work on the Bhágalpur Ghât branch, 11·75 miles, has just been started.

South Indian Railway.—Work on the Pamban branch, 91·33 miles, and Tinnevely-Quilon (Travancore) branch, 103·33 miles, is in progress.

Máyavaram-Mutupet Railway.—The construction of the Mutupet-Arantangi extension, 45·47 miles, of this railway was sanctioned during the year and work is in progress.

Assam-Bengal Railway.—Considering the difficulties encountered fairly good progress was made on Section II. Earthwork and tunnelling progressed satisfactorily on all the divisions; the Barak bridge and the tunnels on division 8 were completed during the year.

As stated in the last report, the portion of the line between Jamuna Mukh and Lauka, which had been damaged by floods, was re-opened on the 1st January 1900. The line from the temporary junction with the 11th division to Lumding station, 3·10 miles, was opened for goods traffic on the 20th February 1900. The portion from Lumding to Nazira, 142·20 miles, was completed during the year and opened for goods traffic on the 1st January 1901. All works on Section III are approaching completion with the exception of division 18, which was only commenced in October 1900.

Burma Railways.—The branch from Ywataung on the Mu Valley railway to Alon in the Lower Chiudwin district, a distance of 70·50 miles, was opened for traffic of all kinds on the 15th April 1900. Work is in progress on the Letpadan-Henzada-Bassein railway, 117·57 miles in length.

On the Mandalay-Kunlong extension, the section from Myohaung to Maymyo (mile 39) was opened for passenger traffic on the 1st April and that from Maymyo to Nawngkhio (mile 73) on the 15th May 1900. The Gokteik bridge has been completed and the approaches finished, except the tunnels which are being lined. Rail-laying has been carried to a point within ten miles of Hsipaw (mile 125), and it is hoped that the section from Nawngkhio to Hsipaw will be opened for traffic in April or May 1901.

Bengal Doonars Railway.—The Southern extension from Barnes Junction to Lalmanirhát, 65·80 miles, was completed during the year. The portion from Barnes Junction to Baura was opened for public traffic on the 28th June and the remaining length for goods traffic only on the 20th November 1900. The Eastern extension from Mal Junction to Madarihat, 44 miles in length, is under construction, and a portion from Mal Junction to Chalsa is likely to be opened at an early date for goods traffic. The Western extension from Dam Dim to Bagrakote, 6·76 miles, is also likely to be opened for goods traffic by the end of June 1901.

Dibru-Sadiya Railway.—The Dehing bridge was completed in March and opened for traffic in August 1900.

Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway.—The remaining portion of the native state section of the Shadipalli-Balotra railway, *viz.*, from Barmer to Jodhpur frontier, 75 miles, was opened for traffic on the 22nd December 1900.

Of the Bikaner-Bhátinda section, the length from Dulmera to Suratgarh, 71·21 miles, was completed and opened for traffic from 1st January 1901. Work on the remaining length is in progress.

Shadipalli-Balotra Railway (British Section).—This section, 69 miles in length, was opened for traffic on the 22nd December 1900, and through communication by rail was established from that date between Kurrachee and the metre gauge system of railways in Rajputana. RAILWAYS.

The following were the principal events in 1900:—

At a meeting of the representatives of the several railways interested, a Claims Arbitration Committee for Northern India was formed and rules for the guidance of the Committee framed with effect from the 1st January 1900.

On the 1st January 1900, the Tanjore District Board having purchased the Government share of the Māvavaram-Mutupet railway became the sole owner of that line.

On the 1st January 1900, the maintenance of the Narwana-Kaithal branch of the Southern Punjab railway was taken over by the North Western State railway.

With effect from the 1st April 1900, the Hyderabad-Shadipalli railway, which was constructed from Provincial revenues, was taken over as an Imperial line.

The Diamond Harbour-Tamluk steamer service, which had previously been worked by the Eastern Bengal State railway, was transferred to the Calcutta Steam Navigation Company with effect from the 2nd April 1900.

The Great Indian Peninsula railway was purchased by the State on the 1st July 1900, and by Indentures made on the 21st December 1900, between the Secretary of State in Council of India and the Great Indian Peninsula and the Indian Midland Railway Companies, it was agreed between the parties that as from the 1st July 1900 the former company shall maintain, manage, and work the Great Indian Peninsula and Indian Midland railway systems as one undertaking. Arrangements to give effect to the terms of the Indentures are in progress.

The working of the Powayan Steam tramway was taken over by the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company from the 2nd July 1900. Details of the agreement for working the tramway are under consideration.

On the 29th August 1900, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India authorised the resumption by the State of the Bhátinda-Ferozepore section of the Rajputana-Malwa railway, and accordingly the standard (5' 6" gauge) line from Bhátinda to Ferozepore was taken over from the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company and incorporated with the North Western State railway with effect from the 1st July 1900.

A Traffic Conference of railway delegates assembled at Simla in September 1900, under the orders of the Government of India. The efforts of the Conference were mainly directed towards (a) revision of the Conference Regulations of 1899, (b) consideration of the scale of voting powers, (c) re-consideration of resolution No. 51 of the Railway Conference of 1899 in regard to the rules for making the Conference Regulations binding on all railways parties to the Conference, and (d) establishment of a yearly Conference with a paid Secretary and office staff.

The principal question connected with the revision of the Conference Regulations of 1899 was the proposal to revert to the principle of payments for the use of foreign railways' vehicles by mileage and demurrage instead of on a time basis as adopted at the meeting of 1899. The decision of this question has been deferred pending consideration of certain statistics called for. Meanwhile the rate of hire for metre gauge goods stock has been equalized with that for the standard gauge.

As regards (b), the Conference have adopted, with certain modifications, the scale proposed last year by the East Indian railway, while in regard to (c) and (d), the Conference have confirmed the rules drawn up last year and have recommended the holding of an annual Conference, the cost being apportioned between the several railways in direct proportion to their voting powers.

In October 1900, the administrations of the North Western, Oudh and Rohilkhand, East Coast and Great Indian Peninsula State railways were directed to carry, free of charge, consignments of food stuffs and clothing from

RAILWAYS.

Messrs. Morgan and Scott of London, for charitable distribution among the famine-stricken population of India. The administrations of companies' lines likely to be concerned have also agreed to carry the consignments free of charge.

The results of the first and second sittings of the travelling Commission, which was constituted in 1899 under the orders of the Government of India, are given in paragraph 8, Chapter I. of the Railway Administration Report, Part I., for 1899-1900. The Commission held its third sitting in the Frere Hall, Kurrachee, from 26th to 29th November 1900, both days inclusive, to receive statements and evidence and consider the point of junction between the North Western (5' 6" gauge) and the Jodhpur (metre gauge) railway systems. The recommendations of the Commission are that the metre gauge terminus be removed from Shadipalli, on the Hyderabad-Shadipalli railway, to Hyderabad, Sind.

On the 17th December 1900, agreements between the Mysore Durbar and the Southern Mahratta Railway Company for working the Yesvantpur-Mysore frontier, Mysore-Nanjangud and Birur-Shimoga railways were approved by the Government of India.

The working of the East Coast State railway was taken over by the Madras and Bengal-Nagpur Railway Companies, with effect from the 1st January 1901. The Southern section from Washermanpet to Vizagapatam, including the Cocanada branch, was made over to the Madras Railway Company, and the Northern section, extending from the west distant signal on the old line into Waltair station up to Barang, including the Puri branch, to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company; running powers being granted to the latter company over the Waltair-Vizagapatam section.

The maintenance of the Bezwada extension of the East Coast State railway was transferred to His Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company from the 1st January 1901.

No new railways were sanctioned for construction during the year 1900, under the "Branch line terms" resolution of 1896, but negotiations in regard to the following have been in progress:

	Miles.
Nadiud-Kapadvanj - - - - -	28
Tilagaon-Sylhet - - - - -	39
Akhaura-Bhairab Bazar - - - - -	19
Fatehpur-Markundi - - - - -	61
Chandipur-Taki - - - - -	38
Laksam-Noakhali-Ichakhali - - - - -	39

The negotiations in regard to the following lines have been practically concluded and the contracts for the first three are in course of preparation:

	Miles.
Bhagalpur-Bausi-Baidyanath - - - - -	69
Kurnool Road-Kurnool - - - - -	32
Bezwada-Masulipatam - - - - -	50
Amritsar-Tarn Taran-Sarhali - - - - -	30
Sabarmati-Dholka - - - - -	33
Raichur-Wondalli - - - - -	43

The concession for the Bhagalpur-Baidyanath railway excludes the extension to Ahmadpur, and the terms (*viz.*, those of 1896) originally agreed upon for the Amritsar-Tarn Taran-Sarhali and Sabarmati-Dholka branches have been modified to admit of rebate up to 10 per cent. of the gross earnings, and interest during construction at 4 per cent. instead of 3½. The concession for the Raichur-Wondalli railway is also on these terms.

Guaranteed railway transactions.—The transactions of the original guaranteed lines are illustrated by the following table. In this table the rupee is converted into sterling at contract rates :—

	Half-year ended the 30th June 1900.					
	Total Capital Outlay.	Net Revenue.	Guaranteed Interest.	Interest in Excess of Revenue.	Net Revenue in Excess of Interest.	Surplus Profits.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Great Indian Peninsula - - -	26,166,601	899,045*	602,997	—	296,048	266,039
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India - - -	10,311,090†	432,544	227,302	—	205,242	205,242
Madras - - -	11,378,740	245,147	270,144	24,097	—	—
TOTAL - - - £.	47,857,100	1,576,736	1,100,443	—	476,293	471,281
	Half-year ended the 31st December 1900.					
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India - - -	10,334,748†	314,540	220,565	—	84,975	84,
Madras - - -	11,409,908	244,170	272,521	23,351	—	—
TOTAL - - - £.	21,733,716	558,710	502,086	—	56,624	84,975
TOTAL for the Year 1900 - - - £.	21,735,716	2,135,446	1,602,529	—	532,917	556,256
TOTAL for the Year 1899 - - - £.	47,605,707	2,800,093	2,182,080	—	617,424	723,425

* Including 30,000l. paid to Government as rent for the State lines leased to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company.

† Excluding the State outlay on the Pátri branch, £53,894.

IRRIGATION.

The nature of the climate and the inequalities of the rainfall will account for the great antiquity of the practice of irrigation in India. Many of the irrigation systems now administered by the officers of the Public Works Department are founded on the lines of old native works which have been restored and extended or re-modelled.

The class of works dealt with by the Public Works Department under the head of irrigation may be roughly divided into canals and tanks, though these two kinds of works are frequently used in combination.

The storage of water in tanks for the purpose of irrigation is very common in Southern India. In the Madras Presidency alone there are some 60,000 tanks. The works are for the most part of native origin; but much has been done under the British Government in repairing and improving old tanks, and in constructing new works in Madras, the Bombay Deccan, and in Ajmere-Merwara.

In size the tanks vary from the small works formed by earthen embankments thrown across local drainages, often of only two or three square miles in area, to the costly reservoirs constructed by the Imperial Government, such as the Periyar and Rushikulya Works, the reservoirs of which have surface areas of 6,395 acres and 7,900 acres respectively.

Canal irrigation, in which the water is drawn directly from a river, has been practised on the largest scale and with the most successful results in the North-Western Provinces, the Punjab, and the deltas of the large rivers in the Madras Presidency. Irrigation canals are of two descriptions, viz., "perennial" and "inundation." The former are furnished with permanent headworks and weirs, and are capable of irrigating large tracts of country throughout the year, independently of the local rainfall. The magnitude of some of the works of this class, which are almost entirely due to British enterprise and skill, may be judged by a few instances. The Upper Ganges Canal, which has been in operation since 1854, and has cost £2,003,284, comprises 459 miles of main canal and 4,386 miles of distributaries, and in the year under review supplied water to 1,261,601 acres. The Sirhind Canal in the Punjab, which was completed in 1887, has cost £1,623,393, and consists of 319 miles of main channels

IRRIGATION.

and 2,730 miles of distributaries. In Madras the great deltaic irrigation systems of the Godaveri, Kistna, and Cauvery have respective lengths of main channel of 503, 372, and 844 miles, and together irrigate upwards of 2,000,000 acres. The inundation canals, which are peculiar to the Punjab and Sind, are of a much simpler and less costly description than the perennial canals. They are for the most part simply earthen channels, made without the expensive machinery of masonry dams and sluices, and are supplied with water by the annual rise in May of the Indus and its affluents. They constitute a very useful class of irrigation works, and in some cases have produced most successful financial results. The irrigation from them is, however, to some extent precarious. If the annual flood from the melting of the snows of the Himalayas does not sufficiently raise the level of the water in the river, it is impossible to pass the necessary volume of water on to the fields or even to give any water at all to many of them.

The works to which the preceding paragraph applies, in most cases, take off from the larger rivers, which, drawing their water from lofty mountain ranges, can, even in times of drought, be depended upon for an unfailing supply. In tank irrigation, on the other hand, the supply of water is more or less dependent on the local rainfall, either directly or through the medium of the smaller rivers, which dry up in hot seasons. This is the common system of irrigation in the Bombay Presidency, where irrigation is largely dependent on storage works.

In parts of Baluchistan, where the rainfall is scanty and very capricious, a method is practised of drawing the water from underground springs by means of tunnels driven into the hill sides. There remains the method of irrigation more extensively used in India than any other, viz., that by wells, which, however, does not come directly within the scope of operations of the Public Works Department.

Financially considered, the irrigation works are classed as "Major" or "Minor." The former class includes all the works which have been undertaken from loan funds, in the expectation that they would be sufficiently productive to cover the interest charges on the sums spent on their construction. It also includes the works classed as famine protective, which are constructed not from borrowed funds, but out of the annual grant from revenue for famine relief and insurance. The cost of constructing the "Minor" works, as well as the sums annually required for their working and maintenance, are met from the ordinary revenues, and for the greater part of this class of works distinct capital and revenue accounts are not kept.

The distinction implied in the words "Major" and "Minor" is not in complete correspondence with the facts, as there are some Minor Works which are of more importance than some Major Works. But, speaking generally, the "Major" class includes the works of the greatest engineering importance, which have been constructed, or, as in a few cases of old native works, almost entirely reconstructed, by British officers.

The following statement gives a general view of the results obtained from working the canals, for which full accounts are kept, for 1899-1900 and the two previous years:—

	Capital Outlay (Direct and Indirect) to End of Year.	Gross Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Net Receipts.	Percentage of Net Receipts on Capital Outlay.	Area Irrigated.
	£	£	£	£	£	Acres.
Major Works - - - -	23,870,148	2,277,019	738,604	1,541,225	6.46	10,918,612
Minor Works - - - -	3,070,873	339,657	203,579	130,078	3.71	2,512,229
TOTAL for 1899-1900 -	27,541,021	2,617,576	940,273	1,677,303	6.09	13,430,841
TOTAL for 1898-99 -	26,860,247	2,550,767	866,545	1,684,222	6.28	12,026,165
TOTAL for 1897-98 -	26,282,261	2,662,208	825,868	1,836,440	6.99	13,028,306

There are great differences in the financial success of the irrigation works in the various provinces. These are due to the various physical conditions of the country in regard to surface, soil, climate, and the absence or presence of large rivers with a permanent supply of water, as well as to the differences in the character and habits of the people in different districts. There are also considerable differences in the manner in which the irrigation revenue is assessed and collected, which have an important bearing on the financial success of the works. In Madras the bulk of the irrigation revenue is collected with, and on most of the works is consolidated with, the land revenue. In Bengal and Bombay the receipts of the Irrigation Department consist to a great extent of "occupiers' " rates, and are not supplemented by "owners' " rates, as in the North-West provinces, nor, with a few exceptions, by a share of the land revenue. In Sind the revenue of the canals consists almost entirely of the share of the land revenue allotted to irrigation. Cultivation is dependent on the artificial supply of water, and the consolidated revenue from the irrigated lands is divided in the proportion of 90 per cent. to irrigation and 10 per cent. to land. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and in the Punjab, the direct water rates are assessed partly on the occupier and partly on the owner of the land, the bulk of the rates falling on the former, and the irrigation receipts are further increased by a not unimportant contribution from the land revenue. The contribution from the land revenue is the amount considered due to irrigation when an enhancement of land revenue is levied at the periodical revision of the land settlement. Like the owner's rate, which is directly levied, it falls upon the owner of the land.

The following table gives the mileage of the irrigation canals in operation in each province, with the area irrigated during the year :—

	Bengal.	North-West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Madras.	Bombay, including Sind.	Baluchistan.	Rajputana.	TOTAL.
MAJOR WORKS :	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Main Canals - -	700	1,554	1,656	2,104	1,155	NIL.	NIL.	7,168
Distributaries - -	2,634	10,369	9,244	5,866	332	NIL.	NIL.	27,431
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area irrigated - -	727,026	2,653,404	3,893,402	2,768,668	875,956	NIL.	NIL.	10,918,612
MINOR WORKS :	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.		Miles.
Main Canals - -	47	—	1,823	1,370	2,085	4	Tank Irrigation.	5,329
Distributaries - -	—	617	355	1,182	229	41		
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area irrigated - -	—	177,451	572,922	517,676	802,919	3,091	13,396	*2,087,455

* To this total may be added 424,774 acres irrigated in Burma.

Besides the works to which the preceding paragraphs apply, there is a large class of works, especially in Sind and Madras, for which capital accounts are not kept.

The immense systems of large artificial water channels with which some parts of India are covered would appear at first sight to offer unrivalled opportunities for water carriage. But though efforts have been made to organise navigation services on the larger irrigation canals, it cannot be said that, on the whole, they have met with a large measure of success. In many cases the receipts from the traffic have failed to cover the working expenses. It is, indeed, obvious that the canals, being designed primarily for irrigation purposes, must often be unsuitable from their alignment and level for navigation.

The following more detailed account of the irrigation operations of the year is given under the heads of the different provinces in which the works are situated.

148 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

IRRIGATION.
Bengal.

The progress of irrigation on the three large irrigating works, the Orissa Midnapore, and Sone Canals fluctuates from year to year, but on the whole there is steady progress. In the year of the famine 1896-97, the area irrigated was the highest on record, but during the three years which followed the area has gradually been increasing, and over 727,000 acres were irrigated in 1899-1900. This increase in the irrigated area shows that the people are realising more and more that the use of canal water both assures their crop and increases its outturn.

The general results for 1899-1900 of working all the irrigation and navigation systems, for which full accounts are kept, are compared with the results of the five previous years in the following statement:—

YEAR.	Capital Outlay to end of Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net Receipts.	Percentage of Net Receipts on Capital Outlay.	Area Irrigated.
	£	£	£	£		Acres.
1894-95	5,019,020	144,652	133,940	10,712	0.2	509,811
1895-96	5,040,380	136,850	116,400	20,354	0.4	579,933
1896-97	5,074,920	168,434	121,912	46,522	0.9	809,467
1897-98	5,103,735	185,376	121,695	63,681	1.26	703,190
1898-99	5,112,735	103,335	120,862	33,973	0.66	712,221
1899-1900	5,112,400	164,864	127,463	37,411	0.73	727,026

* Includes £40,404 and £10,358 expended on two abandoned projects, viz., Tirhut and Damodar projects.

There are in Bengal four canal systems which are classed as Major Works. Three of these combine irrigation with navigation, and the fourth (Hidgellee Tidal Canal) is purely a navigation work.

The financial results obtained from the working of the Major and Minor Works during the year under review are shown in the following statement:—

CANAL.	Capital Outlay to end of Year.	Net Receipts.	Percentage of Net Receipts on Capital Outlay.	Area Irrigated.
	£	£		Acres.
Major Works:				
Orissa Canals	1,700,888	—2,351	—	200,828
Midnapore	504,805	—2,915	—	72,105
Tidal Canal	174,340	538	.31	—
Sone Canals	1,783,505	33,074	1.85	454,003
Total Major Works	4,283,632	28,346	.66	727,026
Minor Works:				
Calcutta and Eastern Canal	432,357	12,618	2.92	—
Orissa Coast Canal	298,625	—2,720	—	—
Saran Project	47,104	100	.21	—
Total Minor Works	†778,086	9,998	1.29	—

† Excludes the sums spent on the Tirhoot and Damodar projects.

The Calcutta and Eastern Canals, which are the most profitable of the canal works in Bengal, are navigation works designed to maintain communication between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal, through the Sunderbunds. The Orissa Coast Canal, also a navigation work, forms, with the Hidgellee Tidal Canal, a complete line of communication between Calcutta and Orissa; and in the event of famine in the latter district would be very useful as a means of importing food. IRRIGATION.

Besides the Minor Works mentioned in the foregoing statement, there are four works of this class for which capital accounts are not kept, viz., the Nadia rivers system, the Gaighatta and Buxi Khals, and the Eden and Madhuban Canals. The first-named, which comprises about 470 miles of channel, is used for navigation purposes only. There was a considerable reduction in the loss on working the Nadia rivers during the year under review; as railway communication develops these rivers must probably continue to decrease in importance.

In the following statement the traffic on the canals in Bengal in 1899-1900 is shown in comparison with the traffic results of the previous year. The Nadia rivers are included in this statement:—

YEAR.	Length of Canal open for Navigation.	Receipts.	Maintenance Charges.	Net Receipts.	Estimated Value of Cargoes.	Number of Passengers.
1898-99 - -	Miles. 1,834	£ 66,816	£ 30,820	£ 20,000	£ 6,807,067	541,327
1900-1900 - -	1,834	65,362	41,623	23,739	7,321,194	303,650

The capital expenditure for the year amounted to £2,679 on major works. On minor works there was a net credit on capital account of £2,009.

In the North-West Provinces, the results of the irrigation operations during 1899-1900 were very satisfactory. North-West Provinces.

Taking the revenue actually realised, the general results of the year's working are compared with those of the five previous years in the following statement:—

YEAR.	Capital Outlay to End of Year.	Net Revenue.	Percentage of Net Revenue to Capital.	Area Irrigated during the Year.
	£	£		Acres.
1894-95 - - - -	5,573,388	285,411	5.12	929,461
1895-96 - - - -	5,661,010	178,658	3.16	2,010,021
1896-97 - - - -	5,770,535	415,852	7.21	3,023,884
1897-98 - - - -	5,862,864	507,728	8.66	2,511,173
1898-99 - - - -	5,806,936	391,626	6.59	2,253,802
1899-1900 - - - -	6,026,379	431,137	7.15	2,829,794

Excluding the Betwa Canal, which is a protective work, the major works earned a profit of 7.71 per cent. on their capital outlay. The individual returns from the four works were as under:—

CANAL.	Percentage of Net Revenue (actually realised) on Capital.
Upper Ganges - - - - -	10.94
Lower Ganges - - - - -	4.14
Agra - - - - -	5.52
Eastern Jumna - - - - -	27.08

150 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

IRRIGATION.

The receipts from the Betwa Canal, the only "protective" work in these provinces, fell short of the working charges of the year by £590.

The minor works comprise the Dun, Rohilkhand, and Bijnor Canals, and the Bundelkhand Lakes. The net revenue from these works amounted to £5,646, which gave a percentage of 2.91 on the capital outlay.

The area irrigated by all the canals was approximately 2,829,794 acres, which has only been exceeded during the famine of 1896-97.

Of the total area irrigated, 1,058,631 acres were under wheat, 137,322 under indigo, 287,406 under sugar cane, and 177,177 under rice. Wheat and sugar cane attained the highest figures yet reached.

The capital expenditure of the year amounted to £86,109, most of which was spent on the Lower Ganges Canal, and the new Fatehpur Branch, and on the special works for the protection of the Narora Weir.

The navigation operations on the irrigation canals are not profitable. The figures for the last five years are given in the following statement:—

YEAR.	Excess of Working Expenses over Receipts.
1895-96	£ 84
1896-97	471
1897-98	625
1898-99	612
1899-1900	724

In addition to the area irrigated by the canals under the direct control of the Irrigation Department, there were 144,253 acres irrigated during the year by the Taráí and Bhábar Canals under the Commissioner of Kumaon.

Punjab.

The year under review, no less than 1899-1900, has again been one of remarkable financial prosperity for the Punjab Canals. The gross direct income exceeds that of the previous year by £57,853, and amounts to £906,967, which with the indirect revenue of £115,298, brings the total gross revenue of the canals to £1,022,265.

The general results of the year's operations for all works are shown in the following table in comparison with the records of the four previous years:—

YEAR.	Capital Outlay to end of Year.	Acre Irrigated.*	Assessed Revenue.*
	£	Acres.	£
1895-96	6,409,040	3,458,644	737,250
1896-97	5,745,234	4,164,920	906,978
1897-98	5,956,888	4,806,811	1,004,600
1898-99	6,134,972	4,856,766	983,750
1899-1900	6,311,551	6,244,063	920,322

* Includes Muzaffargarh Canals.

The above figures are exclusive of the Native States portion of the Sirhind Canal and Sirsa branch.

Taking the actual revenue collected during the year, the following table compares the individual results obtained from all the works for which full accounts are kept:—

CANALS.	Length of		Capital Outlay to end of Year.	Net Revenue collected in Year.	Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Outlay.
	Main and Branch Channels.	Distributaries.			
	Miles.	Milos.	£.	£.	
Major Works:					
Perennial Canals:					
Swat River	22	182	275,312	26,359	9.57
Western Jumna (including Sirsa Branch).	364	2,008	1,137,755	134,507	11.82
Bari Doab	353	1,205	1,217,694	156,709	12.87
Sirhind (British portion)	319	2,730	1,623,393	145,427	8.96
Chenab	429	1,922	1,677,982	155,302	9.26
Sidhnaï	68	131	82,708	— 3,872	—
Jhelum	—	—	234,039	—	—
Inundation Canals:					
Lower Sohag and Para	100	58	8,301	4,630	9.59
Minor Works:					
Upper Sutlej	216	224	55,870	2,845	5.09
Lower Sutlej and Chenab	800	19	8,921	9,012	101.01
Indus	684	—	47,175	5,070	10.75
Shahpur (Imperial)	79	94	14,113	3,470	24.59
Ghaggar	44	18	22,332	— 1,562	—
TOTAL	3,478	8,591	6,405,595	637,897	9.95

On the Native States branches of the Sirhind Canal the area irrigated was 441,558 acres against 361,699 acres in the preceding year.

The estimated value of the crops raised on land irrigated by the Imperial canals (including the branches in Native States) was £12,346,442. The principal crop was, as usual, wheat, of which there were 1,709,365 acres under irrigation.

The capital outlay on Imperial works for the year amounted to £176,587, of which £61,906 was expended upon the Chenab Canal which is practically completed. On the Western Jumna Canal there was an expenditure of £28,964.

On the Jhelum and Ghaggar Canals, which were started, in 1896-97 as famine relief works, £319,051 and £2,952 respectively were expended during the year.

The navigation operations on the Western Jumna and Sirhind Canals resulted in a profit of £3,366. The profit realised on the Western Jumna Canal was £3,546. The Sirhind Canal was worked at a loss of £180.

The following figures show the rapid development of irrigation since the Chenab Canal was first opened in 1892-93, when 157,197 acres were irrigated:—

Year.	Capital Outlay to end of Year.	Area Irrigated during the Year.	Net Revenue during the Year.	Return on Capital Outlay.
	£.	Acres.	£.	Per Cent.
1892-93	721,233	157,197	— 4,084	— 0.57
1893-94	878,034	270,405	3,552	0.40
1894-95	995,032	269,357	9,511	0.96
1895-96	1,174,781	369,935	51,632	4.40
1896-97	1,362,075	520,279	92,629	6.75
1897-98	1,512,916	810,000	111,041	7.34
1898-99	1,616,076	957,705	131,566	8.14
1899-1900	1,677,982	1,353,223	155,302	9.26

152 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

IRRIGATION.

This rapid development of irrigation has occurred in a tract the greater part of which was absolutely unpopulated in 1892, but this has all been changed by the highly successful operations by which colonies of settlers have been established in these crown wastes *pari passu* with the construction of the Canal. The Chenab Canal has cleared its interest debt within 10 years of the commencement of the work, and the accounts now show a balance of net revenue amounting to £111,638.

Burma.

In Lower Burma there are no large irrigation works. The expenditure recorded under the head of "Irrigation and Navigation" has reference to the river embankment and drainage works, and navigation channels.

