ANNUAL REPORI' ON THE

## WORKING or

## C0-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

 IN THE .BOMBAY PRESIDENOY<br>INCLUDING SIND

For the twieive months ending March 31st, 1012.
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\text { No. } \underset{\text { cs }}{1} \text { of } 1912 .
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From

> W. W. SMIART, Esquine, B.A., I. C.S., Acting Director of Agriculture, Bombay, Poona;

To

## The CHIEF SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT,

Revenue Department, Bombay.
Poona, 28th August 1912.
Sir,
I have the honour to forward the Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies in the Presidency excluding Sind.
2. The Summary of General Progress shows that the adranco mado is satisfactory in every respect.

The opening of the Bumbay Central Co-operative Bank has been tho chief event of the sear. As the bank has been working only sinco November last, it is too early to judge of its effect upon the Co-operative movement, but at tho Divisional Conferences which I attended at Surat and Dhárwár, there appeared to me to be a feeling of some hostility towards it on the ground that the rato of interest charged was high and the inquiries into the real property of the members of societies applying for a loan were unnecessary. This feeling will probably die out when it is understood that the Bank is a business concern and not a philanthropic society and when the effects of the grant by Government in the past of loans free of interest for threo years have died away. On the other hand, the Central Bank, when it has acquired experience and possesses n district staff of its own, will be in a better position to lend money to socictics at rates of interest determined by the credit which a society enjoys in tho locality.

One remarkable effect which the establishment of the Bank has had is that its shares have been taken up by savkars in many parts of the Presidency and that these savkars are pleased with the dividend they have receired.

I anticipate from instances which have come to my knowledgo that tho more respectable money-lenders will follow the example of the Central Bank and lend or deposit money at reasonable rates of interest in the Co-operativo Socictics of the locality in which they reside.

If this is the result of the working of the Central Bank, an immense bencfit to rural credit will have been brought about.
3. The second event of great importance which has occurred during the year is the passing of the new Co-operative Societics Act (II of 1012). Tho Registrar and his staff are no longer concerned only with credit but with the infinitely wider sphere of co-operative activitics in general. A demand has arisen already in certain places for the establishment of socicties for the purchases of manure, and one for the sale of anricultural produce is being started nenr Ahmednagar and one in Kínara. The rural economy of this Presidency which is composed mainly of small holdings demands the extension of co-operativo salo of agricultural products and the purchase of such requirements of the agriculturists as seed, implements and manure.

The history of co-operation in Europe shows that arricultural co-operation other than credit preceded credit itself and arose naturally from the needs of thrs agricultural classes. It will be necessary for the Registrar and his statf to bu. prepared to mett the demand which is arising for such socictics, and a manual of co-operation, including information on the sabject and model by-laws, is under
preparation by the Registrar in consultation with Agricultural Officers. At present the staff and the Honorary Organisers generally are ignorant of any form of co-operation except that of credit societies. The Agricultural Department has given edvice on technical questions to co-operative societies which required it.
4. The Registror is mistaken as to the object of the banks referred to in paragraph 48. These are primarily grain banks established to provide indigent cultivators with food to maintain them during the working season-May to Octoler-ihough, some of the grain stored may be used for seed. Seed stores proper, as far as I am aware, do not exist except perhaps in one or two places in the Southern Division. It is regretted that co-operative societies generally cannot bo induced to take any interest in the provision of pure and selected seed.
5. Some decision must be come to as to the utilisation of reserve funds by socictics. $\Lambda$ t prosent, reserve funds do not exist in any but a very few societies inasmuch as the so-called reserve funds are indistinguishable from the rest of tho working capital.

It will bo advisable to await the result of the Prorincial Conference to be held at Poona before Government take action in the matter.
C. I attended the Divisional Conferences at Surat and Dhárwár.' I was impressed by the intcrest shown in the proceedings but was much disappointed at the gencral attitude on the two questions of the utilisation of reserve funds and of the receipt of loans from Government. The meetings did not show any of the sturdy independence and cautious and sound ideas of finance which co-operative socicties in other countries and parts of India are reported to havo shown.
7. It will be some time before co-operative societies generally will realise the necessity for co-operative methods in agriculture. Their members appear. to mo to be engrossed in the question of obtaining cheap money.

This is natural because capital is the chief necessity of the agricultural classes in the Presidency and the form of co-operation which has been inculcated and fustered on the initiative of Government has been confined to the provision of credit. I have arranged to supply co-operative societies with agricultural leaflets and have induced the Deccan Agricultural Association to send the itinerant lecturer lent to it by the Department to the co-operative societies of the Deccan District. The staff of the Agricultural Department have been encouraged to come into touch with societies and to ascertain their wants, but, if any good is to come out of these endeavours, the staff of the Registrar must show an equal interest in emphasising the connection between the departments and the advantages to be derived by the societies in obtaining a knowledge of improved methods of agriculture.

The demonstration given at the Conference at Surat was a distinct success, but the same cannot be said of that held at Dharwar, where many persons counceted with co-operation in the Southern Division were conspicuous by their absence, and the members of the rural societies appeared to be busy elsewhere. I must express my thanks to the Collectors of both districts for being present and showing their interest in the proceedings. Mr. M. L. Kulkarni, Divisional Inspector, Southern Division, and Mr. V. H. Gonehalli, Divisional Inspector, Konkan, havo both shown a praiseworthy interest in co-operative work.

Tho measure of success attained by joint efforts of the Registrar and myself to bring the Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Associations into closer touch with societics will be reported next year.
8. I submit the following information on the subject of loans by Government which has been supplied by the Registrar after the printing of the report which otherwiso would have been delayed.

The total amount loaned by Government to societies up to the close of the ycar is Ris. 2,68,19t. Of this sum, Ihs. 11,672 havo been recovered and Ris $2,06,522$ are reooverable. There are no arrears due from societies.

Loans to new societies were discontinued under the Rugistrar's circular of -28th October 1911, and societies were advised to apply for loans to the Central Co-operative Bank. All promises of loans to societies organised before that date have been redeemed. Rs. 15,025 were granted under Gevernment Resolution No. 9885, dated 19th Octobor 1911, for this purpose, and a further grant of Rs. 30,000 has been made during the current year.

Government have shown themselves willing to continuo Goverament loans to weaving societies which cannot command credit from the dato of thoir organisation by allotting Rs. 10,000 for the purpose under Government Resolution No. 4715 of 17 th May 1912.

> I have tho houour to be,
> Sir,
> Your most obedient scrvant,
> W. W. SMART,
> Acting Director of Agriculture.

From

R. B. EWBANK, Esquire, I. C.S.,<br>Registrar of Co-operativo Credit Societies, Bombay Previdency, I'ouna;

To
Tae DIREOTOR of AGRICULTURE, Pouna.

Poona, Jilu July 1012.
Sir,
I have the honour to submit the eighth Anamal Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act in this Presidency for tho yeur endins March 31st, 1912.

## (I) Administration and toubing.

2. The office of Registrar was held until November 30th by Mr. O. S. Campbell, I. C.S. I was placed on special duty in his offec from Octuber 7 th up to December 1st, when I received chargo from him. No chango was madu in the permanent staff of tha Department daring tho year. 'Who thro dilitort remained undisturbed but were no longer ablo to cope with the increas ing whume of work. They havo had to leave somo Socioties unaudited and to ask for temporary help to complete others. Proposals for additicns to tho witaif havo been submitted to Government. Three Special Mímlatdírs wero sanctioned ay temporary enquiry officers on behalf of the Central Bank in the course of tho monsoon. Two have been posted to tho Central Division and one to tho Southern Division. Mr. Gandhy continucs to work as my Weaving Masistant, and Mr. Pomfret kindly gives we his help as honorary consulting expert in weaving matters.
3. We have remained faithful to the polics of relyingo largely for a avistance on Honorary Organizers and have been succossful in recruitin; some fresh volunteers. The Honvurable Sardar Iao Bahadur Motilal Chunilal continues to work with signal enthusiasm and success as Lonorary Organizer, Gujarát. His efforts are well seconded by Khan Saheb Saidunia Faizumia in Kaira and Mr. Lasmiram Mahipatram in Broach. In Ahmedabad Mr. Jivanhal P. Lakhia and in Panch Mahalls Mr. Manvántrai Desai havo recently como formard to take up the work. Rao Bahadur Khandubhai G. Desni and Rao Saheb Purshotan Fakirbhai represent us very efliciently in tho Surat District. During the year the death of Mr. Bhikabhai Vanmalidas has cast a gloom over the Societies of Broach District amongst which his wurk had proved both effectivo and popular. In the Central Division a new Honorary Organizer has been found for Násik District in the person of Mr. Yeshwantrao Palsikar, who has started work with nutable energy. In Aluncdnagar Mr. G. K. Chitale and in Khíndesh Rao Bahadur Bhangaonkar use thcir great lucal influence in assisting the movement. Mr. V. A. Desai of the Servants of India Society in Poona District and Mr. D. K. Jadhav in Sholipur are also frepuent helpers. Honorary Organizers are still urgently requircd in Poona and Sátíra. The Southern Division on the other hand is now fully stafled. The Divisional Honorary Organizer is Rao Bahadur A. B. Desai. His colleagues aro: in Belzaum, Mr. R. G. Naik, recently enlisted and conspicuously enthusiastic; in Dhírwír Mr. Shirappa Kulkarni and his son Mr. Mahadev, in Ḱnara Ran Salicb Pundlikrao Pandit, in Bijápur Rao Saheb A. J. Deshpande and a new volunteer Rao Saheb S. J. Deshmukh; and in Ratnágiri Mr. L. B. Kadulkar. All theso gentlemen have given us valuable help which it is a pleasure to acknowledge.
4. Mr. Campbell was on tour for 75 days and inspected 40 Suciclics. Since December 1st I have toured for 93 days and inspected 101 Societies.

