

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

FOR THE

YEAR 1905-1906.



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PART I.

SUMMARY.

1. The year 1905-1906 has been rendered memorable by the visit to India of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, a visit which gave to the peoples of India an opportunity of indulging their feelings of attachment and loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor and to the Heir Apparent. The Royal Visit.

On November the 9th, 1905, at 11 a.m. His Majesty's Ship "Renown", conveying Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, came to her moorings opposite to the Apollo Bunder. In the afternoon His Excellency the Viceroy accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Curzon proceeded on board the "Renown" to greet Their Royal Highnesses and to accompany them when landing. Shortly afterwards His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, who was accompanied by the Chief Justice, the Bishop of Bombay and the Members of the Executive Council, also proceeded on board, returning before Their Royal Highnesses landed. On landing Their Royal Highnesses were received by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, who presented to them the Chiefs, Sirdars and High Officials present at the Bunder Head. Their Royal Highnesses also received an address from the Corporation of the City of Bombay. His Royal Highness, after thanking the Corporation for its address, referred in general terms to the object of his tour, and on the subject of the City of Bombay spoke as follows:—"Like all great cities which depend on commerce, Bombay has had her vicissitudes, and your Municipal History has its counterpart in many other cities of our Empire, which I have had the pleasure of visiting. Your period of prosperity has endowed you with buildings and other possessions of which you may well be proud. But it has also brought you a population, perhaps inconveniently large, and you are now wisely grappling with the problems which have beset us in the West, the problems of wide streets and healthy industrial quarters." The Royal Cortège then drove to Government House, Malabár Hill, through the Native City.

The following day opened with the reception at Government House by His Royal Highness of Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Kolhápur, the Rao of Cutch, the Nawáb of Junágadh, the Jam of Navánagar, the Thakor Saheb of Bhávnagar, the Raja of Rájpipla, the Nawáb of Cambay, the Rana of Porebunder, the Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra, and the Thakor Saheb of Gondal. In the afternoon Their Royal Highnesses drove in State through the City and *en route* graciously halted at several points to receive the greetings of various communities and also to perform the opening ceremony of the new street, which is the first of the great thoroughfares laid out by the City Improvement Trust. The street by the consent of Their Royal Highnesses has been called Princess Street. Their Royal Highnesses also passed through the People's Fair on the Esplanade Maidan, thus opening it for the recreation of the many visitors to Bombay. In the evening a banquet was given at Government House and thereafter a levée was held at the Secretariat, at which more than 1,600 presentations were made to His Royal Highness. At the same

time Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales held a Purdah Party at Government House.

On the following morning return visits were paid by His Royal Highness to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Kolhápur, the Rana of Porebunder, the Nawáb of Cambay, the Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra and the Thakor Saheb of Bhávnagar. In the afternoon Their Royal Highnesses were present to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Prince of Wales Museum, which institution is to be the permanent memorial of the Royal Visit to Bombay. After returning thanks for an address presented by the Museum and Reception Committee, His Royal Highness commended the selection of the memorial and spoke as follows :—“ It interests me to find that in this land, so strange at present to me, you are following ideas which are very familiar to us in Great Britain and throughout the Empire. Day by day we are grasping the importance of education by object lessons, and I anticipate the happiest results from the Museum, Library and Art Gallery, which will one day stand upon this spot.” On the conclusion of the ceremony His Royal Highness visited the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, and proceeded thence by launch to visit His Majesty's Ship “Hyacinth”, the flagship of His Excellency Rear-Admiral Poe, commanding the East Indies Squadron, and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales honoured a reception organised by Indian Ladies at the Town Hall. The day closed with a banquet and reception at Government House.

On Sunday Their Royal Highnesses attended Divine Service at the Cathedral in the evening.

On the morning of Monday, November 13th, His Royal Highness paid return visits to Their Highnesses the Raja of Rájpipla, the Nawáb of Junágadh, the Rao of Cutch, the Jam of Navánagar, and the Thakor Saheb of Gondal. In the afternoon His Royal Highness laid the foundation stone of the new Alexandra Dock. Her Royal Highness was also present at the ceremony. After returning thanks for an address presented by the Chairman of the Port Trust, His Royal Highness spoke as follows :—“ As a sailor I am specially interested to hear that this new Dock is designed to meet, not only the requirements of the Mercantile Marine, but also of the Royal Navy; and will be able to accommodate the largest of our modern battleships. You, Mr. Chairman, and your co-Trustees, are to be complimented on your far-seeing policy. For, profiting by past experiences, you have determined that the work which we now inaugurate shall not be calculated for present demands alone, but be sufficient to meet all possible needs and development of commerce for many years to come.” Their Royal Highnesses later paid an informal visit to the Yacht Club and at night were present at a Ball given by the Byculla Club.

On the morning of Tuesday, November 14th, His Royal Highness gave audience collectively to the remainder of the Native Chiefs present in Bombay, and also inspected a detachment of Kumárs from the Rájkumár College, who had come down from Rájkot to ride in His Royal Highness' Escort. At an investiture held on the same day His Royal Highness conferred the honour of Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order on Steyning William Edgerley, Esquire, C.I.E., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, and the Fourth Class of the same Order on Herbert George Gell, Esquire, Commissioner of Police. His Royal Highness also conferred the honour of Knighthood on Sassoon Jacob David, Esquire, and Currimbhoy Ebrahim, Esquire. In the afternoon Their Royal Highnesses went up the harbour in a launch and after dinner on board the “Renown” drove through the City, which was brilliantly illuminated, to the Grant Road Railway Station and left Bombay by the B. B. & C. I. Railway *en route* for Indore.

Portions of a letter addressed by His Royal Highness to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay were published. They contained the following paragraphs :—“The Princess of Wales and I are desirous of making known through you to the inhabitants of the City how deeply impressed we have been by the expressions of enthusiastic goodwill which have been extended to us from all classes, races and creeds of the population, and to assure them that we shall carry away with us the happiest reminiscences.

We wish again to thank the Municipal Authorities and all concerned, for the trouble and care which have been bestowed on the arrangements for our reception; upon the beautiful decoration and illumination of the streets, and, indeed, upon everything that could conduce to our pleasure and convenience. I know the amount of thought and labour such arrangements entail.

We have been especially struck by the affectionate demeanour of the vast crowds which greeted us as we passed through the streets and bazárs. This sympathetic attitude of Bombay has made us feel that we are at home amongst our own people.”

Their Royal Highnesses returned within the limits of the Presidency on the morning of Saturday, March 17th, when they arrived by rail at Karáchi. His Royal Highness was received at the station by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, and after presentations of officers and other personages had been made, an address was read by the President of the Karáchi Municipality. His Royal Highness after expressing his thanks for the address spoke as follows :—“I am very glad to have had an opportunity of seeing Karáchi, for I am conscious of the fact that this place is destined to play an important part in the future of our Empire. And, if I may judge of the spirit of the inhabitants of Karáchi from the sentiments expressed in your address, I have little fear but that you and your successors in office will be able to grapple with the difficult question of development in a large and far-sighted manner.” The Royal Party then drove to Government House, where, later in the morning, His Royal Highness received a visit from His Highness the Mir of Khairpur and granted audiences to His Highness Mir Muhammad Hasan Ali Khan, C.I.E., to His Highness Mir Haji Nur Muhammad and to His Highness Mir Haji Fateh Khan. At noon His Royal Highness paid a return visit to His Highness the Mir of Khairpur, and in the afternoon performed the ceremony of the unveiling of the Sind Memorial to the memory of Her Most Gracious Majesty the late Queen-Empress Victoria. In the evening, after dinner, a reception was held at Government House. On the 18th, Their Royal Highnesses attended Divine Service. On the following day His Royal Highness inspected the 138th P. W. O. Baluchis, after which the Native Officers of the 105th Mahrattas were presented. At 5 p.m. Their Royal Highnesses left Government House for Keamari and went on board the “Renown” which was berthed at the Merewether Pier. At 7 p.m. His Majesty’s Ship “Renown” with Their Royal Highnesses on board put out to sea on the return journey to England. As a conclusion to this summary a further portion of the speech made at Karáchi by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in reply to the address of the Municipality is quoted as follows :—“Your concluding words of Godspeed, for which we are both most grateful, remind us, alas, that our visit to India is near its end. I can assure you and our other friends in all parts of this great and wonderful land, that we leave India with feelings of gratitude and affection. We have seen and have learned much, we have seen enough to make India a living reality to us: enough to make us wish that we could see more, and to implant for ever in our hearts a sympathy and interest in all that affects our fellow-subjects in India, of whatever creed or race.”

General review.