In Upper Burma there is only one major irrigation work, namely, the Mandalay Canal, which was sanctioned in 1896. The project provides for a canal to take off from the Madaya river, 39 miles long, with 86 miles of distributaries, and is expected to irrigate 72,000 acres of land. The total capital outlay on the Mandalay Canal amounted at the end of 1899-1900 to £178,564. The Canal is expected to cost over £310,000.

Much was done in improving and maintaining existing minor irrigation works in the Meiktila, Yamethin, Myingyan, Mandalay and Minbu districts. The restoration of the Kanna Tank, an old Burman work, was continued.

AJMERE-MERWARA.

The report on Irrigation in Ajmere-Merwara had not been received when this Statement went to press.

Madras.

From an irrigation point of view the Madras Presidency is distinguished by the variety and extent of its works, ranging from the great deltaic systems of the Godaveri, Kistna, and Cauvery, to the small tanks and channels maintained by the Revenue Department.

The number of tanks directly or indirectly dependent on the local rainfall is very large, and, speaking generally, the success of the irrigation operations is more affected by local climatic conditions than in Northern India, where the irrigation works draw their supply from large rivers fed by the melting of the snows on distant mountain ranges.

In the year under review the season was unfavourable.

There are at present 9 "major" works and 27 "minor" works, for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept, and numerous other irrigation and agricultural works, individually small, for which such accounts are not kept. Of the 27 minor works for which full accounts are kept, 23 are irrigation systems, and four are tidal canals intended for purely navigation purposes.

Of the works for which full accounts are kept the length of completed main canal was 3,789 miles, and of distributary channels 7,048 miles. The area irrigated during the year by these works was 2,928,463 acres, the crops grown being valued at £4,122,051.

Taking all the works for which full accounts are kept, the general results of the year's working compared with those of the four previous years will be seen from the following statement:—

YEAR.	Capital Outlay.	Area Irrigated.	Net Actual Revenue.	Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital.
	£.	Acres.	£.	
1895-96 - - - -	5,689,647	2,940,817	364,758	6.4
1896-97 - - - -	5,815,502	3,129,869	356,901	6.1
1897-98 - - - -	5,919,071	3,241,728	421,602	7.1
1898-99 - - - -	5,988,198	3,339,379	445,812	7.44
1899-1900 - - - -	6,057,431	2,928,463	398,531	6.58

The net revenue recorded in the foregoing statement is that which has resulted from the outlay of Government capital. If the net revenue due to old irrigation be added, the total amount will be £674,854. The decrease of revenue during the year was due chiefly to larger remissions made on account of the unfavourable character of the season.

The results of the year's working for the major works in operation are shown by the following figures:—

Work.	Area Irrigated.	Capital Outlay.	Net Revenue.	Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital.
	Acres.	£	£	
Godaveri Delta - - - -	749,612	875,525	130,839	15.63
Kistna Delta - - - -	589,354	907,035	136,497	15.05
Pennér Anicut - - - -	140,683	390,282	14,912	3.82
Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal - -	77,216	1,448,468	4,280	0.29
Barur Tank - - - -	5,564	28,369	561	1.98
Cauvery Delta - - - -	964,123	152,451	50,810	33.33
Srivai kuntham Anicut - - -	41,090	98,902	5,657	5.71
Periyar Project - - - -	129,232	584,752	14,462	2.47
Rushikulya (Protective Work) - -	81,794	316,410	2,805	0.89
TOTAL - - -	2,768,668	4,802,274	366,778	7.63

The minor works irrigated an area of 517,676 acres, and earned a net revenue of £31,757, equivalent to a percentage of 2.53 on the capital expended on them. The purely navigation works, with the exception of the Gaiyam Gopalpur Canal, were in each case worked at a loss.

Besides the works referred to in the foregoing paragraphs, there is a large class of small works in Madras, partly maintained by the Public Works Department and partly by the Revenue Department, for which distinct capital and revenue accounts are not kept. The irrigation revenue derived from these works in 1899-1900 was £118,972 less than in the previous year, and the area irrigated by them was 2,828,038 acres. A plan for the systematic repair of some of these works has now been in progress for some years, under the title of the "Tank Restoration Scheme." Up to the end of the year an expenditure of £414,071 had been incurred under this scheme, 40,274 square miles had been investigated, and estimates for 5,877 had been prepared.

The capital expenditure for the year on the major works amounted to £44,937. This expenditure was incurred chiefly on the Kistna and Cauvery works.

There are 36 irrigation works in operation in the Bombay Presidency, of which nine are classed as Major Works. The canals in this Presidency are generally small, and the water being, in most cases, drawn from small rivers and local streams, more or less dependent on rainfall, a constant supply cannot be maintained without the aid of storage reservoirs. In fact, the reservoir projects, of which there are 27, include the more important works, such as the Bhatghar reservoir, the Lake Fife Works, and the Mhasvad and Ekruk tanks.

The total area irrigated in 1899-1900 was 104,624 acres, against 103,849 acres in 1898-99, or an increase of 775 acres.

154 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

IRRIGATION.

A comparative statement of the results from those works, for which full accounts are kept, for 1899-1900, and the preceding four years, is given in the following table :—

YEAR.	Capital Expenditure to End of Year.	Area Irrigated.	Revenue Realised.	Working Expenses.	Net Revenue.
	£	Acres.	£	£	£
1895-96 - - -	1,750,749	74,923	39,022	19,610	20,303
1896-97 - - -	1,757,324	118,004	37,226	23,006	13,230
1897-98 - - -	1,772,069	126,516	42,386	26,026	16,460
1898-99 - - -	1,780,253	103,849	46,451	22,453	23,998
1899-1900 - - -	1,798,204	104,024	48,371	23,643	24,728

The net revenue realised for the year represents a return of 1·37 on the capital expenditure, as compared with 1·35 in the preceding year. The major works in operation produced a net revenue equivalent to 1·96 per cent. on the capital of £1,249,146 expended on them.

The most important of the major works, judged by the amount of capital expenditure, is the Mutha Canal with the Lake Fife Reservoir, which in 1899-1900 irrigated an area of 8,725 acres, besides supplying the cantonment and civil station of Poona with water. The total expenditure on this work is £444,176, and in the year under review the net revenue was equivalent to a return of 3·50 on the capital outlay. The return on capital outlay yielded by the major works in 1899-1900 was 1·91 per cent.

The minor works, for which full accounts are kept, earned a net revenue during the year equivalent to a return of 0·37 on the capital outlay.

The capital outlay during the year on all works amounted to £17,951, which was incurred principally on the Nira Canal, and the Maladevi and Stretphal Tanks, the Mutha Canals, the Khari Cut Canal and the Gokak Canal.

The total value of the crops irrigated is estimated at £321,055, against £282,681 in the previous year.

In the minor class of works, for which distinct capital and revenue accounts are not kept, the expenditure for the year amounted to £14,580, and the revenue realised was £37,651, giving a net revenue of £23,070. The area irrigated by the works of this class was 131,908 acres.

Sind.

The Report on Irrigation in Sind had not been received when this Statement went to press.

Baluchistan.

There are no "major" works in Baluchistan. The class of "minor" works is represented by two schemes now in operation, viz., the Shebo Canal, and the Khushdil Khan Reservoir, the former of which has cost £45,148, and the latter £62,370.

In the year under review the net revenue from the Shebo Canal was £95, or 0·21 per cent. on the capital outlay.

The working of the Khushdil Khan Reservoir resulted in a loss of £494.

The area irrigated by these two works was 3,091 acres, as compared with 5,653 acres in the preceding year. The value of the crops raised was £3,611.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS (CIVIL).

BUILDINGS AND
ROADS (CIVIL)

The buildings and roads branch of the Public Works Department embraces all the operations of the Department which are not classed under the special heads of Railways and Irrigation. It includes the extension and maintenance of the road system, the construction and repair of all the buildings required for the proper discharge of the functions of government in all its branches, and a large miscellaneous class of works of public improvement, including lighthouses, harbours, embankments, boat bridges, and ferries, and the water supply and sanitation of towns.

The operations of this branch of the Department are classed primarily under two divisions, viz., Military and Civil Works. The military works are executed entirely from Imperial funds.

The expenditure on Civil Works is chiefly met from provincial and local resources. The classification of the expenditure for 1899-1900 under the heads referred to is shown in the following table:—

—	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total in India.	Expenditure in England.	Exchange.	GRAND TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Military Works - - -	804,780	-	-	804,780	31,782	—	836,562
Civil Works - - - -	231,327	1,874,884	1,100,144	3,206,355	91,735	—	3,298,090
TOTAL, 1899-1900 - -	1,036,107	1,874,884	1,100,144	4,011,135	123,517	—	4,134,652
TOTAL, 1898-99 - - -	1,027,764	1,662,794	1,070,109	3,760,757	101,948	50,728	3,912,533
TOTAL, 1897-98 - - -	907,773	1,505,345	1,042,673	3,455,791	100,532	56,499	3,612,822

This statement does not include the outlay from Imperial revenues recorded under the head of Special Defence Works, which amounted to £15,805 in 1897-98, £975 in 1898-99, and £874 in 1899-1900.

The greater part of the expenditure from local funds is absorbed by the maintenance and extension of roads. A portion of this expenditure is under the direct control of the Public Works Department, but the larger part of the local funds outlay under the head of Buildings and Roads, as well as a small portion of the provincial outlay, is under the management of the Civil Department, and is not controlled by the Public Works officers.

The extension of local government in India has thrown a large portion of the smaller class of public works into the hands of the local boards. Speaking generally, the boards maintain their own establishments, but in the case of any works of unusual difficulty have recourse to the professional skill of the Public Works officers.

The following detailed account of Civil Works for the year under review is given under the heads of the different provinces in which the expenditure was incurred.

In Bengal the expenditure for the year on Civil Works was as follows:—

Bengal.

	£.
Imperial—Civil - - - - -	53,115
Provincial - - - - -	270,544
Local - - - - -	308,758
TOTAL - - - - -	632,417

Among the Imperial works taken in hand the most important were the lighting of Government House, Calcutta, with electricity, and additions and

156 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

BUILDINGS AND
ROADS (CIVIL).

alterations to the general Post office building. In the Darjeeling Division great efforts were made to repair the damage caused to communications by the storm of the 24th and 25th September 1899, and some £23,000 were expended on Public Works roads so damaged.

North-Western
Provinces and
Oudh.

In the North-Western Provinces the outlay under the different heads of service was as follows:—

	£.
Imperial—Civil - - - - -	18,431
Provincial - - - - -	263,598
Local - - - - -	161,832
	<hr/>
TOTAL - - - - -	443,861
	<hr/>

During the year the construction of new Technical Schools for the Thomason Civil Engineering College at Roorkee was completed, and a new building for the Judicial Commissioner's and Subordinate Courts was begun at Lucknow. Among works in progress special mention may be made of a steel girder bridge over the Gumti River, a new Post Office at Cawnpore, and a Training School at Allahabad.

Punjab.

In the Punjab the outlay on Civil Works was as follows:—

	£.
Imperial - - - - -	38,656
Provincial - - - - -	204,788
Local - - - - -	55,388
	<hr/>
Total - - - - -	298,832
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During the year under review the electric light was installed at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, and a contribution of £4,400 was made to the Municipality for the extension and improvements of Simla. A project for the extension of the sewerage system has been set on foot, a feature of which is novel, as far as India is concerned; namely, the filtration and purification of sewage by bacteriological processes before discharging it.

Under the head of Famine relief the most important works in hand were works on the Jhelum Canal, construction of large tanks in the Hissar and Rohtak Districts, the enlargement or the construction of irrigation Bunds in the Gurgaon District, and earthwork in connection with the Delhi, Agra, and Rewari Phuleera railways. In the Karnal District a branch of the Sarsuti Canal was made and some large tanks.

The comparative expenditure on civil buildings and communications was as follows:—

	Original Works.	Repairs.	TOTAL.
	£	£	£
Civil Buildings - - - - -	68,095	25,294	93,389
Communications - - - - -	26,892	75,079	101,971

Including station roads, the total road mileage at the end of the year was 26,499 miles, viz., 2,406 miles metalled, and 24,093 unmetalled. Boat bridges and ferries were maintained at various points on the Indus and its tributaries. At Dera Ismail Khan and Dera Ghazi Khan steam ferry services are worked in connection with the North-West Railway. The capital cost of all boat bridges and major ferries amounted to £36,872, and the cost of maintenance during the year was £9,389.

In Burma the total expenditure on civil works for the year was £552,253. There were large demands for police and civil buildings, comprising 38 thanas, a school for the sons of Shan chiefs and numerous court houses. Consequently the funds available for roads were very limited, and only 37 miles of metalled roads and 104 miles of roads of other classes were constructed, and 166 miles of roads improved.

BUILDINGS AND
ROADS (CIVIL).
Burma.

The amount of the expenditure for the year was :—

Central Province

	£
Imperial - - - - -	2,532
Provincial - - - - -	99,735
Local - - - - -	13,399
TOTAL - - -	115,666

During the year under review a new circuit house was built at Raipur and police quarters at Dindori. The water-works at Bhandara were completed during the year, and a further sum was spent on improving the drainage of Jubbulpore city.

Many important roads were in hand, and surveys were carried out for further extensions amounting to 458 miles.

The total length of roads maintained in the province during the year from public funds was :—

	Miles.
Metalled roads - - - - -	2,098
Unmetalled roads - - - - -	5,092
TOTAL - - -	7,190

At the beginning of the year there were two collieries managed by the Provincial Administration, viz., at Warora, in the Chanda District, and at Umaria, in the Rewah State. The total output from the Warora Mines was 131,584 tons, against 132,503 tons in the previous year, showing a decrease of 919 tons. The net profit from the working of the colliery was £12,909, or 11.21 per cent. on the total capital outlay. The working of the Umaria Colliery was transferred to the Rewah Durbar during the year.

The total expenditure in Assam for the year was as follows :—

Assam.

	£
Imperial—Civil - - - - -	3,046
Provincial - - - - -	175,034
Local - - - - -	49,886
TOTAL - - -	227,966

The greater part of the year's expenditure on public works was, as in the last two years, absorbed in the restoration of buildings and communications damaged by the earthquake of 1897.

The expenditure in Madras was as follows :—

Madras.

	£
Imperial - - - - -	3,681
Provincial - - - - -	210,858
Local - - - - -	291,480
TOTAL - - -	506,019

In the classes of buildings and roads there were no Imperial works of importance in progress, and the year's expenditure came almost entirely under the heads of Provincial and Local Civil Works.

158 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

BUILDINGS AND
ROADS (CIVIL).

In the districts the buildings under construction were of the usual type of taluk offices and cutcherries, court houses, and other buildings required by the different branches of the Administration. The outlay up to date on the public offices at Tanjore has been £12,439; the work is almost completed. The extension of the Normal and Unions Schools at Rajahmundry was completed. The total outlay on the work was £3,822.

Under the head of Communications a few important roads are in the hands of the Provincial Public Works Department, and there was some expenditure during the year on the Anarnalai road project, on which good progress was made. The greater portion of the road system in Madras is, however, in the hands of the local boards, whose expenditure is not under the control of the Public Works Department. They maintain their own engineering establishments, though in some cases they employ the agency of the Public Works Department for particular works. In the year under review 23,009 miles were maintained.

An important feature in the Public Works of the Madras Presidency, owing to the length of its coast line, is the maintenance of its harbours and lighthouses.

Good progress was made during the year in the construction of certain lighthouses along the coast.

In connection with famine relief during 1899-1900 a few works were opened to give relief to those that needed assistance, as the season was unfavourable and there was a scarcity of private work for the labouring classes.

Most of the test-works put in hand were irrigation works carried out on the intermediate piece-work system, which is reported to have worked satisfactorily.

The expenditure on civil works in the Buildings and Roads Branch in the Bombay Presidency for 1899-1900 was as follows:—

Bombay.

	£.
Imperial - - - - -	13,332
Provincial - - - - -	176,921
Local - - - - -	137,369
TOTAL - - -	327,622

The whole of the imperial expenditure was devoted to civil buildings. No new work of importance was undertaken during the year, the greater part of the outlay being spent in constructing offices and residential quarters for subordinate officers of the Salt, Customs, Post Office, and Telegraph Departments.

The expenditure from provincial and local funds under the head of Civil Buildings included the construction or improvement of a number of mamlatdar's offices, record rooms, bungalows, distilleries, and new lines for the Governor's body guard at Chaupati and quarters for bandsmen at Walkeshwar Road.

As in previous years, buildings and remains of archæological interest were kept in repair. Several high schools were completed during the year, and the construction of additional quarters for 50 students of the Agricultural School at Hyderabad was in hand.

The total outlay on communications during the year amounted to £143,250. The total mileage of roads maintained from Imperial and Provincial funds was as follows:—

	Completed.	In Progress.
	Miles.	Miles.
Imperial - - - - -	36	—
Provincial - - - - -	3,665	124

There were in addition 4,102 miles of local fund roads in charge of the Public Works Department, of which 247 miles were in progress.

The planting and preservation of roadside trees continued to receive careful attention.

Under miscellaneous public improvements, the Ránder portion of the Surat and Ránder water-supply works still remains to be completed, but the water works at Hubli and Panvel were completed. Substantial progress was made with drainage and sewerage works. Owing to failure of rain during the year 1899-1900 in the Northern and Central Divisions and part of Southern Division, it was found necessary to open several test-works in the first instance, in order to give employment to people of the districts affected by famine. The number of labourers having, however increased, to a high figure, the test-works were converted into regular relief works. The works principally consisted of improvement to, and construction of, roads; breaking and stacking metal for repairs to roads for several years; collection of ballast for the use of Railways; and improvements to, and construction of, irrigation and water-supply tanks.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS (CIVIL).

The expenditure on civil works in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts was as follows:—

	£.
Imperial - - - - -	1,460
Provincial - - - - -	42,286
Local - - - - -	14,144
TOTAL - - - - -	57,890

Berar.

The greater part of the year's outlay was upon the extension and repair of the road system. Considerable expenditure was incurred on tree planting on roadsides.

In Coorg there were no works in progress of sufficient importance to call for individual notice. The expenditure for the year on civil works amounted to £15,313.

Coorg.

The length of road maintained by the Public Works Department was 190 miles from imperial funds, and 119 miles from local funds.

NATIVE STATES.

NATIVE STATES.

A full account of the public works in the districts under Native administration in India cannot be given, owing to the want of information in the case of some of the States. In the minor States the works are for the most part insignificant, but in the larger States there are works of importance, and some of considerable size, in many cases carried out by European engineers lent by the British Government.

The total expenditure by the Public Works Department of the Central India Agency in 1899-1900 amounted to £19,126, the greater part of which was upon the extension and maintenance of roads. The total length of road communication maintained by the Department was 814 miles.

Central India.

The operations of the Public Works Department in the Agency have been much reduced since the transfer to the chief Native States of the care of the metalled roads in their territories, which has been noticed in previous years' Reports. The duties of the Public Works Department lie not only in maintaining important lines of communication, such as the Agra and Bombay, Nimach and Mhow, and Nowgong and Sutna roads, and in designing and executing projects within territories which are too intermixed or too impoverished to be treated on the footing of the larger States, but also in advising the States that are capable of executing their own projects as to the direction in which their efforts may be most usefully exerted, and in inspecting the work done by the larger States on behalf of the Imperial Government.

The total outlay in 1899-1900 on public works in Rajputana was £475,330, of which £385,169 was incurred in the Native States, but the figures are not quite complete.

Rajputana.

The resources of the Native States during the year were severely taxed in providing for the relief of their distressed subjects in consequence of the famine,

160 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

NATIVE STATES. and several railway projects were started with this object. Among them may be mentioned the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway, 213 miles long; the Tonk-Jahaypur Railway, 71 miles long; and the Kewari-Phalera Chord line, 131 miles.

Madras. In the Native States under the control of the Madras Government there was no event of importance to notice during the year in connection with public works.

In Travancore the total expenditure was £143,764, of which £42,466 were spent upon communications, £18,666 upon buildings, and £27,333 on irrigation. The total length of cart roads was increased to 2,171 miles.

In Cochin the expenditure was £45,780.

Bombay. The Government of Bombay exercises political control over 363 Native States, presenting numerous gradations of size, wealth, and civilisation.

Leaving out of account the railways, the amounts expended by the Native States under the control of the Government on public works during the year were generally small. The most important group of Native States lies in North Gujara't, and covers an area of about 44,000 square miles. Of the chief States included in this area, Cutch expended £10,956; Palanpur, £3,786; and Cambay, £4,145. In the Ka'thiawa'r States the outlay on public works amounted to £226,998, Morvi heading the list with an expenditure of £38,889.

In Kollhapur a sum of £23,422 was expended.

CHAPTER XII.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

POST OFFICE.

THE receipts and charges of the Post Office for the last three years, as shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts, are given in the following statement:—

YEAR.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£
1897-98 - - - -	1,252,311	1,153,057	99,254
1898-99 - - - -	1,275,972	1,149,937	126,035
1899-1900 - - - -	1,308,335	1,181,921	126,414

The above figures include the charge on account of district post establishments, which is entirely met by grants from district post funds (only a very small portion of which is credited to the Post Office in the Finance and Revenue Accounts), and they exclude certain indirect charges in respect of the rent of Government buildings, cost of pensions, &c. If the figures for the year were recast on this basis, the surplus for 1899-1900 would be £137,377.

The extent of the sphere of operations of the Post Office, and its development during the last three years, are shown in the tables in the margin. These figures are exclusive of the district post, of which the post offices increased from 1,481 in 1898-99 to 1,574 in 1899-1900, the letter boxes from 3,997 to 4,184, and the staff of village postmen from 2,920 to 2,975.

YEAR.	Post Offices.	Letter Boxes.	Village Postmen.	Length of Postal Lines.
	No.	No.	No.	Miles.
1897-98 - - - -	10,263	17,721	4,588	88,720
1898-99 - - - -	10,535	18,617	4,722	90,395
1899-1900 - - - -	10,823	19,322	4,813	91,534
Increase in 1899-1900 over 1897-98	560	1,601	224	2,674

YEAR.	Letters (including Postcards).	Newspapers.	Book and Pattern Packets.	Parcels.	TOTAL.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1897-98 - - - -	408,597,236	21,891,484	21,364,415	2,968,990	454,822,125
1898-99 - - - -	410,134,096	22,122,502	23,039,424	2,813,392	476,113,414
1899-1900 - - - -	448,986,998	30,759,149	26,773,921	2,604,408	509,124,476
Increase in 1899-1900 over 1897-98	40,389,762	8,867,665	5,409,506	335,418	51,002,751

In addition to the 91,534 miles of Imperial postal lines shown in the statement, there were 34,731 miles of district post lines, and 1,669 miles of political and military lines administered by the Imperial Post Office, so that the total length of the lines over which mails were conveyed was

127,934 miles at the close of 1899-1900, as compared with 126,992 miles at the close of the previous year. There was an increase under all heads except steamer lines, but the increase was greatest under the head of "railways." The use of bicycles for postal purposes was still further extended during the year under review, and the additional experience that has now been gained confirms the opinion expressed last year, that though not suitable for the transport of mails over lines of any length in the interior of the country, bicycles afford an efficient and economical means of conveyance in urban, or suburban, areas, where roads are good and the means for repairing the machines, when necessary, are at hand.

The general correspondence returns, of which a summary is given above, show an increase of over 32 millions of articles (excluding money orders)

POST OFFICE.

carried by post in 1899-1900, as compared with 1898-99. Of this increase, over 17 millions were due to postcards, the total number of which exceeded that of paid letters.

The total number of articles received for delivery, including money orders, was nearly 522 millions, of which 99·13 per cent. were delivered, against 99·09 in the preceding year. The net receipts of postal articles (other than money orders) at the dead letter offices for disposal were 4,021,248; of this number, 777,695 articles were disposed of by being re-directed, and then delivered to the persons to whom they were addressed, while 2,073,211 were returned to the senders, and 1,170,342 could not be disposed of. This last figure is only 0·2 per cent. of the total number of articles given out for delivery, and a large proportion of the articles not disposed of were from their nature not capable of delivery. From special statistics kept by the Bengal dead letter office for four months, it is estimated that 4,443 letters, 2,292 newspapers, and 2,436 packets were posted in the Bengal, Eastern Bengal, and Assam circles without any address at all.

A large amount of valuable property was, as usual, found in letters and other articles posted without addresses, or with addresses so incorrect and incomplete that the covers had to be opened in order that the senders might be traced. In articles opened in the five more important dead letter offices were found cheques, hundis, bills of exchange, currency notes, coins, and other property, amounting in value to Rs. 338,784. 13. 4., and £1,327. 10s. 8d. Nearly the whole of this property was successfully delivered to the owners.

The number of postal articles, excluding money orders, issued per head of population for the whole of India, was 1·78, against 1·67 in 1898-99. Per head of literate population, the number was 42·22, against 39·60 in the preceding year.

The letters and postcards despatched from India to the United Kingdom in 1899-1900 are estimated at 3,529,248, against 3,312,445 in 1898-99, or an increase of 6·55 per cent. Those received in India from the United Kingdom are estimated at 4,233,644, against 4,226,195 in the previous year, or an increase of 0·18 per cent.

The newspapers, book packets, and samples despatched home from India showed an increase of 1·63 per cent., and the number of such articles received in India from the United Kingdom showed an increase of over 12·68 per cent; but it should be borne in mind that these latter figures are compared with a year in which a falling off of 4·73 per cent. (over 300,000 articles) occurred.

The statistics of correspondence exchanged between India and foreign countries and colonial administrations used to be taken once in three years, alternately in May and November, and were last recorded in May 1896. The total number of letters and postcards exchanged with such countries was over 4½ millions, and that of newspapers and book-packets nearly 3 millions. Under the terms of the Principal Convention of Washington, no further statistics are to be taken during the currency of that Convention.

The parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom formed nearly 65 per cent. of the whole foreign parcel traffic. The parcels received from, and despatched to, the United Kingdom through the British Post Office, *viâ* Gibraltar, and *viâ* Brindisi, taken together, increased from 175,789 to 179,200. The number of parcels, both sent and received, through the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, without the agency of the British Post Office, has practically ceased to be of any importance.

In the exchanges with continental Europe, the number of parcels despatched from, and received in, India shows an increase of 2,439. In the exchanges with other countries there was again a satisfactory development of the traffic in both directions, an addition of 24·5 per cent. having been made to the number of parcels. The increase in the number of parcels sent to non-European countries is again to be attributed, in great measure, to the steady growth of the parcel post with Ceylon, but there was, at the same time, a distinct development of the traffic with the British Protectorates of East Africa and Zanzibar.

The receipts from the insurance of letters and parcels were £17,482, as compared with £18,014 in the preceding year. There was an increase in

the number and value of letters insured, but a decrease in the number and value of parcels insured, and the total business of the year shows a falling off to the extent of 2·41 per cent. in the number of articles insured, 2·75 per cent. in their value, and 2·95 per cent. in the amount of the insurance fees. The decrease was chiefly in Bengal, and in that case is due to the fact that the Marwari traders left Calcutta as soon as the plague began to assume an epidemic form at the beginning of the year, and their absence caused a large falling off in the parcel insurance business of the Calcutta Post Office. Post Office.

The average value for which each article was insured was, in the case of letters, Rs. 259, as compared with Rs. 264 in the previous year, and in that of parcels, Rs. 328, against Rs. 324 in 1898-99.

The number of claims for compensation preferred in respect of insured articles was 13, as compared with 72 in the preceding year, when the number of cases was abnormally large owing to the loss of 39 articles in the wreck of a Burma Mail Steamer. Ten claims were admitted, which involved the payment of £153 or '88 per cent. of the total amount realised from insurance fees, against a percentage of 11·03 in the preceding year; of the claims admitted, the loss was due in 8 cases to fraud or negligence on the part of the servants of the Post Office, while the remaining 2 cases arose out of losses by highway robbery of mails in British territory. Of the three claims not admitted, two were actually rejected, and one was pending at the close of the year. In both the cases, in which compensation was refused, the insured letters had been delivered in good condition, under a clear receipt, and there was independent evidence to justify the conclusion that the currency notes, said to have been the contents of these letters, were not really inside them when they were posted.

In one case, in which no claim for compensation was preferred, the sender was prosecuted by the addressee for cheating by sending pieces of paper instead of currency notes, and was sentenced on conviction to a term of imprisonment.