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J. In previous years this Department has claimed to be judged by an educational critcrion rather than by statistical returns. Eight years have elapsed sinco the movement was first initiated and I think that the time has now come when this rather incommensurable standard should be abandoned and cmphasis laid upon results. After all nothing is more educative tban a flourishing socicty, of which the benefits are seen and realised by the whole neighbourhood. It brings home the meaning of co-operation to the people far more cifectively than floods of oratory or literature. To estimate our educational proyress therefore I prefer to look to the number of societies that can honestly be recrarded as nirst-class and can bear comparison with societies of similar standing in any part of the world. All the Central Societies are well managed. Of urbans I would classify 15 and of rurals 54 as quite first rate and as themselves bcing our most potent educational agents.

0. The progress made can best be judged from the statistical appendices of this report; but it will be convenient to reproduce here the more salient firures. The total number of Societies of all sorts have increased from 251 to 368 , the total membership from 19,640 to 29,419 and the total working capital from Rs. 12,00,225 to Rs. 32,08,911. The most satisfactory feature about these figures is that the available capital per head has risen from Rs. 62 to R.s. 110. It is only when the capital available is adequate to the probable needs of the members that socicties can begin in any real sense to take the place of tho Sowkárs. Another illustration of the same point may be found in the fact that thero now are 158 societies with a capital exceeding Rs. 3,000, out of which no less than 120 are rural societies.
1. Contral Societies have increased from 7 to 9 , commanding a capital which has risen from Rs. $4,62,648$ to Rs. 12,47,886. The new Bombay Central Co-operative Bank is responsible for R3. 6,12,475 of the difference and the remaining $1 \frac{3}{4}$ lakhs are due to the growth of public confidence in the previously existing District llanks. In view of the bad season which nearly all parts of the Presidency have just passed through, the increase is as rapid as could be expected. Only two of the Societies classified as Central can be called so in the strict scnse of tho term. The remainder utilize a large part of their capital in loans to members. Rs. 6,77,383 are due to Central Banks from other societies as arainst Rs. 4,00,828 due from individual members.
2. Urban Societies have increased in number from 62 to 75 , in membership from 4,880 to 6,561 and in working ca pital from Rs. $3,39,026$ to Rs. 5,13,907. As the Contral Banks have lent only Rs. 7,014 to urbans, the progress may be ascribed entirely to the exertions of the societies themselves and to their advance in public estecm. The increase has taken place chiefly in Dharwar, Poona and Ahmednagar Districts and in Bombay.
3. Rural Societics have risen in number from 182 to 284, in membership from 12,7:17 to 19,2 47 and in capital from Rs. $4,83,552$ to Rs. $14,47,118$. The last item is very satisfactory, and in view of the fact that the success of the movement must largely be gauged by the extent to which rural societies are ablo to attract local deposits and to win local credit, deserves special analysis. Of tho total working capital Rs. $2,00,178$ or about 14 per cent. have been lent by Government, and Rs. 6,21,001 or about 43 per cent. have been borrowed from financing institutions. The balance has been raised in the ordinary course of business partly from non-membors but chiefly as deposits from the members themselves.
4. During tho year 133 new societies were registered and 15 were wancelle l, leaving a not gain of 117. Most of the cancelled societies had been doing no work and in only one case (Umreth Urban) was it necessary to appoint a lifuidator. In no caso was cancellation accompanied by loss to any of the depusitors. Of the cancelled societies 11 were in the Sítára District.
5. The total profit earned by all societies amounted to Rs. 91,020 , out of which the whole protits of rural societies, ciz., 36,911, together with the whole prolits of uulimited urbans and at least 25 per cent. of the profits of other societies,
arill be added to reserve funds, which on March 31st already stood at Rs. 86,102 . Only 4 socicties show a loss on their year's working. Tho working expenses of all societies amounted to Rs. 27,091 , which works out at $\cdot 03$ per cent. on the total turn over of Rs. $51,91,575$.

