

Report on the Judicial Administration in the Central Provinces & Berar (CIVIL) for the Calendar Year 1934

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REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1934

General.—During the year under review there was a considerable decrease in original institutions both in the Central Provinces and in Berar, and their number fell below the minimum level reached in 1930. There was, however, a small increase in appellate institutions, as indeed might have been expected from the increase in original institutions during the previous year. The total court-fee income from the Civil Courts was reduced from Rs. 37,72,125 in 1933 to Rs. 32,00,947 in 1934. At the end of the year Debt Conciliation Boards were functioning at four places in the Central Provinces and two in Berar and litigation, particularly of a small cause nature, decreased considerably at these places. It is not possible, however, to foretell how far the institution of these Boards will affect the volume of litigation in the future. Due to the reduction in institutions the cadre was sufficient to cope with the work and it was possible to open additional Courts where necessary to clear off arrears. An important measure, the Usurious Loans (Central Provinces Amendment) Act, XI of 1934, was placed on the statute book during the year and brought into force on the 15th June 1934.

A.—TRIBUNALS

- 2. Judicial Commissioner's Court.—The number of Judges Statement of this Court continued to be five. Sir Robert Macnair, Kt., No. 25. I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner, was on leave throughout the year. Mr. F. L. Grille, I.C.S., who was confirmed as Additional Judicial Commissioner with effect from the 7th March 1934, consequent on the retirement of Mr. R. J. Jackson, I.C.S., Additional Judicial Commissioner, continued to officiate as Judicial Commissioner. Mr. Vivian Bose, Government Advocate, officiated as Additional Judicial Commissioner during the absence on leave of Mr. M. B. Niyogi, from the beginning of the year to the 13th March 1934, and of Mr. G. L. Subhedar, from the 3rd October to the 2nd November 1934. Mr. F. H. Staples, I.C.S., Additional Judicial Commissioner, was on leave from the 18th June to the 20th July 1934, and on his return Mr. R. E. Pollock, I.C.S., Officiating Additional Judicial Commissioner, proceeded on leave til! the 12th December 1934. Mr. H. G. Gruer, I.C.S., officiated as Additional Judicial Commissioner from the 18th June to the 12th December 1934.
- 3. District Courts.—The number of District Courts, nine, remained unchanged throughout the year.
- 4. Courts of First Class Subordinate Judges.—The number of posts in the select grade and of the First Class remained unaltered at three and 34, respectively. The Court of the Additional Subordinate Judge of the First Class at Wardha was closed from the 1st November 1934, and the services of the

Judge so spared were utilized at Akola from the 9th November 1934. The Court of the Subordinate Judge, First Class, Harda, which was temporarily closed from the beginning of the year 1933, was abolished and that of the Second Subordinate Judge, Second Class, at the same place was made permanent from the 1st January 1934.

- 5. Courts of Second Class Subordinate Judges.—During the year under report the cadre of Second Class Subordinate Judges remained unchanged at 81. The Court of the Registrar, Small Cause Court, Nagpur, was abolished from the beginning of the year.
- 6. Linked and Touring Courts.—The linked Court system continued throughout the year between Nagpur and Ramtek, Nagpur and Umrer, Sehora and Murwara, and Kelapur and Wun. The whole-time Court of the Subordinate Judge, Second Class, Jalgaon, was closed from the 6th May 1934 and the linked Court system between Khamgaon and Jalgaon was reintroduced after the vacation. Similarly, the linked Court system between Multai and Betul was revived from the 1st March 1934. The touring Court system continued at Kamptee, Sakoli, Rehli, Banda, Seoni-Malwa, Lakhnadon, Mahasamund and Mungeli, during the year.
- 7. Additional Courts.—In order to remove congestion in the pending files at certain places, Additional Subordinate Judges of the Second Class, spared out of the leave reserve, were employed during the year. The periods during which the additional judges worked at various places are given below:—

Bhandara		1-1-1934	to	31-12-1934
Arvi	••	1-1-1934	to	10-11-1934
Gadarwara		1-1-1934	to	31-1-1934
Khandwa		2-1-1934	to	31-12-1934
Chhindwara		2-1-1934	to	5-9-1934
Balaghat	• •	1-1-1934	to	5-5-1934
Amraoti		15-6-1934	to	21-9-1934
Morsi	∫	1-1-1934	to	12-1-1934
	1	16-10-1934	to	31-12-1934
Ellichpur	••	7-8-1934	to	31-12-1934
Daryapur		6-8-1934	to	23-11-1934
Akola	• •	3-4-19 34	to	31-12-1934
Buldana	••	15-6-1934	to	31-12-1934
Malkapur	••	1-1-1934	to	31-12-1934

The Courts of the Additional Subordinate Judges of the Second Class at Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Harda, Burhanour, Bilaspur, Basim and Khamgaon referred to in paragraph 7 of last year's report were made permanent from the beginning of the year under review.

- 8. During the year under report 57 (57)* Tahsildars and 49 (52) Naib-Tahsildars exercised civil powers. The majority try rent suits only except at a few remote places where they also try petty money suits.
- 9. Village Panchayat Courts.—Sixty-six Panchayat Courts were established during the year, 31 in the Central Provinces and 35 in Berar: while 15 were abolished, 12 in the Central Provinces and 3 in Berar. The total number of Courts functioning at the

^{*}Note.—The figures in brackets denote the corresponding numbers in the previous year.

end of the year was 407 in the Central Provinces and 478 in Berar. Last year the number of Courts in Berar was incorrectly shown as 447 instead of 446.