2. As the result of a monsoon which was distinguished by its lateness and weakness yet another year of varied fortunes must be added to the annals of the Bombay Presidency. In the previous year Gujarát was the chief sufferer, while the Deccan and Karnátak were comparatively fortunate. In this year there were extensive failures of crops in the Deccan and Karnátak, while in the greater part of Gujarát the position was favourable owing to the fortunate accident of two cyclonic storms, which, though regarded at the time as a catastrophe, eventually proved the salvation of the country. In Sind the inundation of the Indus was excellent, the working of the canals was very satisfactory and there was a large increase in the area of land brought under cultivation. The distress in the Deccan was effectively relieved by the recognised expedients of test works and relief works and other well known remedies such as suspensions and remissions of land-revenue and advances to cultivators. In this connection the most notable feature of the year was the independence shown by the people and the smallness of the numbers of those who resorted to relief works. As the result of a succession of indifferent years the poorer population of the Deccan has acquired a mobility which relieves it from the discomforts caused by local scarcity. Every year there has been a growing seasonal migration after the harvest to the large towns, but in the year under report two streams of migration can be traced, the one leading to those agricultural tracts in which a good harvest awaited the labourer, and the other to the large towns which offered employment in cotton factories. In a year in which there was so much migration it is fortunate that there was a remarkable decline in the incidence of plague. Very few districts were entirely free from this scourge, but Bombay City alone showed larger returns than those of the previous year. The extent to which the disease had paralysed the activities of the people is emphasised by the immediate improvement, on its comparative cessation, of local trade as shown in the octroi receipts of municipal towns. For the same reason the year was one of wide expansion in education, especial attention being given to the development of elementary education. In the number of deaths there was a large decrease, but the number of births was rather less than that of the previous year. It is possible, however, that this decrease in the number of births is not genuine, as it is reported to have occurred in those districts from which there was much migration to foreign territory, in consequence of which many births must have escaped registration. The fact that, in spite of a bad harvest, there was no increase in serious crime may be attributed to the mobility and enterprise of that part of the population which, had it stayed in the villages, might have been tempted to commit crimes of violence. Natural consequences of the poverty of the season were a decline in the number of civil suits, and an increase, owing to enforced dealings with the money-lender, of mortgages and sales. The general rise in the prices of food-grains throughout the Presidency, including Sind, marks the improvement in the communications between the different parts of the Presidency, without which prices would have remained unchanged in prosperous districts, and in the affected districts would have risen very much higher than they did. Owing to the favourable season in Gujarát it was possible to collect not only the land-revenue of the current year but also a certain portion of the amount suspended in the previous year. Consequently in spite of the suspensions and remissions granted in the Deccan and the Karnátak the collection of land-revenue was actually larger by approximately thirty-two lákhs than that of the previous year. It must be remembered, however, that the figures of the previous year were lower by eighty-five lákhs than those of the revenue year 1903-1904. Both in the foreign trade, in which last year there was a decline, and in the coasting trade of the Presidency proper there were large increases, but the foreign trade of Karáchi,

owing to the failure of the wheat harvest of the United Provinces, suffered a temporary check. Except in those parts where raw material was scarce, there was during the year a great expansion in the cotton industry. A fall, in place of an expected rise, in the receipts from salt would perhaps suggest that the poor were not able to indulge in the necessaries of life, but the theory that purchases were withheld in the latter half of the year, under the expectation that there would be a further reduction of duty, is more likely to be correct when viewed in connection with a rise in the excise receipts due to increased consumption of country spirit and intoxicating drugs. A fall in the consumption of opium is variously attributed to a rise in the price of the drug, a falling-off in the number of habitual smokers and the increase of illicit consumption. The results of the next few years will be watched with interest for the true solution of this problem. Viewing the Presidency as a whole it must be admitted that, after taking into account the misfortunes of the Deccan and the Karnatak, the year may be more correctly described as moderate than as bad, since in those districts and those departments of activity which were not affected by the deficiency of the monsoon, it was one of increased prosperity and progress.

3. The office of Governor and President in Council was held by the Right Honourable Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E. The posts of Second and Third Members of Council were held, respectively, by the Honourable Sir James Monteath, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., and the Honourable Mr. Edmund McGildowny Hope Fulton, C.S.I., I.C.S., until the retirement on August 6th, 1905, of Sir James Monteath, when the Honourable Mr. Fulton succeeded to the position of Second Member, and the vacancy as Third Member was filled by the appointment of Mr. J. W. P. Muir Mackenzie, M.R.A.C., I.C.S.

Personnel of the Administration.

4. His Excellency Lord Lamington left Bombay for Aden on April 1st, 1905, and returned thence to Bombay on April 14th. Leaving on the same day for Mahábaleshvar he remained there until May 10th, when he left for Kolhápúr, where he was received on arrival by His Highness the Mahárája, and remained in camp at Dodapur until May 14th, when he returned to Mahábaleshvar. On June 12th His Excellency left Mahábaleshvar for Poona, and on the way paid a visit to Bhor, where he was received by the Chief of the State. Leaving Poona on July 19th His Excellency proceeded to Bombay, remaining there until July 25th, when he returned to Poona. On August 13th His Excellency left Poona for Bombay in order to preside at the Public Meeting held in the Town Hall to consider arrangements for the ensuing Royal visit. On the same day he left Bombay for Násik, where he remained until August 19th. From Násik His Excellency proceeded to Poona and stayed there until October 2nd, when he left for Ootacamund in the Madras Presidency for the purpose of paying a visit to His Excellency Lord Amphill, Governor of Madras. On October 20th His Excellency returned to Bombay where he remained until November 25th, when he paid a two days' visit to Mátherán. On December 16th His Excellency left Bombay by R. I. M. Ship *Dufferin* for a tour along the Konkan Coast, and visited Alibág, Janjira, Ratnágiri, Vengurla, Sávantvádi and Kárwár. On the return journey Goa, Devgad, Jayatpur and Vizíadrag were visited, and the tour ended with the return to Bombay on January 4th, 1906. His Excellency remained at Bombay until March 9th, when he left by R. I. M. Ship *Dufferin* for Karáchi. On the way he visited Mándvi and Bhuj, and accompanied by His Highness the Ráo of Cutch he proceeded thence by land through the territory of Cutch, rejoining the *Dufferin* on March 14th and reaching Karáchi on the following day. After the departure of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales His Excellency left Karáchi on March 19th and disembarked at Navánagar. Visiting Pátan Desert,

His Excellency the Governor's movements.

Deesa, Pálanpur and Ahmedabad on the way, he returned to Bombay on March 30th, 1906, and remained there until the close of the official year.

Plague.

5. Plague was prevalent during the year ending the 31st May 1906, but the cases and deaths were very much fewer than in the preceding year, the figures being :—

			Cases.	Deaths.
1905-1906	...	...	87,121	64,519
1904-1905	...	...	285,954	212,949

The month of June was as usual the month of lowest mortality, the number of cases and deaths reported being 2,294 and 1,875 respectively. The figures rose during July (2,961 cases, 2,008 deaths), August (8,049 cases, 5,587 deaths), and September (13,322 cases, 9,346 deaths). A slight improvement was noticeable during October (12,262 cases, 9,066 deaths), which continued during November (8,015 cases, 5,839 deaths), December (5,146 cases, 3,791 deaths) and January 1906 (4,195 cases, 2,973 deaths). The figures again rose in February (5,475 cases, 3,930 deaths), March (9,795 cases, 7,387 deaths) and April (10,103 cases, 8,131 deaths). In the hot weather the number of cases very largely diminished, 5,504 cases and 4,586 deaths being reported in May.

In Bombay City the disease was prevalent throughout the year but was at its worst during February (708 cases, 605 deaths), March (2,877 cases, 2,536 deaths) and April (4,507 cases, 3,990 deaths).

In Karáchi also plague was prevalent throughout the year, becoming epidemic from March to May. There were 2,592 cases and 2,234 deaths in all as against 2,913 cases and 2,640 deaths in the preceding year.

Aden remained free from plague during the year.

The Districts and Agencies most seriously affected were Kaira, Khándesh, Sátára, Belgaum, Dhárwár, Káthiáwár and Kolhápúr and Southern Marátha Country States. Plague occurred to a less extent in every other District and Political Agency, except Sukkur, Larkhána, Upper Sind Frontier, Thar and Párkar, Khairpur, Sávantrádi, Cambay, Bhor and Sávanur, which remained almost free from the disease.

There was no railway medical inspection in the Presidency Proper during the year. Sea inspection under the Venice Sánitary Convention Regulations continued on the same lines as in the previous year.

The incidence of the disease among Europeans was as follows:—Bombay City 18 cases and 4 deaths during the year under report as against 17 cases and 9 deaths in the previous year; in the mofussil 1 case and 1 death as against 2 cases and 1 death last year.

A special scheme to popularise and facilitate inoculation with the plague prophylactic in the mofussil was undertaken by Government in August 1905. It met with little success and was discontinued in June 1906. Another scheme for popularising inoculation amongst Government servants whose pay does not exceed Rs. 15 a month and their wives and children by the grant of small money rewards was sanctioned in April 1906 with the approval of the Government of India.

The number of inoculations up to 30th June 1906 was as follows:—

Bombay City	...	...	...	16,371
Karáchi City	...	...	...	395
Ratnágiri District	...	...	...	35

Poona District	...	...	...	855
Surat District	...	...	...	206
Belgaum District	...	...	...	887
Dhárwár District	...	...	...	1,827
Kaira District	...	...	...	9,625
Broach District	...	...	...	43
Bijápur District	...	...	...	4,247
Khándesh District	...	...	...	2,473
Ahmedabad District	...	...	...	921
Panch Maháls District	...	...	...	1,163
Násik District	...	...	...	305
Ahmednagar District	...	...	...	46
Sholápur District	...	...	...	145
Sátára District	...	...	...	1,021
Kolhápúr and Southern Marátha Country States	...	...	...	7,047
Káthiáwár Agency	...	...	...	58

making a total of 47,670. The number of inoculations performed during the preceding year was 22,756.