## (III) Working of Societies.

## A.-Central Socielics.

12. Central Banks.一Under this heading interest has been concentrated during the past year on the work of the new Bombay Central Co-operativo Bank which was registered in Uctober. Enquiries which havo reached me, not only from other parts of India but also from Europe and America, testify to tho widespread attention with which this experiment is being watched and justify me, I hope, in treating of it more fully than is usual in a report of this character. The bank may issue shares to the value of seven likhs in tho first instanco. With this fund as a basis of credit, it may issue debentures to an amount not exceeding threo times the paid up capital at the rato of 4 per cent. and this rato of interest is guaranteed by the local Government Tho shares of tho bank were fully subseribed within seven days of the issue. It was perhaps a pity that the Directors did not take steps to securo that a certain proportion of them should be taken up by other co-operative societics, as by this courso they might have mitigated the conflict of interest between their bank and tho larger district banks of which signs are already appearing in some places. But they wero at any rate careful to distribute them as widely as possible, and tho number of shareholders is now 911. The face value of each share is Rs. $\mathbf{j 0}$, of which Rs. 15 per share have been called. Debentures have not yet been issucd but in the meantime the bank has raised sufficient capital to meet its needs as deposits at 4 or $4 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Board is composed chiefly of eminent men of business in Bombay, of whom the moving spirits are the IIonourable Sir Vithal. das Thackersey and the IIonourable Mr. Lallubhai Samaldas. The success of the flotation and of the working of the bank up to dato has been ontircly duo to the zeal and ability of these two gentlemen. On March 31st the bank was ablo to shos a profit of Rs. 4,998, out of which it paid a dividend at tho rato of 6 per cent. The result must be discounted in view of tho fact that no allotment was made to the sinking or reserve funds, as will havo to be dono in future years, and that initial expenses have been carried forward. Still it has beon sufficiently promising to call forth a number of schemes for starting Urban Cooperative Societies in Bombay City and in the neighbouring parts of Thina which I am now dealing with.
13. The work of the Bank has so far been catirely amongst rural socictios, but for the sake of lucidity it will be convenient if I recapitulato it here. It falls under three distinct heads. Firstly, it has granted long term loans to existing rural co-operative societies. Secondly, it has financed the sugarcane industry on the Nira Canal. Thirdly, it has granted short loans fur tho purchase of fodder to rural societies in the famine districts of Gujarát.
14. Between December 1st and March 31st the Bank advanced loans to 14 rural societies of the total value of Rs. 50,700. These loans wero granted for periods varying from 5 to 10 years and at a rate of 7 or $7 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. $\Lambda_{p p l i-}$ cations for loans were received by the Registrar and forwarded by him for enquiry to the three Special Mámlatdars appointed for tho purpose. They reported all salient facts about the working of the Society and submitted a valuation of the immovable assets of all its members. I usually sanctioned a loan up to a maxicuum of one-third of this raluation, and my recommendation was in all cases accepted by the Directors. It was unfortunato that no enquiry officer was appointed either by Government or by the Directors to work in Gujarat, as owing to the famine numerous applications for loans wero received from that division, which we were unable to dipose of.
15. Those tracts, where the crops are irrigated and are therefore valuable and certain, are generally recognised as the best fields for the operations of land-banks and similar large financing institutions. The Central Bank is anxious
to find the bulk of its business in such tracts, and has in the.first instance lecrun work on the Nira Canal. Here a specially favourable opening existed, forcuse be Bárimati is far from the Railway, and the sugarcane business has thereloans and in the hands of brokers, who charged exorbitant interest on their alrcaly tried to rclieve the situation by grants of takávi on a large scale had this busincss was Lrought to a close on December 31st and the field vacated in favour of the Bank. During the last monsoon 29 new societies were organized along the canal with a membership which by the end of the year totalled 2,085 . The socicties began work by raising a loan of Rs. $3,38,603$ from the Central Bank with which they liquidated the outstanding takíri due from their members. to Govcrnment. One of the Special Mámlatdárs Mr. R. B. Badve was posted to Dárámati in Scptember and at once started educating the new societies in co-operative practice and principles. No local deposits were however obtained, and the socicties up to the end of the year continued to work entirely with outside capital. Since $\Lambda$ pril deposits have begun to come in, thanks to the local influence and encrgy of Mr. D. G. Mackenzie, I.C.S., and of Mr. Athavale, the Mámlatdár of Bhimthadi, and Málegaon Society alone has succeeded in raising 1hs. 11,000 locally. Up to March 31st the societies borrowed Rs 5,80,283 on mortgage from the Central Bank at $7 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and advanced it to their members at 93 per cent. The societies employ a special staff of clerks, who are at present controlled by Mr. Badve; but it is hoped that it will before long be possible to form a union which will assume control of the staff, the jaggery shop, a proposed manure store, and the general supervision of the societies. The net profit to the whole group of societies on their working for four months was only IRs. 2,851 , which is very insignificant when it is remembered that of this sum 12s. 2,002 represent entrance fees which are non-recurring. The societies will never thrive unless their keenness is kindled by hopes of a fair profit, and I am thercfore taking steps to reduce expenses by inducing the Bank to undertake some part of them and by cutting away others.
16. Although the scheme was probably the best that conditions permitted, it is at the present stage open to grave oljections:-
(l) The societics have been started by an official fiat. The membership. has not always been well chosen and the spirit of co-operation is absent.
(2) The societies are managed by a staff controlled partly by a Government agent and partly by the Branch office of the Central Bank. 'Ihey are not independent, nor are they yet fit for independence. Yet the present arrangement tends to strangle their sense of personal responsibility.
(3) The Societies are not based on self-help and thrift. They have collected very few deposits. They are not likely to be strict and punctual in dealing with funds which come to them from outside without any. corresponding effort on their part.
These defects may, it is hoped, be overcome in time by continual education and by the formation of an independent union. They must not be allowed to dwarf tho real benefits that have accrued. Plentiful capital has been made available at cheap rates. The risk is small. Owing to the centralised form of aduinistratiou, the institution of the jaggery shop, the joint unlimited liability of members, Bombay Act I of 1012, the careful valuation of immovable assets, and the deposit of mortgages as collateral security, the Central Bank has secured its position on every side without imposing galling restrictions on the borrowers.
17. The work of the Central Bank in relieving the fodder famine in Gujarát is of a special character and is not likely to be undertaken again on similar lines. The account of it has thercfore been relegated to heading IX. On the facts alrcady given it is possible to form some estimate of the value of the new institution. For the first time the small cultivator has found access to the moneymarket. The district lanks with their limited capital have until now been
quite inadequate to meet the need. Societics that deserved credit haro been unable to command it. Members have not been able to borrow enourh to pay off their old delts, and their attempts at self-help havo therefore been thwarted by the hostility of their Sowbárs. The Central Bank has changed all this. Redemption of old debt on a sweeping scale has become possible, and a beginning has already been made. Trustworthy societies will have no difliculty in raising loans at fair rates repayable within conveuiently long periods. The rather high rate of interest charged by the Central Bank gives a suficient stimulus to rural societies to raise capital locally if possible.
18. On the other hand, the new institution has its dangers which it will not be easy to guard against. Facilo credit may mean careless manarement and ultimate loss to both parties. It may call forth a brood of epiphyte socictios that seek only to get money into their own hands. Again, the Central Bank must rely largely on valuations of assets, deposits of mortgages and other forms of real credit. That eminent economist Mr. II. W. Wollf on recciving an account of the Nira scheme from me made the comment "you soo how real credit cannot help creeping in under such capitalist arrangements, and real credit must mean mischief. The last report of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt mentions 18.9 per cent. of the money lent out on real sccurity as being unrecovered." It is of course true that we should aim rather at personal surety with unlimitod liability and as the moral lessons of the system are lcarnt, credit will reproduco itself. Again, the Central Bank will naturally want to do much busincss because that is on what it lives. Local Societies must not do more than is justified and safo. As MI. Durand says, "while local banks are in debt with the Central Bank, they must consider themselves in hospital and try to get out." Lastly, the interests of the existing district banks must be considered, and direct competition a roided.
19. The importance of the Bombay Central Bank must not bo allowed to overshadow the valuable work which is being done by district Banks. In Gujarát these have done much to help rural societies to tide over tho faminc. The Northern Gujarát Society under the presidency of Sir Chinubhai Madhavlal has come into existence almost entirely through the energy of tho IIonourable Sirdar Rao Bahadur Motilal Chunilal and his son Mr. Ilamlal. Its working capital is already Rs. 24,559. Although its funds are at prosent being utilized in loans to the artisans of Ahmedabad City, it intends now to finance neighbouring societies. The loss shown on its working up to date is mercly due to its heavy initial expenses, which have not been carried forward to other yoars. The Broach Urban Society under the presidency of Mr. Ambashankar Uttamram Malji has lent no less than Rs. 47,500 to rurals, and during the year has increased its capital from Rs. 36,700 to Rs. 57,890 . a proof of its stcadily mounting credit. In Surát District Khan Bahadur Bomanji E. Mody and lao Bahadur Khandubhai G. Desai continue to take unabated interest in their Bank. They bavo raised its capital from Rs. 32,350 to Rs. 53,065 and during the year have advanced Rs. 22,441 to other societies. The Bombay Urban Society has been superseded by the Central Bank and is likely soon to merge into it.
20. In the Central Division the Nagar Central Bank owes its success entirely to Mr. G. K. Chitale. Its capital has swollen to Rs. 2,13,008, out of which hs. 39,000 are lent to the rural societies of the district: For the sabe of security I should like to see its share capital increased beyond the present fgure of Rs. 14,000. The Dhulia Táluka Society has lent out only Rs. 358 to other societies, and will not in future be classified again as Central.
21. In the Southern Division there is only ono society, which though actually an urban, has usually been treated as a Central. Under the chairmanship of MIr. V. M. Herlekar the Suathern Mahratta Society has continued its successful career, although its progress has been retarted by the bad scason. With a working capital of Re. $2,67,255$ and a snembership of 1,333 , it has lent out only Rs, 7,000 to other societics during the year, making a total of Rs. 30,647 lent to other societies as compared with Rs. $1,07,587$ lent to members. Of its shareholders 619 persons are literate and 111 are women. The members are all artisans or professional men, following 35 different occupations. The number of loans granted was 50j. . Out of a total of Res, 1,63,403 adranced,

Rs. 1,60,203 were lent on personal surety. The net profit is Ps, 20,079 out o which 1 ls. 15,059 are to be distributed as dividend on a share capital o Rs. $1,21,420$, representing a ratc of nearly 14 per cent. The management o: the socicty has been very good; but I should like to see the rate of lending to mewbers reduced at the expense of the clividend in future years.

## (b) Urban Socicties.

22. Tho Urban Societies of this Presidency may be classified into thre distinct types. The groat majority belong to the class known as People's Banks, of which tho object is to raise funds on the security of a share capital or of the unlimited liability of the members and to advance the funds so obtained at reasonable rates of interest for short terms to all classes of artisans and professional people within a prescribed area. Several societies, which are essentially of this type, have found themselves in a position to lock up a fair percentage of their working capital in long-term loans to rural societies and have therefore been dealt with above as Central Societies in accordance with the practice of previous ycars. $\Lambda$ second class of societies is designed to meet the needs of a special profession or handicraft. Such are the Government Servants, Weavers, and Tanners Societies. These minor groups are treated separately below under the beading "Other Forms of Co-operation" for the sake of convenience. Lastly there are a fer Societies which are confined not to a locality or profession, but to a single community or caste.
23. Of the last class the Shamrao Vithal Society is the most conspicuous examplo. Its membership consists only of Saraswat Brahmans and amounts to 741. With a capital of Rs. 80,750, it has realised a profit of Rs. 2,600 on the year's work. Under the vice-presidency of Mr. S. Talmaki, the society has shown a most progressive spirit, and has started to finance rural societies in Gujarát. Already kis. 10,000 have been lent out by it in the Mándvi Táluka of Surát. The volume of its hundi business has grown rapidly and now exceeds two lákhs. Of the same type are some emall Native Christian Societies recently established in Ahmednagar, and the Safai Khata Society of Sátára which, under the guidance of Mr. Chirmule, bas done wonders in improving the position of tho Municipal Sweepers. Though its assets are only Rs. 1,051, the members talio grat pride in it and have recently bound themselves to deposit one rupee per head monthly as savings from their pay.
24. The Societios which I have classed as People's Banks show steady progress in all parts of the Presidency. In the Northern Division the most interesting departure is the registration of the Broach Industrial Mill Hands Society and four Societies in the Western India Mills at Bombay, which are still collecting capital. The former Society has been organised in his Spinning Mill. by Mr. A. U. Malji with a capital of Rs. 1,557. The object of these societies is to relievo mill-hands by granting them loans to tide them over the period (about six weoks) during which their pay is held back by their employers as a security for their good conduct, and secondarily to supply cheap grocerics to members. If they succecd, they possibly contain within themselves the seed of a healthy Irades Unionism.
25. In the Central Division there are 36 Societies with unlimited liability and 8 with limited liability. The total membership has increased from 1,458 to 2,151 and the working capital from Rs. 1,53,021 to Rs. 2,06,282. Twenty-six Societies are situated in the Sitúra District alone, but as they chiefly consist of Dhors or Chambhars, they are described below under the heading Tanner's. Socictics. Very littlo progress has been made during the year either in Sátára or Khindesh. In Poona two Societies call for special notice, the Cosmos with a membership of 270 and a capital of Rs. 60,520, and the No. 1 Military Accounts with a nembership of 178 and a capital of $\mathrm{Ms} .20,138$. The former, under the presidency of Mr. K. II. Gokhale, is working well and serves the needs chiefly of clerts and profesional men in Poona. The latter, which has branches at Mhow and Quetta, is confined to one office, but is less well managed than the namo of the oftice would lead one to expect. The General Trading Society of

