

EAST INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).

STATEMENT

EXHIBITING THE

MORAL AND MATERIAL PROGRESS AND CONDITION

OF

I N D I A

DURING THE YEAR 1908-9.

FORTY-FIFTH NUMBER.

(Presented pursuant to Act 21 & 22 Vict. c. 106, s. 53.)

India Office,
19 May 1910. }

RICHMOND RITCHIE,
Under Secretary of State for India.

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P R E F A C E.

THE Statement exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India is presented to Parliament in each year in accordance with the requirements of the 53rd section of the Act for the better Government of India (21 and 22 Vict., cap. 106), which provides as follows :—“The Secretary of State in Council shall, within the first fourteen days during which Parliament may be sitting next after the first day of May in every year, lay before both Houses of Parliament an account for the Financial Year preceding that last completed of the Annual Produce of the Revenues of India . . . and such account shall be accompanied by a Statement prepared from detailed reports from each Presidency and District in India, in such form as shall best exhibit the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India in each such Presidency.”

The Statement is prepared in the India Office from a large number of annual reports received from India. Many of these reports are compiled from information furnished by District and Political Officers, and are submitted to the Governments of the respective Provinces and to the Government of India for consideration and review before transmission to England; and some of them, which deal with the operations of important departments and require the careful consideration of the authorities in India, are not received at the India Office till about a year after the date of the period to which they refer. It is, therefore, seldom possible to present the Statement to Parliament earlier than the date mentioned in the Statute, *i.e.*, about thirteen and a half months after the close of the official year.

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INDIAN CURRENCY AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Currency.—The silver rupee (containing 165 grains of fine silver and 15 grains of alloy and weighing in all 180 grains troy or 1 tola) was the sole standard of value until the 26th June 1893, when the Indian mints were closed to the unrestricted coinage of silver into rupees and it was notified that gold coin and bullion would be received at the mints in exchange for Government rupees at the rate of 7·53344 grains of fine gold for one rupee, being equivalent to a rate of exchange of 15 rupees per £1. In 1899 British gold coins were made legal tender side by side with rupees at that rate.

The Indian denominations with their British equivalents are:—

Pie	=	$\frac{1}{16}$ penny.
Pice (3 pies)	=	1 farthing.
Anna (12 pies)	=	1 penny.
Rupee (16 annas)	=	1s. 4d.

A lakh (lac) is 100,000 rupees and a crore is 100 lakhs.

Weights and Measures.—The weights adopted in Government transactions and by the railway companies are as follows:—

1 tola	=	180 grains	=	11·66 grams.
1 chittak (5 tolas)	=	900 "	=	58·32 "
1 ser (16 chittaks)	=	$2\frac{1}{2}$ troy lb. (or $2\frac{2}{3}$ lb. avoird.)	=	933·10 "
1 maund (40 sers)	=	100 " " (or $82\frac{2}{7}$ " ")	=	37·32 kgms.