Partial evacuation was resorted to in Bombay City and in the infected areas in the following districts:—Ahmedabad, Panch Maháls, Kaira, Surat, Ahmednagar, Khándesh, Násik, Kolába, Ratnágiri, Belgaum, Bijápur and Kánara.

Disinfection measures were carried out in some of the infected areas.

6. For the Chiefs of the Native States the most important event during the year was the visit to India of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, on which occasion a considerable number of them proceeded to Bombay and were presented to His Royal Highness. His Highness the Maharaja of Idar had the honour to be Chief of the Indian Staff of His Royal Highness, and a detachment of Kumárs from the Rájkot College rode in the escort of His Royal Highness in Bombay.

On attaining his majority the Raja of Chhota Udepur was installed on the *gádi* of that State.

On the death of the Thakor Saheb of Palitána the State was placed under an Administrator during the minority of the heir.

The Cutch State Railway was opened during the year.

In the States which border on Gujarát the season was fairly favourable, and in the North and South Konkan States, in spite of deficient rainfall, crops were fair, but in Kolhápúr, the Sátára Jághirs and the Southern Marátha States the failure of crops was almost general and suspensions and remissions of land-revenue were extensively granted. Relief works were opened in some places, but were not attended by large numbers. Grants of tagai to cultivators and dole to the aged and infirm enabled the people to tide over the season of scarcity, but in some cases a severe strain was placed on the State Revenues. In those States which suffered from scarcity there was no noticeable increase of crime, but in most of the States in the Northern Gujarát group there was a slight increase in reported crimes, which may, perhaps, be attributed to increased efficiency on the part of the police. The decrease of plague resulted in an expansion of education and there were increases in the numbers of schools and pupils. Except in Cutch and Pálanpur, there was a decrease in the death-rate owing to the diminution of plague and the absence, except in Kolhápúr,

of any serious outbreak of cholera. In the birth-rate the rise was general except in Kolhápúr, the Southern Marátha States and the Sátára Jághirs. There was no special outlay on Public Works, as most of the money available was devoted to repairs. In view of the nature of the season the trade of Cutch and Káthiáwár showed, as was expected, a considerable increase in imports and a similar decrease in exports. In the backward districts of the Dángs the Chiefs paid off their debts and, except for A'bkári and Forest offences, there was little crime. If a rough division be made, it may be said that the Northern States were recovering from the losses of the previous year, and the Southern States were fighting against the adversities of the present year, and consequently no active progress on a large scale was anywhere possible.

Great
Trigonometrical
Survey.

7. With the completion during the year of the survey of Sind the work of the great Trigonometrical Survey in the Bombay Presidency was concluded.

Tidal operations.

8. Tidal operations were continued as in previous years. A line of levels running from Sukkur to Shikárpur was executed, thus completing the circuit east and west of the Indus from Kotri to Shikárpur. Observations at Okha Point showed that in the neighbourhood of the Gulf of Cutch no movement of the land with reference to the sea has taken place within the last thirty-two years.

Revenue
surveys and
settlements.

9. In survey work the greatest activity was in the Northern Division in which the chief features of the work done were the continuation with an increased staff of the survey of the tálukdári estates in the Ahmedabad District and the measurement of lands taken up for tanks and the assessment of lands newly brought under irrigation from those tanks in the Kaira District. Throughout the Presidency the survey of many inám villages was executed, and old survey records of Government villages were copied and repaired. During the year the control of the survey of the Southern Marátha States was retransferred to the Director of Land Records and survey work was actively advanced. Revision settlement rates were introduced in 5 tálukás, and proposals for revised settlement were completed, submitted or sanctioned for 14 tálukás and maháls. In addition, original or revised rates were introduced into several Government and inám villages. In the Kolhápúr State proposals for original settlement were sanctioned in 8 tálukás, and in a sub-division of one táluka original rates were introduced. Revised irrigational settlements were introduced into 7 tálukás in Sind.

Bombay forest
survey.

10. Operations were continued in Thána, Sátára and Khándesh. The survey of the Thána forests was completed.

Land records.

11. During the year a separate Director of Land Records was appointed. In addition to their ordinary duties the Land Records staff proceeded with the training of Circle Inspectors and Village Accountants in survey work, but in some tálukás owing to the prevalence of famine or scarcity it was impossible to allow them to leave their respective villages and circles in order to attend the classes at head-quarters. For the same reason the work of preparing the Record of Rights was in many cases postponed in the Central and Southern Divisions. In the Presidency proper it was newly started in 23 tálukás, and in Sind in 7 tálukás, and was continued in those tálukás in which it was left unfinished in the previous year.

Occupied area.

12. In the Presidency, including Sind, there was a net increase of 247,886 acres in the area of occupied land. A favourable inundation resulted in an increase of 313,608 acres in Sind, but the adverse nature of the season was

responsible for a decrease of 87,782 acres in the Central Division. In the Southern Division there was a slight decrease, but in the Northern Division, where conditions were moderately favourable, there was an increase of 23,386 acres.

13. There were 173 estates under the management of Collectors, The Tálukdári Settlement Officer had in his charge 578 estates, of which 53 were under the Guardians and Wards Act and 206 under the Tálukdári Act VI of 1888. Owing to the relatively favourable nature of the season the increase in the collections of land-revenue and tagávi was considerable. With a view to framing proposals for the liquidation within a reasonable date of their debts a minute inquiry into the circumstances of each estate was commenced. The chief event in the year was a large remission of Government dues in the Sánand and Koth Estate, so granted that the tenants will obtain their share. Settlement and survey work made good progress in the Ahmedabad tálukdári villages. There were 442 estates under the Manager of Incumbered Estates, Sind. In the liquidation of loans and private debts a sum of 2 lákhs was expended. The amount due to Government by the estates on account of loans rose slightly to Rs, 22,154.

Wards and other estates under the management of Government.

14. Five Acts were passed during the year, of which the more important were an Act to establish a Court of Wards, an Act further to amend the Bombay Ábkári Act, and an Act further to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act. Three Bills were introduced, the first of which passed into law as the last of the abovementioned Acts, the second of which dealt with the consolidation and amendment of the Mámlatdárs' Courts Act, while the intention of the third was to amend the Act to declare the constitution of Courts of Civil and Criminal Judicature in the Province of Sind.

Legislation.

15. The most important changes effected during the year as the result of the recommendations of the Police Commission were the appointment of a covenanted civilian as Inspector-General, the creation of two posts of Deputy Inspectors-General, and the re-organization of the Criminal Investigation Department. There was a slight increase in the number of the force, and owing to famine and plague in the Central and Southern Divisions of the Presidency temporary additional police were employed in several districts. While the proportion of educated men rose slightly there was a small decrease in the proportion of educated officers. All the districts were represented in the Presidency shooting competition, but a slight increase in the number of marksmen hardly compensated the considerable decrease in the number of second class shots. It is gratifying to note that in all branches of the police there was a decrease in punishments, but the increase in rewards was not shared by the Bombay City Police. There was an appreciable rise in the number of cognizable offences reported to the police. There was a further increase in cases classed as "maliciously false," and Sind, as in the previous year, was responsible for the largest number. It is noticeable that, though in the last four years the proportion of undetected cases has increased, the results of cases actually submitted to the Courts show a considerable improvement on the part of the police in the appreciation and presentation of evidence. In the value of stolen property there was an appreciable decrease, and in the percentage of recoveries there was a slight decrease.

Police.

16. The total number of vagrants, dealt with by the work-houses, rose to 136, of whom 117 left before the end of the year. Owing to the expenses of deportation of Turkish deserters from Aden there was a considerable rise in expenditure.

Vagrants.

Wild animals and snakes.

17. The number of persons killed by wild animals and snakes decreased from 1,162 to 1,141. The mortality among cattle due to the same causes increased from 6,091 to 6,351. The sum paid as rewards for the killing of wild animals increased from Rs. 3,452 to Rs. 3,579, but there was a considerable falling off in the number of snakes killed. The number of licenses in force during the year for crop protection and destruction of wild animals increased from 4,973 to 5,510.

Chemical analysis.

18. The number of chemical analyses increased from 4,905 to 4,995. This increase was due to a rise from 204 to 251 in the cases of suspected human poisoning, and further to a rise from 93 to 128 in the number of cases of suspected cattle-poisoning. The percentage of detections fell from 44.6 to 42.16. In the number of samples of water forwarded for analysis there was an increase from 286 to 360.

Criminal justice.

19. In the total number of offences there was a considerable fall, chiefly due to the small number of prosecutions under the District Municipal Act. Though the cases affecting human life showed in the aggregate a satisfactory decrease it is to be regretted that the number of murders increased. In the percentage of convictions there was a slight increase, and in the number of European British subjects involved in cases a considerable increase. The number of major punishments remained practically unchanged, but there was a large increase in small sentences of imprisonment and fine. There was a notable decrease in the number of youthful offenders dealt with under section 31 of Act VIII of 1897. The number of whippings rose considerably, the majority being inflicted in lieu of other punishments.