Poona has becn grossly mismanared for soveral years and has now been cancelled. In Sholápur MIr. Sano'a Society at Bársi with assests amounting to Rs, $18, \$ 91$ contingus to descrve its good name.
26. The number of urban societies in the Southern Division has increased from 14 to 20 , of which 10 have unlimited liability. Tho most thriving aro found in Dhárwár District. Under tho guidanco of Canon Rivington, nssisted by Mr. Bhawansha, the Betigeri Society has again made a notable advance both in membership (794) and capital (Rs. 81,060). Its work lies among the weavers and small artisans of Gadag and its environs, but its influence as a molel sucicty infects the whole táluka. So good has its credit become that it can now raise at moderate rates as much capital as it can use. Nest to it comes Hubli under the care of Mr. Valvekar. Its capital bas rison to Rs. 50,015 , and it shows an annual profit of Rs. 2,821. It is exccedingly well managed by tho Committeo and will certainly develope. In the near futuro it proposes to alliliato and finance neighbouring rural societies. The Belgaum Pioneer Society has in tho past been rather sluggish owing to the fact that it has been run moro on charitable than on sound business lines. Mr. R. G. Naik, Mr. Samant of tho Belgaum Samachar, and Dr. Shirgaonkar have now taken it in hand, and aro already inspiring it rith fresh life. Its capital has been raisod to 1 ds. 18,0:30 and its membership to 295. The Gokák Society has the very largo membership of 525 , but its working capital, which is Rs. 0,640 , is by no moans adequato to its needs. Of other societies I would mention the Dhírwár Urban, which is as usual vigorously filing suits a a gainst its defaulters, and a suall group of now artisans societies in the south of Ratnágriri District, which I regret that I havo not yet had time to visit.

## (c) Rural Societies.

27. The primary duty of the Registrar is to foster rural credit Societica, and it is to them that by far the greater part of his time is devoted. During the year their number has increased from 182 to 281, but no new variations in typo have appeared. The Raiffeisen principles, by which I mcan the unlimited liability, the restricted area of membership, the indivisiblo reserve fund, gratui- . tous service and the rejection of shares and dividends, have been found equally applicable to all parts of the Presidency, and experiments on novel lines are no longer being encouraged without special reasons. Such divergencies between societies as do frequently show themselves are duo not to differences of constitution but to varying local conditions and especially to differences in the caste, education, or wealth of members. Every stage of development from helpless infancy through adolescence to independent manhood is represented. In Ahmedabad, Surat, and Dhárwar there are groups of societics which aro thorouphly business-like in their management and can bo trusted to stand on their own leras. The majority of societies need a good deal of supervision, and secm especially deficient in account keeping, in insisting on punctuality of repayment, and in dealing effectively with defaulters. Below these is a class of socictics, found chiefly in the Contral Division, which are unfit to manage their own affairs and incapable of understanding co-operativo principles. It is this typo of society which presents the greatest difficultics to us.
28. The question really resolves itsell into a determination of the conditions that should be insisted on precedent to registration. In order to promote spontsneity and to encourage a sense of responsibility, it has been tho practice to allow great latitude, and, if the by-laws and application form wero in order, to grant registration on the bare recommendation of the IIonorary Organizer. But experience shows that at least one feature must always bo insisted on. Societies must bo founded on thrift and self-help. If they cannot make deposits at the time of registration, the members should undertako to put some small sum monthly into it as savings or at least to mako an annual contribution of grain. Very few socictics can bo trusted to deal prudently with their capital when it all comes from outsido and they themsclecs have nothing at stake beyond a raruely understood liability. Another condition that must be imposed is that when the members are evidently themselves unable to
kecp accounts or to understand the routino details of management, they must be able to point to some educated man who is prepared to act as Secretary and cither to become a member himself or to make a deposit in the society. The qucstion will be dcalt with at the nest Provincial Conference.
29. Supervision.-The number of societies has now outrun the powers of my staff. 'The three Auditors by devoting themselves exclusively to the work of audit can barcly check the accounts of the existing societies in the course of the year. They havo no time for general supervisory duties, and, as there is no wherer staff available except our Honorary Organizers, these are being more and more neglected in some places with disquieting results. Proposals for reorganization lave been submitted to Government. But the most natural solution can probably bo found in tho establishment of district unions. These bodies should primarily have supervising and controlling powers over their affiliated societies. Out of the annual fees realised they should maintain travelling Inspectors to keep the management up to the mark and in some cases will even have to maintain accounts. Their second function will be to finance the surrounding socictics to tho extent of their credit. If such unions can be organised, they will certainly meet the need of more effective supervision and will also relieve the IRcgistrar and his staff of duties which they cannot adequately perform. Mcasures are now being taken in Sátúra by Mr. Kale, Mr. Chirmule, The Honourable Mr. Karandikar, Ráo Bahádur Pathak and several other gentlemen to start a union on the lines indicated. The experience gained at Sátúra will mako it possible to start similar unions elsewhere; but up to the present nothing has been done in this direction.
30. Space no longer admits of a detailed account of individual raral societies. Their distribution can be best seen from the map accompanying this report. It will be sufficient if I indicate the general lines of development which are being worked out by them in each district. In Ahmedabad there is the Práutij group of 12 societies, officially started, and exhibiting all the defects of their origin. Their management is lethargio and so little do the members realizo the meaning of co-operation, that in some cases in this famine year the socicties have large cash balances on' hand which they refuse to lend out because they can trust none of the applicants for loans. The remaining 16 societies consist chiefly of Patidars, who can already command credit on very easy terms and are thercfore still sceptical of the utility of the movement. However when onco they are convinced, they manage their societies admirably, and Chaloda, Sauthal, Jamiatpur and Adalaj can bear comparison with societies in any part of tho Presidency. The Bhikda Society received a donation of Rs. 300 from Lis Highness the Maharaja of Bhávnagar.
31. In Kaira District owing to the influence of Khán Sáheb Saidumia Faizumia and of Mr. Kadri, Sub-Judge of Umreth, several promising societies lave been founded among Mussulman cultivators. But among the Patidars we have made no progress. The Patidar societies at Virsad and Utarsanda are badly managed, and, as far as I can judge, the caste is too individualistic and too torn by internal dissension to allow of much hope for the future. Both in Knira and Panch Maháls money was very tight owing to the famine, and particularly in the latter district it was out of the question to organise any new socictios on the basis of contributions from the members. The Educational Iuspuctor, Northern Division, has introduced some simple lessons on cooperation in the new curriculum for Bhil schools.
32. In Broach a rapid expansion took place during the last few months of the year, the number of societies rising from 8 to 22 . This was partly due to tho missionary exertions of the Honourable Sardár Ráo Bahádur Motilal Chunilal, and partly to the foundation of the Central Bank. The cotton-growers of Broach, and especially tho Bohras, are astute businessmen who believed that by forming socicties they might bring capital within reach at cheaper terms than those allowed by the Sowkirs. About Rs. 15,000 were obtained from the Central Bank and lis. 38,000 from Broach District Bank; but owing to the absence of an enquiry oflicer in Gujarít it was impossible fully to satisfy their needs. The Chamargiom Society with its Secretary, Sali Mahamad, deserves special mention.
33. The Surat District contains in Olpad Taluka one of the most promis. ing groups of societies in the Presidency. The dominatine caste aro the Kudra Patidars, who are well known for their industry and good sense. I singlo out for special praise the Ránder Society, which lent lis. 22,500 to its members during the year, the Umra Society which under Kalidas Amaidas has in one year raised a capital of Rs. 8,930, the Sansek Socicty which with a capital of Rs. 14,550 has opened a branch shop on which it earned a dividend of 27 per cent. and the Masma Socicty which, inspired by Sansek, has increased its capital to Rs. 10,570. A second noteworthy group exists among the Kaliparaj poople of the Mándvi Táluka. Theso backward hill tribes cannot keep accounts themselves, but they are honest payers and under the chargo of a special Co-operativo Inspector their societies have enjoyed a prosperous year. The proyress madu in other parts of the district has been satisfactory. In tho southern portion of Surat and in Thána District there is nothing to record, but nerotiations aro on foot for starting two or three manure societies in the coastal tilukas.
34. In the Central Division rural credit is on the whole much moro expensive than in the Northern and there should therefore be a greater field for co-operative enterprise. But for some reason the movement has struck rout much less deeply there than in either the Northern or Southorn Divisions. Possibly this is due to the fact that there seem to be in the urdinary Deccani village fewer progressive and enlightened cultivators, whom the ryots look up to as leaders, and who are ready to use their influence on behalf of good manaroment. Sátára District is perhaps the most flagrant case of tho results not of dishonesty but of sheer incompetence to understand what is required. Out of 68 societies in the district, 42 are rurals. They consist in nearly every caso of small cultivators with very restricted means who are desporatoly anxious to obtain funds for agricultural purposes. They are not especially recalcitrant, but they are slow to repay loans until they understand that they must, and they have not education enough to manage their own affairs, which thoy usually leave in the hands of the Kulkarni. The result has been that loans hava been advanced without proper security, accounts are in confusion, and recoverios are in hopeless arrears. The annual statements are mado up chictly by paper adjustments and do not disclose the real state of affairs. A Special Mrimlatuír, Mr. Duduskar, was posted to the district with tho object of reorganisinir societies so as to fit them to receive loans from the Central Bank, and a special clerk, Mr. Jede, has been deputed from the Registrar's office to koep the accounts of 30 societies which had failed to keep them themselves. Mr. Campbell stated last year that the position was not without hope but required delicate handling, and this is undoubtedly the truth. Here more than anywhere else Co-opera'tive Societies are needed and could be made to succeed if for the first few ycars of their existence close and effective inspection and control could bo securcd. At present societies are being taken individually, their accounts reduced to order, and some portion of their arrears collected. When this is done they will ho handed over to the union, which has been referred to in paragraph 29 aud which will, it is hoped, maintain an adequato supervising staff for its alfiliated societies.
35. The Poona District contains 20 societies on the Nira Canal, which have already been dealt with, and 6 other societies of which that at Madapsar only deserves special mention. It has receised Rs. 13,53b depoits from members and Rs. 1,000 frow outside. Repayment is punctual and the wholo spirit of the management excellent. It is now considering the wholesalo purchase of manure for the benefit of members growing surarcane.
36. Khándesh contains noly 8 societics, of which 2 are in East Khándesho The Bodrad Society under Khán Sáleb Vazir Patil has a working capital of Rs. 10,049 and is quite a model of good administration. But the movernent is not spreading. The becinning that has been mado must bo ascribed to the energy of Rio Bahidur Bhangaonkar. Unfortunately his health is no longer gond; and unless we can secure some new helpers in the district, there is not much prospect of expansion. The Bhil does not embrace new ideas unless they are thrust upon him by someone whom he knows and respects.
37. $\Lambda$ hmednagar shows the best results in the division. In spite of a bad year 7 ncw societics have been registercd and the total is now 23. They, are financed and to a small extent supervised by Mr. Chitale's District Bank. We have received help at Kendal from the Reverend Father Muller, S. J., and at Wadála from the American Mission. The Wadála, Souai, Savedy, Pimpalgaon, and Koradgaon Socicties are all doing well, though the standard of accountkeeping is not high. Like Ahmednagar, Sholapur has experienced a poor scason and has no tangible progress to show. The Akola Society continues to do well.
38. In Násik the Honorary Organizer, Mr. Palsikar, has been prospecting round Malegaon and is full of hope for the future. The Málegaon Society has assets of lis. 4,627 and is doing well. The Honourable Mr. Garud has promiscd to watch over the new Society which has been started in his village of Chandanpuri.
39. The Southern Division is the oldest seat of co-operation in this Presidency and still retains its lead in the matter of good management and the intelligent compreliension of co-operative principles. In many respects Dhárwár. District is the most advanced of all. The number of societies has risen from 22 to 33 and the membership from 2,717 to 3,201 . The Gadng and Navalgund Tílukas were affected by a partial famine, but as a result of Mr. Diwekar's enquirics I was able to secure from the Central Bank for the societies there loans to the amount of more than half a lakh. 'Most of the societies have. adequate capital and have shown themselves punctual repayers. I would refer specially to Hulkoti with a capital of Rs. 20,805, Kurtkoti with a capital of. Rs. 10,625, Harlapur with Rs. 11,420 and Chikhandigol with Rs. 11,430, but. theso ly no means exhaust the list of societies deserving special praise، The socictics in the Mundargi Peta have been disappointing.
40. Belgaum and Kánara have both been lagging behind during the year. . But the former, at any rate, promises soon to make good its default: Mr. R. G. Naik, the new Honorary Organizer, has thrown himself. into his duties with volcanic enthusiasm and is organising societies in all parts of the district. If it is possible to keep the village disputes, which are particularly prevalent in this district, out of the working of the co-operative societies, there is every prospect. of rapid expansion. The existing seven societies are too small to be of much practical usc.
41. Bijipur is another district that is full of promise. Rá Saheb $\mathbf{S C}_{i} \mathbf{J}$. Deshmukh of Almel is a very thorough and bard-working Organiser and deserves credit both for the four nerr societies that have been registered up to the end of: the year and several that have since come into being. The ryots are honest and. anxious to obtain credit, but, as in Sátára, they generally fail to keep proper accounts and make recoveries unless they are under constant supervision. For, this reason we are advancing with caution and less rapidly than.we might.'
42. Of the societies in Ratnágiri and Kolába I have no first-hand knowledge and would prefer not to report. As far as can be judged on paper they aro not very satisfactory. A peculiar feature of these societies is, their desiro to open stores as a branch of their ordinary work.