10. Training of officers.—Mr. H. V. Kamath, I.C.S., remained under training as Subordinate Judge up to the 16th November 1934, when he proceeded on leave. Mr. E. A. A. Snelson, I.C.S., who was under training as Subordinate Judge, was placed in charge of a regular Court from the 6th April 1934. Four senior Subordinate Judges of the Second Class underwent a course of magisterial training during the year.

B.—ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

11. Institution of suits.—Institutions under the three main Statement heads for the years 1930 to 1934 are given below:— No. 27.

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Central Provinces.	•				
 Suits for money and movable pro- perty. 	72,220	68,028	71,062	75,169	60,465
2. Suits under the Rent Law	17,208	25,498	24,862	28,489	29,312
3. Title and other suits	8,531	7,094	7,267	7,049	6,432
Total	97,959	100,620	103,191	110,707	96,209
;		,	-:		
Berar.					
1. Suits for money and movable property.	27,436	28,048	29,417	34,901	24,853
2. Suits under the Rent Law	234	165	182	237	212
3. Title and other suits	5,600	4,368	4,190	5,167	5,102
Total	33,270	32,581	33,789	40,305	30,167
GRAND TOTAL .	131,229	133,201	136,980	151,012	126,376
Total excluding suits under the Ren Law in the Central Provinces.	114,021	107,703	112,118	122,523	97,064

The total institutions, which had been rising steadily from the year 1931, fell to 126,376 (151,012) which is even below the minimum reached in 1930. The decrease is shared by all the districts in the province. In the Central Provinces there has been an increase in the number of rent suits by 2.9 per cent, which indicates a further deterioration in the condition of tenants. Money suits have decreased by 19.6 per cent in the Central Provinces, and by 28.8 per cent in Berar, while title

and other suits have fallen by 8.7 per cent in the Central Provinces and by 1.2 per cent in Berar. The establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards has naturally affected the institutions which fell by 30 per cent in the districts where they were established. Other reasons for the fall in litigation appear to be the disinclination of creditors to go to Court unless there is a reasonable possibility of a reimbursement of the expenditure involved in execution. As a result there is an increasing tendency to get claims settled amicably out of Court and to extend time by taking fresh bonds or securities. It is also possible that the restriction of credit which began in 1930 is now contributing to the decrease in the number of suits.

12. Institutions in Village Panchayat Courts.—Institutions in Village Panchayat Courts were 8,493 (10,217) during the year under review. The number for 1934 is 6.7 per cent of the number of institutions in the stipendiary Civil Courts. This year also Yeotmal contributed the largest number, viz., 1,526 and Bhandara comes last with only 73. 8,664 (10,232) were disposed of during the year. The decrees of the Panchayat Courts were cancelled by Deputy Commissioners in 116 (85) cases. These figures exclude statistics of 30 Courts in the Yeotmal revenue district. For the third year in succession full figures for the Yeotmal revenue district have not been supplied.

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2. 28.

13. Valuation of suits.—The total value of suits instituted during the year decreased to Rs. 3,87,13,408 (Rs. 4,25,92,201) but the average value per suit increased to Rs. 306 (Rs. 282). This was due to the fact that the fall in institutions was mainly in suits of lower value, 90 per cent of the total fall being in suits below Rs. 500 and that there were a few suits of unusually large value.

14. Small Cause Courts.—The number of suits instituted and their total and average values were as follows:—

			1933.			1934.	
. •		Number of institutions.	Total value of institu- tions.	Average value.	Number of institutions.	Total value of institu- tions.	Average value.
	i		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Central inces.	Prov-	65,949	69,98,198	106	53,834	57,60,667	107
Berar		27,957	36,09,848	128	19,945	26,80,339	134

It is in these suits that the fall in institutions is most marked; it is shared by all the districts but is particularly noticeable in West Berar (33 per cent) and Chhindwara (29 per cent). The increase in average value is insignificant. The total number of suits tried by summary procedure fell to 84,540 (89,222). 16.9 (16.3) per cent of the suits were disposed of after full trial or by reference to arbitration.

15. Distribution of suits.—The number and percentage of Statement suits disposed of by each class of Court in 1933 and 1934 were No. 29. as follows:—

	193	33.	1934.		
Class of Courts.	Number.	Percent-	Number.	Percent- age.	
District Courts Courts of First Class Subordinate	366 1,709	.2 1.2	370 1,244	.2	
Judges. Courts of Second Class Subordinate Judges.	56,472	38.2	54,102	38.6	
Small Cause Courts	89,222	60.4	84,540	60.3	
Total	147,769	100.0	140,256	100.0	

The total number of suits disposed of decreased by 7,513 but it exceeded total institutions by as much as 13,880. The decrease in disposals is disproportionately high in the Courts of First Class Subordinate Judges, Hoshangabad and West Berat Civil districts, being mainly responsible. In the latter district the additional Court at Akola was closed in March and when it was reopened in November, it was assigned only appellate work. First Class Subordinate Judges are seldom given suits below Rs. 5,000 in value. Heavy criminal work has also adversely affected the disposals of First Class Subordinate Judges in Hoshangabad and Berar and no relief can be afforded in view of the reduced cadre.

