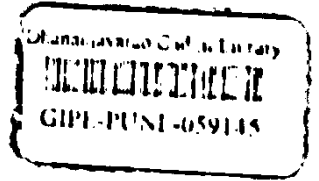


ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE



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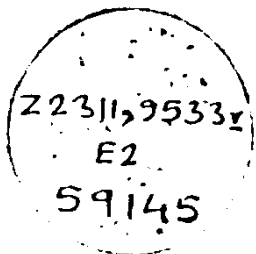
Stamps

OF THE

TOWN AND ISLAND OF BOMBAY

FOR THE YEAR 1911.

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BOMBAY
PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS
1912



[Price—Re. 1 or Is. 6d.]

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Annual and Periodical Reports.

Review of the working of the Police in the Town and Island of Bombay for the year 1911.

No. 5096.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 10th July 1912.

Letter from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, No. 6179—7, dated the 20th May 1912—Submitting the Annual Police Report for the Town and Island of Bombay for the year 1911.

Letter from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, No. 6180—7, dated the 20th May 1912.

RESOLUTION.—Mr. Edwardes has submitted a clear and interesting report of the working of the Bombay City Police for the year 1911.

2. The total number of true cognizable cases with which the police and magistrates had to deal in the year 1911 amounted to 53,343, an increase of no less than 8,581 over the number reported in the administration report for the previous year. The greater number of these cases were, as usual, cases under special and local laws, but there was also a substantial increase in the number of true cases under the Indian Penal Code; in particular, in serious offences against the person, which rose from 427 to 478, and in serious offences against person and property or property alone, such as robbery and house-breaking, which increased from 882 to 1,080. 55,022 persons were under arrest in connection with various cognizable cases during the year, as against 48,706 in 1910; and 52,677 persons were convicted as compared with 46,332.

3. The result of the police work in serious cases under classes 1, 2 and 3, which showed a marked increase, is given in paragraph 7 of the report. The number of cases of robbery investigated during the year was 57; 12 were excluded and in 27 convictions were obtained, whilst 333 cases of house-breaking were successful out of 1,046, of which 11 were excluded. The large number of cases of house-breaking is said to be due to the practice which has grown up among Wagnis and Bhangis of breaking into houses evacuated during plague epidemics, when the chances of detection are necessarily smaller; but it seems to the Governor in Council possible that, if it were made widely known that persons evacuating houses should promptly notify to the police their intention to do so, the police might be in a better position to check this class of offence. The increase in the number of offences connected more or less directly with the cocaine habit is perhaps more apparent than real and due to the special work of Inspector Chapman. The matter is separately under consideration.

4. Though the number of offences against property increased, the value of property stolen decreased (from Rs. 7,44,580 to Rs. 6,19,848), of which Rs. 2,92,421 worth was recovered. In 1910, Rs. 3,94,409 worth was recovered, but the figures were swollen by an item of Rs. 1,52,820 recovered in one case; if this be excluded the returns for 1911 do not contrast unfavourably with those for the preceding two years.

5. In non-cognizable cases process was issued against 15,414 persons. As there were 14 persons already under trial, the total number of those who appeared before the Courts was 15,428. Of those against whom process issued, 4,045, or 26.24 per cent., were convicted. This percentage is slightly higher than that of 1910.

6. The number of departmental punishments and dismissals was slightly in excess of that of the previous year. Though there was an increase in judicial punishments from 3 to 11, the Governor in Council is glad to notice that there was no conviction for taking bribes or extorting confessions. The total number of rewards given was smaller than in 1910 by 69, but the figures for that year included 159 rewards given by the Abkari Department and 176 by the public, against 56 and 106, respectively, in 1911. On the other hand, there is a satisfactory increase in the number of rewards for exceptionally good and plucky work. The health of the force was fair when compared with previous

years, the number of hospital admissions being fewer than in either of the previous years, though the daily average on the sick list of Native Constabulary was 4·07 higher than in 1910, and 75 higher than in 1909.

7. During the year under report an important step was taken towards the education of the men in the lower grades of the force, and the success already achieved at the free-English schools in the case of the Muhammadan constables has justified the establishment of an English school for constables under a trained teacher. The Governor in Council will watch the progress of this school with great interest, and he trusts that the anticipated benefits, both to the force and to the public, will soon be apparent.

8. The number of conveyances of all kinds in the City of Bombay decreased from 19,516 to 19,163, but there was a rise in the number of motor-vehicles, from 1,015 to 1,256, of which 66 were motor-vehicles plying for hire as compared with 43 in the previous year. The Governor in Council regrets that there should have been a considerable increase in the number of street accidents, of which 1,227 occurred as compared with 955 in 1910. Especially noticeable is the large increase in accidents, both fatal and otherwise, caused by motor-vehicles and tram-cars. The figures in the case of tram-cars are extraordinary, as they caused 405 accidents, as against 145 in 1910, though it would be natural to expect a smaller number of accidents each year as the public became accustomed to mechanical traction and as drivers improved in skill. The Governor in Council is ready to admit that the accidents are to a certain extent due to the apathy of certain classes of the public, but he finds it impossible to believe that the drivers of motor-vehicles and tram-cars are as careful as they should be in view of the well-known characteristics of the crowds in an eastern city. He desires that the Commissioner of Police should give this matter his close attention, and should submit a special report with recommendation for minimising these accidents in future. It is noticed, for example, from paragraph 21 of his report, that drivers of privately-owned motor-vehicles get only one or two days' training; and that is a condition of affairs in which the Governor in Council is not prepared to acquiesce.

9. Quite apart from the volume of ordinary crime, the past year was probably the most arduous which the Bombay Police has as yet experienced. The presence of Their Imperial Majesties, both in December and in January, and the vast crowds of sightseers which it attracted brought an immense increase to the usual work of the force. But the extra labour involved was admirably performed and not the slightest hitch occurred in the police arrangements. It is a further matter of congratulation that this year the Muharram passed off peacefully. The work done by the Criminal Investigation Department, the strength of which was raised in the latter half of 1911 from 51 to 83, deserves the highest commendation. The cordial thanks of Government are due to Mr. Edwardes and the officers and men under him for the excellent work of the past twelve months.

(Signed) K. W. BARLEE,

Under Secretary to Government.

To

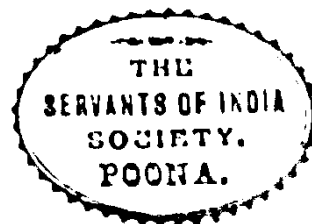
The Commissioner of Police, Bombay,
 The Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay,
 The Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay,
 The Compiler of the General Administration Report,
 The Superintendent, Government Central Press (for publication in the
Bombay Government Gazette),
 The General Department,
 The Government of India,
 The Under Secretary of State for India. } by letter.

No. of 1912.

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