The business of the value-payable post continued to show steady progress. The number of articles sent was 2,471,355, and the amount declared for recovery by the Post Office from the addressees was £2,044,380, the commission on which was £35,862. There was an increase of 5·27 per cent. in the number of articles, of 8·75 per cent. in the value specified for recovery, and 6·9 per cent. in the commission realised. There was no change in the conditions under which Calcutta is responsible, year by year, for nearly two-fifths of the entire business. Out of a total of 884,549 articles sent by the value-payable post in the whole of the Bengal circle, 831,721 were posted at the Calcutta General Post Office and its town sub-offices; and, of the sum of more than one crore of rupees recovered from the addressees of value-payable articles in that circle, nearly 95 lakhs were payable to the tradesmen of Calcutta.

The value-payable system has not been introduced between India and any country other than Ceylon. During the year under review 32,931 value-payable articles, of the aggregate value of £18,581, were despatched from India to Ceylon, as compared with 24,840 articles of the aggregate value of £14,715 in the preceding year.

The average value of each article, taking all classes of articles together, was Rs. 12. 6. 6, as compared with Rs. 12. 0. 2 in 1898-99.

The number and value of inland money orders issued in India, including telegraphic money orders but excluding transactions with Native States, increased respectively from 11,740,565 and £16,363,363 in 1898-99 to 12,505,059 and £17,083,355 in 1899-1900; and the commission realised, from £205,871 to £215,919. The average value of an inland money order was Rs. 20. 7., against Rs. 20. 14. in the previous year. The number of money orders issued and paid in the Lower Provinces of Bengal was more than one-third of the total transactions for all India.

In the North Western Provinces and Oudh the number of revenue money orders increased from 206,444 to 208,240, but the amount decreased from £307,532 to £298,907.

In the Central Provinces, owing to the prevalence of famine, the number of such orders decreased from 18,338 to 16,914, and the amount from £45,969 to £36,142. In the Punjab, from the same cause, the number and value of these orders decreased from 14,065 and £63,441 to 13,140 and £57,758, respectively. In the Lower Provinces of Bengal, including Eastern

POST OFFICE.

Bengal and Bihar, there was an increase in the number and the aggregate value of the transactions.

The amount of miscellaneous Government dues remitted by official money orders increased somewhat in the Lower Provinces of Bengal, in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and in the Punjab, but the number of such orders decreased in each case.

In the Lower Provinces of Bengal the total number of rent money orders advanced from 51,774 in 1898-99 to 52,054, and the amount of rent remitted from £50,786 to £57,235. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh the number of these orders increased from 68,375 in 1898-99 to 70,815; but their aggregate value decreased from £62,515 to £62,411. In the Central Provinces, owing to the prevalence of famine, the remittances of rent by money orders decreased both in number and value, viz., from 1,838 and £2,144 to 1,286 and £1,422.

In the money-order transactions with Native States the number and value of the issues in those States were respectively 91,131 and £190,411, against 82,546 and £171,020 in the previous year; and the number and value of payments in the States were 61,783 and £110,039, as compared with 49,166 and £99,343 in 1898-99. The excess of the issues by the States over the payments is again mainly due to the large issues of the Gwalior State.

The number of telegraphic money orders issued in 1899-1900 was 175,298, for £1,471,181, as compared with 159,826 orders for £1,227,252 in the preceding year. The average value of a telegraphic money order was Rs. 125. 14. 2., against Rs. 115. 2. in 1898-99. The postal commission amounted to £15,506, in addition to £11,687 charged for the telegrams and credited to the Telegraph Department. For the preceding year the figures were £12,981 and £10,655 respectively.

The foreign money orders for and from the United Kingdom, most of the British colonies and possessions, foreign European countries and most of their colonies and possessions, and Egypt, are issued in sterling, payments being made by the remitters and to the payees in India at the rates of exchange fixed by the Post Office from time to time for this purpose. The number of such orders issued by India rose from 68,430 in 1898-99 to 70,749 in 1899-1900, but the value decreased from £233,331 to £231,302, while the orders paid in India increased in number from 39,248 to 44,037, and in amount from £220,964 to £247,826. In 1898-99, of the total sterling money-order transactions, viz., £454,295, no less an amount than £391,851 was with the United Kingdom and British colonies, and in 1899-1900 the proportion was £419,972, out of £479,149.

The average value of a sterling money order issued by India was £3. 5s. 4d., as compared with £3. 8s. 2d. in 1898-99, and that of such a money order paid in India was £5. 12s. 7d., being the same as the average in the preceding year.

The average of the rates of exchange for sterling money orders in force in 1899-1900 was 1s. 3½d. per rupee, as compared with 1s. 3¼d. in the previous year.

The money-order transactions between India and China, Japan, Ceylon, and some British and foreign colonies in Africa and the East, are advised in Indian currency. The amount of such orders issued by India rose from £51,320 in 1898-99 to £52,125 in 1899-1900, and the orders paid by India, from £369,359 to £451,184. The heaviest drawings were from Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and British East Africa.

The average value of a foreign rupee money order issued by India in 1899-1900, was Rs. 37. 13. 0., as compared with Rs. 37. 10. 9. in 1898-99, and that of an order paid in India was Rs. 42. 9. 0., as compared with Rs. 43. 7. 5. in the preceding year.

Including inland and foreign money orders, both ordinary and telegraphic, and converting the foreign sterling orders into Indian currency at the rates of exchange in force when the transactions took place, the total of the money orders issued by the Indian Post Office in 1899-1900 amounted to £17,476,827, against £16,748,907 in 1898-99, and the total of payments to £17,944,416, against £17,138,260 in the preceding year.

At the close of the year there were 6,479 offices performing savings bank business, against 6,310 in the preceding year, thus showing an increase of 169

banks during the year. The number of accounts in the Post Office savings POST OFFICE. banks rose from 755,871 in 1898-99 to 785,729 in 1899-1900; the deposits, exclusive of transfers from one post office to another, from £2,206,885 to £2,318,018; the withdrawals from £2,296,083 to £2,360,857; and the interest from £183,003 to £188,467. The balance at the credit of depositors at the close of 1899-1900 stood at £6,430,965 against £6,285,336 at the close of 1898-99. The average balance at the credit of each depositor was Rs. 122·77, as compared with Rs. 124·73, in the previous year. Of the total number of accounts, 90·61 per cent. were held by natives, as compared with a percentage of 90·84 for the preceding year. Of the 785,729 accounts, 323,610 were held by persons of no occupation, or whose incomes were derived from others, or from their own property; 268,085 by persons of the professional class, 131,572 by persons of the domestic class, 28,918 by persons of the commercial class, 23,714 by persons of the industrial class, and only 9,830 by persons of the agricultural class.

During 1899-1900 the total amount invested in Government securities by savings bank depositors through the agency of the Post Office was £22,667, against £27,887 in the preceding year; and the balance of securities in the hands of the Comptroller-General at the close of the year was £60,900, compared with £56,247 on the 31st March 1899. Of this balance, £56,080 represented the nominal value of securities of the 3½ per cent. loan, the remainder being in 3 per cent. loans.

The arrangements for the sale of quinine through the agency of the Post Office are now in force throughout India, and in the aggregate the sales show an increase of over 686 lbs.

The total number of Native army pensioners whose pensions were paid through the Post Office during the year was 27,279, and the amount paid to them was £130,655, as compared with 26,075 and £124,768 in 1898-99.

During the year under review 918 new policies of the aggregate value of £96,067 were granted by the Postal Insurance Fund, and of these, 724 were Endowment Assurance Policies, of the total value of £75,467. Forty six claims, amounting in all to £4,633, were paid on the death of insured persons. Since the fund was started, on the 1st of February 1884, 5,354 lives have been insured; and, at the close of 1899-1900, there were 4,656 active policies in existence (2,116 held by Post Office servants and 2,540 by servants of other Departments), and the aggregate sum insured was £489,307.

During the year under review there were 56 cases in which the mails were plundered by highway robbers, of which 48 were in British territories, and 8 in Native States. The figures for the preceding year were 26 and 4 respectively.

The number of cases in which the servants of the Post Office were found guilty of offences punishable by the law were 315, of which 147 were departmentally punished, while legal convictions were obtained in the remaining 168 cases. The defalcations and losses amounted to £2,487, as compared with £2,491 in 1898-99 and £2,286 in 1897-98. A sum of £1,187 was recovered from the offenders or their sureties; £484 was charged against the Post Office Guarantee Fund; £5 was written off as finally lost; and £811 remained unadjusted at the close of the year. The subscriptions to the Guarantee Fund realised from Post Office and District Post officials during the year amounted to £1,779, and the balance at the credit of the Fund at the close of the year was £50,317.

The number of complaints made by the public was 22,393, against 20,075 in the previous year. In 35·04 per cent. of the whole number, the complaints were ascertained to be well founded; 40·03 per cent. were entirely groundless; and in the remaining cases, either the investigation of the complaints had not been completed at the end of the year, or no definite conclusion had been arrived at.

The continuous delivery scheme in Bombay was still further extended, and the delivery arrangements at Madras, Rangoon, Lucknow, Ootacamund and other places were thoroughly revised, a material increase to the staff of postmen being made in each case in order to provide larger facilities for the public.

The system of taking thumb impressions from postal pensioners and others for the purpose of subsequent identification was adopted generally. The

166 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

POST OFFICE.

system of identifying illiterate payees by the same means was extended to all post offices in the Madras circle in connection with money-order payments and to all head offices in that circle in connection with savings bank with drawals, while in the Bombay, Punjab, and Assam circles the system was applied not only to the above-mentioned transactions, but also to the case of all payments to illiterate persons.

Towards the end of the year orders were issued for the acceptance of sovereigns and half-sovereigns at all post offices when tendered by the public and shortly afterwards it was made the rule, under the orders of Government, that all money orders of the value of Rs. 15 and upwards, received for payment at the three Presidency towns and at Rangoon, should be paid in gold.

A direct exchange of parcels between India and Natal, in supersession of the previously existing exchange through the United Kingdom, which had already been under negotiation, was introduced with effect from the beginning of October 1899, so that the troops despatched from this country to South Africa might have the advantage of it, and a direct exchange of money orders with that Colony was introduced earlier in the year.

In communication with the British Post Office, a system was introduced under which the senders of parcels, not exceeding 11 lbs. in weight, exchanged between India and the United Kingdom, are enabled to prepay, at the time of posting, the customs duty and any other charges that may be levied on the parcels in the country of destination.

The shortest time occupied in transit by the mail from London to Bombay was 13 days 6 hours and 48 minutes, while the average time for the year was 14 days 3 hours and 42 minutes. The quickest transit from Bombay to London was 12 days 16 hours and 27 minutes, while the average time for the year was 14 days 4 hours and 57 minutes.

TELEGRAPHS.

TELEGRAPHS.

THE following statement refers to the whole of the telegraph system under the direct control of the Government of India, but excludes the Indo-European Department, extending from Karachi to Teheran, for which, as usual, a separate account is given. The system now consists of 52,909 miles of line, 170,766 miles of wire, and 283 miles of cable.

During the year £163,234 were added to the capital expenditure, of which the greater portion was for new lines, the net additions to the system during the year comprising 1,140 miles of line and 10,116 miles of wire. The total capital outlay at the close of the year stood at £4,510,935.

The number of telegraph offices open to the public at the end of the year, including railway and canal offices, was 4,948, of which 3,741 were maintained by the Department. The net addition to the number of offices during the year was 249.

The following statement shows, for a period of five years, the progress that has been made in extending public telegraphic communication:—

	Capital Expenditure.	Miles of Line.	Miles of Wire.	Miles of Cable.	Offices Opened.		
					Departmental, Ordinary and Postal combined.	Railway and Canal.	TOTAL.
Up to beginning of 1865-66	£ 3,825,610	44,648	138,256	271	1,062	1,521	2,583
During 1865-66	92,285	1,727	4,070	—8	60	12	111
" 1866-67	115,387	2,209	5,210	6	102	73	176
" 1867-68	102,460	1,722	6,688	—5	71	62	133
" 1868-69	151,041	1,463	5,926	11	86	101	186
" 1869-1890	*163,234	1,140	10,116	8	132	121	253
To end of 1869-1890	4,510,935	52,909	170,766	283	1,851	1,800	3,741

* Excludes £0,861 cost of cable lines transferred to Military Works Department on the 1st April 1899.

A general view of the operations of the Department in 1898-99, in comparison with the results of the four previous years' working, will be gained from the following statement:—

YEAR.	Number of Messages during Year.	Gross Receipts, including State but excluding <i>pro forma</i> Revenue.	Charges.	Net Receipts.	Percentage of Net to Gross Receipts.	Return on Capital.
		£	£	£		
1895-96	4,730,784	590,715	385,582	205,133	34.7	5.24
1896-97	5,077,684	580,366	414,338	175,028	29.7	4.34
1897-98	5,713,227	710,530	417,771	301,759	41.94	7.19
1898-99	5,448,600	591,566	427,549	164,017	27.73	3.77
1899-1900	6,237,301	681,942	447,758	234,184	34.34	5.19

The whole of the annual expenses connected with the telegraphs in India, whether incurred on capital account for the construction of new lines, or on revenue account for the maintenance and working of the system, are defrayed from the revenues of the Government of India. In 1899-1900 the receipts of the Department were sufficient to cover both the working expenses and the amount expended on capital account, and there was therefore no net charge on Government revenues.

The total number of telegrams sent in 1899-1900 amounted to 6,237,301, as compared with 5,448,600 in 1898-99, showing an increase of 788,701, or 14.47 per cent. The corresponding increase in value was £82,901 or 17.60 per cent. Compared with the figures of 1898-99, the inland State traffic of the year under review shows an increase of 6.48 per cent. in number and 22.22 per cent. in value.

The following figures show, for the last two years, the division of the traffic between State and Private, and between Inland and Foreign, messages respectively:—

Class of Telegram.	1898-99.		1899-1900.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Inland State - -	659,304	£ 90,712	702,055	£ 110,871
Foreign State - -	9,726	3,871	11,669	5,394
Total State - -	669,030	94,583	713,724	116,265
Inland Private - -	4,036,510	244,915	4,700,753*	294,485*
Foreign Private - -	743,060	131,485	822,824	143,135
Total Private - -	4,779,570	376,400	5,523,577	437,620
TOTAL STATE AND PRIVATE - -	5,448,600	470,983	6,237,301*	553,885

* These figures are the highest on record during any year, the next highest being those for 1897-98, in which year there were 4,107,270 inland private telegrams, valued at £203,572.

TELEGRAPHS.

The following statement shows the development of the revenue from the inland private traffic for the 10 years ending 1898-99 :—

	£
1889-90 - - - - -	151,887
1890-91 - - - - -	163,552
1891-92 - - - - -	179,695
1892-93 - - - - -	192,571
1893-94 - - - - -	203,486
1894-95 - - - - -	214,398
1895-96 - - - - -	231,687
1896-97 - - - - -	249,228
1897-98 - - - - -	263,573
1898-99 - - - - -	244,915

In 1899-1900, however, the receipts from the inland private traffic amounted to £294,482, or an increase of 16·45 per cent. in number and 20·23 per cent. in value, compared with the figures of the previous year.

Inland traffic as a whole shows an increase in the number of messages sent of 15 per cent. over the figures of the previous year, and of nearly 9 per cent. over those of 1897-98, the previous highest on record. The total value of these messages, although 20½ per cent. in excess of the previous year's figures, is still below the value of the traffic of 1897-98, which was abnormally high owing to the temporary stimulus given to the use of the urgent class in that year in State traffic.

Inland State traffic shows an increase of 6·48 per cent. in the number of messages sent as compared with the previous year's figures, the corresponding increase in value being 22·22 per cent., the high increase in value as compared with the increase in number being due to the almost exclusive use of the urgent class in connection with the dispatch of the Indian contingent to South Africa. But the inland State traffic of the year under review is considerably less than the traffic of 1897-98, which was affected abnormally by the operations in Tirah.

Inland private traffic has increased both in number and value. Compared with 1898-99, the increase is 16½ per cent. in number and 24½ per cent. in value, while compared with 1897-98, the percentages of increase are 14·4 per cent. and 11½ per cent. respectively. The statement makes it evident that, allowing for the abnormal use of the wires by Government during the Tirah Expedition in 1897-98, there has been a steady and remarkable expansion of inland traffic during the past 16 years.

Foreign traffic shows that there has been a steady increase both in the number and value of foreign telegrams during the past few years, the figures for the year under review being the highest on record as regard the number of messages, while the Indian share of their value exceeds that of any previous year except 1895-96.

The increase in foreign State traffic amounted to nearly 20 per cent. in number and to nearly 39½ per cent. in value over the figures of the previous year, but these increases must be regarded as abnormal, having been caused by the operations connected with the dispatch of troops to South Africa.

In press messages there has been an increase both in number and value, inland press messages showing an increase of 17·94 per cent. in number and 10·08 per cent. in value, while foreign press messages have increased by no less than 53·39 per cent. in number and 51·51 per cent. in value as compared with the figures of the previous year.

The Telephone Companies at Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Madras, Moulmein, Rangoon, and Ahmedabad continue to extend their business. The number of subscribers was augmented by 119, and the number of exchange connections by 111 in 1899, while the number of private lines increased from 244 to 273. There was a small increase in the number of exchanges and exchange connections under the control of the Telegraph Department.

Communication with Europe *via* Suez was maintained uninterruptedly during the year by the Eastern Telegraph Company. The Teheran route was interrupted for 232 hours in all, as compared with 151 hours in the previous year, while the total duration of the interruptions on the Turkish route between Fao and Pera in Asia Minor was 387 against 453 hours in 1898-99,

and 1,044 hours in 1897-98. The percentages of the traffic between India and the West carried by these three lines were :—

	Per Cent.
Red Sea <i>viâ</i> Suez - - - - -	46.16
Indo-European <i>viâ</i> Teheran - - - - -	51.91
Indo-European <i>viâ</i> Turkey - - - - -	1.93
	100.00

The bulk of the transit traffic was, as usual, carried *viâ* Suez.

Telegraphic communication with the Cape by the East Coast of Africa was interrupted for a total period of 54 days, and once between Aden and Zanzibar for about a week, but communications on these occasions was maintained by the cables on the West Coast of Africa. As regards the East, communication with the Straits Settlements and Australian Colonies was maintained uninterruptedly throughout the year, while the Moulmein-Bangkok line *viâ* Kanburi was interrupted for 21 days against 61, 17 and 19 days in the three previous years. The Saigon-Bangkok line shows a slight improvement, having been interrupted for 61 days as compared with 83 days in the previous year. The connection between Moulmein and Raleng *viâ* Myawaddy has worked fairly well.

The land route to China *viâ* Bhamo was interrupted for 2,104 hours or about 88 days in the aggregate, against 1,682 hours in the previous year and 3,549 in 1897-98. The Chinese Government has promised to institute enquiries into the unsatisfactory condition of telegraphic communication between Burma and Yunnan, but during the continuance of the existing situation in that country no improvement can be anticipated.

In August 1899 an agreement was entered into with the Governor General of Portuguese India for the interchange of telegrams between the British and Portuguese State telegraph systems in Goa.

The following events of interest are recorded in the report :—

- (a.) The reduction of the postage fees for telegrams posted at Indian ports for transmission to the United Kingdom and British possessions which joined the Penny Postal Union ;
- (b.) The abolition of the re-addressing fee previously levied on foreign telegrams re-addressed in India to places within Indian limits.
- (c.) The employment of messengers on bicycles, to accelerate the delivery of telegrams at Allahabad, Calcutta, Karachi, Mandalay, and Umballa.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

INDO-EUROPEAN
TELEGRAPH
DEPARTMENT.

The system of telegraph lines and cables connecting the terminus of the Indo-European Company's telegraphs at Teheran with the Indian Government system at Karachi is known as the Indo-European Government Telegraph Department, and consists of two parts, one, designated the Persian Gulf section, extending from Karachi to Bushire, with a branch to Fào, where a connection is made with the Ottoman Government line; and the other, called the Persian section, extending from Bushire to Teheran. It comprises 1,721 knots of cable, 1,380 miles of line, and 3,457 miles of wire, exclusive of the Persian Government line from Teheran to Meshed, 568 miles, which is maintained by the Department.

The administration of the Indo-European Department, which in 1888 was amalgamated with the general telegraph system of India, was re-transferred to London with effect from 1st April 1893. It has been found convenient to maintain separate accounts for this Department, partly for the sake of comparison with previous years, and partly because the conditions under which the Indo-European lines are worked and the influences affecting the traffic are completely different from those prevailing on the Indian telegraph system generally.

170 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

INDO-EUROPEAN
TELEGRAPH
DEPARTMENT.

The financial results of working the Department, as compared with the four preceding years, were as follows:—

YEAR.	Total Capital Outlay.	Gross Receipts.*	Expenditure.	Net Receipts.	Percentage of	
					Net Receipts to Capital.	Expenditure to Gross Receipts.
	£	£	£	£		
1895-96	705,947	111,330	54,497	50,842	7.42	48.9
1896-97	769,985	98,967	51,432	47,535	0.17	51.9
1897-98	789,054	102,677	32,132	50,545	6.57	50.77
1898-99	770,204	97,722	51,235	46,487	6.03	52.43
1899-1900	768,750	102,541	56,234	46,307	6.02	54.84

* This represents the revenue of the Departments after adjustments made in accordance with the provisions of the joint purse arrangement.

The capital account decreased by £1,528, due chiefly to a reduction of the Stores balance.

The total earnings of the Department show an improvement of £4,819 as compared with the previous year. This is due principally to increased traffic with Australia and the Far East.

The expenditure shows an increase of £4,999, due mainly to increased expenditure on cable maintenance and to the payment of arrears of political subsidies, which had been in abeyance during 1898 in consequence of disturbances on the Mekran Coast.

The net result is a profit of £46,307 or 6.02 per cent., on the capital, against 6.03 realised last year.

The proportion of Indian traffic carried by the Indo-European route is still much higher than that on which the joint purse was based, having been 59.95 per cent. in 1899-1900 against the normal percentage of 40.18. On the other hand, the percentage of Trans-Indian traffic has fallen from 11.54 in 1898-99 to 11.39 in 1899-1900, against the normal rate of 19.47. In other words, the Department carried in value during the past year £29,542 more on Indian and £17,467 less on Trans-Indian messages than it should have done under the normal division.

Australasian traffic shows a large increase over the previous year, and the Department has drawn out of the Fund £10,840 against £8,719 in the previous year, and against £6,235, which represents the revenue derived from this traffic by the Department in 1889 before the Australasian Message Fund Agreement was entered into.

The general working of the Department has been very satisfactory throughout the year. A few faults were cut out of the cables; and some damage was done to the land-lines in Persia by storms and floods, but these were all repaired without causing any total interruption of traffic.

CHAPTER XIII.

EDUCATION, LITERATURE, AND THE PRESS.

EDUCATION.

EDUCATION.

EDUCATIONAL institutions in India are of two classes :—

(1.) Those in which the course of study conforms to the standards prescribed by the Department of Public Instruction or by the University, and which either undergo inspection by the Department, or else regularly present pupils at the public examinations held by the Department or by the University. These institutions are called "public," but may be under either public or private management. To the latter class, for example, belong those "aided schools," receiving grants from Government or from local or municipal boards, which occupy so important a place in the system of Madras, Bengal, and other provinces.

(2.) Those which do not fulfil the above conditions, and are called "private."

The system of education operates, generally speaking, through three grades of institutions, viz. :—

(1.) Primary schools, which aim at the teaching of reading, writing, and such elementary knowledge as will enable a peasant to look after his own interests.

(2.) Secondary schools, which are divided into English and Vernacular. Those in which English forms part of the regular course of study of all the scholars, or at least of all the scholars in the higher classes, are counted as English schools; if English is not taught, or is an optional subject only, they are reckoned as Vernacular.

(3.) Colleges, the students in which, having passed the matriculation examination of a University, are reading for the further examinations required for a degree.

In Bengal the number of pupils in public institutions rose from 1,546,243 in 1898-99 to 1,566,018 in 1899-1900, while the number of pupils in private institutions fell from 122,542 to 121,577; thus the total increase in the number of pupils under instruction was 18,810. The total number of scholars (1,687,595) represents 15·4 per cent. of the total population of school-going age (as against 15·2 per cent. in 1898-99), the boys (1,580,192) representing 28·9 per cent. (as against 28·6 per cent.) of the male, and the girls (107,403) 1·9 per cent. (the same proportion as in the previous year) of the female population of school-going age.

The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to £759,637, as against £740,860 in the previous year. This amount was contributed in the following proportions :—Provincial revenues, 21·2 per cent.; district funds, 10·3 per cent.; municipal funds, 0·8 per cent.; fees 45·8 per cent.; all other sources 21·9 per cent. The outlay was distributed as follows :—University education, £75,084; secondary schools, £255,355; primary schools, £217,670; special instruction, £38,613; building, furniture &c., £41,041; direction, inspection, &c., £61,223; scholarships, £15,446; miscellaneous, £55,204.

The middle vernacular schools seem to continue to exist only on sufferance, if they are not already doomed to extinction. During the year under review there has been a decrease of 4·5 per cent. in their number and 5·2 per cent. in their strength. Middle schools where English is taught are less unpopular, but they too show a decrease of 2·2 per cent. in number and 4 per cent. in strength. When these figures are compared with the large increase—both in number and strength—of high English schools and Arts Colleges, it becomes

EDUCATION.

quite evident how keen the desire to study English has become. Hence it may be regarded as highly probable that the present high education in the vernacular alone will, in course of time, die out.

Of the total number of pupils, 27·4 per cent. were Muhammadans, showing a very slight increase upon the figures of the previous year.

There were 44 colleges at work in Bengal during the year, of which 25 were unaided by Government. The number of students attending the Arts colleges increased from 7,204 to 7,868; out of 1,667 candidates for the B.A. degree examination in March 1900, 461 passed, of whom 157 belonged to Government colleges, 110 to aided colleges, and 194 to unaided colleges. The percentage of successful candidates was about 30 for Government, 30 for aided, and 24 for unaided Colleges.

In the Nawab's Madrasah at Murshidabad (the only organised school for sons of native chiefs and noblemen in the province) there were 61 pupils (as against 56) at the close of the year, of whom 20 (against 22) were boarders. The total number of aboriginals under instruction rose by 1,339, and the decrease recorded in 1897-98 has now been retrieved. The number of Arabic or Persian and Sanskrit schools shows a decrease of 316 for the year.

North-West
Provinces
and Oudh.

The total expenditure on education in the North-West Provinces and Oudh amounted to £300,343, as against £247,864 in 1898-99; of this sum about 23 per cent. was contributed from provincial revenues; 31 per cent. from local funds; 27 per cent. from fees; 2·5 per cent. from municipal funds; 16·5 from all other sources. With regard to outlay, a large increase took place under indirect expenditure, and consisted mainly of an advance from £19,267 to £32,956 spent on buildings, and from £5,428 to £30,366 under miscellaneous items. It is understood that the increase under this latter head was caused by European schools having, contrary to previous practice, shown their boarding expenditure under it this year.

There were 7,691 public and 6,271 private institutions in the provinces during the year, the figures showing a considerable advance on those of the previous year.

The total number of pupils under instruction in the provinces was 425,616, showing an increase of 47,532 on the number of 1898-99, and representing 6·05 per cent. (as against 5·38 per cent.) of the population of school-going age. Of these pupils 343,914 were in public and 81,853 in private institutions. The 404,997 male scholars represent 11·11 per cent. of the boys of school-going age, and the 20,770 female scholars 0·61 per cent. of the girls. The corresponding proportions in the previous year were 9·87 and 0·54 respectively. As regards race and creed statistics, 76·23 per cent. of the pupils (as against 75·43) were Hindus, and 21·06 (as against 21·52) per cent. Muhammadans. In this respect the Hindus continue to improve their position, while the others have relatively fallen back.

A striking feature of the year was the large increase in the enrolment of public Primary schools. This is due to the extension of the "grant-in-aid" system to schools which formerly received no assistance from the State.

Certain changes were introduced during the year, which, it is hoped, will promote collegiate education. Arrangements were made, by which the disadvantages attending on Bachelors of Science who intend to take up the law as a profession were removed. Another new rule introduced was to the effect that all candidates for entrance examinations for the University or for school final examinations must be at least 16 years old.

Punjab.