• 16. Durations.—The average durations in days of suits decided by the several classes of courts during the year under review are given below:—

		Av	erage d	uration	of suits	decid	ed.	
Class of Courts.	Year	With- out trial.	Ex- parte	On ad- missi- on of claim.	Com- pro- mised.	After full trial.	On reference to arbitration.	By trans- fer.
Principa Victoria	1933	354	193	96	356	629	363	413
District Judges	1934	409	280	154	370	. 542	363	365
Subordinate Judges, First	1933	196	142	108	233	365	310	200
Class.	1934	272	161	101	229	392	188	139
Subordinate Judges,	1933	127	95	83	149	224	274	131
Second Class.	1934	135	100	83	157	232	374	135
Small Cause Courts	1933	112	107	96	114	137	311	56
	1934	123	117	104	128	152	316	135

On the whole they show a slight increase which is attributable in part to the disposal of a greater number of old cases rendered possible by the fall in institutions. Some districts also report an increase in the proportion of contested cases which is likely to have lengthened the duration. Another reason in the case of Small Cause Courts is the raising of the pecuniary limit of their jurisdiction, cases of a higher value being usually more contested and consequently more prolonged.

17. Pending files.—

			1933.	1934.
Suits at the beginning of Institutions Revived Otherwise received	f the year		43,284 151,012 3,102 6,966	49,733 126,376 3,218 5,050
	Total for disposal		204,364	184,377
Disposed of— By transfer Otherwise	•	::	6,862 147,769	4,894 140,256
•	Total disposed of		154,631	145,150
Pending at the close of t	Pending at the close of the year		49,733	39,227

Owing to the general fall in institutions the pending files at the end of the year decreased by 21.1 per cent. The decrease is shared by all districts. The number of suits over six months old fell to 8,358 (8,500), while the number of suits over one year rose to 2,249 (1,839). At places where Debt Conciliation Boards are functioning the increase in the number of old pending cases is marked on account of the proceedings in Courts being stayed on receipt of certificates from the Boards. The number of miscellaneous cases pending at the end of the year was 5,861 (7,006), and of these 169 (156) were over one year old.

18. Sixty (73) suits were decided during the year by reference to arbitration, of which 51 were found for plaintiff and 9 for defendant.

19. Executions.—The total number of applications for execution before the Courts was 184,513 (195,522) and 144,978 (148,204) applications were disposed of during the year leaving a pending file of 39,535 (47,318). Applications were wholly infructuous in 58.7 (58.6) per cent of the cases, partly satisfied in 17.6 (17.6) per cent and fully satisfied in 10.2 (10.7) per cent. The amount realized in execution of decrees was Rs. 29,94,971 (Rs. 32,66,539). Debtors were imprisoned in 310 (199) cases, movable property was sold in 2,064 (2,243) and immovable property in 2,721 (2,620). The considerable increase in the number of commitments to the Civil Jail and the fall in the total amount of realizations through the Courts indicate a deterioration in the paying capacity of the debtor class. Repayment by instalments was allowed in suitable cases but debtors were frequently unable to pay the stipulated amounts punctually. In view of the general depression they are however treated with indulgence by the Courts. The rules regarding sale of land by Collectors appear

to be beneficial to the agriculturist debtor and though the procedure is somewhat dilatory from the creditor's point of view, it would not be desirable to dispense with the Collector's agency for some time to come.

- 20. Insolvency.—The number of insolvency petitions presented during the year by debtors and creditors fell to 2,507 (2,933) and 357 (444), respectively. The fall in the debtors' petitions appears to be partly due to the indulgence shown at the present time to debtors in execution proceedings and occasionally in extreme cases to their incapacity to meet the charges which insolvency cases involve. The fall in the creditors' petitions is attributable to their tendency to let the debtors alone owing to their impoverished state, there being little prospect of recovering anything from them. 2,261 (2,156) petitions were disposed of by order of adjudication, 317 (324) were dismissed under section 25, 77 (85) were withdrawn under section 14, and 661 (707) were disposed of by death or default. Orders of adjudication of 2,004 (1,037) insolvents were annulled, 1,165 (802) insolvents were discharged absolutely, 291 (286) conditionally and 36 (13) after the expiry of the period of suspension. increase in the number of annulments of adjudications is particularly noticeable in Wardha, where as many as 833 adjudications were annulled under section 43 of the Act. The increase in the number of absolute discharges is satisfactory. The District and Sessions Judge, Amraoti, reports that, besides the work given to the Official Receiver who is fully employed, there is sufficient work for a second Official Receiver which is at presendivided among a large number of receivers appointed pro tanto and that it is difficult for the Courts to exercise proper control over their work and check their accounts.
- 21. Interlocutory Injunctions.—Seventy-two applications for issue of interlocutory injunctions were pending from the previous year and 537 applications were made during the year making a total of 609 for disposal. Injunctions were refused in 127 cases, granted ex parte in 208 and granted otherwise in 83. Out of 208 cases in which injunction was granted ex parte, in 115 cases, it was continued and 93 cases dissolved after hearing the defendant. The average duration of cases in which injunction was granted ex parte, but dissolved after hearing the defendant was 101 (42) days, a regrettable increase. It was unduly high in Hoshangabad (383), Wardha (207) and West Berar (168).
- 22. Stay Orders.—Orders for stay of proceedings were issued during the year in 152 (138) trials of suits and 995 (785) execution cases. Of these, 387 (381) were issued by the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, 436 (388) by the District Courts and 324 (154) by other Courts. 676 (645) orders were issued in appeal, 139 (130) in revisions and 332 (148) in other cases. In 475 (393) cases stay was ordered ex parte. In 21* (43) they were continued after hearing the other side, in 108 (33) they were dissolved atternationally on conclusion of the appeal, revision or other proceeding.