Prisons, civil and criminal.

20. The increase in the number of persons confined in prisons of all kinds is attributed not to any special increase in crime, which might have been expected in the districts in which scarcity prevailed, but to extensive prosecutions of beggars and hawkers carried on by the Bombay City Police with a view to suppressing this form of nuisance. As the result of a Government resolution on the subject there was a decrease in the number of juveniles sentenced to imprisonment. The lack of accommodation for solitary confinement, which led to frequent transfers during the year, will shortly be removed, as sanction has been received for the construction of additional cells. There was a considerable increase in the number of prisoners identified by means of finger-tip-impressions. In the number of punishments there was an increase, but general discipline does not appear to have suffered, and there were no outbreaks. The system of good marks again produced excellent results, and 98½ per cent. of the prisoners under the system qualified for early releases. Jail-industries flourished and showed increased profits. The health of prisoners was not quite so good as in the previous year, but the number of deaths was less. In four prisons there was unavoidable overcrowding. Two innovations were introduced during the year. At Thána good-conduct prisoners, who had served two-thirds of their sentence, were separated from the other prisoners, and worked in a garden, enjoying certain privileges, which included the wearing of ordinary clothes. At Dhárwár a special carpentering class was formed for juveniles and they were kept separate from the other prisoners. The value of the Thána experiment is that it accustoms criminals to ordinary honest life before they leave jail. The object of the Dhárwár experiment is to prevent the youthful offender from becoming by force of association a habitual offender and to teach him a trade by which he will be able to earn an honest living when released from prison.

21. The continued decrease in the number of suits is to be attributed in Civil justice, part to the more extended application of the Dekkhan Agriculturists' Relief Act, and in part to the pooriness of the season. The immediate effect of the extension of the Act has been to increase the work of the District and Subordinate Courts owing to the fact that the elaborate procedure enjoined by the Act has to be followed even in Small Causes. Hence too the smaller number of suits disposed of during the year. There was a slight increase in the average duration of uncontested suits but in contested suits there was a satisfactory decrease of one hundred days in the average duration, which more than compensated for the rise which occurred in the previous year. There was a slight fall in the receipts of all Courts (Civil and Criminal) and a further rise in the total charges.

22. In the execution of decrees of Civil Courts Collectors disposed of Execution of decrees of Civil Courts by the Revenue Department. rather more than the number which was referred to them, but the arrears still exceed the references of an average year. In the number of cases settled by mutual agreement there was a slight decrease. As in the previous year the percentage of remission was highest in Gujarát and lowest in Sind. There was a distinct improvement in the prices realized from the sale of land.

23. The most notable feature of the year in connection with this Act was Decoan the application of parts of it to the whole of the Presidency, excepting Aden Agriculturists' Relief Act. and the City of Bombay, from August 15th, 1905. The report, however, only deals with the five districts to which the Act applied at the beginning of the year. In the number of suits there was a slight decrease, but the duration and cost of suits remained practically unchanged. The average abatement was 21 per cent. in suits on mortgage-deeds and 27 per cent. in the case of money-debts.

24. In the total number of registrations there was an increase of 14,000, Registration under Act III of 1877. due to various causes. The result of the amendments to sections 59 and 107 of the Transfer of Property Act, which came into force in the Presidency proper in March 1904, was to produce considerable variations under different heads. A large rise in the number of leases compulsorily registered is to be attributed to the fact that the Government notification making the registration of leases for one year and under optional was not published until May 1905. A further result of the amendments was that mortgages in which registration was optional practically ceased to exist. The more than corresponding increase in mortgages with compulsory registration was due to scarcity in some parts of the Presidency, and in others to the expansion of trade resulting from the diminution of plague. A rise in the number of sale-deeds registered at Ahmedabad was attributed to the return of better conditions, but a similar rise in Belgaum and Bijápur was due to the substitution of sales for mortgages as the result of the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. A slight decrease in the number of wills was more than counterbalanced by the increase in deeds of gift. A further degree of supervision of the offices of Registrars and Sub-Registrars was attained by the permanent appointment as Superintendents of Registration of the Superintendents of Land Records.

25. Of the four districts to which this Act applies, two showed a decline Registration under Act XVII of 1879. in the number of registrations and two an increase, the net result being a small increase. Variations in the numbers of deeds of sale and of mortgages with and without possession were slight. Conditions were rather worse than in the previous year, but in bonds only was there any noticeable decrease, the result, it is said, of a disinclination on the part of sávkárs to this form of security in view of the present uncertainty of life. Though transactions, in which both

parties were agriculturists, showed a larger excess than in previous years over transactions between agriculturists and sávkárs, no deductions can be drawn from the figures as it is becoming more and more the rule for sávkárs to represent themselves as agriculturists.

Registration
of Joint Stock
Companies,

26. The figures of new Joint Stock Companies registered during the year furnish evidence of increased industrial activity in the Presidency. A net increase of forty-eight Companies, most of which were formed to work Mills and Presses, is reported. The progress of Ahmedabad, in which city as many as eighteen new Companies were registered, is conspicuous.

District Local
Boards.

27. Judging from the figures of attendance there was no increase in the interest shown by members of Local Boards in their position and obligations. In Sind and the Northern Division there was a marked improvement in the financial position, but the Central and Southern Divisions, owing to suspensions and remissions of land revenue, would have suffered a considerable reduction of revenue but for the special grants from Government in aid of primary education, communications, and village water-supply, which enabled them to show a small increase of revenue. In six districts, however, the financial position was unsatisfactory, the closing balances being below the prescribed minima. In the income of all Boards there was an increase of 13 lákhs of rupees, and in their expenditure of 3.5 lákhs of rupees. As usual the chief items of expenditure were Education, Medical Relief, Civil Works, and Water-supply.

Bombay
Municipality,

28. The income realised during the year exceeded by more than 5 lákhs the original estimate owing to increased receipts under Property Taxes, Wheel Tax and Tolls, Town and Tobacco Duties, and Returns from Property and Miscellaneous. On the other hand though there was a net saving of almost $2\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs on the estimates, the expenditure exceeded the receipts by almost 3 lákhs. Many of the expenses incurred were however non-recurring, and while the permanent increase in revenue was estimated at 5 lákhs, the permanent increase in expenditure was estimated at only $2\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs. The City of Bombay was the only place in which plague increased during the year, and there was a further increase of expenditure on plague measures. A loan of 12 lákhs was raised during the year, and was taken up at 104 per cent. Except in the General Tax, which was slightly reduced, there was no change in the taxes. As in previous years a considerable number of unsafe buildings were removed by order. Even apart from the increase in plague above-mentioned the general health of the City was not satisfactory. Increased activity in the inspection of markets resulted in the condemnation and destruction of treble the quantity destroyed last year of unwholesome food exposed for sale. There was a further satisfactory increase in the number of schools, municipal and aided, and also in the number of pupils.

District
Municipalities.

29. In the aggregate receipts of all Municipalities there was a slight decrease, the decline in receipts of the Municipalities of the Northern Division and Sind being rather larger than the increase in receipts of those of the Central and Southern Divisions. Except in Sind there was a general increase in receipts from octroi, which is attributed to the extension of traffic resulting from the comparative cessation of plague. In the aggregate expenditure of all Municipalities there was an increase of almost 3 lákhs of rupees. The inclusion of the figures of the Karáchi Municipality, and the exclusion of those of the Bombay Municipality account for the apparently abnormal figures from the Sind Municipalities, when compared with those of the Municipalities of the Presidency proper. Drainage and other measures for the security of the public health are the chief causes of the increased expenditure. In the aggregate

closing balances of all Municipalities there was an increase of nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees.

30. The year was rendered notable for the Bombay Improvement Trust Bombay Improvement Trust. by the fact that Princess Street, the main thoroughfare in the first of the great Street Schemes of the Trust, was opened in November by Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. That the actual operations of the Trust during the year are less than those of the previous year is due to the fact that the necessary Government sanction was not received in time to start work on two large schemes. During the year considerable progress was made in the erection of chawls for the accommodation of the poorer classes, whose members have suffered displacement by the execution of the Trust's schemes. The development of the Gowalia Tank Scheme promises the addition of a new residential quarter, and the Police Accommodation Schemes made rapid progress towards completion during the year. A loan of 30 lakhs having been announced, tenders for almost three times the amount were received. It may be noted with satisfaction that the number of land acquisition cases settled by amicable arrangement is slightly on the increase.

31. The usual camps of exercise were held by the various Volunteer Corps Volunteering. under the Western Command. The formation of two additional Companies was sanctioned, one for the 2nd Battalion, G. I. P. Railway Volunteers, and the other for the S. M. Railway Volunteers.

32. The abatement of plague at Aden resulted in an improvement in the Marine numbers of European and Native seamen engaged. Engagements at Bombay were similar to those of the previous year, but desertions, especially among firemen, occurred more frequently. As the result of three Courts of Inquiry the certificates of one Captain and of one Chief Engineer were suspended for periods of six months and three months respectively.

