

1) The Bombay riots of August 1893 reprinted from the Times of India. Y: 4582:2.231.M 93 B3

2) Blue Book Quarterly: a review of the publications of the Govt. of Bombay. Nos 3 and 4 of ~~1914~~ 1914.  
255,2231m, N1 : E4

THE  
**BOMBAY RIOTS**

OF

AUGUST 1893.

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RE-PRINTED FROM THE TIMES OF INDIA.

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Bombay:

PUBLISHED AT THE OFFICE OF THE TIMES OF INDIA.

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PRICE 4 ANNAS.

# THE MAHOMEDAN AND HINDOO RIOTS OF 1893.

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After nearly twenty years of almost absolute peace, Bombay at noon on Friday, August 11th, was suddenly plunged into a scene of violence and turmoil without a precedent in the annals of the City. For some weeks previous to the outbreak a good deal of feeling had been created in the Mahomedan and Hindoo communities in parts of the Presidency in consequence of some rioting which had taken place in Prabhas Patan and elsewhere; and the formation by both communities of committees in Bombay in connection therewith does not appear to have in any way improved the relations between the two parties. The Mahomedans, however, allege that the origin of the outbreak was due to the ringing of bells and beating of *tom toms* by the Hindoos on their *Divasara*, or new moon holiday, in the Mahadev temple in Hanooman Lane, which is in the immediate vicinity of the great Juxma Musjid, this festival falling on the Moslem day of prayer. But whatever may have been the actual cause, a most violent encounter took place on Friday, and the rioting continued without practically any abatement throughout the following day, and to a more or less serious extent during Sunday. The Police, it seems, had some days previously received intimation that a disturbance was extremely probable, and were in a measure prepared for it, but with the small number of men composing the local force it was at once seen on the commencement of the rioting that their strength was quite inadequate to the demands that were likely to be made on them, and the aid of the military, naval, and auxiliary forces had eventually to be invoked. The Marine Battalion of native troops were the first arrivals, and were quickly followed by large detachments of the other troops in garrison, European as well as native; but as matters were fast going from bad to worse, his Excellency the Governor, who was at the time with his Council in Poona, was communicated with, and asked to order reinforcements to be sent down from that station. At midnight on Friday his Excellency had a consultation with General Gatacre, the Adjutant-General of the Bombay Forces, and on the following morning two squadrons of the 2nd Lancers were despatched, the Governor being at the station to see them away. A third squadron was afterwards got off, and was followed by a body of men drawn from the Infantry regiments stationed in Poona. In the meantime the Police and Military in Bombay had very serious work before them, and assistance was asked for and given in all quarters. On Friday night the Light Horse turned out, and the remainder of the local Volunteers were put on duty the next morning

Special Magistrates were appointed, and large crowds of prisoners were brought before them and placed in the local jails to await their trial. The City was in an extraordinary state of excitement and alarm, and all business was suspended. As night came on, scenes of great violence were enacted in all quarters of the native town, and the order to fire had at length to be given to the military. The rioters fled before the shots, but only to renew the disturbance in some other spot. Mahomedans and Hindoos were to be seen on all hands assaulting each other with pretty well every description of weapon they could get hold of. Temples and mosques were wrecked; and shops were looted by *budmashes*. So matters continued throughout Saturday, but on Sunday a slight improvement was observable, although a good deal of desultory fighting went on in several of the outlying districts. It was not till Monday that anything like law and order was restored, and even then the feeling of security on the part of the people was by no means great. Some of the shopkeepers were persuaded to re-open their shops, but in most cases they did not do so with entire willingness. The day fortunately passed off without a renewal of the disturbances, and encouraged by this circumstance several other traders followed their example the next day, but the mill-hands and the work people engaged in other branches of industry declined to return to work till after the holiday occurring in the course of the week. In all some fifteen hundred prisoners were taken. The total number of deaths which have resulted from the rioting is officially estimated at sixty-seven, while that of the injured is put at from four to five hundred.