^{*}Note.—Includes three stay orders which were granted ex parte and continued after hearing the other side, but dissolved automatically on conclusion of an appeal revision or other proceeding.

23. The majority of the District Judges are of opinion that while the clerical labour involved is considerable the value of the statistics regarding injunctions and stay orders is almost negligible. The number of cases in which interlocutory injunctons or stay orders are issued is not nearly so great as apprehended by the Civil Justice Committee in their report. Most of the stay orders are issued by appellate and revisional Courts which may be expected to exercise their discretion properly. From the figures gathered during the last two years it appears that the Courts are generally careful in granting injunctions and stay orders and it seems unnecessary to continue to maintain these statistics.

C.—APPELLATE JURISDICTION

- 24. Appeals to Privy Council.—At the beginning of the year four applications for leave to appeal were pending before this Court and 12 new applications were filed during the year. Of these seven were rejected, four were allowed and five remained pending at the close of the year. One appeal was despatched to England during the year.
- 25. Result of appeals to the Privy Council.—During the year two appeals were disposed of by the Privy Council, out of the seven appeals pending before it against the decisions of this Court. The decisions of this Court were affirmed in both instances.

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26. Judicial Commissioner's Court.—The table below 31 and compares the figures of civil appellate work in the years 1933 and 1934:—

	_	1933.	• '	1934.		
	Institu- tions.	Dis- posals.	Pend- ing.	Institu- tions.	Dis- posals.	Pend- ing.
First appeals— from decrees from orders	270 67	265 61	434 51	275 78	246 64	463 65
Second appeals— from decrees from orders	786 25	948 21	1,429 24	840 23	900 26	1,369° 21
Civil revisions— Revision under section 25 of the Provincial Small Cause Courts		476	333	591	529	395
Act. Other revisions	497	447	283	475	470	288
Total	2,138	2,218	2,554	2,282	2,235	2,601

There was a slight increase in institutions while disposals were practically the same as in the last year. The average durations ct First and Second Appeals from original and appellate decrees disposed of during the year were 625.8 (605.6) and 598.3 (637.2), respectively. 138 (148) miscellaneous petitions were instituted during the year, and 128 (147) were disposed of.

27. District Courts.—The statement below compares the figures for civil appellate work in the years 1933 and 1934:—

			1933.		1934.			
		Institu- ted.	Dispos- ed of.	Pend- ing.	Institu- ted.	Disposed of.	Pend- ing.	
Central Provinces. Regular appeals Miscellaneous appeals	• •	2,238 385	2,168 359	1,062 149	2,344 471	2,362 421	1,044 199	
Total		2,623	2,527	1,211	2,815	2,783	1,243	
Berar. Regular appeals Miscellaneous appeals	• •	1,059 354	951 331	695 208	1,040 411	1,009 389	726 230	
Total		1,413	1,282	903	1,451	1,398	956	
GRAND TOTAL		4,036	3,809	2,114	4,266	4,181	2,199	

There was a perceptible increase in the number of appeals instituted and though the disposals were better than in the previous year, there was a small increase in the number pending at the close of the year. The total number of regular appeals over three months was 897 (841) and over one year was 159 (130), West Berar contributing the largest number, 302 over three months and 85 over one year. Due to pressure of Sessions work the appellate files in that district have become extremely congested and it is hoped that the additional Judge who has been posted at Akola in November last mainly for the purpose of disposing of civil appellate work will be able to give the necessary relief. The average duration of regular civil appeals fell to 161.0 (168.9) in the Central Provinces, while in Berar it rose to 220.7 (206.0).

28. Of the 3,371 regular civil appeals shown as disposed of in the preceding paragraph, 2.4 per cent were summarily dismissed, 7.6 per cent not prosecuted, decrees confirmed in 50.1 per cent, modified in 16.1 per cent, reversed in 15.6 per cent and cases remanded in 8.2 per cent of the appeals. The result is thus much the same as during the previous year.

D.—MISCELLANEOUS

29. Bar.—The total strength of the Bar further increased to 1,941 (1,764). The relations between the Bench and the Bar continued to be cordial. The one complaint of unprofessional conduct against a pleader pending at the close of the previous year resulted in his suspension. Four similar complaints were lodged during the year, of which one ended in a warning to the pleader, one was filed as the pleader tendered an unreserved apology, in one the pleader was suspended and one remained pending at the close of the year. Six cases of legal practitioners who had been suspended for taking active part in the civil disobedience movement and had applied to this Court for permission to resume practice, were pending at the beginning of the

year under review and 7 more applications were received during the year. Permission was granted in 11 cases leaving 2 cases pending at the close of the year.