33. The Bombay Port Trust continued its career of success and activity, Port Trusts: Bombay, Karáchi and Aden. and once more the revenue receipts reached the highest figure yet recorded. In connexion with the building of the New Dock Works, including the Alexandra Dock, of which the foundation stone was laid by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, a loan of 35 lakhs of rupees was raised. At Karáchi, though there was a serious decline in receipts owing to the shrinkage of exports of wheat and seeds, it was recognized that the setback was temporary, and operations for developing the Port were continued with unabated activity. A further loan of 41 lakhs of rupees has been sanctioned. At Aden there was a slight fall in receipts, but dredging operations were continued on a slightly extended scale at greatly reduced expenditure, and the general financial results were satisfactory.

34. Snagging operations continued as usual. Owing to 'a less abundant Indus Conservancy Department. harvest there was a slight decrease in the river-borne traffic between Sind and the Punjáb. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on his visit to Karáchi announced the abolition of the boat tax and the remission of all arrears connected with it.

35. During the year the work of organization and registration of societies Co-operative Credit Societies. progressed satisfactorily, especially in the Southern Division. An Urban Society was established in Bombay, the chief object of which will be to provide loans for rural societies. So far there has been no actual failure of any society, and only one is reported to be in an unsatisfactory condition. The voluntary service as honorary organizers of three retired Deputy Collectors was accepted by Government. By the close of the year thirty-one societies had been registered, and others were being organized.

Crop area.

36. In the Presidency proper the net cropped area showed a further decline of 5·23 per cent., owing to the weakness of both the early and later rains in all districts of the Dekkhan, except Khándesh, and in the Karnátak. In Gujarát and in all parts of the Konkan, except Thána, the areas under all crops increased. In Sind owing to a favourable inundation there was a rise in the area under cultivation of 15·19 per cent., which more than counterbalances the decline in the previous year of 11·6 per cent. The shrinkage in the Presidency proper occurred chiefly in the sowings of jowári, wheat, oil-seeds and gram. In the Dekkhan and Karnátak in view of the shortage of rainfall large sowings of bájri were made in place of jowári, but much of the crop failed completely. Under cotton there was an increase in Sind of 28 per cent. and in the Presidency proper of 9 per cent. In the Presidency proper the area under tobacco rose by 23 per cent., but failed to equal the pre-famine figures. The area under pulses in the Presidency proper increased by 4·5 per cent. As the result of insufficient rain the area under irrigation in the Presidency proper declined considerably, but in Sind there was a large increase, which, however, was partly due to improved registration. In the number of pakka irrigation tanks there was a slight decrease, and in that of kacha irrigation wells there was a slight increase.

Crop experiments.

37. Owing to the unfavourable character of the season the number of crop experiments was very limited. In all, 91 experiments were reported, of which 30 related to wheat.

Agricultural experiments.

38. Owing to the deficiency of rain the results from experimental farms, except where there were facilities for irrigation, were most unsatisfactory. In the growth and acclimitization of new varieties, and in the hybridization of cottons little progress was possible. Useful information, however, was obtained as to the stimulus afforded to insect-pests by a dry season, and the injurious results following on the application of manures in the absence of sufficient moisture. The important experiments at the Manjri farm were successfully continued by the aid of irrigation, but the valuable experiments in ráb cultivation at Lonawla were rendered quite inconclusive by violent and unseasonable rain. At Surat, where very important experiments for the improvement of cotton are proceeding, the season was most unfavourable. There was a slowly increasing demand for the superior agricultural implements supplied by some of the farms, and large quantities of selected seed were distributed.

Advances to cultivators.

39. The pronounced scarcity in the greater part of the Dekkhan and Southern Marátha Country was mainly responsible for an increase of 2·43 lákhs of rupees in advances given for the permanent improvement of the land. In this way a considerable amount of useful work was carried out and labour was provided for many who would otherwise have been obliged to resort to the nearest famine work. Great scarcity of fodder in the same regions was the chief cause of an increase of 3·65 lákhs of rupees in advances for the purchase of seed and cattle.

Agricultural stock and breeding operations.

40. The number of cattle of all sorts shown in the quinquennial return published during the year shows a steady increase for the whole Presidency, including Sind, although the total is not yet more than about four-fifths of the average of the ten years preceding the year 1896-1897. In the last two years owing to scarcity of fodder some districts in the Karnátak have suffered a marked setback. Gujarát has been most fortunate and shows a remarkable increase of young stock. Under the superintendence of the Civil Veterinary Department and the immediate direction of a Veterinary Graduate paid by Government the Northcote Gowshála had a successful year. There was a

satisfactory increase in the number of mares covered by Government stallions, due probably to the removal in the previous year of restrictions as to branding.

41. There was a slight decline in the exhibits at the Ahmedabad Horse Fairs and shows. Show. Four cattle fairs were held during the year, those at Ahmedabad and Ahmednagar being newly instituted or revived after a lapse of some years. All were successful except that held at Sholápur.

42. The monsoon as in the previous year was distinguished by lateness and weakness. Two heavy storms from the Bay of Bengal passed through the Central Provinces to Gujarát and North Deccan in July and gave a large excess of rain, which to some extent compensated for the subsequent weakness in August and September of the Arabian Sea monsoon. In the other parts of the Presidency, including the Konkan, the rainfall was in defect throughout the season and crops suffered accordingly. Meteorology.

43. As the result of the unsatisfactory nature of the season in a considerable portion of the Presidency there was a general rise in prices throughout the Presidency. Prices were naturally highest in those districts in which the home supplies proved insufficient, but in those parts of the Presidency, including Sind, where the season was favourable, there was also a rise in prices, which was due to the exportation of food-grains to the affected districts. But for the facility with which food-grains circulated, prices in the affected districts would have risen very much higher. In the Karnátak jowári rose in price by 133 per cent. and bájri by 100 per cent., while in Sind the rise in the prices of these foods varied from 14 to 25 per cent. In Sind there was a slight rise in the price of wheat, in Gujarát there was a rise of nearly 33 per cent., and in the Deccan there was a rise of from 67 to 100 per cent. The price of rice, owing to large imports from Rangoon, did not rise in so marked a way as those of the various cereals. Owing to the complete absence of any organisation of labour and of any fixed standard of life there was no visible connection between prices and wages. Further the readiness with which the wage-earners in the affected parts emigrated during the season of scarcity partly accounts for the comparative stability in wages in spite of varying conditions. In as many as fifteen districts there was practically no change in the rates of wages, while in six there was actually a fall, and in three only was there a rise. Prices and wages.

44. Except in Sind, where the river gave rather more than it took away, the variations in the area of the forests were slight. Demarcation of boundaries and ride-cutting were continued as usual. Owing to the floods in Ahmedabad and scarcity in the Deccan the amount of produce given away in free grants was considerably larger than in the previous years. The good inundation in Sind was responsible for an improvement in natural reproduction and a large fall in the number of forest fires. In the Central Circle the dryness of the year was against good natural reproduction. The results from plantations and broadcasting were mostly satisfactory, though frost did damage in Sind. Communications, especially in the Dángs, were improved. The financial results of the year's working were satisfactory. Forests.

45. The exploitation of the mineral resources of the Presidency proceeded during the year. Gold and manganese ore engrossed the attention of prospectors and miners, and from reports it would seem that the gold-fields in the Dhárwár District and the manganese fields in the Panch Maháls District show signs of a successful future. Mills and ginning and pressing factories showed a continued increase, but it is noticed that little discretion is shown in the establishment of factories, and that when business is bad, refuge is sought in Manufactures and industries.

the combine, a form of progress which is to be deprecated. For the present the cotton industry in its various forms holds undisputed pre-eminence, but an independent development in iron and steel manufactories may follow on the discoveries of manganese and the demand for machinery from Mining Companies. Machinery for husking rice and crushing sugar-cane is already manufactured in the Presidency, but leaves room for great improvement. Ancient industries, like the cottage industries of England, seem to have had their day, and though attempts are being made to introduce improved types of handlooms, the weight of custom and prejudice is not to be lightly removed.

Trade.

46. It is most satisfactory to note that the check experienced in the foreign trade of the Presidency proper in the previous year has not been repeated. In the figures of the aggregate sea-borne trade of the Presidency there was a further improvement of 372 lakhs of rupees. In addition to the improvement in the foreign trade there was a continued increase in the coasting trade. Karáchi alone owing to a temporary shrinkage in the wheat trade suffered a setback.

Bombay.