# INDEX TO THE BLUE BOOK QUARTERLY, VOLUME I, 1914.

## PART I.—PUBLICATIONS.

	PAGES		PAGES
<b>ADMINISTRATION—</b>		<b>CO-OPERATION—</b>	
Annual Report on the Administration of the Bombay Presidency, 1912-13 (The "General Administration Report") ...	11, 12	Provincial Co-operative Conference, 1913 .	46-49
Summary of the General Administration Report, 1912-13 ...	30	A Manual for Co-operative Societies ...	49-50
Land Revenue Administration Report, 1912-13—		Annual Report, 1913-14 ...	305-308
Part I ...	143	<b>CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE—</b>	
Part II ...	30-40	Annual Report, 1912 ...	5
The Proposed Transfer of the Thána District Head-quarters ...	29	<b>EDUCATION—</b>	
<b>AGRICULTURE—</b>		Annual Report, 1912-13 ...	6, 7
Season and Crop Report, 1912-13 ...	1	Do. 1913-14 ...	308-316
Do. 1913-14 ...	292-294	Supplement to Annual Report, 1913-14 ...	316
Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, 1912-13 ...	1, 2	The Problem of Urdu Teaching ...	7, 8
Annual Reports of the Agricultural Stations, 1912-13 ...	40-43	Recent Developments in Mahomedan Education ..	8
Proceedings of the Agricultural Conference 1913 ...	2	Yeránda Reformatory School ...	149
Poona District Seed Supply ...	3	<b>EXCISE—</b>	
Leaflet on Greenfly or Aphis ...	3	Annual Report, 1912-13 ...	9, 10
Leaflet on Irrigation in the Gokák Canal area ...	3	Do. 1913-14 ...	316-320
Leaflet on Methods of Field Irrigation ...	3	<b>FINANCE—</b>	
The Dairying Industry in the Bombay Presidency ...	43, 44	Currency Report, 1913-14 ...	149-151
Improvements in the Indigenous Plough ...	143, 144	<b>FORESTS—</b>	
Prickly-pear as a Fodder ...	144, 145	Annual Report, 1912-13 ...	10, 11 & 50-56
Sugarcane Cultivation and Gul Manufacture ...	146, 295	<b>INCOME TAX—</b>	
<b>ARCHAEOLOGY—</b>		Statistical Returns for 1912-13 ...	13
Annual Report, Western Circle, 1912-13 ...	4	<b>IRRIGATION—</b>	
<b>CHEMICAL ANALYSIS—</b>		Descriptive Accounts of Irrigation Works, 1912-13 ...	56-65
Annual Report, 1913 ...	4	Annual Report, 1912-13 ...	66
<b>COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY—</b>		<b>LAND RECORDS—</b>	
Rail-borne Trade of the Presidency proper, 1912-13 ...	17	Annual Report, 1912-13 ...	66-68
Trade and Navigation Statistics of the Presidency proper, 1912-13 ...	17, 18	<b>LEGISLATION—</b>	
Trade and Navigation of Sind, 1912-13 ...	19	Effect of Bombay Legislation in 1912 ...	13
Trade and Navigation of Aden, 1913-14 ...	298	The Town Planning Bill ...	68-95
Sea-borne Trade and Customs Administration of the Presidency proper, 1913-14 ...	44-46	The Dekkhan Agriculturists' Relief Act ...	151-169
Sind Maritime Trade, 1913-14 ...	147, 148	<b>LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT—</b>	
Sind External Trade, 1913-14 ...	148	Annual Report on Local Boards, 1912-13 .	169-180
Indian Companies Act; R-report for 1913-14.	146, 147	Annual Report on Municipalities, 1912-13, 181	-208
Factory Report, 1913 ...	296		

	PAGES		PAGES
<b>MISCELLANEOUS—</b>		<b>SURVEY SETTLEMENT—</b>	
Bombay Development Committee, 1914...	95—99	The Land Tenures of the Presidency ...	214
Colába Cotton Fire Committee, 1914 ...	320—322	Settlement Reports of the Dádu, Sehwan and Johi Tálukas of the Lárkána District ... ..	15, 16
<b>POLICE—</b>		Settlement Report of the Kárwár Táluka of the Kánara District ... ..	19
Bombay Town and Island, Annual Report, 1913 ... ..	208—211	Settlement Reports of the Guni, Bádin, Tando Bago and Dero Mogbat Tálukas of the Hyderabad District ... ..	215
Police Report of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind and Railways, 1913 ...	322—327	Settlement Report of the Sukkur Táluka of the Sukkur District ... ..	337
<b>PRISONS—</b>		Settlement Report of certain villages in the Godhra Táluka of the Panch Maháls District ... ..	215
Annual Report, 1913 ... ..	100 & 211, 212	<b>TRADE AND NAVIGATION—</b>	
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION—</b>		See Commerce and Industry.	
Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, 1913 ... ..	330—334	<b>VETERINARY SCIENCE—</b>	
Report on Lunatic Asylums, 1913 ...	100	Annual Report, 1913-14 ... ..	337—339
Report on Civil Hospitals and Dispen- saries, 1913 ... ..	327—330	<b>WARDS AND MINORS—</b>	
Triennial Report on Vaccination, 1911-14 ... ..	334—336	Courts of Wards, Annual Report, 1912-13.	19, 20 & 104, 105
Leprosy and its Control ... ..	13, 14	Tálukdári Settlement Officer's Report, 1912-13 ... ..	20 & 101—103
Some Recent Sanitary Developments ...	14	Incumbered Estates in Sind, 1912-13 ...	103
Sanitation in Bombay City ... ..	212, 213	<b>SALI—</b>	
The Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory .	213, 214	Annual Report, 1913-14 ... ..	336, 337