- 30. Guardians and Wards Act.—During the year under report the number of estates under management fell to 1,037 (1,040), and the number relinquished rose to 105 (87). Difficulty is experienced by some Courts in getting honest and diligent men to work as guardians and in making them maintain proper accounts and furnish adequate security. The District Judge, Jubbulpore, is of opinion that the Act requires a thorough revision. The necessity of a supervising agency continues to be felt in some districts.
- 31. Usurious Loans Act.—The Central Provinces Amending Act, No. XI of 1934, which came into force on the 15th June 1934, is welcomed by the Judges as having made the original Act, No. X of 1918, more workable and more beneficial to the debtor class. The litigants are now generally familiar with the provisions of these two Acts and the Judges also are usually alert to see whether or no any relief against excessive interest is required in a particular case.
- 32. Copying branch.—The total number of sheets filled in at headquarters rose further from 385,177 sheets to 402,349 in spite of a small decrease at Nagpur, Khandwa, Chhindwara and Amraoti. The increase in the number of sheets filled in at all places, from 470,843 sheets to 495,786, was shared by all except the Nimar and Chhindwara districts, the increase in Raipur district being considerable. In spite of this general increase in the volume of work it was possible to reduce the total number of copyists' posts by three and the charges on account of section writers by Rs. 512 (from Rs. 2,097 to Rs. 1,585).
- 33. Records and Record-rooms.—The elimination of records is reported to be up to date except in Wardha and Jubbulpore. A spare court-room was converted into an additional record-room at Nagpur, but it has not yet been properly equipped for lack of funds. The temporary makeshift provided at Hoshangabad is inconvenient and the record-rooms there and at Jubbulpore stand badly in need of extension. At Raipur also the record-room accommodation is shrinking and an extension will be required in the near future. The checking of court-fee stamps by the record-room staff at Akola has been perfunctory and not in strict accordance with the rules and this probably gave the opportunity to a dishonest clerk of the Subordinate Judge's Court at Murtizapur systematically to remove court fee labels from plaints and applications for process and seil them to others without being detected for some time. The clerk has since been prosecuted for the offence and convicted.
 - 34. Ministerial Establishment.—Consequent on the abolition of the minor head of accounts, 24-D—Courts of Small Causes from the 1st April 1934, and the amalgamation of the Small Cause Courts' staff with that of the Civil Courts two clerical posts, one on Rs. 80—4—100 and another on Rs. 30—1—50, were abolished, and one more on Rs. 125—5—150 will be abolished as soon as the permanent incumbent retires. Three

posts of copyist were abolished owing to greater efficiency in the working of the copying sections.

35. Working of the Nazarat.—The expenditure on the process-serving establishment was further curtailed by keeping thirty-four posts of process-servers vacant as a tentative measure. The percentage of service of summons and notices ranged from 75 to 82 and that of warrants from 77 to 85 except in Nimar and Raipur where it was 68 (63) and 70 (73) respectively. Sale Amins continued to exercise a useful check over the work of process-servers. 122 cases of obstruction to service and 11 cases of escape from custody were reported out of which 65 were brought to trial, 27 ended in conviction and 20 in acquittal.

Owing to the inadvertent transposition of the figures of receipts and expenditure in a remittance list sent by the Naib-Nazir to the Chanda treasury for depositing Rs. 42-13-0 there was a defalcation of Rs. 85-10-0. Two independent departmental enquiries, one on the civil side and the other on the executive, were held to fix the person responsible for the defalcation. It was ordered that the loss should be made good equally by the Naib-Nazir and the treasury staff.

- 36. Trial of Tenancy suits by Revenue Officers.-Most of the District Judges are of opinion that the procedure followed by the revenue officers continues to be defective because of their lack of interest in the work and their comparative ignorance of civil law and circulars. The ministerial work of these courts is generally even more unsatisfactory and complaints are frequent that the periodical returns are seldom submitted in time and instructions for the proper maintenance of the Court registers do not receive attention. This low standard seems to be in part due to lack of application on the part of the clerks and want of effective supervision by the Judges. Frequent changes of judicial moharrirs also come in the way of improvement. In order to exercise better control, the District Judge, Jubbulpore, suggests that Deputy Commissioners should be required to note on the civil work of these Judges in the annual confidential reports, either after consulting the District Judge directly or after referring to his annual inspection note and secondly adverse remarks of the District Judges made at the time of inspection should be entered in the ephemeral character rolls of the clerks concerned and given due weight when the question of their increments or promotions arises. It is not expected that the standard prevailing in regular Civil Courts should be attained, but a considerable improvement could and should be effected.
- 37. Buildings.—No funds were available for carrying out any extensions or improvements to the Court buildings though in many places they are urgently required. Due to the continuous and rapid increase in the strength of the Bar in recent years, the accommodation in the Bar-rooms has proved to be insufficient at a number of places.
- 38. Furniture and Libraries.—No new furniture was purchased during the year under report owing to financial stringency and the lack of it is deplorably apparent in some courts.

Court libraries now appear to have their minimum requirements though they are by no means complete or up-to-date.

- 39. Inspections.—The Officiating Judicial Commissioner inspected the Civil Courts and offices at Balaghat, Chhindwara, Yeotmal, and Narsinghpur. He also visited Hoshangabad, Jubbulpore and Gondia, during the year. Most of the regular Civil Courts were inspected by the District and Sessions Judges during the year. The District Judge, Chhindwara, could not inspect his Court, and the District Judge, Raipur, could not inspect the Court of the Additional District Judge and Subordinate Judge, First Class, Raipur, for want of time. The District Judge, East Berar, could not inspect the Courts of the Additional Subordinate Judges, Second Class, at Ellichpur and Morsi, for want of funds. The Civil Courts presided over by Revenue Officers at Sakoli, Amarwara, Mahasamund and Sanjari-Balod also remained uninspected for want of time.
- 40. Mr. G. M. Pendharkar, District and Sessions Judge, and Messrs. Syed Alay Raza (Subordinate Judge, Select post), S. K. Karmarkar, K. G. Kothe and V. K. Sapre, Subordinate Judges, First Class, retired from service during the year. Mr. H. M. Yasin, a senior Subordinate Judge of the Second Class, died on the 29th December 1934.
- 41. During the year under report the title of Rai Bahadur was conferred on Mr. G. B. De, District and Sessions Judge.