The figures for the Presidency proper depend almost entirely on those of Bombay. The rise in foreign imports of $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores and in foreign exports of 4.19 crores was the most remarkable feature of the year. To the rise in imports the chief contribution was an increase of 2.09 crores in the value of imports of articles manufactured and partly manufactured. Of this amount nearly three-fourths was obtained from the increase in imports of yarn and textile fabrics. Smaller increases included a rise of 54.47 lakhs in the value of the imports of machinery and millwork, testifying to the increasing industrial activity of Bombay. In the imports of foreign oil there was a further decrease, which is to be attributed in part to the destructive disturbances at Baku, and also to the growing popularity of Burma oil which threatens to oust all except the highest qualities of Kerosine. In the imports of raw cotton, which depend both on the outturn of local crops and on the price of American cotton, there was a decline of 9.52 lakhs of rupees. The increase in exports of Indian produce was mainly due to an advance of 3.14 crores under raw materials and unmanufactured articles, of $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores in cotton owing to large increases in the distribution to Japan and France, and of 2.72 crores under articles manufactured and partly manufactured, of which 2.54 crores were under cotton fabrics. There were notable decreases in the exports of tea owing to the unfavourable Persian tariff, in opium, owing to high prices asked by the Malwa dealers, and in seeds owing to the damage to the crops caused by frost. For re-exportations of foreign imports the chief customer was Persia which contributed an increase of 5 lakhs to the general increase of 19 lakhs in the volume of this trade, in which Bombay acts as an entrepôt. In the distribution of the foreign trade the British Empire retained and slightly improved the figures of its premier position. Trade with America, though still small, doubled itself. In the coasting trade the most remarkable increase was an advance of 17 lakhs in the exports to Sind. The conspicuous feature of the land trade of the Presidency proper was the rise in value by 14.2 per cent., coincident with the fall in volume of 4.2 per cent., of the land trade with the other parts of India. The decline in volume was mostly in imports of wheat, oil-seeds, and other food-grains owing to the inferior harvests experienced at the centres of export in Northern and Central India. The chief feature of the exports was the increased demand for salt and refined sugar from other parts of India. There was also an increased demand for food-grains owing to local scarcity in Rájputána and Central India. In the local trade between Bombay port and the rest of the Presidency there was an increase in value of 17 per cent. Owing to scarcity in parts of the Presidency there were

larger movements than usual in wheat, grain, and pulses. The industrial development of the Presidency was reflected in a large increase under coal and coke and railway materials.

It was noted last year that the export of wheat was the backbone of the trade of Karáchi and the figures of this year furnish negative evidence to the same effect. There was a decrease in the wheat trade of 51·06 per cent., and in spite of the foreign imports being the largest yet experienced there was a decline of 4·79 crores in the entire value of the trade of the port. The serious decline in the wheat trade was due to the fact that owing to frost and unseasonable rainfall there was a shrinkage in the crop of the United Provinces, which normally finds its outlet through Karáchi. Consequent on this shrinkage prices in India rose above home rates with the results described above. Foreign imports of articles of food and drink increased by 39·04 lákhs, and there was a very considerable increase in the imports of sugar for the Punjáb. The trade in cotton piece-goods increased by 12·9 per cent. In the coasting trade a small decrease in imports was counterbalanced by an increase of 11 per cent. in exports. By exports of grain to Kutch and Káthiáwár, in which parts there had been poor harvests, the subordinate ports almost doubled their export trade. There was a satisfactory increase in the land trade with Afghanistan and Seistan, but in that with Beluchistan there was a decline.

The foreign and Indian trade of Aden showed a considerable improvement though the exceptional figures of two years ago were not equalled. The improvement is to be attributed in part to the increased trade from Somaliland resulting from the cessation of the disturbances caused by the Mad Mullah, and in part to the excellent rains received in the Aden Hinterland and Arabia. Good rains, however, operated both ways, for while the bumper crop of coffee produced an increase of 9½ lákhs of rupees in the value of the imports, the need for imported grain practically ceased and the imports decreased by 10½ lákhs of rupees. Owing to the opening of new markets in Abyssinia and Somaliland there was a large increase in all piece-goods and cotton manufactures. In the inland trade there was a slight setback due to the good season which make the inhabitants independent of such imports as were required by them in the two previous seasons of drought.

47. A detailed account of the works carried out during the year will be found in Chapter IV. The total expenditure on works of all kinds from Imperial, Provincial and Local Funds amounted to 80·54 lákhs of rupees, an increase of slightly more than 12 lákhs when compared with the figures of the previous year. The increase was chiefly under Provincial Funds in which the expenditure rose from 45½ lákhs to a little over 55 lákhs. The outlay under Imperial Funds declined from 8½ lákhs to approximately 7 lákhs. Civil Buildings necessitated an expenditure of 35·22 lákhs as against 28·91 lákhs in the previous year. The expenditure under communications rose by about eleven thousand and amounted to 11·45 lákhs. The cost of works carried out in relief of famine by the Public Works Department increased from Rs. 26,000 to Rs. 1,14,000.

48. The total expenditure on irrigation works in the Presidency and Sind amounted to 48½ lákhs of rupees as against 48½ lákhs in the previous year, and was divided between Sind and the Presidency proper in the proportion of 2½ to 1. Of the total expenditure, Rs. 11,27,173 were spent on works and Rs. 21,70,091 on repairs. A full account of irrigation works and revenue for the past year is given in Chapters IV and V. Irrigation in the Northern Division suffered from the

abnormally heavy rainfall in the month of July, which breached the Khári Cut Canal and two of the large storage reservoirs. Later there was scarcity of rain and the Hathmati river practically ceased to flow in November. There was consequently a fall in the area irrigated and in the assessed revenue as compared with the average of the last ten years. Good progress was made towards the completion of five irrigation tanks in the Kaira and Panch Maháls Districts. The survey of the proposed Mahi Canal was continued, and a report on the Sábarmati Canal project was submitted. In the Central Division owing to insufficient rainfall tanks did not fill, and rivers ceased to flow early in the season. In spite of a decrease in the area irrigated, there was a considerable increase in the figures of the gross assessed revenue, as much of the area was under high-rated crops. Work on the masonry dam at Chankápur and on the Girna Left Bank Canal in connection with it progressed, and, in relief of famine, work was begun on the Nira Right Bank Canal, the Victoria Tank at Warwand, the Godáveri Right Bank Canal and the Musalwadi, Bhamburdi and Mangi Tanks. A survey for the enlargement of the Ojhár Left Bank Canal was completed and the Pravara Project for supplementing the supply of the Ojhár Right and Left Bank Canals was submitted. Preliminary surveys were carried out in Khándesh, including that of a large irrigation tank at Karwand in the Sátapura Hills. In the Southern Division no large works were undertaken during the year. As compared with the average of the past ten years there was an increase both in the area under cultivation and in the gross assessed revenue, but the increases were entirely due to the Krishna and Gokák Canals, without which, owing to the failure of the late rains, there would have been considerable decreases. The Godáveri Project was submitted during the year and the Nira Right Bank Canal Project was under preparation. In relief of famine excavation work was begun on the Gokák Canal. The total area irrigated from the Deccan and Gujarát Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept was 105,716 acres against 131,905 acres in the previous year. The gross assessed revenue rose from Rs. 8,45,905 to Rs. 8,93,325. In Sind the inundation was exceptionally favourable and all the canals reported very satisfactory results. Erosion was particularly active at the head of the Dád and Western Nára Canals. Contour surveys for improving existing canals were in progress. The Mahi Wah project, as originally sanctioned, was completed, but additions have been found necessary. Works in connection with the Mithráo Canal were completed during the year, and work on the Nasrat, Fuleli and Hasanali Canals was continued. The surveys in the Fuleli Canals District and the Eastern Nára District were completed, and a preliminary survey was undertaken to find a permanent mouth near Rohri for the Dád and other inundation canals, having their mouths from "kacha" banks along the Indus and dependant on the vagaries of the river. In addition to topographical surveys over a length of about 329 miles, a combined hydrographic and topographic survey was carried out for 35 miles by the Indus River Commission. The borings for the survey of the site for the Sukkur weir were continued, and special observations of depths of scour were carried out. The area irrigated by all classes of works in the Province was 3,349,488 acres against 2,923,923 acres in the previous year and 3,151,807 acres in the year 1903-04. The gross assessed revenue amounted to Rs. 81,51,376 of which Rs. 3,75,485 were on account of direct and Rs. 77,75,891 on account of indirect receipts, the corresponding figures for 1904-05 and 1903-04 being Rs. 66,47,292 (Rs. 4,91,958 direct and Rs. 61,55,334 indirect) and Rs. 73,33,716 (Rs. 5,00,835 direct and Rs. 68,32,881 indirect) respectively. Both the figures of area irrigated and revenue assessed are the highest yet recorded.

49. During the year 189·90 miles of railway were opened for traffic. The longest continuous addition was one of 100·53 miles, forming the Narnaul-Phulera Section of the Rewári-Phulera Chord Railway. Several important new lines were under construction, and work was begun on the Bombay Harbour Branch of the G. I. P. Railway. Extensive surveys were completed during the year. On the termination of the old contract of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Company, the railway was purchased by the State and a new contract is to be executed, providing for the continued working of the railway by the Company. The earnings of all the more important lines showed satisfactory improvement. Railways.

50. Owing to the redistribution of revenue and expenditure under Imperial and Provincial effected by the new Provincial Settlement which came into force in 1905-1906, some heads of account, notably Land Revenue, Excise, Salt, Stamps and Registration, show marked variations of figures when compared with those of the preceding year. The results of this redistribution are visible in the aggregate figures of Imperial receipts, in which there was a decrease of roughly $30\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs of rupees, while in Provincial and Local receipts there was a rise of $26\frac{3}{4}$ lákhs of rupees. There was, however, in addition to these changes a real fall in Imperial revenue, notably under Opium and Salt, and a real rise in Provincial revenue. In Imperial expenditure there was a rise of 10 lákhs, in Provincial expenditure of 56 lákhs, and in Local expenditure of 6 lákhs. Finance :
General.