## PART II.—PRESS NOTES AND GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS.\*

<b>ADMINISTRATION—</b>		<b>AGRICULTURE—continued.</b>	
*Nature and Objects of the General Administration Report ... ..	28	Proposed cess for the Organization of Agriculture ... ..	221—224
Revision of the Subordinate Revenue Establishments ... ..	109, 110	A Cheap Explosive to Scare Birds and Wild Animals ... ..	224, 225
<b>AGRICULTURE—</b>		Well Boring ... ..	225, 226
*Fodder Concession Rates ... ..	25	<b>COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY—</b>	
Fodder Concession Rates ... ..	116, 221 & 340	*Salt (duty free) for Industrial Purposes ...	28
*Fodder Grass in Sind ... ..	25	Auditors' Qualifications under the New Indian Companies Act ... ..	118—120
*Konkan Agricultural Experiments ...	25	Lights on the Sind Coast ... ..	226—228
*Scarcity in the Deccan and Karnátak ...	25	Importation of Hides, etc., into Roumania.	228
Scarcity in the Sátára District ... ..	110—112 & 217, 218	Export of Hides ... ..	228, 229
Scarcity in the Sholápur District... ..	112, 113 & 218—221	A Training Ship for Indian Boys ...	340, 341
Improvements at the Civil Dairy, Kirkee .	113, 114	The Inspection of Steam Boilers ...	341
Appointment of an Additional Deputy Director ... ..	114	<b>CO-OPERATION—</b>	
Grain Depôts in the Thána District ...	115, 116	Co-operative Banks and Unions ...	48, 49
Storage of Fodder Grass ... ..	116, 117	The Spread of Co-operation and the Appointment of an Assistant Registrar .	229, 230
The Director of Agriculture's Tour in America, Hawaii, Japan, Formosa and Java ... ..	117		

\* In the 1st number of the *Quarterly* Press Notes and published Government Resolutions were only classified, and not reprinted. They have nevertheless been included in this index to make it complete for reference purposes and are marked by an asterisk.

INDEX.

