## REPORT

TO

### THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL

ON

## RAILWAYS IN INDIA,

FOR THE YEAR

1869-70.



BY JULAND DANVERS, ESQ.,

GOVERNMENT DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANIES.



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### REPORT.

To His Grace the DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T., Secretary of State for India.

My Lord Duke,

20th May 1870.

I have the honour to lay before your Grace my usual annual report on the progress made in the construction of, and on the results of working, the Railways in India.

- 2. For the last ten years these reports have contained accounts only of operations which have been conducted through the instrumentality of Companies acting under the control of Government; but now, I shall for the first time have to refer to lines which have been undertaken and executed through the direct agency of Government. The operations, however, under this head are at present very limited, the various projects which were mentioned in my last report as those which were to be retained in the hands of Government being with one or two exceptions still under investigation.
- 3. The most important event which has marked the history of Indian Railways Completion of during this year is the junction of the Great Indian Peninsula and the East Indian line between Railways at Jubbulpore, whereby the whole breadth of the Peninsula is spanned, Bombay and and Bombay and Calcutta, as well as Bombay, Delhi, and Lahore, are brought Calcutta. into railway communication with each other. The East Indian Railway has been opened to Jubbulpore since 1867, but unforeseen delay occurred in the completion of the works of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and the long-desired junction of the two lines has been deferred in consequence. (The works have lately been pushed on with great vigour and rapidity, and although there is still much to be done before the line can be considered thoroughly completed, it was sufficiently advanced to admit of the ceremony of opening being performed by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Viceroy on the 7th March last. The occasion gave rise to proceedings of much interest, in which the Governor of Bombay; the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces; Sir Salar Jung, the Minister of His Highness the Nizam; Maharajah Holkar; the Maharajah of Rewah; the Rajah of Myhere; and other high functionaries, took part.) But as an account of them has reached your Grace through other channels it is unnecessary to give any details here. The line in question proceeds from Bombay up the Thull Ghât viâ Jubbulpore to Allahabad; thence it follows the valley of the Ganges to Calcutta. Before the end of the year a more direct route will be opened for the latter part of the line by the completion of the chord line of the East Indian Railway from Luckeserai via Raneegungo to Calcutta. The distance from Bombay to Calcutta by the present route is 1,470 miles. It will then be 1,400 miles. The journey occupies about 70 hours. The fares, as near as I can ascertain them, are 1st class about 141. 2nd class 7k., and 3rd class, 2k. 13s. By means of this line a saving of three or four days in the journey between England and Calcutta has during the past year been effected. No greater time is now occupied in reaching Calcutta from London than it took twenty years ago to get from one end of India to the other.

d. I have been giving prominence, however, to a proceeding that took place Additions to lines after the close of 1869, to which period this report chiefly relates. During in 1869. that year 261 miles were added to the 4,020 open at the beginning. An addition of thirty (30) miles was made to the North-west Madras line, and of two hundred and thirty-one (231) miles to the Delhi. Since the end of the year a short branch of 8 miles, which has been constructed by the Government, extending