K. V. K. SUNDARAM,

Registrar, Judicial Commissioner's Court, Central Provinces.

Nagpur: The 25th April 1935.

PRESCRIBED STATEMENTS (CIVIL)

STATEMENT No. 25.—Showing the number of Judicial Divisions and the Central Provinces and Berar on the

		•	Civil	
Name of Province.	Judges of Chief - Court of Province.	Number of districts.	District Judges.	
1	2	3	4	
Central Provinces (including Berar).	5	9	9 (a)	

- (a) Do both civil and
- (b) 198 do both civil
- (c) (i) Includes 885
 - (ii) Includes one Judge doing work.

STATEMENT No. 26.—Showing the number of Civil cases decided in

			Number of cases
Name of Province.	Origi	nal.	Appel
-	Regular.	Miscellaneous.	Regular.
1	2	3	4
Central Provinces (including Berar).	1,45,150	26,136	4,847

the number of officers exercising Appellate or Original Civil Jurisdiction in 31st December 1934—(Paragraphs 2—10).

Other Ju	idges.	Remarks.	4 :	•
Stipendiary.	Honorary.			
5	6	7		
- ·		Grades of Judicial Officers.	Euro- peans.	In- dians.
233 (b)	886 (c)	Judicial Commissioner	1	
	•	Additional Judicial Commissioners	2	2
·		District Judges	3	6
	•	Additional District Judges	1	28
		Subordinate Judges, first class	••	1
	· ·	Additional Judges to Courts of Sub- ordinate Judges, first class.	••	17
criminal work.	-	Judges, Small Cause Courts	•.•	. 5
and criminal work.		Subordinate Judges, second class		- 75
Panchayat Courts.		Extra-Subordinate Judges, second class	••	57
Honorary Subordinat both civil and crimin		Additional Judges to Courts of Extra- Subordinate Judges, second class.	••	- 48
-		Additional Judges to Courts of Subordinate Judges, second class.	••	2
		Total	7	241

the Courts in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1934.

decided.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
late.	Remarks.	
Miscellaneous.		
5	6	
1,040		

				Suits under the			
Class of Tribunal.		Suits for money or movable property.	Arrears of rent with or without ejectment.	Enhance- ment or abatement of rent.	For eject- ment or recovery of possession alone.		
•		2	3	4	5		
				<u> </u>			
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR	.]].			
Unpaid Tribunals	• •		••	••			
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals	••	11,001	29,470	••	5		
Small Cause Courts		73,779		••			
District Courts other than Chief Courts districts.	of	465	49	••			
Chief Courts of districts		73		• ••			
Total	••	85,318	29,519	• •	5		

STATEMENT No. 28.—Showing the number and value of Suits for the year 1934—

•		Number			
Class of Tribunal.		Value not exceeding Rs. 10.	Value Rs. 10 to Rs. 50,	Value Rs. 50 to Rs. 100,	Value Rs. 100 to Rs. 500.
		2	3	4	5
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR					
Unpaid Tribunals				••	••
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals		6,003	18,849	8,738	10,225
Small Cause Courts		2,771	25,722	18,742	25,070
District Courts other than Chief Courts districts.	of	10	26	30	33
Chief Courts of districts	••				11
Total		8,784	44,597	27,510	35,339

instituted in the Civil Courts in the Central Provinces and Berar (Paragraph 11).

Rent Law.			Title and other suits.					
All other suits under the Rent Law.	Total.	Suits for immovable property.	Suits for specific relief.	Mortgage suits.	Other suits not falling under any of the preceding heads.	Total.	Grand Total.	
6	7	8	9	10	11.	12	13	
	• • .							
	• •		••				••	
	29,475	4,044	1,535	4,485	636	10,700	51,176	
•	••	••	••	••	••	••	73,779	
••	49	91	87	351	36	565	1,079	
•••	••	70	35	114	50	269	342	
	29,524	4,205	1,657	4,950	. 722	11,534	1,26,376	

instituted in the Civil Courts in the Central Provinces and Berar (Paragraphs 13 and 14).

instituted in the different courts.

Value Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000.	Value Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000.	Value above Rs. 5,000	Number of suits the value of which can- not be estimat- ed in money.	Total number of suits instituted.	Total value of suits.
6	7	8	9	10	11
3,537	3,824			51,176	1,36,75,091
1,474	**		••	73,779	84,41,006
5 9 51 ₁	409	520	••	1,079	44,88,797
	3	327		342	1,21,08,514
5,062	4,236	847	1	1,26,376	3,87,13,408

STATEMENT No. 29.—Showing the general results of the trial of Civil Berar for the

Civil Suits-

	Number of suits before the Courts.						
Class of Tribunal.	Pending at the begin- ning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Revived during the year.	Otherwise received.	Total.		
<u> </u>	2	3	4	5	6		
			·				
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR				-			
··· ·· · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							
Unpaid Tribunals	10	• •	4	70	84		
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals	19,069	51,176	1,536	3,9 30	75,711		
			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •				
Small Cause Courts	28,909	73,779	1,578	607	1,04,873		
District Courts other than Chief Courts of districts.	1,205	1,079	86	394	2,764		
Chief Courts of districts	· 540	342	14	49	945		
Total	49,733	1,26,376	3,218	5,050	1,84,377		

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Cases in the Courts of original jurisdiction in the Central Provinces and year 1934.