The total expenditure on education for the year in the Punjab was £221,552 as against £214,710 in the previous year. This amount was contributed in the following proportions:—Imperial revenues, £8,403; Provincial revenues, £52,545; district funds, £42,408; municipal funds, £25,212; Fees, £60,200; all other sources, £32,784. The outlay was distributed as follows:—University education, £17,000; secondary schools, £81,219; primary schools, £37,562; special institutions, £11,228; buildings and furniture £15,672; direction, inspection, scholarships, and miscellaneous, £78,870.

The number of public institutions in the Province decreased from 3,073 to 3,064, while the number of pupils attending them rose from 181,446 to 186,759. The fall in schools was wholly in those of the primary grade, and is said to have been mostly due to hard times; the increase in scholars was shared by all

classes of institutions except the Medical College, where there was a slight decrease. Private institutions declined from 5,075 to 4,803, and the number of pupils attending them from 79,651 to 75,560. The total number of pupils under instruction was 262,319, of whom 239,624 were males and 22,695 females. The boys and girls represent 14·19 per cent. and 1·57 per cent. respectively, of the male and female population of school-going age. EDUCATION.

The number of Muhammadans under instruction fell during the year from 123,074 to 121,816. The percentages of children of a school-going age actually under instruction, classified by creed, stand as follows:—Muhammadans, 11·92 per cent. of boys, and 1·33 per cent. of girls; Hindus, 16·66 per cent. of boys, and 1·42 per cent. of girls; Sikhs, 17·43 and 2·16 per cent. respectively. During the year under review there were 2,122 institutions managed by Local Fund and Municipal Boards, which had an average daily attendance of 103,025 students.

The number of colleges in the province is now 12, a new Arts College having been added during the year. These colleges were attended by 1,460 students, exclusive of 368 Law and 75 Engineering students. As regards Secondary Education, nine new Anglo-vernacular schools and one Board vernacular school were added during the year. The number of primary schools fell by 11 to 2,336, a decline of 38 in the Aided schools causing this result, although an increase is to be noted in the number of Government and Board Schools. The proportion of agriculturists among pupils in secondary schools was 23 per cent. and in primary schools 49·5 per cent. The number of native girls' schools decreased from 335 to 323, but a slight rise is recorded in the total number of scholars. In the entrance examination of the Punjab University, 4 candidates appeared from the Lady Dufferin School, and three passed, compared with five successful candidates in the previous year.

The reports for the year on conduct and discipline in the schools are again favourable. In the Colleges the character and example of the professors, and increasing contact with them, especially in the playground, are having an excellent effect.

The total expenditure on education in Burma rose from £96,962 to £107,196. Burma. The chief increase was under the head of buildings. This expenditure was met in the following proportions:—Provincial revenues, £49,061; local funds, £12,683; municipal funds, £10,512; fees, £21,120; other sources, £13,153. The outlay was distributed as follows:—Arts colleges, £4,766; secondary schools, £45,585; primary schools, £19,633; special education, £7,568; buildings, furniture, &c., £12,447; direction, inspection, scholarships, and miscellaneous, £17,197.

The number of schools has risen from 16,331 to 17,050, and the number of scholars from 270,257 to 287,987. The public institutions numbered 4,482, with 150,470 pupils; the private 12,568, with 137,517 pupils. The boys under instruction (255,519) represent 43·92 per cent. of the male population of school-going age, and the girls (32,468), 5·79 per cent. of the female.

The average daily attendance at the Rangoon College was 89, as against 95 in the previous year. Out of 10 students who went in for the B.A. examination, and 53 for the F.A., 2 and 22, respectively, were successful. These results are not good, but are explained as in part due to unavoidable changes in the staff that took place during the year. The examination results in secondary schools show a decided advance. A notable success, in view of the condition of female education, was that of Miss Freany Parakh, of St. John's Convent, Rangoon, who stood highest on the list of successful candidates from Burma in the entrance examination.

With regard to European education, the question of having a special European Code for the Province (as in Bengal) has been mooted and will be very carefully considered. The number of European schools was the same as in the previous year. The state of Muhammadan and Tamil schools is still unsatisfactory, but Karen schools show an increase of 38, and Karen pupils an advance of 888.

On the whole, the year under notice is described as one of progress and good steady work.

EDUCATION.
Assam.

The total expenditure on education for the year in Assam was £48,095 as against £44,164 in 1898-99. The direct expenditure rose from £31,510 to £33,780, while indirect expenditure rose from £12,654 to £14,315. The expenditure was met from the following sources:—Provincial revenues, £14,532; local funds, £14,106; municipal funds, £487; fees, £9,639; all other sources, £9,331. The outlay was distributed in the following proportions:—Arts colleges, £290; secondary schools, £13,582; primary schools, £17,914; special instruction, £1,994; buildings, furniture, &c., £4,343; direction, inspection, scholarships, &c., £9,972.

The total number of institutions was 3,480, as against 3,368 in the previous year; of these, 3,177 (as against 3,086) were public, and 303 (as against 282) were private. The total number of scholars rose from 99,823 to 107,668, of whom 98,930 were boys and 8,738 girls. These figures represent 23·56 per cent. and 2·20 per cent. respectively of the boys and girls of school-going age, as against 21·65 per cent. and 2·03 per cent. in the previous year. The number of Muhammadan pupils rose from 20,237 to 22,870, representing 21·24 per cent. of the total number of children attending schools in the Province.

The total number of students in the Province reading in Arts colleges in Bengal and Assam was 308, of whom 42 passed the F.A. and, 16 the B.A. examination.

A new second-grade college at Gauhati was to be opened with effect from the beginning of the session in 1901.

Central Provinces.

The circumstances of the year 1899-1900 were very unfavourable to progress in education. Famine was present during the greater portion of the year, and not only added greatly to the difficulty of procuring the attendance of school children, but also reduced the funds available for the support of educational institutions. This state of affairs rendered the adoption of any new departure in educational matters out of the question.

The number of schools in the British territory in the Central Provinces fell from 2,094 to 2,003, and the number of pupils from 125,502 to 118,021. In the Feudatory States the number of schools rose from 295 to 298 and the number of pupils from 15,474 to 15,880. The decrease in British territory represents a fall in the number of vernacular primary schools (from 1,703 to 1,607), which is attributed, firstly, to the prevalence of famine and scarcity, and, secondly, to lack of funds.

The total expenditure on education amounted to £70,467 (as against £70,558). The sum of £63,978 was expended in British territory, derived from the following sources:—Provincial funds, 34·9 per cent.; district funds, 20·2 per cent.; municipal funds, 15·3 per cent.; fees, 13·8 per cent.; other sources, 15·8 per cent. The proportional outlay was as follows:—University education, £4,052; secondary schools, £20,099; primary schools, £26,926; special instruction, £2,766; buildings, furniture, &c., £5,357; direction, inspection, scholarships, &c., £11,267.

The percentage of children under instruction to the population of school-going age was 7·08 in British territory and 4·9 in Feudatory States. The male percentage in British territory was 13·4 and the female 0·8; in Native States the percentages were:—Male 9·6, female 0·3. The increase in the number of Native Christians and Muhammadans under instruction once more calls for remark. The figures for all classes of girls' schools, both in British territory and the Feudatories, are almost the same as last year. Marked progress continues to be made in aided schools conducted by recognised societies, but outside these schools it is to be feared that improvement is very slow.

With regard to the Rajkumar College for sons of Native Chiefs, the hope held out in last year's report that numbers would increase has unhappily not been fulfilled. A satisfactory improvement in attendance is, however, to be noted.

The year under review was marked in Berar by drought and total failure of crops. On the whole, however, the effect of these calamities, as far as education was concerned, was not so disastrous as might have been expected. That the attendance in town schools increased was due no doubt to the fact that the better off inhabitants of villages moved into the towns for better security of property and

for household convenience, especially water. But even in village schools the attendance has not gone down so much as was anticipated, owing largely to the generosity of the school committees and to private munificence. EDUCATION.

The total number of institutions fell from 1,272 to 1,098, and the total of pupils from 53,983 to 48,555. The 45,427 boys at school represented 20·3 per cent. of the male population of school-going age, and the 3,128 girls, 1·4 per cent. of the female. There were only six private schools, which were attended by 303 scholars.

The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to £29,966, of which about 50 per cent. was derived from provincial revenues. The outlay was distributed as follows:—Secondary schools, £5,215; primary schools, £17,462; special instruction, £644; buildings, furniture, &c., £487; direction, inspection, scholarships &c., £6,176.

Considerable impulse has been given to Muhammadan education, as in previous years, by the public-spirited conduct of several Muhammadan gentlemen, who have lent houses for the use of schools and in various ways encouraged the education of their community. The education of low-caste Hindus continues to show progress. That there is a widespread desire among the people of the province for their boys to learn English is evinced by their readiness to pay for the instruction.

The effect of the famine on indigenous schools was to show that there exist a fair number of a permanent nature which have availed themselves of sympathetic aid and have maintained their ground.

The total expenditure on education in Bombay rose from £488,016 in 1898-99 to £492,476, which was contributed from the various sources in the following proportions:—Provincial funds, 29 per cent.; local funds, 13 per cent.; municipal rates, 5·9 per cent.; fees, 20·6 per cent.; revenues of native states, 15·9 per cent.; all other sources, 15·6 per cent. The outlay was distributed as follows:—University education, £31,043; secondary schools, £131,689; primary schools, £230,493; special instruction, £33,682; buildings, furniture &c., £24,426; direction, inspection, scholarships, and miscellaneous, £41,143. Bombay.

The total number of institutions was 12,426 (as against 12,639 in 1898-99), the public institutions having fallen from 9,768 to 9,663, and the private from 2,871 to 2,763. The total number of pupils was 631,205, of whom 561,708 (as against 558,870 in the previous year) were in public institutions. The actual numbers of male and female pupils were 542,895 and 88,310 respectively; the respective percentages of the male and female population of school-going age were 26·01 of the boys (as against 26·36 in the previous year) and 4·51 of the girls (as against 4·06).

Primary schools for boys show a net decrease of 125 schools and 5,160 pupils, but when all the circumstances of the Presidency are taken into consideration, it is somewhat of a matter for surprise that the decrease is not larger. Famine, rather than plague (as in the previous year), was the chief factor in reducing attendance. In Sind, where there was little plague and very little distress, the year's result is an increase of 39 schools and 3,054 pupils.

The success of the Elphinstone College was once more conspicuous, and the figures compare favourably with those of the previous year. The statistics with regard to female primary schools are satisfactory and show a general recovery of lost ground, except in the Central Division, in Sind, and in the Aden school. There is but little progress to report in Muhammadan education, and the want of trained and competent Muhammadan teachers is felt. Every facility is given to Muhammadan students to come to the training colleges, but very few of them avail themselves of the opportunity.

The total educational expenditure in the Madras Presidency rose from £475,132 to £477,544, of which sum £393,351 (as against £379,350) came under the head of direct expenditure. There was a decrease under the head of indirect expenditure. All classes of institutions contributed to the increase under the first-named head. The total expenditure was contributed as follows:—Provincial revenues, £131,210; local funds, £51,201; municipal funds, £15,797; fees, £145,505; other sources, £133,763. The total outlay (exclusive of surplus fees and expenditure on indigenous and private schools) was distributed as follows:—Arts colleges, 9·17 per cent.; professional colleges, Madras.

EDUCATION.

3·79 per cent.; schools, general, 64·42 per cent.; schools, special, 7·77 per cent.; general or indirect charges, 14·85 per cent.

The total number of pupils under instruction rose from 840,047 to 862,991. Of these 733,923 were males, representing 27·8 per cent. of the male population of school-going age, while the 129,068 girls at school represent a corresponding percentage of 4·8. Of the total number of pupils, 745,781 received instruction in public institutions, and 117,210 in private schools. The total number of institutions was 27,450 of which 21,913 were public, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 27,263 and 21,767 respectively.

Only 511 candidates were admitted to University degrees during the year, this being the lowest figure for the last six years. Of 422 candidates that entered for all three divisions of the B.A. degree examination, only 167 passed completely, while of the rest a proportion not stated passed in one or two divisions. Of 536 candidates who had previously passed in part, 208 completed the test. There were 41,669 boys in all in secondary schools, and 598,704 in primary. As regards female education the steady advance of recent years was well maintained during the year under review; both the number of institutions for girls and the number of pupils attending therein show a most satisfactory increase. There were also three colleges for women at work in the Presidency.

The total number of Muhammadan students rose from 101,894 to 105,851, while progress continues to be made in the education of Panchamas (low-caste Hindus). There has also been an increase (from 3,136 to 4,023) in the number of children belonging to aboriginal tribes who were under instruction during the year.

An important event of the year was the revision of the curricula for schools.

Coorg.

A satisfactory feature of the year under notice in Coorg was the increase of 695 in the number of pupils under instruction, the increase consisting of 443 in Government, municipal and aided schools, and 252 in unaided indigenous schools. This increase is attributable, mainly, to an improvement in the material condition of the province, and in part, perhaps, to the greater number of inspections carried out by officers both of the educational department and other civil departments.

The number of schools rose from 91 in 1898-99 to 108 (of which 76 were public), and the number of pupils from 4,105 to 4,800 (of whom 4,336, as against 3,893, were in public institutions). The 3,883 male scholars and 917 female scholars represent, respectively, 26·99 and 7·924 per cent. of the boys and girls of school-going age. The increase in the number and percentage of girls under education is most satisfactory.

The total expenditure on education fell from £2,474 to £2,422.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

The principal vernacular languages in which books were published in India during the year were as follows:—Urdu (in Bengal, North West Provinces, Punjab, and Bombay), Bengali (in Bengal), Hindi (in Bengal, North West Provinces, Punjab, Bombay, and the Central Provinces), Panjabi (in the Punjab), Marathi (in Bombay and the Central Provinces), Gujarathi (in Bombay), Tamil and Telugu (in Madras), and Burmese (in Burma). Besides these, a considerable number of works were published in English and in the three Eastern classical languages (Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit).

The number of bi-lingual and polyglot publications makes classification difficult, but it may be generally remarked that bi-lingual books fall into two main divisions—(1) those in English and another language, (2) those in a classical and a vernacular language.

Other languages in which books have been published during the year are Kanarese and Sindhi (in Bombay), Assamese (in Bengal and Assam), Uriya (in Bengal), Talaing, Kachin, Shan, and Sgau-Karen (in Burma), Malayalam (in Madras), and Khasi (in Assam); while among bi-lingual publications not

included under the two headings above referred to may be mentioned works in Musalmani-Bengali and standard Bengali (in Bengal), Hindi and Marathi and Hindi-Marathi and Prakrit (in the Central Provinces), Pali-Burmese and Pwo-Karen (in Burma), Khasi and Bengali (in Assam). LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

The number of publications received in the Bengal Library during 1899 was 2,178 (as against 2,174 in the previous year). Of this number, however, 36 represent works which had evaded registration in 1898. There were 603 original publications in the Bengali language, including a number of works on religion and language, as well as poetry. Of the 89 Sanskrit books received 15 were philosophical, while 40 dealt with religion. Works in the Uriya language numbered 148, religion and poetry claiming in all 91 of this total. The most important bi-lingual publications, as in 1898, were those written in Bengali and Sanskrit. They consisted mostly of editions of ancient Sanskrit works and treatises on language, philosophy, and religion. Bengal.

Periodicals showed a decrease in number of about 10 per cent. on the previous year. Of the new journals, the "Aitihāsik Chitra" (historical pictures) is devoted to researches in Indian History, while the "Prayas" (attempt), is confined to scientific and literary subjects. Other new journals are social and political in character.

The number of publications catalogued during the year was 1,762, as against 1,320 in 1898. The increase was most marked under 'the' head of poetry. There was once more a large output of Urdu fiction, the great majority of these works being imitations of English novels. Works on history and biography are for the most part semi-religious. It is remarked that only the Muhammadans show activity in this branch of Urdu literature. The list of Hindi books during the year was a long one, but very few of them had any claim to originality. A translation of Goldsmith's "Hermit" was reprinted during the year. Hindi fiction, however, seems to have been endowed with new life of recent years and several novels in the language command a wide circulation. North-West Provinces and Oudh.

Several accounts of the last Græco-Turkish war were published during the year in Urdu, showing the interest taken in the struggle among the Muhammadans of India.

The number of newspapers on the register at the close of the year was 86, the most popular being the "Bharat Jivan," published at Benares, which has a circulation of 1,500. The attitude of the Native Press towards the South African War was unexceptionable, while their general tone was, with some exceptions, moderate.

The total number of publications registered during the year shows a slight decrease, from 1,326 to 1,284. Urdu as usual claims the largest number (534), while Panjabi, with 308, is the next most richly represented language. Classified according to subjects, poetry stands first with religion second. A decrease is noted in dramatic works and in biographies. The number of books under the head of fiction has increased; the novel is steadily growing in popularity, but there is a regrettable tendency to translate into the vernacular European novels of an undesirable type. An interesting publication of the year is "Gulzâr-i-Shakespeare," Part I., an Urdu version of Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare." The work is not yet complete, but, so far as it has gone, is highly commended. Among religious works the "Sri Gurmat Nirnāi Sāgar," an exhaustive exposition of Sikh religion, deserves notice. Historical publications have declined in number and many of them are mere cram books. An Urdu translation of Sir E. A. Bartlett's "Battlefields of Thessaly" calls for special comment. Punjab.

During the year under notice the number of newspapers and periodicals published in the Punjab was 117. Of these 24 were in English, two in Anglo-Vernacular, 87 in Urdu, two in Gurmukhi, and two in Hindi. The most popular newspaper in the Province was the Urdu "Paisa Akhbar," which had a circulation of 13,000. This paper contained general news and was mainly political in character. The Hindi journals were both devoted to religious matters.

The total number of publications registered during the year was 1,220, against 1,135 in 1898. Of these 748 were books, the Gujarathi language accounting for about 31 per cent. of the number. A large proportion of Bombay.

LITERATURE.

Gujarathi publications came under the head of poetry, while the classical languages were mainly used for religious writings. A translation of Sir W. Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India" has been produced in Gujarathi, Kanarese, and Sindhi; a Marathi translation is also shortly to be issued. During the year under notice it was decided that all Native publications should be annually reviewed by the Director of Public Instruction.

The tone of the section of the press edited by *Chitpawan* Brahmans was less openly malevolent than in previous years, but the proprietor and sub-editor of the "Gurakhi" were prosecuted and convicted for seditious writings, while the editors of seven organs were warned.

Madras.

In Madras the number of publications rose from 1,057 to 1,184, 88·3 per cent. of these being original works. With regard to languages, Telugu comes first, though there was also a considerable output in English and Tamil.

Classified as to subjects religion stands first, Hinduism claiming a large proportion of publications under this head. No notable additions to historical literature proper were received during the year in Madras, but there was a considerable output of poetry. This largely consisted of educational works, such as reprints of standard authors, but special mention may be made of a Telugu poem on the life of Lady Jane Grey by a lady named K. Sitamma, a Malayalam poem on the promotion of Female Education, and a piece celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. A striking decline is recorded in the number of works of fiction received. Among those that were published may be noticed a Malayalam version of Johnson's "Rasselas" and an edition of Æsop's "Fables" with moral lessons in Telugu verse. The Drama seems to have had a fair share of popular favour, but there is a growing tendency towards the revival of the lyrical style which is peculiar to the Native stage.

The general tone of the press was unobjectionable morally and politically.

Other Provinces.

Assam produced 42 publications, 25 of which were in Assamese. The "Paridarsak," a Bengali paper, was revived and published fortnightly at Sylhet from 1 January 1900. In Burma 119 publications were issued under Act XXV. of 1867. Among the books of the year mention may be made of 11 dramas based on Buddhist literature. The output in the Central Provinces calls for little comment, while nothing of importance is reported from Berar.

CHAPTER XIV.

EMIGRATION AND MIGRATION.

I. EMIGRATION.

Emigration from India, so far as it is brought under the cognizance of Government, is mainly regulated by Act XXI. of 1883 and the Rules issued under its provisions. Emigration to Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and the Uganda Railway in East Africa is excepted from the restrictions of the Act. By Section 8 of this Act, natives of India are permitted to emigrate under contract to labour for hire only to such countries as have satisfied the Government of India that sufficient provision is made for the protection of Indians who emigrate thither. Emigration otherwise than under contract to labour is not controlled by legislation.

During the year the British colonies of Demerara, Trinidad, Jamaica, Natal, and Fiji, and the Dutch colony of Surinam, indented for labourers. The five British colonies requisitioned 9,133 labourers as against 5,758 in 1898, and were supplied during the year 1899 with 8,430, 618 labourers being also supplied to Demerara in January 1900. Surinam asked for 600 labourers and received 588. In the case of Natal the supply exceeded the demand by 332 adults, but in the case of the remaining colonies it fell short of the requisition by 1,048 persons.

The total number of emigrants registered in the districts rose from 9,334 (in 1898) to 14,051. The increase was probably due to agricultural conditions in the recruiting districts. Of the labourers recruited, 5.20 per cent. came from Bengal, 11.28 per cent. from Behar, 54.30 per cent. from the North-Western Provinces, and 29.21 per cent. from Oudh. Of the total number (801) of recruiters' licenses, 43 were cancelled, or 5.36 per cent. as against 3.85 per cent. in 1898. The licenses in question were cancelled for various reasons, the most common being that of working for other agencies.

Of the 14,309 emigrants recruited, including 258 who remained over at the close of the preceding year, 11,592 arrived at the depôts, making up, with the addition of 595 not despatched in the previous year, a total of 12,187 accommodated there.

Of this total, 9,369 (of whom 7,848 were Hindus, and 1,521 Muhammadans) were despatched to the colonies, 46 per cent. going to Demerara, 19 per cent. to Trinidad, 7 per cent. to Jamaica, 12 per cent. to Natal, 10 per cent. to Fiji, and 6 per cent. to Surinam. Fourteen sailing ships and three steamers (as against eight and four respectively in 1898) were chartered to carry emigrants. So far from steamships ousting sailing vessels for this purpose, the reverse appears to be the case. As in the previous year, the steamships carried emigrants to Natal only. The total mortality on the various voyages was 99 or 1.05 per cent., as compared with 27 or .43 per cent. in 1898. This large increase was due, principally, to epidemics of measles on the "Rhine" and "Foyle," bound, respectively, for Jamaica and Demerara. These vessels took the longest time to reach their destination.

The percentage under the head of "rejected as unfit" fell from 8.16 to 5.19 of the total number of emigrants admitted to the depôts at Calcutta. There appears, however, to be still room for improvement in this respect. The desertion of no less than 343 emigrants does not speak very well for the management of the Calcutta Depôts.

The number of time-expired emigrants who returned during the year was 2,421 (as against 3,502 in 1898 and 3,750 in 1897). The number of deaths on the return voyage was 52, or 2.12 per cent. The aggregate of the savings brought back was Rs. 385,044, giving an average of Rs. 159 per emigrant, the largest average savings being those of the labourers from Trinidad, nearly Rs. 216 per head. The French colony of Guadeloupe repatriated 58 emigrants with average savings of nearly Rs. 100 per head. Of the 1,870 adult emigrants who returned, 404 declared themselves to be paupers.

EMIGRATION.
Madras.

Agencies were maintained at Madras by the Governments of Natal and Mauritius. The Natal depôt admitted 930 persons, of whom only 205 actually sailed during the year (as against 4,083 in 1898). The large decrease both in the number registered and in that of persons actually embarked was due to the temporary stoppage of recruitment from October 1898, owing to the plague. Only one shipment was made; of those embarked, 146 were men, 39 women and 20 children. 380 emigrants returned from Natal, with aggregate savings of about £5,312. There was no emigration to Mauritius, but 221 emigrants returned from that place. The amount of their savings was not ascertained. The average savings of an adult emigrant returned from Natal were about £20 (Rs. 302).

At Negapatam 5,249 indentured emigrants were registered for the Straits Settlements, and 5,090 embarked (as against 3,424 and 3,319 in 1898). The increase was due to the employment of a larger number of recruiting agents than in previous years, and to the more favourable conditions offered to coolies. There was no emigration to the French colonies, but 12 emigrants returned to Pondicherry from Guadeloupe. One of these persons died on the return voyage leaving about £77 in savings. The others brought no savings with them.

As regards free emigration, 15,176 British subjects embarked for the Straits Settlements (as against 15,339 in 1898), and 76,662 (as against 142,300) went to Ceylon.

Bombay.

Emigration from the port of Bombay was again prohibited throughout the year under the Epidemic Diseases Act. Special arrangements were made, however, to permit of the departure of 28 artisans for the Uganda Protectorate. From Karachi the number of emigrants that sailed for work on the Uganda Railway was 9,903 as against 9,479 in the previous year. The emigrants were for the most part enlisted from the Punjab, North-West Provinces and Oudh; they were kept under surveillance for a minimum of 10 days at the Budhapur Camp with the result that, notwithstanding the prevalence of plague in parts of the Punjab and in the environs of Karachi, no case of plague occurred in transit from the latter place to Mombassa.

The number of emigrants that returned during the year to Bombay was 654, and to Karachi 3,857. A medical examination of those returned to Karachi revealed 678 cases of various diseases, which were sent for treatment to the Civil Hospital. Twenty-six emigrants died on the voyage.

II. MIGRATION.

Assam.

Immigration into the labour districts of Assam is regulated by the Indian Act No. 1 of 1882 as amended up to date. The principal recruiting areas are either densely inhabited districts, where the means of subsistence are inadequate for the excessive population, or unfertile tracts where the normal rate of wages is very low.

There was a striking decrease in immigration into Assam during the year. Fewer coolies, indeed, were imported in 1899 than in any year since 1887. As compared with 1898, there was a very large decrease in the number of "Act" coolies brought by "sardars" and in that of "non-Act" coolies, the number imported by contractors showing a slight increase. The total number of labourers that entered Assam during the year fell from 49,169 in 1898 to 31,908 in the year under review. The total number of adult immigrants imported fell from 35,516 to 25,872. In spite of this general decline, there was an increase of importations from Madras and the Central Provinces. The most noticeable falling off was in the number from the North-West Provinces and Oudh, only 1,960 labourers being imported from these provinces, as against 4,565 in 1898. In each of the years 1895 and 1896 the number of immigrants from the North-West Provinces and Oudh was about 19,000. Chota Nagpur and the Southal Parganas also contributed a largely decreased number of immigrants.

The "sardari" system of recruitment hardly maintained its position during the year under notice. Only 7,571 labourers were recruited by garden sardars during the year, as against 12,080 in 1898. The falling-off seems to have been

due, not to a decreased demand for labour, but to the difficulty of obtaining coolies during a year of plenty in the recruiting districts. Since the close of the year under review the influence of famine has made itself felt and has lent a great stimulus to recruiting. As regards the distribution of labourers, the Assam Valley received 17,882 "Act" adults and 1,945 "non-Act" adults during the year, and the Surma Valley 754 "Act" and 5,291 "non-Act." Of the total number of adults 13,071 were engaged under contract in the recruiting districts, while the remaining 12,801 were brought to Assam outside the Act. Of the latter number, 5,566 entered into contracts at Dhubri.

MIGRATION.
Assam.

The year under review was a decidedly healthy one, and the mortality during transit was again very low. Owing to the cheapness of the river route and the excellent arrangements for immigrants on steamers, comparatively little use was made of the Assam-Bengal Railway to convey coolies to the tea gardens in Cachar. The death-rate on the gardens fell from 31.1 to 27.5 per thousand, while a considerable rise is to be noted in the birth-rate. The number of gardens classed as unhealthy was 31 or 3.7 per cent. (as against 55 or 6.7 per cent. in 1898).

The total labour-population at the close of the year was 636,208. The total number of contracts executed under the Act was 46,261, of which 27,624 were executed in the actual labour districts. The number of agreements dissolved by mutual consent was 2,145.

Coolies were charged in 115 cases with criminal offences, and there were 95 convictions. The total number of deserters was 14,807, as against 17,969 in the previous year. The twelve dispensary shelters for sick and destitute coolies and three shelters for able-bodied vagrants were kept up in the Surma Valley, and 335 persons were relieved in them, as against 674 in the previous year.

The number of immigrants who passed through the principal ports of the province during the year under notice were as follows:—Akyab 16,242 (as against 16,407 in the previous year); Rangoon, 149,922 (as against 132,177); Moulmein, 858 (as against 596). Once more no figures are available for Kraukpyu, but it is evident that the total number of immigrants increased considerably.