## (d) Other Forms of Conoperation.

43. Govermment Servants' Societies.-As Government servants may always join the Gencral Provident Fund, there is no special need for this class of socicty. In fact, it has dangers of its own. When the management of the socicty is, as usually happens, in the hands of senior men who do not intend, to. uso it themselres, strict control of loans and strict punctuality in repayment is nut always insisted on. The result is that members do not learn business-like habits and the committee dare not trust those who are paying high rates of interest on old debts with sufficient funds, to pay, off those debts. Members Ginding that they derive little benefit from the society lose their interest inits.
success. Societics of this class exist at Bijapur, Baralkot, Gadar and Jalmaon. At Nagar and Satára there are also Municipal Scrvants Sucicties run on tho same lincs. The Jalgaon Society has a capital of 12s. ©,913 and a branch at Dhulia and seems to be doing a really useful work in mranting loans for emergent expenses to lorly paid clerks. The Gadar Sucicty has recently bera reanimated under the care of Mr. Sathaye, tho Sub-Judge, and has a capital of Rs. 5,110. The remaining four are too small to be of much use jet.
44. Weaving Socicties-In 1900 when Mr. P. N. Mehta was appointed to make a survey of the condition of the weaving industry in this l'residency, he reached the conclusion which was endorsed by Government that the first need was to improve the economic position of veavers, preferably by organizin: co-operative credit societies, the nest to improve the supply of warp, and tho third to introduce a better type of loom. Though' progress has been very slow, these three objects have been steadily kept in view. In addition to several urban societies which include a number of weavers among their members, thero are now 10 societies with a combined working capital of about Rs. 18,000 which confine their dealings exclusively to weavers. The best of theso are at Dhárwár, Bhingár, Hubli and Bulsár. They assist their members by advancing cash loans for short periuds, by purchasing yarn wholesalo from tho Mills, and by advancing loans on the security of manufactured cloth when there is no market for it. Societies usually start with cash loans only; but as most members are in debt to the Sowkirs, they find it impossiblo to stop there, and are impelled to take up the purchase and supply of yaru as well. Owing to fluctuations in price this side of the business is very speculative and needs moro business ability than most societies possess. During the ycar the Hubli Socicty alone lost nearly Rs. 400 by buying yarn at the top of the market and selling it at a loss. As soon as the number, and consuming capacity of the socictics can be sufficiently increased, proposals will be laid before Government for opening a Central Yarn Store, to supply societies with good yarn at wholesale rates and to advise them about the trend of markets.
45. In the matter of introducing improved methods also, something has been done. A form of fly-shuttle loom invented by Mr; Pomfret is well adapted to the needs of cotton weavers, the class who are most affected by the competition of the Mills, and demonstrations of it have been held in various weaving centres. Weavers from Shoĺspur where these looms are in general uso were engaged and sent to Dhárwár, Gadag, Málegaon, and Dharangaod'to work tho new looms and at three of these places showed good results. I have been ordered to open schools at four centres where the weavers aro sufficiently, satisfied of the benefits of the new looms to wish to have thcir sons trained to their use. Besides advertising the fly-shuttle loom, we have done something to bring the Sholépur dobby invented by Rio Sáheb Pitre to notice and havo. always found it appreciated. With regard to dyeing we havo found weavers more receptive of new ideas than in the case of looms and are arranging nest year to demonstrate some new and cheap chemical processcs.
46. Tanners.-Societies of Dhors and Cbambhirs, which exist in the Poona and Sátíra Districts only, have yet to prove that they can be mado successful. The members are not dishonest, but they are uneducated and quite unable to manage their affairs themselves. I have found none that did not leave the management entirely in the hands of their secretary who has himself been usually quite incompetent. The result is that loans have been carclessly advanced without taking bonds and that recoverics have fallen hopelessly into arrears. The first need of these societies is a guiding hand to control advances and recoveries to keep the accounts in order and to educate the members in co-operative work. I have been fortunate in securing Mr. Ghanckar and Dr. Bhide for this work in Sátára, and Mr. V. A. Desai in Poona. With thcir help I hope to be able to report some procress next ycar. Ono Chambhars Society at Málwan has instituted the laudable rule that every member should deposit with it 3 pies daily as savings.
47. Seed-Banks and Grain Stores:- Government have frequently expressed a wish that steps should be taken to organise sced-lanks, cispecially among the more backward classes of cultivators. In the infancy of this Department,
two were established by Mr. McNeill in the Belgaum District. It was found that unless they combined cash transactions with their purely grain business, they were not likcly to prove very popular. The change has been made, but cven so the results have been rather disappointing. The Kodni Society has increased its membership from 126 to 134 and its working capital from Rs. 2,675 to lls. 3,495. Owing to the rise in the price of grain it has made a profit of Rs. 486. The Jatrat Shri Siddheswar Society has made no pregress. With a capital of Rs. 595 , it shows a profit of Rs. 13 only.
48. No sced socicties have been registerod during the year, but measures havo been taken which make it probable that a real advance will be made next ycar. The Director of Agriculture was good enough at my request to make a brict survey of all the societies existing in the Presidency. The number was discovered to be surprisingly large :-