(Paragraphs 15-18).

					-	
		Number of suit	s disposed o	f.	. 1	
	Without trial.			parte.	On admiss	ion of claim.
Under Order IX, Rule 3 and Order IX, rule 8, where the defendant does not admit the claim.	Otherwise.	Average duration.	Number.	Average duration.	Number.	Average duration.
7	8	9	. 10		12	.13
						·
19	1	31	40	60	12	. 66
4,249	1,878	135	17,690	100	14,754	83
9,550	2,697	123	32,384	117	22,240	104
89	82	272	152	161	155	101
20	26	409	20	280	31	154
13,927	4,684	129	50,286	112	37,192	95

STATEMENT No. 29.—Showing the general results of the trial of Civil Berar for the

Civil Suits-

				Num	ber of suits	
	Compromised.		After full trial.			
Class of Tribunal.	Number.	Average duration.	Judg- ment for plain- tiff.	Judg- ment for defend- ant.	Average duration.	
1	-14	15	16	17	18	
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR Unpaid Tribunals	2	38	3		146	
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals	3,292	157 _.	10,172	1,953	232	
Small Cause Courts	3,242	128	13,059	1,356	152	
District Courts other than Chief Courts of districts.	143	229	523	93	392	
Chief Courts of districts	70	370	162	. 37	542	
Total	6,749	146	23,919	3,439	195	

Cases in the Courts of original jurisdiction in the Central Provinces and year 1934.

(Paragraphs 15-18)—concld.

disposed of.	dis	osed	of.
--------------	-----	------	-----

n reference to	arbitration.	By transfer.					
Number.	nber. Average] duration,		Number. Average duration.		Pending for more than a year.	Remarks	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	. [
•• •	••	. 1	74	6	••		
37	374	3,785	. 135	17,901	1,325		
12	316	620	135	19,713	324	. :	
7	188 -	441	139	1,079	346		
4	363	47	365	528	254	-	
				·			
60	.337	4,894	138	39,227	2,249		

STATEMENT No. 30.—Showing the general results of the trial of Civil Berar for the

Miscellaneous

	Number of suits before the Courts.					
Class of Tribunal	Pending at the begin- ning of the year.	Instituted during the year.	Revived during the year.	Otherwise received.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5 ,	6	
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR						
Unpaid Tribunals	••	6	••	2	8	
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals	3,748	13,466	35	278	17,527	
Small Cause Courts	2,053	7,855	19	4	9,931	
District Courts other than Chief Courts of districts.	662	1,636	6	41	2,345	
Chief Courts of districts	491	1,440	4	15	1,950	
Chief Courts of the Province	52	184	• •	• •	236	
Total	7,006	24,587	64	340	31,997	

Note.—(a) Three cases of contempt of Court under Chapter XXXV
(b) Insolvency petitions are not taken into

Cases in the Courts of original jurisdiction in the Central Provinces and year 1934.

Cases.—(Paragraph 17).

			Number of su	its disposed	of.	•		
		Without trial		Ex p	arte.	On admission of claim		
Under Order IX, Rule 3 and Order IX, rule 8, where the defendant does not admit the claim.		Otherwise.	Average duration.			Average duration.		
7		8	9	10	11	12	!3	
•								
		1	56	2	97	1	34	
	1,178	5,331	77	1,444	88	2,010	67	
	975	3,714	75	957	88.	1,035	71	
	108	734	107	194	114	304	97	
. :							1	
*	242	562	96	82	87	126	92	
• '							2755	
•	2	121	73	21	107		86 2 2 2 2 10	
	2,505	10,463	79	2,700	. 90	3,477	72	

of the Code of Criminal Procedure were disposed of by Civil Courts during the year. account for purposes of this statement.

STATEMENT No. 30.—Showing the general results of the trial of Civil Berar for the

Miscellaneous

					Number		
	Compr	omised.		After full trial.			
Class of Tribunal.	Number.	Average duration.	Judgment for plaintiff.	Judgment for defendant.	Average duration.		
1	14	15	16	17	18		
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR Unpaid Tribunals					-		
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals	265	. 106	2,097	1,735	146		
Small Cause Courts	114	104	904	613	124		
District Courts other than Chi Courts of districts.	ief 31	203	266	131	210		
Chief Courts of districts	14	214	316	134	156		
Chief Courts of the Province	2	597	17	14	276		
Total	426	119	3,600	2,627	146		

Note.—(a) Three cases of contempt of Court under Chapter XXXV of the
(b) Insolvency petitions are not taken into

Cases in the Courts of original jurisdiction in the Central Provinces and year 1934.