Burma.

As regards emigration, the total number of emigrants shows a decrease. They are as follows:—Rangoon, 86,819 (as against 91,033); Akyab, 16,974 (as against 14,972); Moulmein, 1,894 (as against 743). There are no signs of a cessation of the influx of natives of India into this province.

Only 197 emigrants to Assam were registered, as against 269 in 1898 and 1,044 in 1897. The number of free passengers to Burma was 78,452 and to Ceylon, 76,662. 199,985 persons returned to Madras from the various colonies and from other parts of British India. Of these 90,555 were from Ceylon and 47,336 from Burma.

Madras.

CHAPTER XV.

TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.

(Detailed information regarding the Trade of British India being annually furnished in a separate Parliamentary Paper, a brief Review only is given in the present Chapter.)

TRADE.

TRADE.

THE total trade of British India with other countries by sea and land during the five years ending on the 31st March 1900, was valued as follows:—

BY SEA:	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Private Imports:					
Merchandise - - -	£ 46,210,930	£ 47,862,558	£ 46,177,775	£ 45,686,804	£ 47,141,240
Treasure - - -	8,906,091	8,716,902	13,050,857	11,022,636	13,972,342
	55,116,921	56,579,455	59,228,632	57,509,432	61,113,582
Private Exports:					
Foreign Merchandise re-exported - - -	3,145,911	2,680,091	2,500,781	2,247,404	2,195,105
Indian Merchandise - - -	73,030,416	66,687,107	62,524,007	72,900,185	70,475,002
Treasure - - -	2,821,534	3,268,927	4,756,113	4,038,787	6,800,027
	78,998,001	72,660,125	69,780,901	80,086,436	77,971,084
Government Transactions:					
Imports { Stores - - -	2,413,572	2,882,363	2,920,248	2,480,701	3,061,745
{ Treasure - - -	0,000	0,140	30,221	7,771	10,116
Exports { Stores - - -	47,732	46,632	68,672	52,168	71,423
{ Treasure - - -	18,340	7,737	9,662	2,100	4,232
	2,485,644	2,942,772	3,028,793	2,542,800	3,147,515
TOTAL Trade by Sea -	130,609,520	132,082,352	132,630,380	140,136,858	142,232,131
BY LAND.					
Imports - - -	3,316,191	3,758,351	3,756,401	4,061,275	4,706,805
Exports - - -	2,820,198	3,291,381	3,287,798	3,523,596	3,700,185
GRAND TOTAL of Trade by Land and Sea -	142,735,915	139,132,084	139,683,665	147,723,729	150,698,121
Excess imports of treasure - - -	6,072,117	3,481,378	8,921,313	6,989,461	8,678,198
Not excess of exports over imports of merchandise, Government transactions, and treasure - - -	21,526,534	13,140,437	7,060,184	20,142,670	13,801,247
India Council Bills paid in India - - -	22,053,933	16,818,600	10,374,600	18,017,100	18,623,200*

Foreign seaborne trade.

For the first half of the year 1899-1900 the volume of Indian seaborne trade showed a large increase, but the outbreak of famine in the third quarter, with the attendant disturbance of the money market, prevented the promise of an exceptionally high total for the year from being realised. Even as it was,

*As in previous years, the amount actually paid during the year in India is given in pounds, at Rs. 15 to the pound. The Bills drawn and the Telegraphic Transfers granted by the Secretary of State on India during the year 1899-1900 amounted to Rs. 28,38,93,000, yielding 19,000,480*l.* sterling at an average rate of 16·068 pence per rupee.

however, the growth in imports more than balanced the fall in exports, and the net result was an increase of one per cent. as compared with the high total of 1898-99. The effect of the famine on the money market was much less than in 1896-97, as the rate of the Bank of Bengal never exceeded 8 per cent., and remained at that figure for a comparatively short time. The import trade as a whole exceeded that of any preceding year with the exception of 1890-91 and 1893-94, when the conditions of exchange gave an impulse to speculative importation into India.

It will be seen, however, from the figures relating to private merchandise which are given below, that the high total is due almost entirely to the exceptional imports of cotton goods, the values of other important classes of imports, in spite of high prices, having declined except in the case of provisions, woollen goods and apparel.

Imports.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£	£	£
Cotton woven goods -	15,189,000	17,616,000	15,268,000	16,459,000	18,001,000
Metals and hardware -	3,464,000	4,681,000	5,112,000	4,406,000	4,181,000
Oils, chiefly petroleum -	2,091,000	2,293,000	2,765,000	2,368,000	2,284,000
Silk, raw and manufactured	1,958,000	1,495,000	1,213,000	1,439,000	1,187,000
Cotton yarns - - -	1,981,000	2,217,000	2,329,000	1,701,000	1,633,000
Sugar - - - -	2,071,000	2,101,000	3,189,000	2,678,000	2,251,000
Machinery and mill work	2,158,000	2,340,000	1,907,000	2,039,000	1,695,000
Provisions - - -	1,190,000	1,025,000	1,137,000	1,021,000	1,125,000
Chemicals, medicines, dyes	1,441,000	1,260,000	1,374,000	1,342,000	1,288,000
Woollen goods - -	964,000	1,129,000	765,000	1,016,000	1,172,000
Liquors - - - -	1,131,000	1,097,000	1,059,000	1,099,000	1,065,000
Apparel - - - -	1,063,000	1,011,000	818,000	920,000	976,000
Railway material - -	1,014,000	1,775,000	1,917,000	1,925,000	1,851,000

The exports from India were affected even more directly by the bad season, which yielded short crops of rice, wheat, oilseeds and cotton. In the value of the exports of these staples alone there was a falling off amounting to £7,647,000; but the increase in jute, opium, tea, and especially in hides and skins, to some extent balanced this, and the total exports of Indian merchandise fell short of those of the preceding year by about 3.3 per cent. only, which was nearly the same as the percentage of increase of exports. It must, however, be borne in mind that the high prices prevailing during the year have in several cases swollen the returns for 1899-1900, so that they do not accurately represent the relative quantities of commodities in that and in the preceding year.

Exports.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£	£	£
Raw cotton - - -	9,393,000	8,647,000	5,914,000	7,457,000	6,618,000
Rice (husked) - -	8,954,000	7,900,000	7,725,000	10,452,000	8,671,000
Oilseeds - - - -	6,478,000	5,341,000	5,729,000	7,898,000	6,745,000
Jute, raw and woven-	9,827,000	10,510,000	10,707,000	8,493,000	9,557,000
Opium - - - - -	5,639,000	5,349,000	4,065,000	4,751,000	5,469,000
Wheat - - - - -	2,609,000	557,000	895,000	6,480,000	2,606,000
Cotton yarns - -	4,487,000	4,782,000	4,645,000	4,402,000	4,601,000
Tea - - - - -	5,110,000	5,417,000	5,373,000	5,363,000	6,061,000
Hides and skins -	5,093,000	4,634,000	5,545,000	4,966,000	6,976,000
Indigo - - - - -	3,570,000	2,914,000	2,038,000	1,980,000	1,795,000
Coffee - - - - -	1,465,000	1,057,000	1,013,000	1,167,000	990,000
Cotton woven goods -	975,000	803,000	710,000	705,000	841,000
Wool, raw - - - -	902,000	827,000	905,000	835,000	904,000

India's trade in merchandise with gold-standard countries was in the year of the closing of the Mints 77 per cent. of her total trade; since then it has

TRADE.

fallen to 75 per cent., but stood at 82 per cent. in the year under report, owing to the inclusion of Japan and the countries using the Indian currency system, Ceylon, Aden and Mauritius, among the gold-standard countries. The proportion of trade directly with European countries was about 63½ per cent. omitting the trade with Egypt, much of which really goes to Europe. The trade with the United Kingdom was over 70 per cent. of the trade with Europe, and nearly 45 per cent. of the total trade, against 47 per cent. in 1896-97.

The value of India's trade with some of the chief countries has fluctuated as follows in the last six years:—

	Total Value.					
	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
United Kingdom -	56,027,000	53,586,000	55,858,000	51,212,000	53,297,000	53,045,000
France - - -	6,361,000	6,438,000	4,859,000	4,351,000	5,805,000	5,127,000
China - - -	10,280,000	10,508,000	10,045,000	9,270,000	9,697,000	10,541,000
Germany - - -	6,303,000	6,842,000	6,570,000	6,415,000	6,655,000	6,144,000
Straits Settlements -	5,155,000	5,523,000	4,781,000	4,649,000	5,320,000	5,157,000
Belgium - - -	3,775,000	4,455,000	3,642,000	3,540,000	4,620,000	3,514,000
Italy - - -	2,225,000	2,374,000	2,357,000	2,182,000	2,585,000	2,336,000
Ceylon - - -	2,801,000	2,809,000	2,018,000	3,447,000	3,341,000	3,273,000
Japan - - -	1,317,000	2,158,000	3,095,000	3,139,000	3,855,000	4,671,000
United States of America.	4,033,000	4,702,000	4,190,000	4,931,000	4,500,000	5,007,000
Russia - - -	992,000	1,513,000	1,631,000	1,527,000	1,455,000	1,683,000
Austria-Hungary -	2,425,000	3,117,000	2,660,000	2,835,000	3,017,000	2,738,000

The following figures show the proportionate share of each province and of the five chief ports in the total trade in merchandise and treasure combined:—

	Imports (percentages).			Export (percentages).		
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
PROVINCES:						
Bengal - - -	34.9	36.6	38.6	44.2	38.9	43.3
Bombay and Sind - -	51.3	50.6	49.4	36.2	41.8	37.7
Madras - - -	7.5	6.3	6.5	11.0	9.5	10.3
Burma - - -	6.3	6.5	5.6	8.6	9.8	8.7
	100	100	100	100	100	100
CHIEF PORTS:						
Calcutta - - -	34.7	36.5	38.5	48.3	38.1	42.8
Bombay - - -	45.6	45.6	44.6	31.8	34.4	32.2
Karachi - - -	5.7	4.9	4.8	4.4	7.4	5.4
Madras - - -	6.0	5.0	5.4	4.7	8.6	4.4
Bangoon - - -	6.2	6.3	5.2	6.5	7.2	6.4

More than 70 per cent. of the trade in treasure belongs to Bombay; in merchandise Calcutta was considerably ahead of Bombay, the former showing £52,000,000 and the latter (with Sind) £45,000,000 as the total value of their export and import trade. The net imports of treasure were £8,678,000, or £1,687,000 more than those of the previous year. The balance of trade, or excess of exports over imports of merchandise and treasure, both on Government and private account, was as above stated £13,861,000, or nearly 3½ per cent. less than the high figure of 1898-99.

Land Trade.

There was again a sensible increase in the frontier trade, which is beginning to attain to substantial dimensions. Of the total of £8,465,990, forty-two per cent. crossed the north-west frontier, including trade with Kashmir, while

the trade with Nepal also showed a growth, owing chiefly to imports of food grains. The latter trade is carried on, not so much with the valley of Nepal, as with the rice lands which skirt the southern face of the mountains. Trade with Kashmir has increased in a satisfactory manner; that with Kabul continues to be in a very depressed condition. The trade with Western China, so far as it is registered, grows very slowly; but there is reason to believe that a large part, perhaps half, of the frontier trade of Burma escapes registration. Taking the frontier trade as a whole, the chief items were, among imports, foodgrains (value £1,048,000) and, among exports, cotton goods (value £1,383,000).

TRADE.

The merchandise and treasure carried by coasting vessels is said to have represented a value of £27,094,000 during 1899-1900, compared with £22,080,000 in 1898-99, an increase of over 20 per cent., due to the famine and the consequent demand in India for Burma rice.

Coasting trade.

MANUFACTURES.

MANUFACTURES.

The domestic industries of India, such as weaving and spinning, pottery, brass-work, iron-work, and art work of many kinds, continue to be practised after ancient methods all over the continent of India. But Indian fabrics and products, made on a small scale by workers at their homes, have for years past been giving way before the cheaper cotton yarn and fabrics, and the iron or steel products of British factories. Meanwhile, without any protection, favour, or advantage other than is afforded by cheap Indian labour and by the production of raw materials in India, an important manufacturing industry has been growing up, and steam power factories are at work, among which those for spinning and weaving cotton, for spinning and weaving jute, for making paper, for husking and cleaning rice, for sawing timber, and for brewing beer, are the most important. Steam power is also largely employed in factories on tea gardens and indigo estates.

General.

There were at the end of the year 1899-1900 in British India and Native States 186 cotton mills (of which five did not work during the year), containing 38,420 looms and 4,728,000 spindles, and giving employment on an average to 163,200 persons every day. The capital invested in the industry is estimated to be about £11,000,000. The industry dates from 1851, when the first mill was started. In the last two years 23 new mills have been added, with 1,500 looms and 517,500 spindles. Eighty of the mills were in Bombay city and 56 elsewhere in the Bombay presidency, which possesses 73 per cent. of the mills, 80 per cent. of the looms, and 71 per cent. of the spindles in all India. The consumption of cotton in the mills in the year ending in June 1899 was about 1,641,000 bales, or nearly 55 per cent. of the cotton produced in India in a normal year. The outturn of yarn in recent years has been as follows in British India:—

	Counts above 20s.	Lower Counts.	Total.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1895-96 - - -	41,606,129	388,865,873	430,472,002
1896-97 - - -	54,657,671	364,588,729	419,196,400
1897-98 - - -	61,177,032	392,482,314	453,669,346
1898-99 - - -	61,763,170	440,863,815	502,616,985
1899-1900 - -	62,070,683	439,223,856	501,294,539

The Bombay Presidency produced 74 per cent. of all the yarn, Bengal 8 per cent., Madras 6 per cent., the North-Western Provinces about 7 per cent., and the Central Provinces about 4 per cent. The production of yarns of counts above 20s. continues to increase, being more than 12 per cent. of the total in British India; taking Bombay separately, the proportion is 15 per cent., and the Bombay mills now spin an appreciable quantity (336,000 lbs. in 1899-1900) of yarns of counts above 40s., using Egyptian cotton. The

MANUFACTURES.

outturn of finer yarns, 31s. to 40s., in Indian mills increased from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{4}$ millions of pounds. The production of woven goods by mills in British India fell from 98,658,000 lbs. to 95,320,400 lbs., of which 78,583,400 lbs. were from the Bombay presidency. There is hardly any weaving done by factories in Bengal; Madras and the Central Provinces contributed 7 and 6 per cent. respectively of the woven goods. These goods are mainly unbleached grey fabrics; only in Madras did any large proportion of the weaving consist of finer goods, and there these fabrics were 48 per cent. of the production. The outturn of mills in Native States is stated as follows:—1898-99, yarn 9,754,841 lbs., woven goods, 3,031,654 lbs.; 1899-1900, yarn, 12,238,053 lbs., woven goods, 2,744,450 lbs. In 1898-99 there had been difficulty in Bombay city in obtaining workpeople in full numbers. In 1899 the influx of skilled labour into the city was so great that wages fell down to, or even below, the level of the years before plague had disturbed the labour market. But the industry had to face a more serious difficulty, in the high price of raw cotton and the glut of Bombay yarns in the China market. In the latter part of the year most of the cotton mills were at work only for three days in the week, and several were altogether closed.

The number of jute mills in 1899-1900 was 33, containing 14,021 looms and 293,218 spindles, and employing a daily average of 101,630 persons. All the mills, with the exception of one at Cawnpore, are in the province of Bengal. The capital employed by these mills is about £3,460,000. In 1879-80 the corresponding figures were 21 mills, 26,826 hands, 4,876 looms, and 69,456 spindles. There were four woollen mills at work at the end of 1899, containing 22,506 spindles and 578 looms, and producing goods valued at £160,000 in the year. The fabrics consist chiefly of blankets, serges and cloths worn by the Army and the police.

There were in 1898 rice mills for husking and cleaning rice to the number of 160, and 85 saw mills, most of which are in Burma. Of the nine paper mills in India, one at Gwalior was not worked during the year. The value of the paper produced in 1898-99 is stated at £416,000; most of the paper used in Government offices is now obtained from Indian mills; the value of papers imported into India in 1899-1900 was £266,000 as compared with £246,000 in 1898-99. The paper factories employed 4,436 hands, and the materials they used were chiefly moonj grass, jute and hemp cuttings, straw, and rags of different kinds. Small paper works, making common paper without machinery, exist in several provinces, but for these petty industries no statistics are available. In 1899 there were 28 breweries at work, which produced during the year 5,570,000 gallons of beer and porter, or 327,000 gallons less than they produced in the previous year. The Commissariat Department bought 2,845,000 gallons of this malt liquor, as compared with 2,855,000 gallons purchased in 1898, for the use of European soldiers. The largest brewery was at Murree in the Panjab Himalayas, and the output of that concern was over 818,000 gallons in 1899. The quantity of beer, porter and cider imported into India was 3,212,000 gallons in 1899-1900, or more than one-half the quantity produced in the country.

Among other "large industries," which are shown in the Indian returns for 1898, may be mentioned:—

Silk mills - - - - -	7	Cutch and lac factories, large	
Soap factories - - - - -	47	and small - - - - -	140
Tanneries - - - - -	135	Flour mills - - - - -	103
Iron and brass foundries - - -	106	Ice factories - - - - -	56
Sugar factories (large and small)	229	Pottery and tile factories - -	140
Coffee works - - - - -	44	Bone-crushing factories - - -	19
Cotton ginning factories, cotton		Tobacco and cigar factories - -	26
presses - - - - -	773	Silk filatures - - - - -	66
Jute presses - - - - -	122	Glass factories - - - - -	6
Cotton and woollen spinning and		Dye works - - - - -	8
weaving establishments, not		Indigo factories, large and	
classed as mills - - - - -	24	small - - - - -	5,034
Rope factories - - - - -	25	Printing presses - - - - -	756
Oil mills - - - - -	195	Dairy farms - - - - -	71

The number of persons employed in the above industries during the year 1899 is given as follows :—

	Men.	Women.	Children and Young Persons.	Total.
Cotton mills - - -	100,987	27,474	27,595	156,056
Jute and hemp mills - - -	62,301	17,169	15,801	95,271
Woollen mills - - -	—	—	—	2,352
Paper mills - - -	—	—	—	4,136
Other industries - - -	—	—	—	399,664
Total - - -	—	—	—	658,359

In the ensuing paragraphs the figures given are, wherever it is possible, those for 1899-1900; but in some cases the information has not been received, and the figures for an earlier year are given.

Bengal. Bengal in 1899 contained 32 jute mills, 10 cotton mills, 4 paper mills, and 206 collieries; there were also in 1898 indigo factories to the number of 359, 122 jute presses, 95 lac factories, 91 oil mills, 437 printing presses, 65 silk filatures and 5 silk mills, 217 sugar factories; 29 iron and brass foundries, including the only large ironworks in India, and the largest pottery foundry in the country. The coal output of 1899 amounted to 3,883,000 tons, or 261,000 tons more than in 1898, and over 78 per cent. of the total output of coal in India. Fifteen collieries were opened in 1899, and the number of persons employed rose to nearly 56,000. The progress of the Barrakar iron works is noted above, in the portion of this Statement which deals with mineral resources. The output of mica from mines in various parts of the province showed a good increase. The attempts that are being made to revive and improve the silk industry in Bengal are noticed in another portion of the Statement. Among native industries are to be noticed the weaving of tus-sur silk (wild silk) cloth, flagee work, muslins, brass manufactures, etc.

North-Western Provinces. In the North-Western Provinces there were in 1898, the latest year for which report is available, 43 cotton presses, 1,625 indigo factories, 44 lac factories, and 73 potteries, besides other industrial concerns. There were six steam power cotton mills in 1899-1900 with 1,637 looms and 256,420 spindles, giving employment to 7,707 persons; one woollen mill, and one jute mill, all but two of these being at Cawnpore. Among native industries, brass-work, stone-quarrying and stone-carving, and weaving, are the most important; but these Provinces, which contain more large cities than any part of India, possess a great number of flourishing arts and crafts. The ordinary industries supply for the most part only local needs.

Punjab. In the Punjab there were two collieries, eight breweries, one woollen and four cotton mills, 86 cotton pressing and ginning factories, 17 flour mills, 12 indigo factories, 11 potteries, 198 printing presses, one large sugar concern, and 10 iron and brass foundries. One additional steam power cotton mill was established in the year 1899-1900, making up the total of these concerns to five, with 426 looms and 68,136 spindles, giving employment to 2,296 persons. A monograph on the ivory industry of the province was issued during the year.

Burma. In Burma, besides the rice and timber mills mentioned below under the heading "Factory Act," the extraction of petroleum and of rubies is carried on, and there are seven ironworks for working imported iron and brass, not for smelting ore, 53 cotton mills, and 34 printing presses. The average daily number of operatives employed in the Burma factories is stated to have risen from 16,200 to 19,100 in 1899. A considerable number of persons is also engaged in the manufacture of salt and of salt fish paste (*ngapi*), and among the more important local and indigenous industries are boat-building, silk-weaving, gold and silver work, wood-carving, cigar-making, pottery, lacquer-work, brass-work, and marble-work.

Central Provinces. The only important manufacturing industry in the Central Provinces is cotton-spinning and weaving. There are six mills, besides ginning, cleaning, and pressing mills; the Empress Mills at Nagpore is one of the most successful

MANUFACTURES. concerns of the kind in India, employing 3,480 hands, and containing 1,308 looms and 50,124 spindles in 1899-1900. At the other five mills the number of persons employed was 4,485 and the number of looms and spindles were 362 and 91,600 respectively.

Assam. The production of tea continues to be the first industry of Assam. The number of tea gardens at the end of 1899 was 815, with an area of a little more than a million acres, of which 331,000 acres were under tea plants. There were 11 saw mills engaged in the manufacture of tea boxes. There are coalfields at Lakhimpur and in the Naga hills, and the output of coal in the province rose from 200,000 to 225,000 tons. The Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, have large brick and pipe works in the Lakhimpur district and workshops at Dibrugarh and Margherita.

Madras. In the Madras Presidency eleven cotton mills employed 13,923 hands during 1899-1900, who worked 1,752 looms and 287,848 spindles, and one mill for weaving hempen bags ran 98 looms and 2,084 spindles. Forty coffee-curing works produced in 1898 cleaned coffee to the value of £891,700. There were also 87 cotton presses, 2,949 small indigo factories, 22 iron and brass foundries, 82 oilmills, 41 printing presses, 24 tobacco factories, 54 rice mills, and 122 tanneries, besides 128 fish-curing yards, and a large number of saltworks, etc. Sugar was made on a large scale at eight factories, at some of which considerable quantities of rum were distilled. Weaving continues to be the most important domestic industry in Madras, though it has greatly declined under the competition of machine-made goods.

Bombay. Chief among the industries of the Bombay presidency is the cotton mill industry. It appears from the report of the Bombay Millowners' Association that in July 1900 there were 136 mills in the presidency, or two more than in the previous year; and that 82 of these were in the city of Bombay. The total number of spindles rose from 3,315,000 to 3,447,000, and the number of looms from 30,600 to 30,900. The average daily number of hands employed was 106,400, or 4,200 less than in 1899. The approximate quantity of cotton consumed was 169,800 tons. Three mills in Bombay city and four elsewhere in the presidency were in course of erection. In addition to the workshops belonging to the railways and the great steamship companies, there were one noted weaving mill, three paper mills and one brewery at work in 1899. There were also in the presidency (the following figures relate to 1898), 267 cotton presses, 8 dyeworks, 27 iron and brass foundries, one of which at Nadiad was closed during 1899, and 8 printing presses, besides other industries. A factory for the preparation of agave fibre commenced work. Of the domestic industries and manufactures conducted after native methods the chief are hand-loom weaving and cotton-spinning, which supply the hand-woven goods still worn by the majority of the lower classes; calico dyeing and printing, gold and silver lacemaking; shoemaking, which is one of the few industries in the presidency which advanced during the year; the weaving of cotton and woollen carpets; brocade work, and embroidery of gold and silver, for which Gujarat, Nasik, and Sind workmen are specially renowned; the making of glass bangles or bracelets; wood-carving, the art speciality of Gujarat; and sculpture, which is practised in Cutch and Kathiawar; in some parts also silver work is done of a special kind and of much excellence, but this industry is said to be languishing.

Berar. There were four oil mills in Berar in 1899-1900, one being started during the year, and there was a cotton spinning and weaving mill at Badnera. The two oil mills at Amraoti produced 211,600 gallons of oil, or rather less than in 1898-99; the cotton mill produced 6,107 bales of yarn and 2,561 bales of cloth, a rather smaller output than in the previous year, employing 1,213 hands. There were in 1898 in the province 113 cotton ginning and pressing mills. The domestic industries of Berar are the weaving of silk cotton-pieces with embroidered borders, cotton carpets, coarse cotton cloth and garment pieces, turbans and blankets.

FACTORY ACT.

FACTORY ACT.

The present Indian Factory Act came into force on the 1st January 1892. The changes introduced into the previous law were, briefly,—

The law could be applied to establishments employing 20 hands or over, instead of only to those with 50 hands or over ;

The minimum age for child labourers was raised from seven to nine years, and the maximum age from 12 to 14 years ;

The maximum hours for child labour in any one day were reduced from nine hours to seven hours ;

The hours of labour for women workers, which were unrestricted under the Indian Factory Act of 1881, were limited by the Act of 1891 to 11 hours a day ;

Hours of rest during work were prescribed for all labourers, namely, half an hour in the middle of the day for all hands ; and one hour interval for women workers.

The reports of factory inspectors show the number of factories inspected, and the results of the inspections, to have been as follows :—

STATISTICS OF FACTORIES IN INDIA, INSPECTED UNDER THE FACTORY ACT DURING THE YEAR 1899.

PROVINCE.	Number of Factories working, and liable to be inspected.	Average Number of Hands employed daily.				Number of Factories.				Number of Persons employed of each of Ash.	Number of Accidents Reported.			
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	With Sunday Holiday.	With other Weekly Holiday.	Kept closed from Sunday stoppage.	Worked otherwise.		Total.	Serious.	Minor.	Total.
Bengal	390	127,248	21,094	14,814	173,156	213	26	37	6	-	24	201	230	655
North-Western Provinces	64	24,315	1,616	1,696	27,627	71	9	9	-	2	4	27	106	137
Punjab	204	14,345	885	629	15,859	63	27	6	30	-	5	14	73	92
Burma	127	16,732	225	221	17,178	126	1	3	-	-	7	103	47	150
Central Provinces	65	4,783	2,384	542	7,709	25	20	-	1	-	-	6	21	26
Madras	73	27,335	2,731	2,363	32,429	66	14	1	-	-	2	26	126	154
Bombay	283	134,673	11,734	7,223	153,630	262	26	3	1	1	34	146	1,234	1,473
Assam	10	1,675	64	66	1,805	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ajmer	1	488	24	6	518	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Bihar	110	4,627	2,307	144	7,078	33	77	-	-	-	-	1	15	16
TOTAL, 1899	1,119	368,629	64,309	27,489	460,427	730	200	54	26	3	77	466	2,667	2,925
TOTAL, 1898	1,008	324,594	64,878	27,623	417,095	744	213	52	22	17	66	327	1,714	2,125

Of the factories in the Bombay Presidency, 283 were cotton factories, employ- Bombay. ing an average daily number of 131,216 hands. The number of all factories in Bombay city at the end of the year was 141, in Khandesh 89, in Hyderabad 33, and in Ahmedabad 36. Of the total number, 153 factories were seasonal, while 268 were at work throughout the year. The average number of hands employed was 9 per cent. greater than in 1898, in spite of the adverse conditions under which, as explained above, the Bombay mill industry was labouring. The wages earned in factories by men throughout the Presidency are said to have varied from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 (7s. 6d. to £1) per mensem. The abnormal wages that prevailed in the past two years were not maintained. Accidents in mills rose from 1,185 to 1,473 ; most of the serious accidents that occur are attributed to the negligence of the mill hands. The number of children employed in Bombay mills increased ; the necessary steps were taken in suspicious cases to prevent infringement of the rules.

There was an increase of 12 in the number of factories at work in Beagal, Bengal. where 80 mills and presses were engaged in the jute industry. The results of inspections were generally satisfactory, and suggestions for improvement were readily adopted. The rules regarding the employment of women and children

190 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

FACTORY ACT.

were duly observed. Rates of wages remained unchanged, and averaged per diem $2\frac{3}{4}$ annas for men, $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas for women, and 1 anna for children, which is generally higher than agricultural wages in the province.