| Sarat | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Thána | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| West Kháudesh | ..- | ... | ... | 2 |
| Dharwar | ... | ... | .. | 1 |
| Ahmedagar | ... | ... | - | 6 |
| Belgaum | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Bijapur | ... | ... | - | 2 |
| Colaba | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Sbolápur | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
|  |  |  | ... | 49 |

Out of these only those in Belgaum, Bijápur and Dhárwár are worked on Co-operative lines. The remainder generally follow the Thana model, and in every caso the District officers have reported that it is not desirable for the present to attempt to convert them into coooperative institutions. At Guttargi in Bijápur District and at Madgunki in Dhárwár, under the supervision of Ráo Síheb Deshmukh and the Mahalkari of Nargúnd respectively, the banks. are being managed on genuinely co-operative principles and have proved fairly successful. The former comprises 77 members with a capital of 25 maunds of of sced. At Almel too a Dharma Nidhi composed of 382 members has accumulated 68 maunds, which was lent out last year to 74 members. I intend to use these societies as models for future attempts. The Agricultural Department have helped us in the Southern Division by undertaking to sell seed from their farms to members of Co-operative Societies at concession rates. A fresh set of model by-laws for seed-banks has been prepared, and a set of practical hints is being drawn up by agricultural experts. The Collector of Sholápur is already considering whether the new draft of model rules cannot be made npplicable to the old Takli Society. At the Northern Divisional Conference a resolution was unanimously passed that selected societies should be helped in opening seed branches next year. A beginning has already been made in the Ahmedabad and Surat Districts. At Bakrol Visalpur the seed branch managed by Varhji Pátil comprises 114 members, 64 of whom have received advances. Ilere as elsewhere safe storage presents the greatest difficulty. There are as yet no grain stores in the Presidency and, as far as is known, there is no demand for the 0 .

## IV.-Reserve Fund.

49. In the course of the year the total reserre fund of all societies has increased from Rs. 51,344 to Rs. 86,162 , of which Rs. 57,289 belong to rural socicties. Since there are fer societies which have a capital equal to their necds, rescrve funds are in nearly every case invested in the ordinary business of tho society. It is questionable whether this practice should be allowed to continue. The chief benefit of a reserve fund is lost if it is not readily liquidablo and arailable in time of emergency. The Society which pats all its eggs into one basket necessarily diminishes its own security. Reserve Funds, which aro werged in the ordinary current transactions of a society, may be found,
when the moment for realization comes, to eonsist in fact of bad debts and sleeping liabilities. For this reason a circular has recently been issued advising societics to invest their reserve funds in some outsido bank and specilaly recommending for this purpose the Bombay Central Co-operative llank which offers to this class of deposit the specially favourable terms of $3 ;$ on current deposits and 4 per cent. on deposits withdrawable on one month's notice. If the response to this circular proves unsatisfactory, it will bo necessary tor tho Registrar to ask Government to empower him under the Aet to order in certain circumstances the outside investment of reserve funds. At present it is impossible to be satisficd either with the liquidity or with the reality of many reserve funds figuring in the balance shects.

## V.-Resocrces.

50. I have nothing to add to the remarks made in paragraphs $C$ to 11 .

## VI.-Disputes and Litigation.

51. Rural societies rarely have to sue their debtors. No caso has como to my notice. Where necessity arises, there is little doubt that Bombay Act I of 1912 exempting Co-operative Societies from the provisions of the Deccan Agriculturalists' Relief Act will prove a great boon in that it deprives Subjudges of the power to go behind the terms of the bonds. Urban Sucioties, which are the most frequent litigants, will probably reap little bencfit from the new enactment.

## VII.-Atdit and Inspection.

52. Audit and inspection are entirely different processes. Every socicty must by law be audited once a year. Three auditors are retained for this aolo purpose, and, as has been said, can scarcely cover all the ground annually. Tho importance of making a thorough and effective audit through the agency of a Government officer can scarcely be exaggerated. It is chicfly owing to relianco on this audit that the public are beginning to show confidence in our socictics. At present the audit made is absolutely complete and includes every item in the books. But nest year an attempt will be made to savo time by prescribing a percentage audit and by issuing a printed form of audit memo., if this can be done without materially affecting its reliability. Inspection is an enquiry mado by any District officer, Honorary Organizer or other visitor into the current administration and is usually accompanied by criticisms and suggestions. Its chief valne lies in its educative effect on the members, since it is surprising how very slowly even intelligent men grasp all that is involved in the co-operativo idea.
53. The figures embodied in the annual statements accompanying tbis report have been in previous years extracted from the accounts and verified by the auditors themselves. The result has been that for the last two years this report, which is due on July 1st, was not despatched until October. To remedy this, all Societies, except the wholly incapable, have been required this ycar to prepare and submit their own statements, which have been thoroughly checked both by the Auditors and in my office. Although the figures are not presented as audited figures, I believe that they may be accepted as reliable. It is evidently no longer possible to audit every society between March 31st and the date of the submission of this report.

## VIII.-Acts, Retes, ayd By-maws.

54. The new Co-operative Societies Act (II of 1912) came into force on March 1st, but copies of it are still unobtainable for distribution. A draft of the proposed revised rules under the Act have been submitted to Government. The model by-laws of Central, Urban, and Rural socicties now require amendment, which has yet to be made. Bombay Act I of 1012 has been referred to above.