Cases.—(Paragraph 17)—concld.

f cases dispos	ed of					
On reference t	o arbitration.	By trai	nsfer.			-
Number.	Average duration.	Number.	Average duration.	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending for more than a year.	Remarks.
				• .		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		2	128	2	••	
. ••	••	266	73	3,201	48	
••	••	.••	••	1,619	11	
··	••	55	79	522	38	
••	••	. 15	236	459	61	
	••	••		58	. 11	
		338	82	5,861	169	

ode of Criminal Procedure were disposed of by Civil Courts during the year, count for purposes of this statement.

STATEMENT No. 30.—Showing the general results of the trial of Civil Berar for the

Miscellaneous

					Number		
•. •	Compr	omised.	After full trial.				
Class of Tribunal.	Number,	Average duration.	Judgment for plaintiff.	Judgment for defendant.	Average duration.		
!	14	15	16	17	18		
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR Unpaid Tribunals				·	-		
Paid Sub-Divisional Tribunals .	265	106	2,097	1,735	146		
Small Cause Courts	. 114	104	904	613	124		
District Courts other than Chie Courts of districts.	ef 31	203	266	131	210		
Chief Courts of districts .	. 14	214	316	134	156		
Chief Courts of the Province .	. 2	597	17	14	276		
Total	426	119	3,600	2,627	146		

Note.—(a) Three cases of contempt of Court under Chapter XXXV of the
(b) Insolvency petitions are not taken into

Cases in the Courts of original jurisdiction in the Central Provinces and year 1934.

Cases.—(Paragraph 17)—concld.

of cases dispos	ed of						
On reference t	o arbitration.	By tra	nsfer.	:			
Number.	Average duration.	Number.	Average duration.	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending for more than a year.	Remarks.	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
 		· · ·			 ·		
••	••	2	128	2	••		
. ••		266	73	3,201	48		
	••	••	• •	1,619	11	·	
··	••	55	79	522	38		
••	••	15	236	459	61		
••	••	••		58	. 11		
••	••	338	82	5,861	169	•	

Code of Criminal Procedure were disposed of by Civil Courts during the year.

account for purposes of this statement.

STATEMENT No. 31:—Showing the business of the Civil Appellate
Appeals from

		<u> </u>		
	Numbe	er of appeals	before the C	Courts.
Class of Tribunal.	Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted and re-instituted during the year.	Otherwise received.	Total,
1	2	3	4	5
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR Appeals from Original Decrees Chief Appellate Courts of districts COURTS AT THE PRESIDENCY OR SEAT OF GOVERNMENT	(a) 1,757	3,382	332	5,471
Chief Court Appeals from original decrees	434	272	3	709
Province. Appeals from appellate decrees	(b) 1,429	840		2,269
Total	1,863	1,112	3	2,978
GRAND TOTAL	3,620	4,494	335	8,449

Note.—There were no references under
(a) Includes three appeals
(b) One appeal of 1931 and one

Courts in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1934 Decrees—(Paragraphs 26—28).

			Number of appeals disposed of									
	ear.	year.	ınsfer.	By tra	appeals	-				Dismissed or not prose-cuted.		
Remark	Pending for more than a year.	Pending at the close of the year.	Average duration.	Number.	Average duration of in column 8, 9, 10 and 1	Remanded for retrial.	Reversed.	Modified.	Confirmed.	Average duration.	Number.	
17	- 16-	15	14-	- 13 -	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	
	159	1,770	206	330	182	274	525	543	1,690	150	339	
	215	463	••	••	682	10	41	31	123	345	41	
	708	1,369	••	••	831	26	84	. 52	402	208	336	
	923	1,832	••	••	791	36	125	83	525	223	377	
	1,082	3,602	206	330	305	310	650	626	2,215	188	716	

section 27 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. wrongly treated as miscellaneous appeals during the year 1933. of 1933 were cancelled during the year.

STATEMENT No. 32.—Showing the business of the Civil Appellate Miscellaneous

	Numb	er of appeals	before the	Courts.
Class of Tribunal.	Pending at the beginning of the year.	Instituted and reinstituted during the year.	Otherwise received.	Total.
	2	3	4	5 -
COURTS IN THE INTERIOR , Appeals form Original Decrees				
Chief Appellate Courts of districts COURTS AT THE PRESIDENCY OR SEAT OF GOVERNMENT	(a) 357	882	140	1,379
Chief Court Appeals from original decrees of Province. Appeals from appellate decrees	(b) (c) 51 24	78 23	••	(c) 129 47
Total	75	101	••	176
GRAND TOTAL	432	983	140	1,555

Note.—(a) Excludes three miscellaneous
(b) One appeal of 1933 was
(c) Includes one appeal under

Courts in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1934. appeals—(Paragraphs 26—28).

		Nun	nber of	appeals	dispose	ed of.							
Dism or no secu	nissed t pro- nted.		-		-			appeals d 11.	By tr	ansfer.	he year.	year.	
Number.	.Average duration.	Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Remanded for retrial.	Average duration of appeals in columns 8, 9, 10 and 11.	Number.	Average duration.	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending for more than a year.	Remarks		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
185	130	373	29	152	71	162	140	171	429	34			
30	179	23	1	8	2	379	••	••	(c) 65	7			
8	272	14	••	4	••	385	••	••	21	5			
38	199	37	1	12	2	382	••		86	12			
223	142	410	30	164	73	179	140	171	515	46			

appeals of 1933 as they were subsequently treated as regular appeals, cancelled during the year.

Bection 30 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

GPN-249-M-RJCC-27-4-35-126.