Madras.

In Madras the number of factories at work rose from 70 to 73, owing to the addition of three cotton ginning and pressing mills, which now number 13 in the Presidency. Inspections of factories were again not altogether adequately carried out, but so far as they went they showed good sanitary conditions and observance of the rules in regard to the fencing of machinery.

Burma.

Of the factories in Lower Burma, 141 in number, 72 were rice mills, 46 were saw mills, and 9 were rice and saw mills combined. Seven rice mills were brought under the Act during the year. Forty-six of the factories were in the Rangoon town district. The average number of operatives reported to have been employed rose from 16,200 in 1898 to 19,100 in 1899. The results of inspections were generally good, and the fencing of machinery is reported to be satisfactory, the increase of accidents being largely due to a boiler explosion in a mill in the Hanthawaddy district.

Berar.

In Berar, there were 110 factories or 12 more than in 1898, including 74 cotton ginning and 35 cotton pressing mills. The average rate of wages was 4 annas per diem for a man and 3 annas per diem for a woman. There were few accidents, and the inspectors' reports were satisfactory.

CHAPTER XVI.

FRONTIERS AND NATIVE STATES.

FRONTIERS AND FRONTIER STATES.

The series of bad years in Baluchistan culminated in 1899-1900 in a year of great drought. Owing to the failure of rains irrigation reservoirs dried up, springs and karezes diminished in volume, the area of cultivation was restricted, there was an unprecedented mortality among the sheep and cattle, and much revenue had to be remitted or suspended. The civil revenue, which had been estimated to yield over £60,000, realised only £53,000, and there was a deficit at the end of the year. In Sibi the scarcity was such as to approach the conditions of famine, and gratuitous relief was found necessary; in other parts of the administered districts assistance was given to the population by a large programme of public works, and by liberal advances for the purchase of grain and cattle. There was also considerable emigration to India and Afghanistan in search of work. Notwithstanding all this, there was no increase in serious crime. The border was quiet, except for one organised raid by a gang of armed Brahuīs on the Murree Brewery, three miles from Quetta. Eleven coolies were killed and nine wounded. The raiders came from and escaped to Afghan territory. Apart from this outrage there were five fanatical attacks of a murderous nature, but of no political significance.

FRONTIERS AND
FRONTIER STATES.
Baluchistan.

Arrangements were made during the year for the better administration of the Largha Shiranis, lately brought under control, and of the Nushki district, which, together with Chageh and the Western Sinjerani country, has been leased from the Khan of Kalat on a perpetual quitrent of £600 a year. By the latter measure a belt of territory extending along the border of Afghanistan from Domandi on the Gomul river to the frontier of Seistan, has been brought under administration. Through it runs the new trade route between India and Persia. By the construction of *serais* and wells at convenient stages this route has been much improved and traders encouraged. The value of the trade was, in 1897-98, £39,000, in the following year £45,000, and in 1899-1900, £52,000.

Affairs in Kalat were tranquil, and many tribal disputes were settled during the Political Agent's tour. Favourable reports were received of the administration of Mekran under Mir Mehrulla Khan. Las Bela suffered severely from the drought and from an epidemic of cholera. The Jam and his Wazir did their best to mitigate the consequent distress. Their relations with the British authorities were very cordial.

The most troublesome tribe on the Punjab frontier in 1899-1900 was that of the Mahsud Waziris, who were guilty of raids and dacoities both in the Zoob Agency under Baluchistan and in the British districts and protected area of the Punjab Province. In the Tochi and Kurram valleys and in Southern Waziristan the political influence of the British Government is reported to be spreading, and there is a growing tendency among the tribes beyond its direct jurisdiction to apply to Political officers to mediate in their disputes. The partial replacement of tribal levies by organised militia, particularly in Northern and Southern Waziristan, also facilitates the maintenance of order. On the Peshawur border the Aka Khel section proved contumacious, but the imposition of a blockade reduced them to submission, and they paid their fines and acknowledged their responsibility for offences committed in British territory across their tribal limits. The operations undertaken against the Gumatti outlaws in the neighbourhood of Bannu were so far successful that the gang retired to Khost in the Afghan limits and ceased from their depredations. Measures were taken to enforce the fines outstanding against the Madda Khels, but success had not been fully achieved in the year under review. On the Derajat border there was danger of the outbreak of inter-tribal war, owing to the murder by Bozdars of some

The Punjab
frontier.

FRONTIERS AND
FRONTIER STATES.

Maliks of the Laghári. The case was, however, settled by a tribal jirga which sentenced 40 of the Bozdars each to seven years' imprisonment. For the rest the conduct of the tribes under the control of the Punjab Government was satisfactory and the cause of little uneasiness during the year.

Kurram.

In the Kurram valley the relations of the British officers with the Turis were excellent, and recruits for the new militia were forthcoming in greater numbers than could be enlisted. The year was prosperous; the revenue easily collected; and trade thrived notwithstanding the restrictive commercial policy of the Amir. On this border there were some difficulties with the frontier officials of Afghanistan, and there were raids to and fro across the border; but no incidents of a serious nature took place.

Khyber.

The Khyber administration was for the first time under the control of the Government of India. The attitude of the tribes was satisfactory. It is remarkable that so soon after the Tirah campaign the Tirah Afridis offered contingents for service in South Africa, which, however, could not be accepted. The enrolment of the new battalions of Khyber Rifles was completed during the year. The revenue from the Khyber tolls steadily decreases in consequence of the Ameer's fiscal policy, which is killing the trade between India and Afghanistan. The extension of the railway to Jamrud, at the mouth of the Khyber, was sanctioned during the year under review, and has since been completed.

Dir, Swat, &c.

The railway from Nowshera to Dargai, near the Malakand frontier, was pressed on during the year 1899-1900, and has since been completed. Though a military railway it has already secured a large traffic. The trade with Bajour and Swat shows remarkable growth. The year 1899-1900 was one of scant harvests and scarcity in Bajour, but prosperity was restored by good spring crops. The relief of the Chitral garrison through Dir and across the Lowarai pass was carried out without a hitch. Not a shot was fired, and the attitude of the people was friendly. Subsequently the Nawab of Dir paid a visit to Calcutta and other parts of India at the invitation of the Viceroy. Intrigues and fighting took place in parts of Swat and Bajour during the year under review, the more important combinations being directed against the Khan of Nawagai. But on the whole the influence of the Political Agent prevailed to check the fight of factions.

Chitral.

The chief representatives of Chitral and the Kushwakt country united to express their contentment and their gratitude to Government for the peace and prosperity which they were enjoying. There were no serious complaints during the year; and the Mehtar was considered to be endeavouring to rule his country with justice.

Kashmir.

In Gilgit and its dependencies, except for a slight disturbance in Darel, there was complete tranquillity during the year. The season was in parts unfavourable, and consequently there was some distress. More use is being made of the Babusar Pass for the movement and supply of troops.

The Kashmir State revenue continues to exhibit a healthy tendency towards elasticity and expansion. During the five years ending March 1901 there has been growth in both revenue and expenditure. The invested surplus of the State has, in the same period, been increased from £228,000 to £285,000. The Budget for 1900-01 gives a total of receipts of £438,000 and of expenditure of £419,000. The great spending departments are the Military and Public Works. The former has decreased its expenditure in recent years, and now requires about £80,000 a year. The actual Public Works expenditure in 1899-1900 exceeded £110,000, but the estimate for the following year is taken at £80,000. Considerable outlay is being devoted to sericulture, from which large financial returns are already accruing to the State. The question of the construction of a railway through Jammu to the Kashmir Valley is being carefully considered. Money has been allotted for the survey, and a grant is also made for the construction of a road along the route which would be useful in the event of the railway project being sanctioned.

The trade with Chinese Turkestan by the Leh route continues to decline. In 1895-96 it was valued at £414,000, in 1899-1900 it had fallen to £243,000. The principal cause is the enhancement of the tax on charas

on its introduction into the Punjab. The tax was intended to restrict the consumption of charas, which is a deleterious drug. It is thought that the trade is now accommodating itself to the new conditions, as larger quantities of wool and silk are coming down to India in place of the charas, on which formerly the trade from Chinese Turkestan depended. The trade with Tibet, which is less important, is increasing. FRONTIERS AND FRONTIER STATES.

There is nothing to report as to Nepal during 1899-1900. Relations with the British Government continued to be thoroughly cordial. Recruiting for the Gurkha regiments was satisfactory. The Quinquennial Mission to Peking returned shortly after the close of the year under review. Nepal.

Another year passed without progress being made towards the settlement of the Sikkim Tibet frontier or of the arrangements for the encouragement of trade, contemplated by the convention of 1890. The growth of trade with Tibet registered at Yatung is shown by the following figures which include treasure: Sikkim and Tibet.

	Exports from Tibet.	Imports into Tibet.	Total.
	£	£	£
1893-94	22,929	22,107	45,036
1904-95	42,507*	41,117*	83,714*
1896-96	47,137	57,406	104,543
1895-97	62,709	50,201	112,910
1897-98	52,845	54,889	112,537
1898-99	74,725	67,846	142,571
1899-1900	78,158	78,574	156,732

* For eleven months only.

The year's revenue of the Sikkim State increased, mainly owing to the collection of the previous year's arrears, from £4,400 to £7,500, while the expenditure decreased from £6,000 to £5,500. Some complaint was made of the administration of justice by the Raja.

There was nothing to record during 1899-1900 in regard to Bhutan. Bhutan.

In Manipur the year's crops were plentiful and health good. The revenues increased from £23,000 to £27,000. There was a surplus of nearly £6,000, which raised the balance in hand at the end of the year to £20,000. Trade increases, but is hindered by the want of communications; it is unfortunate that the Kohima road, on which £230,000 was spent, cannot be kept open in the rainy season, as it is unmetalled and traverses heavy soil. The conduct of the tribes was satisfactory, and progress was made in the gradual withdrawal of arms. Manipur and Assam Frontier.

On the Assam frontier, apart from Manipur, the year 1899-1900 was uneventful. A small expedition was sent against the Bebūya Mishmis, to punish a raid in which British subjects were murdered. There was no opposition, and the penalties imposed on the tribe were exacted. The blockade against the Abors continued to be enforced.

The administrative work in the Lushai Hills in 1899-1900 is thus summed up by the Superintendent. "The year was a busy one. Not only were there additional calls on the garrison and people on account of disarmament operations, but a number of military police were employed in supervising Lushai labour on the Aijal-Falam road, which made good progress and has been completed to the Tyao River, up to a width of three feet except in some rocky portions. Local labour was also supplied to the Survey Department, and the waterworks in Aijal required a large number of coolies. All these demands were met successfully, and some 572 guns were withdrawn. We still appear to enjoy the confidence of the chiefs and people." The chief demand on the people consists of labour, of which, as shown above, a Lushai Hills (Assam).

FRONTIERS AND
FRONTIER STATES.

considerable amount was required. Almost the only revenue drawn from them was a hut tax, which yielded £2,700; the cost of occupation and administration was £57,000.

Chin Hills(Burma).

As in the Manipur and Lushai Hill tracts, so in the Chin Hills, the policy of disarmament has been systematically prosecuted. Over 1,400 guns were withdrawn during 1899-1900. In consequence of the small rising referred to in last year's statement, operations were undertaken in June 1899 against the village of Rumklao, with successful results, as all the ringleaders died or surrendered. Several of these were convicted and sentenced to death or transportation. Fines were imposed on the guilty villages. To effect improvement in the condition of the Chin is a work of time. Hitherto, the objects of British policy have been to disarm the people, to stop raids on the neighbouring plains, and to prohibit the prosecution of village feuds. Education and medical assistance are also beginning to influence the Chins. For education, Government is relying at present on assisted missionary effort.

There were no disturbances and no incidents to record in connection with the Upper Chindwin frontier, the Pakokhu frontier, or the Arakan Hill tracts.

Kachin Hills
(N.E. Frontier of
Burma).

During 1899-1900 the administered area on this frontier was free from disturbance and the work of bringing its wild population within the pale of civilization progressed. North of the administered area an exploring column was sent to collect information required for the demarcation of the frontier between Burma and China in the extreme north; and had a collision with a Chinese irregular force. Much good work was done by the Civil officers on tour by the collection of tribute and by the registration and withdrawal of guns, and the administration of justice. It was generally found possible to punish the parties found guilty of raids or other serious crimes, except in cases where the parties came from Chinese territory. One of the most important criminal cases in which suitable punishments were inflicted may be referred to, as it illustrates the condition of the people. A family of one tribe was believed to have been causing deaths in another tribe by sorcery, and on this belief, branches of the family were attacked in four villages, and four persons were killed and eight carried off as slaves. There is still much smuggling of opium across the border from China; on this frontier nearly two tons of smuggled opium was seized during the year 1899-1900.

Shan States
(Burma).

Certain operations of the Burma China Boundary Commission on the Northern Shan States border led to an attack on a British party in the Wa country. But apart from this and some cattle raids by Chinese Kachins on British territory near Mongmau, there was nothing to disturb tranquillity in either the Northern or the Southern Division of the Shan States. The year 1899-1900 was a prosperous one. The crops were particularly plentiful; trade was active. Health was good, except for an epidemic of small-pox. The revenue was collected without difficulty. There was little crime. A good deal was done to improve communication; new roads are required in all the States to cope with the new demands of trade. Even the distant State of Kengtung engaged in reforms of the revenue and in the construction of roads, and the Sawbwa, on his return from a visit to Ceylon and Burma during the year under review, decreed the abolition of slavery. The only note of despondency in the Shan States Reports for 1899-1900 is in the remarks on the Karen race. With taxation light, harvests good, food in plenty, no restrictions on migration, and nothing apparently to make life hard, the race is dying out. The population has dwindled by one-quarter to one-half in the last 10 or 20 years. The people are said to have no complaints to make, but they seem to have lost all heart. Leprosy is appallingly prevalent.

France and China,
Siam.

Relations with the French officials on the east of the Mekong were very friendly. Some difficulties were caused by border raids and crimes on the Chinese frontier, and there were incidents of a more serious nature, already referred to, both in the Wa country and on the extreme north of the border. With Siam no difficulties occurred.

NATIVE STATES.

The aggregate revenue of the Native States in India in 1899-1900 exceeded 23 crores of rupees (say £15,400,000), their aggregate payments to the Government of India amounting to £615,000. The number of their military forces, excluding Nepal, is now returned at 86,000, mostly ill armed, and ill trained men. This total does not include the Imperial Service troops, organised to take part in military operations in line with those of the Indian army, of which the strength was on 1st April 1900, 17,308, as shown in the margin, the total in the previous year being 17,554. The maintenance of these troops costs the States concerned about £405,000, the outlay of the Indian Government on their organisation and inspection being about £14,000. They are described as generally efficient and ready for service. During the year 1899-1900 the ruling chiefs felt some disappointment at the decision that their forces should take no part in the War in South Africa. They gladly availed themselves of the permission to send horses for the use of the British Army there. These were sent with some 100 men and 300 followers, who were found so useful in South Africa that their services were retained there. After the close of 1899-1900 the Imperial Service troops were among those sent from India to China on the expedition for the relief of the Peking Legations and for subsequent operations. In the year under review, the Imperial Service Corps of several of the Native States proved themselves of great service in the work of famine relief and in the suppression of dacoity. Particularly was this so in the case of the Camel Corps of Bikanir. No important changes were introduced in the Corps during the year. The inspecting reports were generally favourable. During the year the Kapurthala Imperial Service Cavalry were abolished, and the condition of the Infantry improved. Proposals were also under consideration for the reduction of the Imperial Service Contingents of Nabha and Jind.

Cavalry	7,014
Infantry	2,089
Mounted and Muziris	1,144
Artillery	7,521
Imperial Service Corps	1,310
Total	17,308

NATIVE STATES.
Imperial service troops.

The suppression of dacoity in the Native States is a matter of Imperial concern, and at times necessitates interference on the part of the paramount Power, particularly in those tracts of Native States' territory where the jurisdictions of the Chiefs are much intermingled, and where the dacoits have, therefore, great advantages in organising their crimes with comparative impunity. For the State of Hyderabad and the large Agencies of Central India and Rajputana there has long existed an organisation connected with the Government of India, charged with the duty of suppressing thuggee and dacoity. Owing to the famine which prevailed during the latter part of 1899 in both Central India and Rajputana, the circumstances in which the operations of the Department were conducted in those Agencies were so exceptional that it can serve no useful purpose to attempt a detailed comparison between the criminal statistics of 1899 and those of previous years. It is enough to note that in Rajputana, where distress was greatest, there were more than eight times as many dacoities reported as in 1898; in Central India the number was more than trebled. These dacoities were for the most part really grain riots. The work of reclamation of criminal tribes was carried on fully as satisfactorily as could have been expected in a year of such scarcity. The officers of the Department worked in all respects cordially with the Durbars of the Native States.

Dacoity.

At the beginning of the year 1899-1900 it seemed not unreasonable to believe that the sequence of previous bad seasons had ended, and that the province as a whole was now returning to a period of renewed prosperity. The monsoon of 1899 opened as usual and gave no special cause for anxiety, but by the end of July a deficient rainfall was established, the deficiency being maintained in August and September, till with the cessation of the monsoon about the middle of September and a total rainfall of only 13.37 inches, not much more than a third of the normal fall of 38.94 inches, there was no

Hyderabad and the Assigned Districts.

196 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

NATIVE STATES.

longer any doubt as to the disaster that was bound to follow, and the close of the year saw the province in the grip of an acute and wide spread famine separated only by the short space of two years from a drought not greatly inferior to it in severity and extent.

With the exception of the Wun district, there was no part of the province which did not feel the effects of the calamity. It was not merely a crop failure, but a fodder famine on an enormous scale, resulting in many tracts in great mortality among cattle. Trade languished; the export of food-grains diminished, then ceased altogether, and was replaced by imports on a large scale; crime rose to abnormal figures, and the jails were filled to over-crowding.

These conditions were reflected in the finances of the province. The year began with a large cash balance, and a sum of £123,000 was paid over to the Nizam on account of the accrued surplus of previous years. But as the famine set in, and the revenue receipts fell off while the expenditure grew, the whole of the remaining cash balance was used up, and financial assistance had to be obtained from the Government of India. The provincial transactions for the year 1899-1900 showed a revenue of £577,000, against an expenditure of £898,000, leaving a deficit of £321,000. The balance at the beginning of the year had been £340,000, out of which £130,000 was paid to the Nizam. At the end of the year, but for the loan from Government, there would have been an actual deficiency of £103,000. As a famine expenditure of over £400,000 was anticipated in 1900-1901, a further large increase of this deficiency is to be expected, only to be relieved by further loans from Government. These loans, amounting to about £400,000, will have to be repaid, and the full working balance of the province re-established before it will be possible to resume the payments to the Nizam on account of the surplus of the province. During the year an inquiry into the financial administration of Berar was set on foot by the Government of India, at the instance of the Secretary of State, with a view to greater economy and efficiency.

Hyderabad State.

During the year a Report was issued of the administration of His Highness the Nizam's dominions for the four years ending October 1898. For this whole period Sir Vikar-ul-Umra Bahadur was Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is also President of the Cabinet Council, which is the highest consultative body in the State, and he has some power of over-riding or modifying the orders of this body. Certain appointments and measures are reserved for the sanction of His Highness the Nizam. The various departments of the State follow the usual lines, and are placed under Ministers who have seats in the Council.

The four years reported on were on the whole not favourable, and the financial position was the cause of much anxiety. This was aggravated by the depreciation of the Hyderabad rupee in comparison with the British rupee. Taking the four years together there was an aggregate deficit of 139 lakhs (= say £930,000). The following is the summary of the figures for five years (each ending in October), stated in Hyderabad currency:—

	1893-04.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Receipts:	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Civil - - -	3,80,12,723	3,50,51,179	3,07,00,244	3,22,45,146	4,03,62,370
Public Works - -	05,785	73,227	88,182	80,357	74,522
Military - - -	91,407	1,19,761	84,778	45,706	22,936
Railways - - -	18,02,700	9,17,085	29,70,371	20,00,153	31,92,980
Total - - -	4,00,02,024	3,61,01,272	3,99,83,575	3,44,40,362	4,30,52,814
Adjustments - - -	14,44,579	15,64,017	23,16,245	14,08,348	32,69,222
Grand Total - -	4,14,47,203	3,77,26,889	4,22,49,820	3,58,48,710	4,69,22,036

	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Expenditure :					
Civil - - -	2,62,29,847	2,71,34,066	2,75,49,910	2,60,94,744	2,86,94,173
Public Works - -	18,17,146	25,08,752	25,12,348	21,53,317	25,33,513
Military - - -	71,18,279	68,90,565	68,13,266	67,92,536	69,00,446
Railways - - -	34,52,776	36,39,563	36,24,460	32,53,434	30,79,746
Total - - -	3,86,18,048	4,01,62,946	4,04,99,934	3,82,94,031	4,13,12,678
Expenditure of previous years brought to account.	14,23,338	5,11,824	45,991	24,187	—
Advances, &c. - -	13,13,430	12,59,318	37,53,996	20,84,772	23,07,454
Total - - -	4,13,54,816	4,19,14,088	4,42,99,971	4,10,02,590	4,36,80,132
Surplus or Deficit -	+ 92,387	—41,58,199	—20,50,151	—51,53,880	+ 32,41,904

NATIVE STATES.

The year 1897-98 was really one of deficit as included in revenue is a sum of 58 lakhs realised by sale of railway shares and debentures. It was hoped that the lean years were at an end and 1898-99 began with the promise of plenty, but a scarcity worse than any of its predecessors set in, and the financial perplexities of the Nizam's Government became so serious that the Government of India had in 1900 to come to its aid with a large loan to enable it to deal with the famine of the people. Reduction of expenditure has become a necessity; one of the directions in which its desirability is recognised by the Durbar is in the cost of the irregular troops. The whole military expenditure of the Hyderabad State amounts to 69 lakhs, of which 44½ are devoted to the maintenance of the irregular forces.

The accounts of the Mysore State for 1899-1900 are affected by certain large entries on both sides of the account in connection with the formation of a sinking fund for the redemption of the Southern Mahratta Railway sterling loan of £1,200,000. Excluding these entries, the revenue for the year stands £1,215,000, and the expenditure at £1,273,000, of which £42,000 was capital outlay on railways. The principal heads of revenue are: land revenue, £634,000; excise, £233,000; forests, £90,000; and royalties on gold mining, £79,000; on the expenditure side the two principal heads of expenditure were tribute, £239,000; and public works, £234,000. The year was one of short rainfall, some scarcity and high prices not amounting to famine. This condition was reflected in the criminal statistics which showed an increase of 10 per cent. in the number of cases reported to the police. Plague was virulent in 1899-1900, though not so severe as in the previous year when there were 12,272 plague deaths as compared with 5,000 in the year under review. The Representative Assembly was held to hear and discuss the Dewan's address in October 1899. The elections to the Assembly are made triennially. A very full Administration Report of Mysore for the four years 1895-96 to 1898-99 was issued in 1901. After meeting all expenditure in those years the State had an aggregate surplus of £200,000.

Mysore.

In 1900 the Baroda Durbar issued an administration report dealing with the year ended July 1896. The receipts and expenditure for that year are shown respectively at £1,147,000 and £1,136,000. The year 1899-1900 was one of unprecedented famine in Baroda. There was a failure of grain, of fodder, and of water. How disastrous was the result is indicated by the census of 1901. Various measures of relief were undertaken by the Durbar for the cattle; the State provided fodder from the Navsari forests, allowed free grazing in State forests wherever available, and formed cattle camps in places where irrigated fodder crops could be provided. For the people there were relief works on tanks, and roads, and railways, advances to agriculturists, and gratuitous relief. The continued depreciation of the Baroda rupee as compared with the British rupee led to the closing of the Baroda mint in

Baroda.

198 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

NATIVE STATES. June 1899, and the question of replacing the Baroda coinage by that of the Indian mints is being considered.

Rajputana, The year was not less disastrous in Rajputana than it was in Baroda. The famine was unprecedented. Hitherto it had been the custom of the people in Rajputana, more especially in the Western States, to emigrate in large numbers with their families, their flocks and their herds, whenever scarcity was apprehended; but this year the usual channels of emigration were blocked, as Punjab on the north, Sind on the west, and Guzerat and Malwa on the south were themselves within the afflicted area. The recuperation of the people will be hindered by the terrible loss of cattle in the States most affected.

With such distress prevailing among the people it is not to be wondered at that crime and disorder increased. This was particularly the case among the Bhils of Mewar, against a section of whom the aid of the Mewar Bhil Corps had to be called in. The finances of many of the States were very seriously affected by the famine, and State debts were incurred. Jodhpur received a loan of 6 lakhs from Government, and Kishengarh 1 lakh. Other States, such as Kerauli and Tonk, increased their liabilities to native bankers. The reported Public Works expenditure of the Native States of the Agency amounted to £385,000, of which £191,000 was in Jodhpur, mainly on railway construction and management; the net profits of the Jodhpur Railway yielded a return of 14½ per cent on the capital outlay of £551,000; 380 miles of the railway were open at the end of the year. The reform of the currency is in progress or under consideration in several States. Jodhpur is already substituting British rupees for local coinage; Kotah and Jhalawar have decided on the same policy, and Pertabgarh, Banswara, and Dungarpur are likely to follow suit.

Central India. The year was hardly less disastrous in the States of the Central India Agency than in those of Rajputana. The Darbars are reported on the whole to have made gallant efforts to meet the crisis in which they were involved, and the Maharaja Scindia again, as in the Bundelkhand famine of 1897-98, came to the assistance of the poorer States with loans of large sums on liberal terms.

Among the deaths during the year were those of the Raja of Dewas, Senior Branch, the Maharaja of Bijawar, and the Raja of Sohawal. No difficulties arose in questions of succession. Many of the Chiefs showed their loyalty by the offer of personal services and of assistance in connection with the war in South Africa. In Indore a Resident was appointed during the year, and a change of administration was made by the establishment of a State Council acting in all important matters under the Resident's advice. As a result there was a considerable improvement in the affairs of this State.

Dacoity increased in consequence of the famine, and the difficulty was increased by the complicity of officials with the offenders, at least in one of the minor principalities under Gwalior. In Gwalior, progress was made in land record and settlement, and very considerable advance in education. The railway system in the State was extended by the opening of the Gwalior Light Railway and the Guna Bara line. A liberal Public Works policy is possible in Gwalior in consequence of the large balance in the hands of the State.

Bengal. In Cooch Behar the people enjoyed again a good year, the third in succession; prices were low; notwithstanding, there was little or no exportation of rice. Mr. D. R. Lyall retired from his post of Superintendent of the State and President of its Council. He was succeeded by Major Colvin, I.S.C. Mainly in consequence of expenditure on the marriage of the Maharaja's eldest daughter there was an excess of expenditure (£154,000) over revenue (£151,000) for the year, but the expenditure included £7,000 on account of repayment to Government of the railway loan. The Maharaja spent a part of the year in England and was away from his State between May 1899 and January 1901. In Hill Tipperah the year was also prosperous. The expenditure of the State was about £60,000, of which £17,000 represented the cost of the marriage of the Jubraj with a granddaughter of Sir Jang Bahadar of Nepal. In consequence, the year closed with a deficit of £3,000.

Most of the Tributary Mahals of Orissa and Chota Nagpore suffered from an unfavourable season, but the failure of the crops was not such as to cause serious famine: in a few States relief works were opened. The public health was fairly good. Vaccination is slowly extending, though at least one of the chieftains prevents its introduction into his state. No outbreaks of incendiarism, such as were reported in previous years, occurred in 1899-1900. The succession to the Korea Chiefship, of which the last incumbent and his whole family had been carried away by small-pox, was decided during the year. In the same period small-pox also caused the death of the enlightened ruling chief of Jaspur. Agricultural discontent was caused by oppressive measures by the chiefs of Kharsawan and Surakela. They were advised to introduce a proper survey and settlement of their estates. The administration of part of the States was considered satisfactory, the rule of the Raja of Moharbhani being the most praised. The aggregate revenues of the Orissa States for year 1899-1900 was £146,000; that for the Chota Nagpore group, which are much more backward, was £17,000.

NATIVE STATES.