Partly owing to smaller assignments from Imperial to Provincial and partly also to increased collections in Gujarát, where owing to the favourable nature of the season arrears of the previous year were collected, there was an increase in receipts from Land Revenue of nearly $31\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs. In the receipts from Customs there was an increase of 13 lákhs, which denotes the expansion of sea-borne trade. In the receipts from Forests there was an increase of 2 lákhs owing to the demand for fodder and the higher prices obtained for timber. In the receipts from the Mint there was an increase of $6\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs owing to the enhanced rupee coinage during the year. Imperial.

The increase of nearly $36\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs in the receipts from Excise, though in part due to the new Provincial Settlement, was also the result of the improved condition of local industries and the ensuing competition for toddy-shop licenses. The only other important rise in receipts was one of 2 lákhs from Forests. In the receipts from Land Revenue there was a fall of more than $17\frac{1}{4}$ lákhs, the result of smaller assignments from Imperial to Provincial, which were partly counterbalanced by the increase of the Provincial share from one-fourth to one-half under the Provincial Settlement and partly by increased receipts in Gujarát consequent on a favourable season. The chief increases in expenditure were of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs under Excise, due in part to the redistribution under the new Settlement and in part to the maintenance of additional establishments; of 1 lákhs under Forests, due to fodder operations in areas where there was scarcity; of 1 lákhs under General Administration, due to charges in connection with the Royal Visit; of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs under Police, owing to re-organization and extra charges on account of famine expenses; of $1\frac{1}{4}$ lákhs under Medical and nearly 4 lákhs under Scientific and other minor departments, due to the payment of the grant to the Prince of Wales' Museum of Western India and to higher expenditure on experimental cultivation; and of nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs on Famine, due to the greater severity of conditions in 1905-1906. Provincial

51. There was great activity at the Mint during the year. On Government account and for the Karauli Darbár 12·17 crores of rupees were struck. The work for the Karauli Darbár consisted of the conversion of the silver currency of that State into Government rupees. Silver coins were also struck for the Mint.

Straits Settlements Government. In the value of gold bullion and coin tendered in exchange for rupees there was a decrease of 3.56 crores of rupees. Silver of the value of 24.62 lákhs of rupees was received from England for the Special Ingot Reserve.

Currency :
Presidency Circle.

52. In the gross circulation of notes on the last day of the year there was a comparatively small increase of 5.55 lákhs. An increase of 21 lákhs in the monthly net circulation of notes of low values was more than counterbalanced by a decrease of 25 lákhs in the corresponding figures for notes of high values. The increasing popularity of the Rs. 5 note was again manifested. The appreciation of a gold coinage was seen in the issues of sovereigns, in which there was an increase of 29 lákhs of rupees. No new forgeries came to light.

Karáchi Circle.

In the value of notes in circulation at the close of the year there was an increase of 46 lákhs of rupees. This increase was chiefly due to the use made by Banks and European Firms of the new facilities for telegraphic transfers between Currency Offices.

Land Revenue.

53. Including the demand on account of former years the land revenue demand amounted to Rs. 4.90 crores and exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 79.96 lákhs. The collections amounted to Rs. 3.41 crores and were higher than those of the previous year by Rs. 31.81 lákhs. These figures are those of the Revenue year ending July 31st and should not be confused with those of the Financial year ending March 31st. The increases both in the demand and the collections were mainly due to the recovery in the year under report of amounts suspended in the preceding year in Gujarát. This increase more than counterbalanced the suspensions which the poorness of the season necessitated in the Deccan and Karnátak. In Sind owing to the favourable inundation there was a large increase in the area of land put under cultivation and consequently of the land revenue demand and collections. In the number of distraints there were no remarkable variations except in the district of Ahmedabad where owing to the reluctance of the revenue-payers to pay up the amounts suspended in the previous year there was a large increase.

Sea Customs,
Bombay.

54. As compared with last year there was a rise of $4\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs in the receipts of the Bombay Customs House. The increase was confined to the Import Duties, which constituted almost the whole of the revenue. Although the increased establishment was employed for a complete year for the first time there was a minute decrease in the percentage of total expenditure to net collection. A considerable increase in the amount paid as refunds of duty was due in part to the increase in refunds of duty to Kashmir. The large decrease in movements of Silver Bullion and Coin was the chief cause of a reduction in drawbacks of nearly one lákhs. As the result of heavy transactions in sugar the value of goods bonded in the Public Warehouse was three times as large as that of last year.

Karáchi and Sind
Ports.

The net Customs receipts at Karáchi and other Sind ports increased, when compared with those of the preceding year, by $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In the amounts paid both in refunds and withdrawals there were large increases. In the percentage of total expenditure to net collection there was a small decrease.

Land Customs.

The establishment of an additional Náka on the Káthiáwár Frontier removed the existing inconvenience to traffic between the Limbdi State and Cambay and Kaira. An unfavourable fishing season and the ravages of locusts resulted in a considerable fall in the receipts at the Portuguese Frontiers from the exports of salted fish, cocoanuts, copra and betel-nuts.

Opium.

55. As an item of Imperial Revenue the receipts from Opium showed, as compared with the figures of the previous year, a decline of 27 lákhs. This decline was due chiefly to the diminished exports to China which in this year

reached the lowest figure recorded in the decade. The reason for this may be traced to the high prices paid early in the season to Bombay Merchants by Chinese buyers as the result of a rumour that the Chinese crop had failed. Even after this rumour had proved false, and when there was competition from cheap Chinese Opium the Málwa dealers persisted in asking the high prices which had ruled at the beginning of the season.

56. The results from the operation during the whole year of the reduction of the duty on salt, introduced towards the close of the preceding year, present the most interesting features of the report on the work of the Salt Department. There was a large increase in removals of salt, especially to the Central and United Provinces, and to Málwa. Owing, however, to the postponement of purchases towards the end of the year in consequence of a rumour that in commemoration of the Royal Visit there would be a further reduction in the duty, and also owing to scarcity in the Deccan and the Southern Marátha Country, there was a slight decrease in the average consumption per head in the Presidency itself. The loss of revenue resulting from the reduction of the duty was 35·70 lákhs of rupees. In twelve out of the eighteen districts the full benefit of the reduction is now obtained by the purchaser. A large decrease in the number of offences detected is attributed to the reduction of the duty which has made salt so cheap that the contraband trade is no longer worth the risks which it entails. As yet private traders have not taken any advantage of the abolition during the previous year of the monopoly for the sale of Barágra salt. Production at Barágra declined by nearly 2 lákhs of maunds owing to unseasonable rain in the month of February, but in the manufacture of sea-salt there was an increase of nearly 4 lákhs of maunds.

In Sind there was a general but slight increase both in production and distribution and also in the average rate of consumption per head, which is, for well-known reasons, very much lower than the corresponding rate in the Presidency proper. In the revenue there was a fall of nearly one lách of rupees.

Aden during the year recovered from the disorganisation caused by plague and there was a satisfactory increase both in the production and distribution of salt from the Government works, and also in the revenue receipts. Owing to a large increase in the demand from Calcutta for Aden Salt there was a corresponding rise in the exports from the Italian Salt Works.

57. In spite of the poorness of the season in the greater part of the Dekkhan and the Southern Marátha Country, the revenue from excise increased from 1·23 crores of rupees to 1·26 crores. A fall of 1·24 lákhs of rupees in receipts from opium was more than counterbalanced by a rise of 3·43 lákhs in receipts from country spirit and of more than three quarters of a lách in receipts from intoxicating drugs. In various parts of the Presidency, but especially in the Northern Division, a temperance movement was in progress, and materially reduced the sales of country spirit and toddy in the districts of Surat, Thána and Broach. In spite, however, of this movement there was a large increase in the consumption of country spirit in the Presidency as a whole. In the sale of toddy there was a decrease of about 3 per cent. The prospects of Indian-made beer are not encouraging, as the British troops, who were the chief customers, are not satisfied with it. There are, however, great possibilities for Indian manufactures of denatured spirits for industrial purposes. The fall in receipts from opium is subject to various explanations. It is reported that the younger generation is decidedly less addicted to the consumption of opium and that in the old habitués of the drug plague found easy victims. The higher prices at which opium was sold during the year might be expected to have reduced the sales, but it is noticeable that, while the decline in consump-

tion was shared by all the districts in which the monopoly system prevails, it did not occur amongst those in which the single-shop system is established. The results suggest inferences the reverse of favourable to the monopoly system. But the question is receiving examination. The number of cases of illicit distillation show the usual fluctuations. A good mhowra crop in Thána resulted in a large increase in the number of cases of illicit distillation. Similarly in Sátára, where the season was favourable to the cultivation of hemp, there was a notable increase in the number of offences connected with hemp. On the other hand it is reported from Surat that the application of the mhowra flowers section of the A'bkári Act produced a considerable decrease in the number of cases of illicit distillation, and that in Kaira and Surat deterrent punishments by the magistracy and in Khándesh and Násik efficient supervision by the excise staff effected similar results.

Sind.