## IX.-Miscellaseots.

55. Conferences.-The Provincial Conference was held at Poona in June under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor. A separate report upon it has becn submitted to Government. Divisional Conferences were held at Surat in Fubruary and at Dhárwár is April. Both were attended by some 400 persons, and the proccedings evoked lively and useful discussions. A particularly gratifying feature of both Conferences was the large number of Dharng local rentlomen who took the trouble to attend. As a result of the to breome Cofferense, I have received an offer from the Honourable Mr. Rodda to secure three new helpers. A District Conference was held in Novable at Eilúra, at which about 40 societies were represented.
56. The Organization of Agriculture.-Government have recently mphatised the close natural connection subsisting between the Agricultural and Conperitive Departments. From different aspects they both deal with the samu problew, viz., the improvement of the economic condition of the ryot. For this reason it is desirable that the closest possible association between chem should be maintained, and that this association should be made real and effective. Gencral questions of policy relating to rural societies are decided in cousultation with the Director. The staff of the Agricultural Department have been enjoined to inspect and assist rural societies, and more particularly their help has been solicited in organising seed-banks and manure-societies where expert knowledge is required. The Registrar attended the Agricultural dhow at Alibág and with the help of Mr. Joshi of the Servants of India and of Ráo Bahadur Vaidya held a successful meeting of the visitors in which the co-operative aims and methods were explained. The two Divisional Co-operative Confercuces were accompanied by demonstrations on adjoining Government Farms which were largely attended by the delegates. In some places tentative attempts to bring the co-operative societies into closer touch with the Agricultural associations were instituted. Mr. Chimaulal Narbheram at Broach has induced the District Agricultural Association to affliate rural societies for a nominal onnual subscription of one rupee. If these associations will undertake the wholesale purchase and supply of farm machinery, co-operative societies could make great use of them. But at present the benefits arising from aftiliation are too vague and slight to attract many societies. Several societies have been encouraged to invest their funds in buying improved chaff-cutters and ploughs which they hire out to members for a small daily fee. In the Kaira District the District Local Board has made an interesting experiment which descrves notice here. It has appointed a sub-committee whose duties are to promoto agricultural improvenent and co-operation and has granted it au annual allotment of Rs, 3,000 for this purpose.
57. Famine Relief.-More than 40 Co-operative Societies came within the area of the Gujarat Fodder Hamine. It was thought that there could be no better way of bringing home to the ryots the advantages of self-help and co-operative credit than by showing them how to obtain fodder through the agency of their societies. As the Collectors concerned had no objection to this cuurse, I approached the Bombay Central Famine Relief Fund which very kindly agreed to distribute part of its help through the channel of the societies and to suplly them with hay at a fixed rate of Rs. $12-8-0$ per $1,000 \mathrm{lbs}$, carriage free. The Central Baok on its part agreed to advance loans at 7 per cent. to socictics fur this purpose and to pay the money direct into the Famine Relief Fund. In this way $3,41,465$ lbs. were despatched to 11 societies, of which 5 took loans from the Bombay Central Bank and the remainder paid from their own funds. Hay of good quality was promptly despatched from stations in Thina District by Mr. Purshotamdas Thakordas, the Secretary of the Fund, as soon as indents were received from me. I should like to express my great obligation for his effective help and the remarkable way in which he overcame the dilliculties of transport. Towards the end of Nrarch the Trustees of the Wadja estato generously offered to supply hay from Gwalior to societies at the rato of lis. $8.0-0$ per $1,000 \mathrm{lbs}$. carriage free. Unfortunately, owing to the
failure of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to provide wagrons, a delay of two months occurred before the indents could bo orea partially complied with. Thanks to Mr. G. K. Devdhar 1,33,0s0 lbs. of hay wero ultimately sent to 7 societics. To make up for this disappointment tho Trustees havo kindly presented me with Rs. 1,200 to be distributed among tho poorer societies as the nucleus of a special famine reserve fund. The action takea will be reported next year.

> X.-Attitide of the Pcblic.
58. Of all movements aimed at the uplifting of Indian rural life, nono has a brighter promise or a stronger claim on tho sympathy and support of enlightened Indians than the cause of cooperation. I have been very much impresied with the fact that in all parts of the Presidency whero tho aims and methods of cooperation have been really pressed upon the attention of tho people, leading gentlemen can nearly always bo found to voluntecr to help in tho work. Niku in the native press and in social conversation the opinions expressod are nearly always favourable to the movement. I am at present arranging with tho Deceau Agricultural Association to have certain pages in their Shetki and Shethari reserved for co-operative subjects and Mr. Chitale, tho editor of the Nhmednayar Shetkari, already makes a speciality of co-operativo news. Theso aycuoies will be invaluable in spreading co-operative proparanda. If the movement is to be a permanent force it is unquestionable that it must derive its impetus from popular support. In the Northern and Southern Divisions this has been really secured, as I believe. In the Central Division it is still necessary to appoal that more of those who praise with their lips should como forward to give us active help.
59. In the course of my report I have mentioned most of our leading workers. To them and to many other quict helpers I offer my cordial thanks. It remains for me to acknowledge the assistance which has been given by many District officers. It is not so much by direct intervention and action that they bave helped the movement, as by showing their interest in societics where they found them in existence and by inducing the local leaders to turn their attention to this work. I have specially to record my obligation to Mr. R. C. Brown, I.C.S., for the impetus which he gave to the movement in Bijípur and to Mr. A. Master, I.C.S., for the unflagging interest which he takes in all co-operative matters in his sub-division. In my own Department I havo to commend Mr. R. B. Badve and Mr. R. R. Divekar, Special Mámlatdars, for their energetic and enthusiastic work, and Mr. K. S. Gore, Auditor, fur his thorough knowledge of all co-operative matters, and Mr. G. G. Bendivadckar for his zeal and industry. Lastly, and above all, I should liko to tako this opportunity of expressing my deep obligation to my predecessor Mr. Campbell for the great trouble which he took in initiating me into the work of this Department.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedicnt servant,

## R. B. EVDANK, Registrar,

 Co-opcrativo Credit Sucietiez, Bombay.
## STATEMENT I-A.

General Progress.
Central Societies (lending to other Societics only).


STATEMENT I-B.
General Progress.
Urlan Societies.


STATEMENT I-B-continuel.


STATEMENT I-C.

## General Progress.

Rural Societies.


STATEMENT II-A.

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II-A.

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| 140,701 17 | 0,804 129 | $\cdots$ | 23,481 110 | 14,36,350 $4 \%$ | 7,171 19 | 14,43,290 11 |
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II-4.

## Disburseyents.

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II-C.
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| Loase repaid by other mocleties. |  |  |  |  | 8 0 0 0 0 0 0.0 |  |
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|  |  | B. a. p. |  | Be 4 8 <br> 05,800 6 0 <br> $1,08,746$ 8 81 <br> 18,069 8 8 <br> 2,059 8 8 <br> $2,18,856$ 10 8 <br> 1,571 4 8$\|$ |  | $\begin{array}{rrrr} \text { Res } & 0 & \text { p. } \\ 01,418 & 0 & 0 \\ 1,00,601 & 1 & 11 \end{array}$ |
| 1,060 00 | 23,242 8181 | $\cdots$ | 897250 | 4,07,505 9114 | 4,001 10 | 0.81,407 0111 |
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II-C.

## Disbubsembints.

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## STATEMENT

Profit and Loss
Central Societies (lending to or


III-A.

## Accomest.

dealing with other Societies only).

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STATEMENT
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III-B.
Loss Accoent.
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| Interest paid and due. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Establishment } \\ & \text { and } \\ & \text { contingent } \\ & \text { charges poid } \\ & \text { and due. } \end{aligned}$ | Debto written ow. | $\left\lvert\, \begin{gathered} \text { Depreciation } \\ \text { of } \\ \text { tock. } \end{gathered}\right.$ | Other items. | Total |  |  |  |
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| 16000 | ..... | .** | 1,437 1111 | - | 1,017 1111 | 2208 |  | 10 |
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STATEMENT
Profit and Loss
Rural


III-C.
account.
Societies.


STATEME:
Balance Sifeet as
Central Societies (lending to or deali

r-A.
hat Macii 1912.
cith other Socielies only).


-B.

- 31st March 1911.
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peielics.


No. 1093 or 1919.
From

HAMID A. ALI, Esquire, I.C.S.,<br>Superintendent, Laad Records and Registration, and Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies in Sind;

To
The COMMISSIONER in SIND,
Karichi.
Superintendent's OVice, Irylerabad, 18t July 1919.
Sir,
I have the honour to submit the following report on Co-operative Credit Societies in Sied for the year ending March 31st, 1012.

I remained in charge all the time.
Quite at the end of the year, three new societics wero registered in the Mirpur Máthelo Taluka of the Sukkur District. They aro rural with unlimited liability, but differ from the other socictios in being tribal. As tho tribes of Bozdar, Gabol and Lund are well-marked and, in a way, "organized," theso societies, which, for the rest, start with a fair capital, seem to have every prospect of success. There were thus seven societios at the end of the year.

I inspected the accounts and books of the four old societics, which aro all doing well. No important irregularities wero found.

Owing to a very bad agricultural season, the progress of socicties way not very striking this year, but, under the conditions, it must ho considered satisfactory.

The membership of the Khairpur Daharki Society romained stationary at 170, but the working capital increased by Rs. 305 to Rs. 6,411. The suciety repaid Rs. 2,200 of old loans from non-members, and was able to raiso further loans at the same rate of interest ( $6 \frac{1}{1}$ per cent.) to tho amount of Is. 2,$2 ; 0$. Arrangements have recently been made for a loan of Ils. 1,000 at $8 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the Court of Wards; also for a second instalment of Government prant, raising the total Government grant to Rs. 2,000.

All these facts show expansion of working and a stronger position as compared to the previous year. The Secretary, Mr. Wasanmal, is as enericetic and useful as ever; of the members, I would specially mention Wadero Dadan Khan, Zakir Mahomed and Moulvi Abdul Hakiu for their keenness and zeal.

The society at Garbi Yasin suffered from tho long illness (which ended fatally, last month) of its President, Abdul Hamid Khan, a veritablo pillar of strength. Its membership has gono up from 00 to 117 and its workin's capital from Rs. 1,500 to Rs, 3,093 (including a Government grant of $124.1,600$ ). Some slackness was observed in the recovery of loans mado to members, and the Committce have been given a warning.

The Khahi Kasim Society is fortunate in having as President Wadero Mahomed Hassan, a shrewd man of business. Its membership roso from if to 68 in the year and its working capital at the end of the jear was Ms. 2,162 including lis. 100 lent by non-members.