The accounts of the State of Rampur show an income of £203,000 and an expenditure of £213,000 for the year ended September 1899. But the latter total does not include a sale of promissory notes from the State Treasury of the value of £108,000, of which £27,000 was spent on jewellery and the remainder lent to a native banker. Good work is reported to have been done in the Educational, Jail and Police Departments. Reform is greatly needed in the administration of land revenue. The abuses of the farming system continue, and large arrears, much of which can never be realised, have accumulated. The accounts also stand in need of clearer statement. The actual balance of the State is large, including £1,428,000 held in Government promissory notes. There was a change of Ministers during the year, the new Minister being a Deputy Collector lent by the North Western Provinces Government.

North-West Provinces.

The Raja of Tehri (Garhwal) visited the Paris Exhibition during 1899-1900, the management of the State being left in the hands of his mother as Regent. It was not a prosperous season, and the expenditure of £28,000 considerably exceeded the revenue. There was a serious epidemic of cholera, to which some prominent State officials fell victims. The attention of the Darbar was drawn to the need for securing a more punctual administration of justice, but in other respects the condition of affairs was satisfactory.

In November 1899 the young Raja of Jind was formally invested with ruling powers, but subject for the time to the condition that in exercising them he should follow the advice of the British officer, appointed for the purpose to reside in his State. This arrangement was viewed with great disfavour by the chiefs belonging to the same Phulkian class; but it was considered essential for the good government of the State. In Patiala affairs continued to be unsatisfactory. As there was some doubt as to the condition of the finances, the Maharaja agreed to ask for the services of an experienced officer as a temporary financial adviser. A Punjab officer was also appointed Inspector-General of the Patiala police. Since the close of the year 1899-1900 the Maharaja of Patiala has died, and an opportunity has occurred for ensuring the introduction of the necessary reforms in the general administration of the State. In Bahawalpur the young chief pursued his studies with credit at the Chiefs' College; the administration of the State was in the hands of a native minister under the superintendence of a British officer. The numerous debts left by the late Nawab were settled. From an examination of the accounts it appears that the late chief in addition to £49,000 a year annually allotted to him in the budget for his own expenditure had dissipated since 1882-83 £347,000 drawn from the yearly revenues of the State and £733,000 taken from the State treasury, and had left many debts notwithstanding. During the year reforms were instituted in every branch of the administration, and particular attention was paid to the development and improvement of the irrigation canals, on which the prosperity of the people mainly depends. The measures were successful, for a larger area was cultivated than in 1899, notwithstanding the low level of the Sutlej. The State did not suffer from the prevailing famine. In Nabha the administration is said to be a model of what can be done by a native chief of high principles and sound understanding.

Punjab.

NATIVE STATES.

The Raja of Kapurthala, who spent much of the year in Europe, takes little personal interest in the management of his State; its administration is, however, not unsatisfactory. The affairs of Nahan (Sirmur) are well managed by its chief, who like the Raja of Nabha, makes the government of his State the business of his life. As to the other States under the Punjab Government no remark is called for.

Central Provinces.

The year was not marked by any incident of importance or special interest in the family history of the Chiefs of the Chhattisgarh Feudatories or of the Makrai Chief. Administrative conditions remained as in the previous year. In the Feudatory States, as in the parts of the Province directly administered by Government, the work of the year was overshadowed by famine. The chiefs manifested much solicitude for the sufferings of their people, and famine relief measures were as a rule characterised by promptitude and efficiency. The States which suffered least were Bamra, Rehrakhol and Kalahandi. In Sakti and Kawardha distress was aggravated by the unfavourable conditions of previous years. Makrai suffered severely only in its hilly tracts. The development of public works was even greater than usual, consequent on the special need for providing labour for those whose ordinary pursuits did not afford them the means of livelihood. The effect of the opening up of communications was visible in the briskness of traffic, both export and import, and in the general tendency to equilibrium in prices. The relations between Feudatory Chiefs and Political Officers continued to be of a cordial character. The administration of the States was generally successful; that of Bamra maintained its character for sense and vigour, and Sonpur formed the subject of favourable comment.

Madras.

The Travancore report, which covers the period August 1898 to August 1899, indicates a condition of prosperity and of satisfactory government. Among the legislative Acts passed during the year were a Penal Code, and a measure relating to wills, under which the testamentary power of Hindus was for the first time recognised by the Travancore Courts. The financial position of the State is very strong. The balance is £631,000, and the income of the year, excluding debt heads, was £620,000; the surplus over expenditure, £22,000. The yearly outlay on public works is liberal, but it is worthy of consideration whether a portion of the State balances should not be devoted to large productive schemes, which it is difficult to complete out of the yearly allotments from the Budget. Among such schemes is the Kotiyar Irrigation Project, which is estimated to cost £76,000 and to yield a return of 10 per cent. when complete; nearly £25,000 was spent upon it during the year under review. The trade of the country increased from £1,574,000 in value in the previous year to £1,843,000. The standard of education is relatively very high in Travancore, and showed further progress during the year.

In Cochin the large balance is to be utilised for the construction of a railway from Shoranur to Ernakulam. The balance at the end of the year 1898-99 (August to August) was £325,000. Excluding debt heads there was an income of £168,000 and a surplus of £8,000. Credit is due to the administration for the prompt and easy collection of revenue, its speedy administration of criminal justice, the order at last introduced into its accounts, its new energy in forest management, its hospitals and its schools. But there is much need of improvement in its revenue and its Civil Appellate Courts, where cases are long delayed, and in its dealing with abkari and opium monopolies.

In regard to the other Madras States, it only need be said that affairs in Banganapalle are not satisfactory, and that the Nawab has been urged to curtail his personal expenditure and to appoint a competent Dewan with a view to improving the administration.

Bombay.

The Government of Bombay exercises political control over 363 native states scattered over every division of the Presidency, and presenting numerous gradations of size, wealth, and civilization. The year was an unfavourable one throughout the Presidency, the Khairpur State in Sind, in spite of a low inundation, alone being able to show material progress during the year. In Khairpur, an increase of cultivation was rendered possible by the opening of the Faizwah Canal. The Northern Gujarát States were visited by a famine of unrecorded severity, which resulted, in many cases, in the doubling of crime

and the death-rate, and the halving of civil litigation. As the famine became less severe further south, plague took its place, the number of plague deaths in Kolhapur and Sangli being nearly 4,000 and 8,000 respectively. A very large expenditure was incurred on public works, and other famine relief operations, much of which will of course be unremunerative. The chiefs generally shared the burden of their people by reducing their private expenditure; but in some cases their previous improvidence made it necessary for them to raise loans, which were given freely by Government to carry on their administration. In Lear it was necessary to appoint a Government Commission to carry out famine relief. Education has temporarily receded everywhere except in Khairpur, low-caste schools having generally had to be closed during the year.

The chief of Kolhapur received the title of Maharaja. He is congratulated by Government on the satisfactory position of his finance and his good administration. The Sar Desai, Raghunath Sawant, of Savantvadi died during the year. Though chief for many years he was never competent to manage affairs; he has been succeeded by his cousin, Shiram Sawant. The year was wholly exceptional, and comparisons with administrative figures of previous years would serve no useful purpose.

There was a falling-off in the trade of Aden in 1899-1900, as shown below, all the figures being converted from rupees into sterling at 1s. 4d. the rupee:—

—	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Imports:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
By Sea - - -	2,622,675	2,735,394	2,423,199	2,599,533	2,539,987
By Land - - -	262,659	201,847	220,699	180,068	183,363
Treasure - - -	496,557	547,752	203,894	277,275	227,620
Total - - -	3,381,891	3,484,993	2,937,792	3,056,876	2,950,970
Exports:					
By Sea - - -	2,276,613	2,173,551	2,088,651	2,109,244	2,030,684
By Land - - -	125,032	138,941	84,829	110,083	76,050
Treasure - - -	528,150	457,171	325,212	346,131	242,900
Total - - -	2,929,795	2,769,663	2,498,692	2,565,458	2,349,634
GRAND TOTAL - - -	6,311,686	6,254,656	5,436,484	5,622,334	5,300,604

The falling-off is partly due to merchandise going direct from Arabian ports to Europe without passing into Aden. The number of merchant steamers calling at Aden largely declined during the year.

CHAPTER XVII.

ARMY.

ARMY.

The sanctioned establishment for 1899-1900 was as follows:—

British Troops - - - - -	73,011
Miscellaneous Officers - - - - -	698
Native Troops (including European Officers) - - - - -	145,834
Total - - - - -	219,543

Corresponding Total for 1898-99 - - - 219,454

The actual strength of the Army on the 1st April 1900 was as follows* :—

PUNJAB COMMAND.				
<i>British.</i>				
Cavalry (1 regiment) - - - - -	712			
Artillery (22 batteries and companies) - - - - -	3,007			
Infantry (13 battalions) - - - - -	13,690		17,409	
<i>Native.</i>				
Cavalry (15 regiments) - - - - -	9,368			
Artillery (6 batteries and Native Drivers of British batteries) - - - - -	2,677			
Infantry (41 battalions) - - - - -	37,502		49,547	66,956
BENGAL COMMAND.				
<i>British.</i>				
Cavalry (2 regiments) - - - - -	1,197			
Artillery (26 batteries and companies) - - - - -	3,759			
Engineers - - - - -	48			
Infantry (15 battalions) - - - - -	15,403		20,407	
<i>Native.</i>				
Cavalry (11 regiments) - - - - -	6,978			
Artillery (2 batteries and Native Drivers of British batteries) - - - - -	902			
Sappers and Miners (8 companies) - - - - -	1,516			
Infantry (24 battalions) - - - - -	21,886		31,282	51,689
Carried forward - - - - -				118,645

* The establishment was short (owing to the War in South Africa) by five batteries of Royal Artillery, four regiments of British Cavalry, and five battalions of British Infantry.

		Brought forward - -	118,645	ARMY.
MADRAS COMMAND.				
<i>British.</i>				
Cavalry (1 regiment) - - - - -	569			
Artillery (13 batteries and companies) - - - - -	1,811			
Engineers - - - - -	52			
Infantry (8 battalions) - - - - -	7,640			
		10,292		
<i>Native.</i>				
Cavalry (3 regiments) - - - - -	1,789			
Artillery (Native Drivers of British batteries) - - - - -	391			
Sappers and Miners (9 companies) - - - - -	1,535			
Infantry (32 battalions) - - - - -	26,151			
		29,655		
BOMBAY COMMAND.				
<i>British.</i>				
Cavalry (1 regiment) - - - - -	649			
Artillery (22 batteries and companies) - - - - -	3,279			
Engineers - - - - -	61			
Infantry (11 battalions) - - - - -	11,484			
		15,473		
<i>Native.</i>				
Cavalry (7½ regiments) - - - - -	4,691			
Artillery (2 batteries and Native Drivers of British batteries) - - - - -	774			
Sappers and Miners (6 companies) - - - - -	931			
Infantry (31 battalions) - - - - -	24,443			
		30,839		
TROOPS NOT UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA.				
<i>Hyderabad Contingent.*</i>				
Cavalry (6 regiments) - - - - -	2,033			
Artillery (4 batteries) - - - - -	511			
Infantry (6 battalions) - - - - -	4,928			
		7,472		
Body guards (Governor General's and Governors) - - - - -	268			
Resident's escort, Nepal - - - - -	95			
		363		
			7,835	
TOTAL - - -			212,939	

* The Hyderabad Contingent is not included in the "Sanctioned Establishment" shown above.

The total of the Native Army Reserves in India on 1st April 1900 was 18,752.

The net expenditure on the Army in 1899-1900 was £14,165,743. The total in 1898-99 was £15,390,819.

204 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

The number of Volunteers in the whole of India on 1st April 1900 was as under:—

Command.	Enrolled Strength.	Efficient.
Punjab - - - -	2,029	1,816
Bengal - - - -	12,734	12,432
Madras - - - -	10,675	10,334
Bombay - - - -	5,598	5,412
	31,036	29,994

On the 1st of April 1899 the number of enrolled Volunteers was 30,709, of whom 28,326 were efficient. The number of Volunteers enrolled in the Reserve at the end of 1899-1900 was 838.

No changes of importance in the organisation of the army in India came into effect in 1899-1900.

The class composition of some Native regiments was altered and some of the Bengal Cavalry regiments were equipped as Lancers.

The Military Works Department was re-organised. It ceased in fact to be a "Department," and the graded system, taken from the Public Works Department was abolished. The "Military Works Services" were given a purely military constitution; in which the position of officers is determined primarily by their regimental standing and their emoluments depend partly on regimental rank and partly on the duties which they have to perform.

The institution of a cordite factory in India was sanctioned.

Steps were taken towards the re-armament of the Native Army with the Lee-Enfield rifle.

It was decided to withdraw the garrisons of regular troops from the advanced fortified positions on the North West Frontier; militia, military police and levies recruited from the frontier tribes being substituted; and the troops thus withdrawn being concentrated in the neighbouring cantonments.

General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart G.C.B., K.C.S.I., Commander in Chief in India, died on the 18th March 1900, and General Sir A. P. Palmer, K.C.B., was appointed Provisional Commander in Chief.

There were no military operations of any importance during 1899-1900.

H. M. Government, in view of the situation in South Africa, having applied to India for a reinforcement of British troops, orders for the mobilisation of the force detailed below were issued on the 9th September 1899, and by the 27th of that month, the whole of it (with the exception of two squadrons of cavalry delayed owing to an outbreak of glanders) had been despatched to South Africa.

- 3 regiments, cavalry.
- 4 battalions, infantry.
- 3 battalions, field artillery, with ammunition column.
- 3½ British field hospitals.
- ½ Native field hospital.
- 1 field medical store depôt.
- 1 veterinary field hospital.
- Ordnance field post.

The promptitude with which this force was despatched earned the appreciation of the military authorities at home and the admiration of H. M. Government.

In October the two squadrons of cavalry which had been left behind were sent, and also another veterinary field hospital, and a supply of reserve horses.

In January 1900 the following additional force of British troops was des- ARMY.
patched :—

- 1 regiment, cavalry.
- 2 batteries, horse artillery.
- 3 companies, mounted infantry (from Burma, mounted on Burma ponies).

and also the following :—

- 2,810 horses for remounts, &c.
- 3 reserve batteries of field artillery (guns and equipment only).
- 6 quick-firing guns 4·7 in.

of the horses 1,700 were taken from regiments of Native cavalry and Imperial Service troops, 300 were given by the Maharaja Scindia, and the balance by other Native princes.

Lieut.-Colonel D. M. Lumsden, formerly commandant of a volunteer corps, having offered to raise a contingent of European volunteers, his office was accepted, and two companies of mounted infantry—known as “Lumsden’s Horse” embarked for South Africa at the end of February and the beginning of March. In the latter month there also went 2,000 Bhistis, an ambulance train supplied by Mr. Dhanjibhoy, postal contractor, and a supply of tents sufficient for one base hospital contributed by Boota Sing, a contractor. Mr. Damodar Goordhundas, of Bombay, offered to equip and pay for 10 months five qualified native practitioners to attend Indian camp followers. One of these embarked before the end of March.

Altogether there had been sent from India by the end of that month :—

- 8,200 British officers and soldiers.
- 5,700 Natives (non-combatants)
- 6,700 horses.
- 6,600 mules and ponies.
- 50 field guns.
- 6 quick-firing guns 4·7 in.
- 9 Maxim guns.

besides artillery waggons, ambulance carts, and large supplies of forage, clothing, tents, and other equipment.

A second regiment of Native infantry was sent to Mauritius in January, and in February one regiment to Ceylon and one to Singapore.

MILITARY WORKS.

The total expenditure on Military Works, ordinary and special, amounted to MILITARY WORKS. £837,436 in 1899-1900, against £808,694 in 1898-99. The cost of Special Defence Works amounted to £874 only.

The expenditure of £836,562 on ordinary military works included an outlay of £310,154 on new works, of £249,354 on repairs, and of £200,313 on establishment. Under the head of New Works, additions to the barrack and hospital accommodation for British and Native troops cost over £140,000, while General Cantonment Works figured at £66,449.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE CENSUS.

CENSUS.

The third general census of India was taken on the night of the 1st March 1901, and the provincial totals have been published, subject to revision after further examination. The methods employed are thus described by the Government of India :—

“Subject to minor local variations it may be said that for census purposes the whole of India was divided into blocks, each of which contained from 30 to 50 houses, and was in charge of an enumerator. Above the block came the circle, a compact group of from 10 to 15 blocks, or about 500 houses, under a supervisor, who was responsible for the work of all the enumerators in his circle. Circles were grouped, according to thanas, taluks or other recognized administrative divisions, into charges under charge superintendents, who exercised general supervision over the census operations and tested a large proportion of the work of their subordinates.

“During January and February—the precise period varied with circumstances—the enumerator wrote up the census schedules for all the persons in his block; and this record was checked and corrected by the supervisors and superintendents and by officers of the district staff. On the night of the 1st March the enumerator went round his block, and brought the census up to date by striking out the names of people who had died or left the block, and filling up the papers for fresh arrivals and newly-born infants.

“On the morning of the 2nd March the enumerators of the various blocks met the circle supervisor at a place previously arranged, and prepared the first totals of their blocks so as to show the number of occupied houses, males, females, and total population for each block. The supervisor combined the block totals into a circle total and sent this on to the charge superintendent, who did the same for his charge and reported the charge totals to the District Officer. The charge totals were then combined under the supervision of a Gazetted Officer, specially deputed for the purpose, into the district total which was telegraphed to the Provincial Superintendent of Census and the Census Commissioner for India. The State of Rampur in the North-Western Provinces reported its total population on the morning of the 2nd March; and all the returns for the Central Provinces were sent in by the 7th March.

“At every stage the figures were added up by two persons working independently, and special precautions were taken against the omission of circles or blocks. In 1891 the first totals, which were completed within five weeks from the date of the census, differed from the finally corrected returns by only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or five persons in every thousand of population.”

The operations embraced several tracts, chiefly on the North-Eastern and North-Western frontiers, which were not included in 1891; they extended in fact to the whole of the Indian Empire with the exception of certain areas among the Shan States in Burma and of parts of Baluchistan, where tribal disputes and the possibility of disturbances rendered it inexpedient to attempt to take a census. The gross result is that the ascertained population of India, including Native States, was found to be 294 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions, compared with 287 $\frac{1}{3}$ millions in 1891, a rise of 2·42 per cent. But deducting for the purpose of comparison the population of the tracts enumerated for the first time, the proportionate increase in the ten years is reduced to 1·49 per cent., as compared with 11·2 per cent., the actual rate of increase between the years 1881 and 1891. The first totals are given on pages 208 and 209.

Of British Provinces only Madras, Burma, Assam, Sind and the Punjab show a rate of increase approaching the rate for the previous ten years, and of all these excepting Madras it is to be remarked that they are outlying provinces and include some areas now for the first time included in the enumeration. They are also provinces in which colonisation from other regions has been in active progress owing to the extension of railways or canal irrigation, or both. In Assam, if deduction is made of the figures for the Lushai Hills and Manipur, not enumerated in 1891, the rate of increase for the rest of the province

is 5.95; and in the Punjab the district showing the largest increase is the Hazara district on the extreme northern frontier (37.64 per cent.). While it is impossible, on the slender basis of the census figures as yet available, to

Birth rate in	Bombay.	Central Provinces.
1894	35.08	32.43
1895	36.88	33.41
1896	36.76	31.73
1897	35.46	28.83
1898	30.94	30.91
1899	36.42	47.35

examine in detail the causes which have affected the growth of the Indian population, there can be no doubt that the decrease in Bombay and the Central Provinces is chiefly due to the two great famines in those provinces, which have impaired the vitality of the people, so that not only has the birth rate fallen for some years below its normal standard, as is shown in the margin, but a favourable field has been given to the ravages of disease. The return of prosperity in

1898-99 caused a large, and in the Central Provinces a remarkable, increase in the birth rate. It will be seen from the table given above that in the decade 1881-91, after the famine of 1877-78, which affected principally Madras, Mysore and Bombay, the growth of population in those parts of India was considerably higher than in most other provinces.

The variation in the population of the chief cities and towns is shown in the following table, which includes all towns with a total population exceeding one hundred thousand :—

Name of Town.	Population in 1901.			Population in 1891.	Percentage of variation between 1891 and 1901.	Percentage of variation between 1891 and 1891.	Remarks.
	Males.	Females.	Total.				
In British Territory :—							
Calcutta and suburbs	732,353	389,312	1,121,664	902,374	+ 24.3	+ 25.9	
Bombay	100,117	57,730	157,847	116,606	+ 35.3	+ 10.83	
Patna	67,424	67,748	135,172	166,193	- 18.17	- 3.2	
Bombay City	474,813	296,030	770,843	821,764	- 6.19	+ 6.28	
Karachi	67,946	48,161	116,107	106,199	+ 9.7	+ 43.01	
Poona	56,606	54,780	111,386	161,390	- 30.91	+ 24.38	
Ahmedabad	—	—	—	148,412	—	+ 16.29	Figures for 1891 not yet received.
Surat	60,888	57,476	118,364	109,229	+ 8.36	- 0.56	
Rangoon	162,933	69,393	232,326	180,324	+ 28.83	+ 34.39	
Mandalay	92,617	89,831	182,448	182,815	- 3.36	—	Upper Burma had not been annexed in 1881.
Madras City	257,296	252,099	509,397	453,518	+ 12.57	+ 11.5	
Madras	52,337	53,164	105,501	87,428	+ 20.67	+ 13.77	
Trichinopoly	51,193	53,497	104,690	90,609	+ 15.54	+ 7.29	
Nagpur	63,817	60,782	124,599	117,014	+ 6.48	+ 19.04	
Lucknow	140,631	123,300	263,931	273,028	- 3.32	+ 4.48	
Benares	104,108	98,992	203,099	219,467	- 7.46	+ 2.19	
Cawnpore	111,166	85,834	197,000	188,712	+ 4.39	+ 24.6	
Agra	101,529	86,771	188,300	168,663	+ 11.64	+ 5.28	
Allahabad	94,196	81,552	175,748	175,246	+ 0.28	+ 9.44	
Meerut	65,934	52,708	118,642	119,390	- 0.62	+ 19.91	
Bareilly	60,487	56,946	117,433	121,089	- 2.98	+ 6.73	
Delhi	114,630	93,755	208,385	192,579	+ 8.21	+ 11.06	
Amritsar	93,197	69,351	162,548	136,766	+ 18.85	- 9.36	
Lahore	66,345	53,173	120,058	176,854	- 32.11	+ 12.44	
In Native States :—							
Hyderabad City	231,809	214,482	446,291	415,089	+ 7.53	+ 12.96	
Baroda City	55,995	47,787	103,782	116,430	- 10.86	+ 9.3	
Rangalore	81,242	77,788	159,030	180,366	- 11.83	+ 15.72	
Srinagar	65,500	57,036	122,536	118,960	+ 3.01	—	There was no census in Kashmir in 1881.
Jaipur	83,362	76,188	159,550	155,905	+ 0.41	+ 11.45	

FIRST TOTAL—SHOWING VARIATION IN POPULATION SINCE 1881 AND PERCENTAGE OF VARIATION.

PROVINCE.	Population 1901.			Population 1891.			Variation 1891-1901. (+) or (-).		Variation 1881-91. (+) or (-).		Remarks.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.	
Ajmer-Merwara - - - - -	250,721	325,609	476,330	288,325	354,033	542,358	- 66,028	- 12.17	+ 81,636	+ 17.72	
Assam - - - - -	3,142,561	2,979,640	6,122,201	2,797,099	2,636,569	5,433,668	+ 688,533	+ 12.67	+ 552,242	+ 11.31	
Bengal - - - - -	37,376,438	37,336,582	74,713,020	35,563,447	35,783,514	71,346,961	+ 3,366,059	+ 4.72	+ 4,596,441	+ 6.89	
Berar - - - - -	1,394,107	1,358,311	2,752,418	1,491,500	1,405,540	2,897,040	- 144,622	- 4.99	+ 224,367	+ 8.41	
Bombay (Presidency) - - - - -	9,595,805	8,988,691	18,584,496	9,779,743	9,093,599	18,873,342	- 288,846	- 1.53	+ 2,367,375	+ 14.34	
(a) Bombay - - - - -	7,804,931	7,525,335	15,330,466	8,180,239	7,777,250	15,957,489	- 627,023	- 3.93	+ 1,900,205	+ 13.52	
(b) Sind - - - - -	1,762,694	1,450,114	3,212,808	1,568,590	1,303,181	2,871,774	+ 341,031	+ 11.88	+ 457,951	+ 18.97	
(c) Aden - - - - -	28,180	13,042	41,222	30,914	13,165	44,079	- 2,857	- 6.48	+ 9,219	+ 26.44	
Burma (Total) - - - - -	4,705,094	4,516,067	9,221,161	3,954,377	3,916,517	7,770,894	+ 1,450,267	+ 18.66	-	-	
(a) Upper - - - - -	1,852,381	1,997,452	3,849,833	1,617,544	1,744,834	3,362,428	+ 487,405	+ 14.49	(a)	(a)	(a) Upper Burma had not been annexed in 1881.
(b) Lower - - - - -	2,852,713	2,518,615	5,371,328	2,336,833	2,071,633	4,408,466	+ 962,862	+ 21.84	+ 811,255	+ 23.58	
Central Provinces - - - - -	4,841,832	5,003,486	9,845,318	5,397,304	5,386,990	10,784,294	- 938,976	- 8.71	+ 945,503	+ 9.61	
Coorg - - - - -	100,214	80,247	180,461	95,907	77,149	173,055	+ 7,406	+ 4.23	- 5,247	- 2.93	
Madras - - - - -	18,853,024	19,355,585	38,208,609	17,619,395	18,011,045	35,630,440	+ 2,578,169	+ 7.24	+ 4,803,327	+ 15.58	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh - - - - -	24,620,961	23,075,363	47,696,324	24,303,448	22,601,343	46,904,791	+ 791,533	+ 1.84	+ 2,796,922	+ 6.34	
(a) North-Western Provinces - - - - -	18,028,481	16,783,693	34,812,174	17,812,697	16,441,268	34,253,965	+ 558,214	+ 1.63	+ 1,533,832	+ 4.68	
(b) Oudh - - - - -	6,592,480	6,291,670	12,884,150	6,490,751	6,160,030	12,650,831	+ 233,319	+ 2.40	+ 1,263,090	+ 11.09	

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Punjab	12,995,711	10,353,773	*22,449,184	11,355,986	9,610,861	20,860,817	+ 1,582,637	+ 7.58	+ 2,029,661	+ 10.71	(b) Baluchistan not enumerated in 1881.
Baluchistan	445,003	865,208	810,811	23,861	8,166	27,270	+ 783,541	—	(b)	(b)	
Andaman	18,581	5,918	24,109	13,375	2,234	15,909	+ 8,890	+ 66.95	+ 981	+ 6.71	
Total Provinces	117,440,662	113,844,480	231,085,132	112,583,770	108,682,799	221,266,669	+ 0,818,563	+ 4.44	+ 10,228,463	+ 9.68	
STATE OR AGENCY.											
Hyderabad	5,664,772	5,510,125	11,174,807	5,873,129	5,663,911	11,537,040	— 362,148	— 3.14	+ 1,691,446	+ 17.18	(c) Variation from 1873.
Baroda	1,007,944	942,983	1,950,927	1,232,983	1,162,418	2,416,390	— 464,469	— 10.23	+ 230,391	+ 10.84	
Mysore	2,796,165	2,742,317	5,538,482	2,483,451	2,460,168	4,943,604	+ 694,878	+ 12.03	+ 757,416	+ 18.09	
Kashmir	1,544,412	1,861,761	†2,906,173	1,353,229	1,190,723	2,543,952	+ 362,221	+ 11.24	+(c)1,008,980	+ 65.7	
Rajputana	5,167,640	4,673,892	9,341,032	6,353,488	5,662,614	12,016,102	— 2,175,070	— 18.1	+ 1,747,710	+ 17.1	
Central India	4,357,225	4,144,658	8,501,883	5,395,536	4,923,276	10,318,812	— 1,816,929	— 17.5	+ 1,056,905	+ 11.41	
Bombay States	3,504,975	3,386,716	6,891,691	4,120,125	3,939,173	8,059,298	— 1,167,607	— 14.49	+ 1,132,834	+ 10.85	
Madras States	2,100,318	2,090,009	4,190,322	1,853,976	1,840,646	3,700,622	+ 489,700	+ 13.23	+ 355,773	+ 10.63	
Central Provinces States	982,823	1,000,673	1,983,496	1,089,911	1,071,500	2,160,511	— 177,015	— 8.19	+ 450,791	+ 26.36	
Bengal States	1,899,704	1,836,011	3,735,715	1,673,186	1,629,193	3,206,379	+ 439,336	+ 13.33	+ 509,933	+ 18.3	
North-Western Provinces States	411,897	387,778	799,675	409,470	383,921	792,491	+ 7,184	+ 0.91	+ 50,741	+ 6.84	
Punjab States	2,417,932	2,020,864	4,438,816	2,324,091	1,939,189	4,263,280	+ 175,536	+ 4.12	+ 402,519	+ 10.42	
Burma States	609,895	618,565	1,228,160	2,882	110	2,902	+ 1,225,468	—	(d)	(d)	
Total States and Agencies	32,465,697	30,715,872	63,181,569	34,184,557	31,965,922	66,950,479	— 2,868,910	— 4.84	+ 0,395,430	+ 16.68	
TOTAL INDIA	140,906,349	144,860,352	294,266,701	146,768,327	146,548,721	287,317,048	+ 6,919,653	+ 2.42	+ 28,023,902	+ 11.2	

* Including 63,323, being the population of the Kurram Valley and the troops and followers stationed at Wana and in the Tochi Valley.
 † Including 8,678 troops and followers stationed in Swat, Dir, and Chitral.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

FINANCE:

TABLES showing the NET REVENUE and EXPENDITURE in the several Provinces of INDIA, and in ENGLAND.