iii

	PAGES		PAGES
<b>CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE—</b>		<b>MISCELLANEOUS—</b>	
First Offenders ... ..	120, 121	Certificates of Identity ... ..	28 & 134
The Work of the Honorary Presidency Magistrates ... ..	230, 231	Wild Animals and Venomous Snakes ... ..	133, 134
The Ahmedabad Commission of Enquiry... ..	341—344	Printing and Publishing ... ..	134
<b>EDUCATION—</b>		The Apollo Bunder Memorial ... ..	134
*Mr. Mahomed Yusuf Ismail's Donation ... ..	26	The Bombay Development Committee ... ..	272
*Creation of an Inspectorate of Science Teaching ... ..	26	Examination of Stokers by the Smoke Nuisances Commission ... ..	273
The School Final Examination ... ..	121—125 & 239—241	Bombay Smoke Nuisances Commission ..	348, 349
Moral Training Consultative Committee . . .	125, 126 & 250—252	The Licensing of Mofussil Theatres ..	274
Reduction in Price of Vernacular Readers .	126, 127	The Safety of Lifts ... ..	274—276
Science Teaching in Secondary Schools ...	232, 233	Titles and Armorial Bearings ... ..	349, 350
The Normal Class at the College of Engineering ... ..	233—237	<b>PILGRIMS—</b>	
The Training of Secondary Teachers ... ..	237—239	*Vaccination ... ..	27
Visual Instruction in Schools ... ..	241—243	The Haj of 1912-13 .. ..	27 & 135—137
Manual Training in Schools ... ..	243, 244	The Haj of 1913-14 .. ..	276, 277
School Hygiene ... ..	245, 246	Improvement in the Pilgrim Traffic ..	277—283
Methods of Making Education more Practical ... ..	246—248	The Embarkation of Pilgrims at Bombay .	283—285
Mahomedan Education in Sind ... ..	248, 249	Delay in the Embarkation of Pilgrims ...	350—352
Imperial recurring grant of Rs. 1 lakh ...	250—252	<b>POLICE—</b>	
Scholarships for Parsis ... ..	344, 345	Ahmedabad Commission of Enquiry ... ..	341—344
Revision of Pay of Secondary Teachers and Deputy Inspectors and their Assistants... ..	345, 346	<b>PRISONS—</b>	
Urdu Text-book Committee ... ..	346, 347	Prisoners' Aid Society ... ..	27
<b>EXCISE—</b>		<b>PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION—</b>	
*Review of the Annual Report, 1912-13 ...	26	*Dispensary Rules ... ..	27
*Age-limit for purchase of liquor ... ..	26	*Kasauli Pasteur Institute ... ..	27
Curtailment of Hours of sale of Country Liquor Shops ... ..	127—129	*Post-graduate School of Tropical Medicine, Honorary and other Appointments at the Grant Medical College and Bombay Hospitals ... ..	28
Reduction in number of Country Liquor Shops ... ..	252	Consulting Staffs at Bombay Hospitals ...	138—140
Enhancement of Rates of Still-head Duty... ..	129	The Mahabaleshvar Civil Hospital ... ..	140, 141
Abolition of Toddy Spirit in Town and Island of Bombay ... ..	129, 130	New Sanitary Engineering Districts ... ..	142
<b>FAMINE RELIEF—</b>		St. George's Hospital Malaria Committee... ..	286
See Agriculture and Irrigation.		St. George's Hospital Malaria Committee... ..	352, 353
<b>IRRIGATION —</b>		St. George's Hospital Nursing Home ... ..	287 & 353
Famine Concessions in Sholapur District... ..	130	St. George's Hospital Nursing Home Rules ... ..	287—290
Review of Irrigation in India by the Supreme Government ... ..	256—271	<b>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—</b>	
<b>LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT—</b>		Abolition of Toll-bars on Provincial Roads .	142
Suspension of Vambori Municipality ... ..	131	<b>SANITATION —</b>	
Communal Representation ... ..	131—133	See Public Health.	
Urban Water Supply ... ..	271, 272	<b>WAR—</b>	
A Concession to Local Boards ... ..	347	The Imperial Indian Relief Fund ... ..	290, 291
		The Declaration of London ... ..	353
		Parcels for British Prisoners ... ..	353

sion, not from want of application, but from sheer want of intellectual capacity. The general average of the students is, however, stated to have been very fair, and the Principal's report that many of them showed great promise of becoming good sub-inspectors is gratifying. The Principal's proposals for the encouragement of Maráthi shorthand in the School will, it is understood, be submitted to the Inspector-General of Police.

12. The Governor in Council notices with interest the Inspector-General's opinion that the establishment of more magisterial courts, and of a separate Sessions Court in every Collectorate, would tend to increase the readiness of witnesses to come forward. The question of increasing the number of District and Sessions Courts in the Presidency has already engaged the attention of His Excellency in Council.

13. The opinions of the Inspector-General, the Commissioners, and the District Magistrates leave little room for doubt but that the moral standard of the police and the quality of their work have steadily improved in the last few years. Their work in the year under review has met with general approbation from those best qualified to judge of it, and shows excellent Detective results. The behaviour of the police during the Bhil rising in Sunth State, and the manner in which the railway strike was met in May and June 1913, are deserving of special commendation. It is matter for regret that the Inspector-General of Police is unable to report any adequate response to these encouraging signs of improvement in the direction of a greater alacrity on the part of the public to render support and assistance. In proportion, however, as the advance effected by the recent re-organization both in methods and in efficiency becomes more generally appreciated it is to be hoped that a corresponding stimulus will be imparted to co-operation on the part of the people. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to recognize in this comprehensive record of activity during the past year strong testimony that a vigorous and growing spirit of progress with enlightened zeal is steadily pervading all departments of police administration.

14. The Governor in Council is pleased to convey to all ranks of the police force his recognition of their loyal and strenuous efforts and to endorse the commendations passed by the Inspector-General of Police on the work of the individual officers specially selected for mention. He desires once more to acknowledge the example of strenuous devotion to duty which has been set by Mr. Kennedy to the officers and men under his control. The work of Mr. Souter in Sind has been characterised in circumstances of unusual difficulty by a high