The Berani Society has commenced operations rather timidly. Tho guidin; spirit here is the Secretary Diwan Kirpaldas, a man of uncommon intellirence and capacity. The society has a fair adenixture of Hindu and Mahomedans and they work in perfect harmony. The number of members was stationary at 84, the working capital rose from Rs. 1,14 ) to Ils. 3,0 j2 (includin'o a Government grant of Rs. 1,400).

As to the future of Cooopsration in Sind, it is clear that the movement is steadily spreading. Since March 31st, one society has been registered, and threo or four are in formation, iucluding a Weavers' Society in Hála (Hydurabad District) and a society on a large scale for the táluka of Digri in the Jámráo Tract.

I cannot conclude without mentioning the great and consistent interest taken in Coooperation by Mr. Wali Mahomed Hassanally, Deputy Collector, and tho most valuable services rendered by him to the cause during the past five years.

The usual statements are herewith submitted.
-I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
HAMID A. ALI,
Superintendent, Land Records and Registration, and
Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies in Sind.

## STATEMENT I-C.

General Progress.


## STATEMENT II-C.

Receipts and Disumbements.


STATEMENT III-C.
Prortt and Loss Accoont.


IIAMID A. ALI,
Begist:ar, Cooprerative Crodit Soc.atice in Siul.

## S'TATEMENT IV-C.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 1012.


HAMID A. ALI,
Registrar, Cooperative Credit Societies in Sid

# Beloo letter No. 1093, dated 1st Ju'y 1919, from the Registrar, Co-operative Credit Socicties in Sind, and ascompaniments. 

$\qquad$
No. 2351 np 1912.


Submitted to Government.
2. The addition of thr e naw societios during the year unler report, tho registration of another after the close of the year and the prohably frmation of three or four more, indicate the increasine popularity and steady pronersy of the movement. The four socictics already existing continued to work sati,facturily.

The reduction of interest from $6 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 4 per cent. on Govermment loans, sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 2313, dated tho bha March 1912, should prove of considerable assistanco to existing socicties and should stimulate the formation of new ones.

W. II. LUCAS,

Commissioner in Sind.
To
The Chief Secretary to Govermment, Reveuur, 1)epirtment, Bombay.

## Co-rperative Societies.

Annual Report on the working of - in the Bombay Presidency, including Sind, for the year 1911-12.

No. 534
Revenue Department.
Bombay Castle, 20th January 1913.
Letter from the Superintendent of Land Records and Registration, and Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Sind, No. 1093, dated ist July 1912-Submitting the Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Sind for the year 1911-12.
Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 2351, dated 23rd July 1912.
Letter from the Director of Agriculture and of Co-operative Societics, No. A.-6343. dated 28th August 1912-Forwarding the Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Presidency proper for the year 1911-12.

Resolution.-The outstanding feature of the year 1911-12 was the establishment of the Bombay Central Co-operative Bank which has inaugurated a fundamental change in the method of financing the business of agriculture on this side of India. Hitherto the small cultivator has been tied to the local s.ivkír and has not been able to obtain capital at the rates which his own credit could command in the open market. Now he has gained through the Bank access to the general money market, and means have been provided by which he can be freed from a perpetual burden of debt. The importance of this change and of its influence on the agricultural economy of the Presidency cannot be overestimated. The risks which attend the new departure are clearly set forth in, paragraph 18 of the Report. "Local societies must not do more business than is justified and safe." The Central Bank is under the direction of business-men who can be trusted to see that the borrowing societies have sufficiently good assets to cover the loans for which they apply, but easy credit is very apt to induce extravagant borrowing, extravagant lending, extravagant expenditure of borrowed money and laxity in repayment. Against such tendencies the Registrar and his staff will have to exercise a constant vigilance; still more will be possible when unions have been established which will supervise the management of societies within their area; but the ultimate safeguard is the feeling of upright independence which it is hoped the moral lessons inculcated by the system of co-operation will engender in the minds of the people.
2. Another important feature of the year under review was the passing of the Co-operative Societies Act II of 1912. Under the provisions of this Act, the scope of the co-operative movement has been widened considerably. The department is concerned now not only with credit but with co-operative activities in general. Societies for the purchase of manure and for the sale of agricultural produce and of general stores and household necessities have been established or are in process of formation. The further development of this side of the movement will be watched with interest and will help to spread the knowledge of the real meaning of co-operation among classes which have not hitherto had any direct association with its activities.
3. The general progress achieved during the year was satisfactory. The total number of societies of all kinds increased by 117, of which 2 were central, 13 urban and 102 rural societies. The increase in the total membership amounted to 9,779 , while the total working capital rose by Rs. $19,18,68$. It is especially gratifying to note the increase in the available capital per head of members, and the number of societies ( 158 including 120 rural) which have a capital exceeding Rs. 3,000. The large increase in the total working capital is due not only to loans from financing institutions such as the Central Bank, but also to a considerable extent to loans from non-members and deposits from members themselves. The proportion of the total capital which consisted of loans from Government fell to 14 per cent. as compared with 17 per cont. in the preceding year, and 20 per cent. in the year 1910, while the proportion of outside capital has risen from 6 per cent. in 1911 to 43 per cent. in the year under review.

These figures are themselves a proof of the growth of the reliance which societies have in their own resources, and of the confidence of the public in their stability. In other respects also progress was steady. It is true that the average membership of urban societies fell from ios to 87 and of rurals from 70 to 67 , but this decrease is much less than might have been expected in view of the considerable increase in the numbers of both classes of societies. The average amount of reserve funds held by urbans and rurals rose from Rs. 234 to Rs. 237 and from Rs. 192 to Rs. 201, respectively. The Governor in Council does not consider that it would be advisable to lay down any hard and fast rule as to the application of reserve funds. The last Provincial Conference at Poona disclosed a wide divergence of opinion on the subject. The general object to be kept in view is the reduction of the proportion of borrowed capital to the total assets of the society.
4. Amongst special forms of co-operation, the institution of seed banks and grain stores has made little advance. The seed societies mentioned in paragraph 48 of the Report, though they are not conducted on co-operative lines, afford an interesting field of experiment. Their existence shows that such societies are needed and serve a useful purpose and a study of the lines on which they are run may help towards the evolution of a type of co-operative grain bank which will be found attractive to the cultivators and really help them especially in times of scarcity. The increase in the number of weaving societies from six to ten is satisfactory. The operations of these societies are being conducted on real co-operative lines, while the importance of improving methods and machinery is not being neglected. Government approve of the intention to establish a central yarn store to supply these societies with good yarn at wholesale rates and to advise them about the trend of markets. Owing to the ignorance of their members, the conduct of the affairs of the leather-makers' societies, which have been established, leaves a good deal to be desired. Government agree that without careful guidance the progress of societies amongst this class is certain to be of a chequered nature.
5. The Governor in Council is pleased to note the efforts which are being made to co-ordinate the working of the Co-operative and Agricultural Departments. The importance of the maintenance of the closest connection between these two departments cannot be too strongly emphasised. The attempt which is being made by the Broach District Agricultural Association to affiliate rural societies and the experiment of the Kaira District Local Board in appointing a sub-committee to promote agricultural improvement and co-operation with a grant-in-aid of Rs. 3,000 are most commendable. The advance of loans by the Central Bank to rural societies in the affected area in Gujarát for the purchase of fodder, the assistance rendered in the matter by the Bombay Central Famine Relief Fund and the generous action of the trustees of the Wádia Estate in supplying fodder at reduced rates to such societies afford examples of the various ways in which co-operative societies can render service to their members.
6. Mr. Ewbank has discharged the heavy responsibilities of his office with marked efficiency. The thanks of Government are due to him and to the everincreasing band of honorary workers who devote so much of their time and labour to the co-operative movement.
7. In Sind the number of registered societies increased during the year from four to seven, all of which appear to be making satisfactory progress. The Governor in Council is pleased to note the increasing popularity and steady progress of the movement in the Province.

> C. W. A. TURNER; Under Secretary to Government.

To
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { The Commissioner in Sind and the Commissioners of N., } \\ \text { C. and S. Divisions, } \\ \text { All Collectors, including the Collectors in Sind and the } \\ \text { Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier, }\end{array}\right\} \begin{gathered}\text { With. copies of } \\ \text { the Report. }\end{gathered}$

## 3

The Collector of Bombay,
The Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records,
The Director of Agriculture and of Co-operative Societies,
The Registrar of Co-operative Societies,
The Superintendent of Land Records and Registration in Sind,
The Tálukdári Settlement Officer,
The Manager, Encumbered Estates in Sind, The Accountant General,
The Educational, General, Judicial, Political and Financial Departments of the Secretariat,
R. B. Ewbank, Esq., I.C.s.,

The Non-official Members of the Legislative Council,
The Government of India,
The Under Secretary of State for India. $\}$ By letter.