BENGAL.

Bengal.

	1898-99.				1899-1900.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.
NET REVENUE:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Land Revenue	2,008,400	676,610	—	2,680,010	2,146,755	580,000	—	2,726,815
Forest	32,378	32,377	—	64,755	37,691	37,891	—	75,782
Opium	1,249,476	—	—	1,249,476	1,724,551	—	—	1,724,551
Salt	1,657,656	—	—	1,657,656	1,707,808	—	—	1,707,808
Stamps	287,080	861,230	—	1,148,310	801,085	906,956	—	1,207,941
Excise	447,190	447,197	—	894,303	465,185	465,185	—	930,370
Provincial Rates	—	311,687	326,657	637,344	—	321,104	335,745	656,849
Customs	1,030,171	6,702	—	1,036,873	1,102,942	15,349	—	1,118,291
Assessed Taxes	174,584	168,927	—	343,511	178,770	172,980	—	351,750
Registration	48,966	48,966	—	97,932	48,268	48,268	—	96,536
Other Heads	—263	48,214	12,621	60,572	—353	28,175	13,664	41,254
TOTAL	6,930,644	2,601,910	338,278	9,870,841	7,713,660	2,574,977	349,409	10,638,046
NET EXPENDITURE:								
Interest	—104,983	—10,733	—1,109	—117,147	—103,734	—12,531	—1,183	—117,748
Collection of Revenue	139,662	436,081	26,710	602,462	144,113	430,923	24,606	608,642
Railways	—361,008	—	—	—361,008	—687,319	—	—	—687,319
Irrigation	—	172,505	—778	171,727	—	154,597	—918	153,679
General Administration	18,328	117,485	16,982	152,795	19,521	114,688	17,844	152,003
Law and Justice	—	631,558	—	631,558	—	632,547	—	632,547
Police	—	385,308	—30,139	355,169	—	386,887	—30,104	356,783
Education	—	141,999	74,482	216,481	—	142,040	77,309	219,349
Medical	—	119,811	24,687	144,448	—	136,832	23,788	160,620
Territorial and Political Pensions	80,104	—	—	80,104	72,148	—	—	72,148
Civil Superannuation	—8,708	138,732	805	138,829	—6,767	142,064	1,570	137,767
Stationery and Printing	135,371	70,235	3,711	209,317	152,642	65,083	4,035	221,760
Civil Works	44,647	192,307	261,888	498,837	53,004	238,224	273,265	564,583
Famine Relief and Insurance	214	1,528	410	2,152	—	733	182	915
Other Heads	29,895	3,999	24,367	57,961	31,795	6,785	23,265	61,847
Provincial and Local Balances	—	146,299	1,783	148,082	—	46,793	15,511	62,304
TOTAL	—222,480	2,546,794	393,408	2,716,717	—324,511	2,495,515	428,871	2,599,875
Surplus	7,154,124	—55,125	—35,135	7,164,124	8,038,171	79,462	—79,462	8,038,171

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

North-Western
Provinces
and Oudh.

	1898-99.				1899-1900.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.
NET REVENUE:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Land Revenue - - -	3,162,935	1,235,740	2,235	4,400,910	3,144,124	1,136,887	2,375	4,283,393
Forest - - - -	51,915	51,915	—	103,830	53,724	53,724	—	107,448
Opium - - - -	34,082	—	—	34,082	33,397	—	—	33,397
Stamps - - - -	122,137	366,413	—	488,550	124,474	373,421	—	497,895
Excise - - - -	283,008	94,423	—	377,431	317,409	106,090	—	423,499
Provincial Rates - - -	—	91,641	626,478	717,119	—	87,589	599,713	687,302
Assessed Taxes - - -	83,465	79,385	—	162,870	85,751	81,268	—	167,019
Other Heads - - - -	16,511	19,097	7,236	42,844	14,867	11,690	7,153	33,710
TOTAL - - -	3,754,073	1,938,614	634,949	6,327,636	3,775,753	1,850,669	609,241	6,235,663
NET EXPENDITURE:								
Interest - - - -	48,835	—	—	48,835	49,586	—	—	49,586
Collection of Revenue - -	45,330	324,489	237,228	607,047	44,621	320,425	240,745	605,791
Railways - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	52	—	52
Irrigation - - - -	—	52,311	—	52,311	—	43,112	—	43,112
General Administration - -	16,073	91,675	6,963	114,711	15,432	90,739	7,313	113,484
Law and Justice - - -	—	397,052	—	397,052	—	394,874	—	394,874
Police - - - -	—	300,143	185,320	485,463	—	323,169	179,753	502,921
Education - - - -	—	48,347	75,747	124,094	—	50,430	79,778	130,208
Medical - - - -	—	60,573	26,483	87,056	—	65,314	27,654	92,968
Territorial and Political Pensions - - - -	59,277	—	—	59,277	59,108	—	—	59,108
Civil Superannuation - -	—	142,866	1,223	144,095	—	146,950	1,189	148,139
Stationery and Printing -	—	39,416	622	40,054	—	40,027	1,137	41,164
Civil Works - - - -	13,784	164,233	146,246	324,263	18,431	219,290	154,612	392,333
Famine Relief and Insurance -	—	—	—	—	5,821	4,472	—	10,293
Other Heads - - - -	32,469	4,093	15,644	52,206	28,844	5,680	16,243	50,767
Provincial and Local Balances	—	219,042	40,601	259,643	—	50,254	7,388	57,642
TOTAL - - -	—	1,838,709	734,854	2,638,494	—	1,745,334	* 714,576	1,766,203
Surplus - - -	4,289,142	99,905	—	4,389,047	4,469,460	105,335	—	4,574,795

STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

APPENDIX.
FINANCE.

Punjab.

PUNJAB.

	1898-99.				1899-1900.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.
NET REVENUE:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Land Revenue	936,072	759,695	3,235	1,699,002	812,340	640,079	3,131	1,461,550
Forest	40,007	49,097	—	89,104	46,677	46,677	—	93,354
Stamps	70,508	211,521	—	282,032	71,287	213,862	—	285,149
Khole	128,632	43,025	—	171,657	129,148	43,182	—	172,330
Provincial Rates	—	42,131	257,620	299,751	—	37,152	226,293	263,445
Assessed Taxes	55,025	45,501	—	100,526	55,527	46,105	—	101,632
Registration	11,945	11,945	—	23,890	12,376	12,376	—	24,752
Other Heads	23,581	5,328	1,180	30,089	24,574	3,895	747	29,216
TOTAL	1,270,860	1,168,246	262,044	2,710,150	1,161,929	1,040,828	230,171	2,431,428
NET EXPENDITURE:								
Military Works	61,128	—	—	61,128	33,441	—	—	33,441
Collection of Revenue	38,786	223,670	89,027	351,483	50,875	287,908	91,832	380,700
Railways	1,161,565	—	—	1,161,565	1,081,683	—	—	1,081,683
Irrigation	379,752	4,774	2,125	386,651	601,677	2,987	1,713	606,379
General Administration	11,985	69,818	9,000	91,408	12,168	64,977	9,801	86,946
Law and Justice	—	253,449	—283	253,164	—	263,365	647	264,012
Police	—	221,742	—2,059	219,684	—	230,231	—1,626	237,605
Education	—	48,515	37,232	85,747	—	48,677	37,827	86,504
Medical	—	52,500	24,607	77,107	—	49,006	23,402	72,408
Political	135,120	—	—	135,120	148,002	—	—	148,002
Territorial and Political Pensions	19,102	—	—	19,102	19,850	—	—	19,850
Civil Superannuation	3,621	73,467	221	70,067	3,229	78,169	329	78,269
Stationery and Printing	1,675	25,818	1,056	25,799	2,214	27,428	1,847	27,061
Famine Relief and Insurance	2,072	49	2	2,123	150,705	—	12,581	163,289
Civil Works	28,271	162,427	44,415	235,113	85,552	174,869	37,425	247,846
Other Heads	27,637	11,219	4,443	43,299	28,051	18,723	4,392	46,166
Provincial and Local Balances	—	76,919	8,616	85,535	—	110,253	22,044	132,297
TOTAL	1,425,512	1,214,939	215,351	4,778	1,209,561	1,084,798	194,701	69,938
Surplus	2,705,372	46,693	46,693	2,705,372	2,301,490	83,470	35,470	2,361,490

BURMA.

	1898-99.				1899-1900.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.
NET REVENUE:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Land Revenue - - -	413,010	1,453,760	626	1,867,396	430,042	1,527,719	635	1,978,396
Forest - - - - -	278,147	278,146	—	556,293	260,169	260,169	—	520,338
Salt - - - - -	51,904	51,904	—	103,808	50,390	50,391	—	100,781
Stamps - - - - -	29,075	87,226	—	116,301	31,923	95,805	—	127,710
Excise - - - - -	153,651	153,652	—	307,303	164,615	164,616	—	329,231
Provincial Rates - - -	—	—	86,255	86,255	—	—	92,478	92,478
Customs - - - - -	650,291	6,280	—	656,571	659,446	6,196	—	565,612
Assessed Taxes - - -	36,074	33,683	—	69,757	37,401	34,966	—	72,367
Other Heads - - - - -	43,309	38,579	24,751	106,639	41,113	8,483	27,017	76,613
TOTAL - - -	1,655,481	2,103,230	111,632	3,870,323	1,593,111	2,148,345	120,130	3,863,586
NET EXPENDITURE:								
Military Works - - -	48,821	—	—	48,821	45,879	—	—	45,879
Collection of Revenue - -	91,669	426,779	4,904	523,352	91,695	436,018	4,922	532,635
Railways - - - - -	—220,283	—336	—	—220,619	—254,420	—	—	—254,420
Irrigation - - - - -	—	82,465	2,060	84,545	—	100,149	322	100,471
General Administration	16,843	66,065	1,049	83,957	16,841	66,927	1,069	84,837
Law and Justice - - -	—	178,370	—	178,370	—	183,602	—	183,602
Police - - - - -	—	568,216	—5,425	562,791	—	572,966	—5,870	567,156
Marine - - - - -	—	19,768	4,049	23,817	—	22,619	3,650	26,269
Education - - - - -	—	45,342	11,120	56,462	—	46,163	13,352	59,515
Medical - - - - -	—	28,706	3,475	34,181	—	30,909	6,144	37,053
Political - - - - -	29,429	—	—	29,429	34,191	—	—	34,191
Stationery and Printing -	—24	33,939	—	33,915	—2	41,256	—	41,254
Famine Relief and Insurance	16	47	—	63	—	—	—	—
Civil Works - - - - -	—	862,883	62,745	425,628	—	461,276	65,689	526,965
Other Heads - - - - -	14,911	30,411	9,315	54,637	14,053	31,031	9,413	54,499
Provincial and Local Balances	—	274,430	2,565	276,995	—	174,288	2,520	176,808
TOTAL - - -	—28,618	2,117,005	97,857	2,186,244	—51,761	2,167,204	101,271	2,216,714
Surplus - - -	1,684,079	—13,775	13,775	1,684,079	1,646,872	—15,859	18,859	1,646,872

STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

APPENDIX.

FINANCE.
Central
Provinces.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

	1898-99.				1899-1900.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.
NET REVENUE:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land Revenue - - -	225,269	855,485	—	580,754	30,985	351,016	—	382,001
Forest - - - - -	33,034	33,035	—	66,069	27,198	27,198	—	54,396
Stamps - - - - -	25,603	76,507	—	102,010	21,970	65,912	—	87,882
Excise - - - - -	97,149	32,420	—	129,569	99,178	33,107	—	132,285
Provincial Rates - - -	—	15,853	67,444	83,297	—	9,216	50,465	59,681
Assessed Taxes - - -	16,246	15,659	—	31,905	15,930	15,181	—	31,061
Other Heads - - - - -	46,729	8,444	555	55,728	41,217	7,278	857	49,352
TOTAL - - -	443,930	537,403	67,999	1,049,332	236,478	508,867	51,322	796,657
NET EXPENDITURE:								
Collection of Revenue - -	33,958	110,621	34,378	178,952	39,461	114,185	35,809	189,545
Railways - - - - -	-192,596	—	—	-192,596	-320,005	—	—	-320,005
General Administration -	5,213	32,665	2,708	40,586	5,390	82,409	2,743	40,512
Law and Justice - - -	—	78,305	—	78,305	—	77,328	—	77,328
Police - - - - -	—	97,061	-6,174	90,887	—	98,035	-5,150	92,885
Education - - - - -	—	20,899	18,893	39,792	—	20,909	17,961	38,870
Medical - - - - -	—	29,816	6,149	35,965	—	26,859	6,128	32,987
Territorial and Political Pen- sions.	16,477	—	—	16,477	15,068	—	—	15,968
Famine Relief and Insurance-	—	5,441	18	5,459	1,027,361	—	2,585	1,029,941
Civil Works - - - - -	1,889	107,013	12,257	121,159	2,532	95,986	10,628	109,146
Other Heads - - - - -	1,233	40,700	1,371	43,304	965	38,797	3,292	43,054
Provincial and Local Balances	—	8,192	5,094	13,286	—	-8,192	-10,223	-18,415
TOTAL - - -	-133,826	530,713	74,689	471,576	771,672	400,310	63,863	1,331,851
Surplus or deficit -	577,756	6,890	-6,690	577,756	-535,194	12,541	-12,541	-535,194

Assam.

ASSAM.

	1898-99.				1899-1900.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.
NET REVENUE:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land Revenue - - -	-16,823	434,220	—	417,397	102,435	314,341	—	416,776
Opium - - - - -	30,421	—	—	30,421	29,499	—	—	29,499
Stamps - - - - -	16,103	48,308	—	64,411	15,873	46,118	—	61,991
Excise - - - - -	143,961	47,986	—	191,947	142,877	47,625	—	190,502
Provincial Rates - - -	—	—	43,863	43,863	—	—	44,690	44,690
Other Heads - - - - -	28,551	25,705	-394	53,862	33,060	29,929	-373	62,556
TOTAL - - -	202,213	558,219	48,469	801,901	323,184	438,013	44,317	805,514
NET EXPENDITURE:								
Collection of Revenue - -	12,209	80,197	144	92,550	18,945	81,865	176	95,986
General Administration -	3,767	19,065	185	23,017	8,996	18,948	185	23,129
Law and Justice - - -	—	38,856	—	38,856	—	38,831	—	38,831
Police - - - - -	—	101,518	-4,929	96,589	—	102,685	-4,491	98,194
Education - - - - -	—	10,262	13,686	23,948	—	10,260	14,094	24,354
Medical - - - - -	—	14,721	8,021	23,342	—	10,421	8,431	24,852
Civil Works - - - - -	10,201	171,053	39,327	220,581	3,047	168,457	43,025	214,529
Other Heads - - - - -	24,602	48,601	1,045	74,248	-1,562	40,263	1,080	39,481
Provincial and Local Balances	—	57,828	-498	57,330	—	-54,366	-3,334	-57,900
TOTAL - - -	50,779	542,101	57,587	650,467	19,126	423,364	58,966	501,456
Surplus - - -	151,434	14,118	-14,118	151,434	304,058	14,649	-12,649	304,058

MADRAS.

Madras.

	1898-99.				1899-1900.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.
NET REVENUE:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land Revenue - - -	2,016,764	1,158,173	141,136	3,316,073	2,005,109	1,004,208	154,396	3,163,907
Forest - - - - -	69,967	69,967	—	139,934	76,328	76,328	—	152,656
Tributes from Native States -	299,339	—	—	299,339	299,226	—	—	299,226
Salt - - - - -	1,293,477	3,667	—	1,299,144	1,194,123	6,630	—	1,200,753
Stamps - - - - -	135,939	407,818	—	543,757	137,396	412,187	—	549,583
Excise - - - - -	681,658	227,275	—	908,933	669,339	223,224	—	892,763
Provincial Rates - - -	—	—	513,060	513,060	—	—	510,972	510,972
Customs - - - - -	224,808	4,983	—	229,791	241,342	4,707	—	246,049
Assessed Taxes - - -	98,687	85,967	—	184,654	103,430	90,610	—	194,040
Registration - - - - -	42,913	42,913	—	85,826	42,166	42,166	—	84,332
Miscellaneous - - - -	23,727	2,018	24,043	49,788	3,223	1,935	20,764	25,921
TOTAL - - -	4,887,279	2,004,731	678,239	7,570,299	4,771,375	1,861,995	686,332	7,320,203
NET EXPENDITURE:								
Army - - - - -	2,091,428	—	—	2,091,428	1,973,962	—	—	1,973,962
Military Operations -	21,802	—	—	21,802	—	—	—	—
Collection of Revenue - -	226,576	485,222	312,139	1,024,237	239,243	497,953	320,508	1,057,703
Railways - - - - -	-310,472	-8,056	—	-318,528	-369,728	-5,164	-1,446	-396,238
Irrigation - - - - -	-401,524	208,268	341	-197,715	-372,689	212,090	513	-160,066
General Administration -	18,572	66,469	22,806	107,847	18,764	65,495	22,197	106,456
Law and Justice - - -	—	305,415	-1,584	303,834	—	307,194	-1,393	305,801
Police - - - - -	—	273,184	—	273,184	—	281,642	—	281,642
Education - - - - -	—	108,242	55,998	164,240	—	108,344	52,668	161,012
Medical - - - - -	—	100,732	114,604	215,336	—	93,507	110,452	203,959
Territorial and Political Pensions	42,159	—	—	42,159	39,963	—	—	39,963
Civil Superannuation - -	-1,728	102,480	1,683	102,435	-3,945	110,637	2,310	109,002
Stationery and Printing -	30,362	57,626	—	87,988	24,583	65,027	2,368	91,998
Famine Relief and Insurance	460,234	1,378	—	461,612	2,830	2,154	—	5,014
Civil Works - - - - -	3,018	168,612	206,709	380,339	3,677	198,022	224,588	426,287
Other Heads - - - - -	18,473	28,364	-3,331	38,606	10,673	22,353	-2,101	30,655
Provincial and Local Balances	—	107,137	-29,521	77,616	—	-117,202	-24,168	-141,370
TOTAL - - -	2,196,200	2,002,973	680,047	4,879,220	1,547,323	1,842,111	706,216	4,095,650
Surplus - - -	2,691,079	1,808	-1,568	2,691,079	3,224,552	19,884	19,884	3,224,552

APPENDIX

FINANCE.

Bombay.

BOMBAY.

	1898-99.				1899-00.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.
NET REVENUE :	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Land Revenue - - - - -	994,963	1,488,083	11,828	2,489,874	690,674	1,257,941	11,423	1,960,038
Forest - - - - -	76,245	76,244	—	152,489	80,118	80,113	—	160,226
Tributes from Native States -	106,257	—10,611	—	95,646	95,295	—12,284	—	83,011
Opium - - - - -	886,923	—3,058	—	883,865	851,044	—3,014	—	848,030
Salt - - - - -	1,584,662	340	—	1,585,002	1,484,400	914	—	1,485,314
Stamps - - - - -	97,721	293,163	—	390,884	95,838	297,498	—	393,331
Excise - - - - -	543,029	180,984	—	724,013	498,597	166,160	—	664,757
Provincial Rates - - - - -	—	—	220,500	220,500	—	—	178,430	178,430
Customs - - - - -	1,188,946	6,166	—	1,195,112	1,118,185	6,981	—	1,125,166
Assessed Taxes - - - - -	141,267	120,864	—	262,131	138,641	118,624	—	257,265
Registration - - - - -	20,249	20,249	—	40,498	19,040	19,040	—	38,080
Mint - - - - -	23,833	—	—	23,833	33,689	—	—	33,689
Other Heads - - - - -	16,540	—7,912	—1,669	6,959	6,031	—16,471	—2,801	—13,241
TOTAL - - - - -	5,680,685	2,159,512	230,659	8,070,856	5,106,542	1,905,602	182,052	7,194,196
NET EXPENDITURE :								
Interest - - - - -	—137,731	—4,543	440	—141,834	—18,006	—1,721	75	—19,652
Army - - - - -	2,169,896	—	—	2,169,896	2,178,215	—	—	2,178,215
" Military Operations -	25,474	—	—	25,474	—	—	—	—
Collection of Revenue - - -	268,918	499,898	32,234	799,050	278,137	524,786	36,381	839,254
Railways - - - - -	—69,309	—5,043	—	—74,352	—112,162	—6,138	—	—118,300
Irrigation - - - - -	26,885	1,077	—	27,962	80,898	—1,399	—	79,499
General Administration - -	26,753	98,929	9,395	135,077	27,543	98,965	9,612	136,120
Law and Justice - - - - -	—	312,068	—	312,068	—	315,674	—	315,674
Police - - - - -	—	375,209	—5,689	369,520	—	387,877	—3,950	383,927
Education - - - - -	—	94,032	93,539	187,571	—	99,955	95,350	195,305
Ecclesiastical - - - - -	21,725	—	—	21,725	22,377	—	—	22,377
Medical - - - - -	—	324,477	35,344	359,821	—	185,050	25,634	210,684
Political - - - - -	35,900	22,473	—	58,373	29,445	24,363	—	53,808
Territorial and Political Pensions.	39,397	—	—	39,397	39,525	—	—	39,525
Civil Superannuation - - -	—3,365	112,097	238	108,970	—2,472	117,035	352	114,915
Stationery and Printing - -	21,129	53,801	801	75,731	28,886	64,657	778	94,321
Civil Works - - - - -	14,475	185,117	107,302	299,894	13,329	184,765	104,071	299,165
Famine Relief and Insurance.	2,209	16,779	—	18,988	778,483	—	6,527	785,010
Other Heads - - - - -	16,423	16,173	4,193	36,789	13,177	15,676	4,236	33,089
Provincial and Local Balances	—	60,951	—7,226	53,725	—	—100,285	—51,912	—152,197
TOTAL - - - - -	2,448,779	2,119,505	270,576	4,838,860	3,307,395	1,860,480	227,071	5,394,946
Surplus - - - - -	3,231,906	89,917	—39,917	3,231,906	1,799,147	45,022	—45,022	1,799,147

INDIA, GENERAL, *i.e.*, the Departments and Districts administered under the direct supervision of the Government of India.

APPENDIX
FINANCE
India,
General.

	1898-99.				1899-1900.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	TOTAL.
NET REVENUE:	₹.	₹.	₹.	₹.	₹.	₹.	₹.	₹.
Land Revenue	86,165	—	88	86,198	71,908	—	40	71,948
Forest	28,914	—	—	28,914	30,639	—	—	30,639
Tributes from Native States	134,199	—	—	134,199	149,648	—	—	149,648
Salt	1,168,348	—	—	1,168,348	1,079,029	—	—	1,079,029
Stamps	25,409	—	—	25,409	24,908	—	—	24,908
Excise	78,943	—	431	77,274	74,338	—	464	74,802
Assessed Taxes	96,323	—	—	96,323	95,132	—	—	95,132
Mint	—43,948	—	—	—43,948	258,176	—	—	258,176
Exchange on Remittance Transactions.	28,628	—	—	28,628	—30,949	—	—	—30,949
Other Heads	6,944	—	8,861	12,905	30,871	—	6,354	37,225
TOTAL	1,807,931	—	8,425	1,614,356	1,733,700	—	6,858	1,740,558
NET EXPENDITURE:								
Interest	—1,228,733	—	—33	—1,228,763	—1,234,963	—	—25	—1,234,993
Army	6,161,628	—	—	6,161,628	6,036,210	—	—	6,036,210
Military Operations	630,042	—	—	630,042	—	—	—	—
Military Works and Special Defence Works.	581,411	—	—	581,411	639,919	—	—	639,919
Collection of Revenue	85,244	—	2,275	87,520	84,746	—	3,608	88,354
Post Office	—315,169	—	48	—315,141	—298,160	—	46	—298,134
Telegraph	—191,037	—	—	—191,037	—172,139	—	—	—172,139
Railways	—2,222,499	—	—	—2,222,499	—2,171,939	—	—	—2,171,939
Irrigation	508,083	—	—	508,083	562,137	—	—	562,137
General Administration	304,892	—	88	304,890	320,429	—	113	320,538
Law and Justice	89,558	—	—	89,558	88,715	—	—	88,724
Police	42,047	—	223	42,268	45,786	—	259	46,075
Marine	62,133	—	—	62,133	49,390	—	—	49,390
Political	318,139	—	10	318,148	426,602	—	16	426,618
Scientific and other Minor Departments.	192,560	—	90	192,650	190,883	—	145	191,028
Stationery and Printing	—124,944	—	74	—124,930	—142,954	—	5	—142,949
Civil Works	147,796	—	1,723	149,519	94,381	—	1,219	95,560
Famine Relief and Insurance	297,780	—	—	297,780	100,259	—	405	100,664
Other Heads	61,453	—	1,868	63,341	69,136	—	1,826	70,962
Local Balances	—	—	118	118	—	—	—793	—793
TOTAL	5,301,364	—	6,425	5,397,659	4,138,330	—	6,858	4,145,188
Deficit	—3,753,338	—	—	—3,789,333	—2,404,630	—	—	—2,404,630

FINANCE.
England.

NET EXPENDITURE in *England*.

NET EXPENDITURE.	1898-99.		1899-1900.		
	£.	£.	£.	£.	
Interest	2,776,090	2,845,022	Marine	204,787	327,970
Army: Effective	1,860,563	1,572,722	Political	24,627	23,200
" Non-effective	2,406,465	2,404,644	Scientific and other minor Departments.	20,697	24,279
Military Works and Special Defence Works.	53,475	32,650	Civil Furlough Allowances	259,009	282,881
Collection of Revenue (Stamps, &c.)	45,840	52,285	Superannuation	1,850,219	1,875,376
Post Office	111,013	95,365	Stationery and Printing	49,468	59,700
Telegraph	154,922	166,268	Civil Works	68,524	62,677
Railways	5,873,689	5,912,527	Other Heads	48,762	66,598
General Administration	252,496	320,023	TOTAL	16,060,686	16,129,303

Summary.

SUMMARY.

PROVINCES, &c.	1898-99.		1899-1900.	
	Surplus.	Deficit.	Surplus.	Deficit.
BENGAL	£. 7,154,124	—	£. 8,038,171	—
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES and OUDH	4,289,142	—	4,469,460	—
PUNJAB	2,705,372	—	2,861,480	—
BURMA	1,684,079	—	1,646,872	—
CENTRAL PROVINCES	577,756	—	—	—335,194
ASSAM	151,434	—	304,058	—
MADRAS	2,691,079	—	3,224,552	—
BOMBAY	3,231,856	—	1,799,147	—
INDIA GENERAL	—	—3,783,333	—	—3,404,600
ENGLAND	—	—16,060,636	—	—16,129,303
TOTAL	2,510,873	—	2,771,623	—