The most important event in Sind was the substitution of the single-shop system for the vend of opium in place of the monopoly system. Revenue increased from 13.66 lákhs of rupees to 14.69 lákhs as the result of increases in the license fees for the sale of intoxicating drugs, country spirit and opium. The average rate of consumption per head of country spirit remained unchanged, but in the average consumption of opium there was a slight fall.

Aden.

At Aden receipts fell from 1.14 lákhs of rupees to 1.07 lákhs. The decrease was entirely due to the decrease in the import duties on foreign liquor.

Cotton Duties.

58. During the year three new mills were started, and there was a considerable increase in the issues of cloth except in Ahmedabad, where, owing to the additional fineness of the cloth, the output was rather less. The amount of yarn spun was the highest recorded since the introduction of the Act. In the collections of duty there was an increase of nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ lákhs of rupees. China, Arabia and Aden took most of the exports, the figures relating to China being nearly double those of the previous year.

Stamps.

59. During the year a separate stamp depôt, independent of the Bombay depôt, was established at Karáchi. A decrease of nearly three quarters of a lách in receipts at Bombay was due to the fact that in the previous year exceptionally large amounts were paid in Probate duty. A small decrease in receipts at Karáchi is attributed to the withdrawal of the one anna receipt stamp.

Income tax.

60. The demand—including arrears of previous years—increased by 1.16 lákhs of rupees, and the collections exceeded those of the previous year by the same amount.

Local funds.

61. Owing to the transfer to Messrs. MacMillan & Co. of the copyright of the Vernacular Reading Series there was a large decrease both in the receipts and expenditure of the Government Central Book Depôt. Cantonment Funds show improved figures owing to the fact that they have been relieved of the expenses of the maintenance of police. Other funds show increased balances, except Educational Funds, which with one exception have been transferred either to private trustees or to the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments.

Births and deaths.

62. Excluding the figures for Europeans and Eurasians, which show little change, the most notable feature of the returns of births and deaths is the decrease in the number of deaths from 764,914 to 588,394. The decrease is to be attributed to a great decline in the number of deaths caused by plague. The mortality from small-pox was the highest recorded during the last twenty-seven years, and the figures rose from 4,289 to 16,985. Births which numbered 611,173 exceeded deaths by nearly 23,000, but were less by 37,000 than those of the previous year. There was a general rise in prices throughout the Presidency,

but it is difficult to trace any connection between it and the diminished birth-rate. The decline in the birth-rate was limited to those districts from which there was extensive emigration mainly to Native States, and consequently a large number of births must have escaped registration.

63. Owing to scarcity in the Deccan and Karnátak there were extensive movements of population, but the emigrants returned to their homes in time to resume agricultural operations for the coming year. The usual seasonal influx into Bombay and other large towns was considerably larger for the same reason. The Uganda Railway took its usual contingent, but most of the labour came from the Panjáb, and only comes into these returns because the men were shipped at Bombay or Karáchi. There is at present no decrease in the number of emigrants to South Africa and Burmah. These emigrants are drawn from the Konkan and from Surat and Broach. Emigration and immigration.

64. There was a net increase of 13 in the number of medical institutions open at the end of the year. In all hospitals and dispensaries there was a slight increase in the number of both in and out-patients, except in the case of State-Special and Railway Hospitals which showed a slight decrease in in-patients. It is noticeable that among in-patients there were three males to one female, and among out-patients there were two males to one female. There was a slight fall in the number of cases of malaria, but a large increase in respect of small-pox. There was a satisfactory rise of 4,000 in the number of surgical operations, an indication of increasing confidence on the part of the people. The total expenditure rose by a little more than one lách of rupees, and in the average cost of each patient there was a fractional decrease. Medical Relief.

65. In the seven lunatic asylums there was a slightly larger population than during the previous year. The health of the inmates continued good. Lunatic Asylums

66. Municipalities and Local Boards not having recovered from the crippling effects of plague expenditure and bad seasons, many urgent schemes had to be left untouched, and beyond routine work little could be done. The inspection of vessels at Bombay and the supervision of the pilgrim traffic continued as usual. Sanitation.

67. The small net increase in the number of primary vaccinations during the year is to be explained by the fact that in the Central Registration District there was a large decrease owing to the dispersion of the people caused by the prevalence of famine conditions. The large decrease in the number of re-vaccinations was due entirely to the fall in the figures of the Presidency Circle, Bombay, in which during the previous year the figures were unusually high owing to the presence of the disease in epidemic form. Vaccination.

68. After an absence of three years rinderpest again appeared in the Presidency. It was first introduced into Sholápur and Ahmednagar by cattle imported from the Moglai. In Sholápur and Thána a small amount of inoculation was performed, but the people showed themselves most unwilling to submit their cattle to the operation. Of other diseases there was a recrudescence of foot and mouth disease, which in the previous year had practically disappeared. Veterinary.

69. As the result of the very considerable diminution in plague coincident with the provision of increased resources the results of the year in education were very satisfactory. In the number of public educational institutions there was a large increase of 745, and a corresponding increase of nearly 67,000 in the number of pupils, which, but for scarcity in parts of the Central and Southern Divisions, would have been even larger. The increase was, as it was Education.

intended, most marked in the Primary Schools. University results were very similar to those of last year and, but for the closing of the Kolhápúr College on account of cholera, would have been better. In the various Professional Colleges the attendance improved, especially at the College of Science at Poona. The acquisition of a large area of land at Poona and the commencement of building operations mark the separation of the Agricultural College from the College of Science and the beginning of an independent career of increased activity and value. The supply of good trained teachers for all Government High Schools, and also as far as possible for aided High Schools, has been assured by the establishment in Bombay during the year of a Government Training College for teachers. The figures of attendance and the results of examinations in High Schools and Middle Schools show that a steady development of secondary education is in progress throughout the Presidency. The development of accommodation in hostels, as conducive to a healthy common life, is receiving special attention from the authorities of the Educational Department. In the development of primary education there was a notable increase in the number of schools and pupils, the result mainly of the increased resources placed at the disposal of the District Local Boards. With the increase in the number of schools, especially of small village-schools, has arisen the difficulty of providing them with masters, the remuneration being in many cases too low to make such posts acceptable to trained men. The examination results show a growing inclination to leave the primary school after passing the 4th Standard and to go elsewhere to learn English. Perusal of the figures of Night Schools makes their utility appear questionable. The primary education of girls appears to be making definite progress, and for the present the chief difficulty lies in the lack of trained mistresses and their inferior pay and position. In the number of pupils there was a satisfactory increase. In the figures of Mahomedan boys attending primary schools there was a considerable increase, but it must be admitted that secondary education, and still less higher education, are not proportionately pursued by this community. The figures for aboriginal tribes and depressed classes show an improvement, which would have been larger had the season been better, but, until a sufficient number of teachers of their own class has been trained, progress must necessarily be slow. From all parts increased attention to physical drill and athletics, including English games, is reported.

Yerávdá
Reformatory
School.

70. The accommodation at Yerávdá Reformatory School was strained to its utmost capacity and the authorities were obliged to reject additional applications from Magistrates. The health and discipline of the boys were particularly good. As the first trials had turned out satisfactorily the system of licensing boys to private employers was expanded. Reports of pupils discharged during the last three years were good. Various industries were profitably conducted, and the results of examinations were satisfactory.

Literature.

71. There was a slight increase in the number of publications during the year. In both choice and handling of subject they exhibited much the same features and the same degree of merit as did those of the previous year.

Native Press.

72. The precarious life of the Native newspaper is illustrated by the fact that during the year 35 newspapers came into existence, while 30 existing publications were discontinued. One editor was prosecuted and convicted under Indian Penal Code, section 124-A. The visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales produced fervid expressions of loyalty and the appointment of Mr. Morley was universally welcomed. Owing to his attitude towards the military question, the resignation of Lord Curzon was received, even by pronounced opponents of his general policy, with mixed feelings. The

partition of Bengal was for the most part condemned, though the Bengali demonstrations and the boycott policy were approved only by the extremists of the Deccan Press. The successes of Japan and the revolutionary movements in Russia roused sympathetic interest. The legislative measures of the Bombay Government were subjected to a criticism which was keen but not unfriendly except in the case of the Bill to amend the Ābkāri Act.

73. The important repairs to the famous Mahommedan temples and Archaeology. palaces at Bijāpur were continued during the year. Numerous additions were made to the collection of photographs of buildings and monuments of archaeological interest, and impressions were taken of several ancient inscriptions. Current repairs were executed throughout the Presidency.

74. Under the Church of England a new church was consecrated at Ecclesiastical. Kolhāpur, and the foundations of two Mission Churches were laid at Hubli and Sonai. Services were held as usual by Ministers of the Church of Scotland.

75. Unimportant variations occurred in the purchase of English and Stationery. Indian stores, compared with the figures of the previous year. In issues there was a considerable increase. Contrary to the practice of the previous year, when all English stores were bought in England, one-third of these stores were in the year under report purchased in India.

76. As the result of lower earnings and increased expenditure the net Government profit to Government from the working of the Press was rather less than in the Central Press. previous year, in which the earnings were exceptional.

77. The operations of the department were satisfactory and the balance in Government favour of the office showed a further considerable increase. Photozincographic Office.