

EAST INDIA. (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).

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STATEMENT

EXHIBITING THE

MORAL AND MATERIAL PROGRESS AND CONDITION

INDIA

DURING THE YEAR 1902-03.

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THIRTY-NINTH NUMBER.

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*(Presented pursuant to Act 21 & 22 Vict. c. 106, s. 53.)*

India Office,  
31 May 1904. }

ARTHUR GODLEY,  
Under Secretary of State for India.

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## NOTE.

THE Statement exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India is presented to Parliament in each year in accordance with the requirements of the 53rd section of the Act for the better Government of India (21 and 22 Vict., cap. 106), which provides as follows:—"The Secretary of State in Council shall, within the first fourteen days during which Parliament may be sitting next after the first day of May in every year, lay before both Houses of Parliament an account for the Financial Year preceding that last completed of the Annual Produce of the Revenues of India . . . and such account shall be accompanied by a Statement prepared from detailed reports from each Presidency and District in India, in such form as shall best exhibit the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India in each such Presidency."

The Statement is prepared in the India Office from a large number of annual reports received from India. Of these reports, many are compiled from information furnished by District and Political Officers; and are submitted to the Governments of the respective Provinces, and to the Government of India, for consideration and review before transmission to England. One annual volume which is largely used in the preparation of the Statement is the "Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India," containing the complete audited accounts of the revenue and expenditure—Imperial, Provincial, and Local—of every public department in each Province of India, including the Railways, Irrigation Works, and other commercial enterprises which are under Government management.

Of the reports mentioned above, some, which deal with the operations of important departments and require the careful consideration of the authorities in India, are not received at the India Office till about a year after the date of the period to which they refer. It is at about the same date that the Finance and Revenue Accounts are received.

It is, therefore, seldom possible to present the Statement to Parliament earlier than the date mentioned in the Statute, *i.e.*, about thirteen and a half months after the close of the official year; and it is often necessary to exceed the prescribed date by some weeks.

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