

EAST INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).

STATEMENT

EXHIBITING THE

MORAL AND MATERIAL PROGRESS AND CONDITION

OF

I N D I A

DURING THE YEAR 1903-04

FORTIETH NUMBER.

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

India Office,
30 May 1905.

ARTHUR GODLEY,
Under Secretary of State for India.

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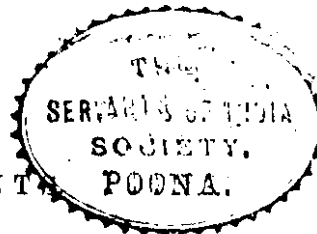
THE Statement exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India is presented to Parliament in each year in accordance with the requirements of the 53rd section of the Act for the better Government of India (21 and 22 Viet., cap. 106), which provides as follows:—"The Secretary of State 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. Of these reports, many 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. One annual volume which is largely used in the preparation of the Statement is the "Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India," containing the complete audited accounts of the revenue and expenditure—Imperial, Provincial, and Local—of every public department in each Province of India, including the Railways, Irrigation Works, and other commercial enterprises which are under Government management.

Of the reports mentioned above, some, 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 at about the same date that the Finance and Revenue Accounts are received.

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; and it is often necessary to exceed the prescribed date by some weeks.

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CHAPTER I.

ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATION.

ADMINISTRATION.

List of the holders in 1903-04 of the more important appointments connected with the administration of India, those appointed during the year being shown in *italics*.

ADMINISTRATION.

OFFICE.	—	Date of Appointment or Assumption of Charge of Office.	REMARKS.
Secretary of State	The Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton.	5 July 1895	
	<i>The Right Hon. St. John Brodrick.</i>	10 October 1903	
Permanent Under Secretary of State.	Sir Arthur Godley, K.C.B.	30 September 1883	
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.	Earl Percy	18 August 1902	
	<i>The Earl of Hardwicke</i> (2nd time).	12 October 1903	
Members of the Council of India	Sir Charles H. T. Crosswaite, K.C.S.I.	3 March 1895	In succession to Sir B. H. Davies.
	Sir Stuart C. Bayley, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.	16 September 1895	In succession to Sir H. C. Rawlinson.
	F. C. Le Marchant	27 February 1896	In succession to B. W. Currie.
	General Sir J. J. H. Gordon, K.C.B.	1 January 1897	In succession to Sir O. T. Burne.
	Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, K.C.S.I.	24 April 1897	In succession to Sir J. Stacey.
	Sir J. L. Mackay, G.C.M.G., K.C.I.B.	27 April 1897	In succession to Robert Hardie.
	Sir John Edge, K.C.	30 March 1898	In succession to Sir C. Turner.
	Sir Philip F. Hutchins, K.C.S.I.	1 August 1898	In succession to Sir A. J. Arbuthnot.
	Sir James Westland, K.C.S.I.	8 August 1899	Died 9 May 1903.
	Lieut.-General Sir A. R. Bndcock, K.C.B., C.S.I.	26 March 1901	In succession to Sir D. M. Stewart.
	Sir William Lee-Warner, K.C.S.I.	12 November 1902	In succession to Sir J. Peile.
	Rt. Hon. Sir A. P. Macdonnell, G.C.S.I.	17 January 1903	In succession to Sir A. Lyall.
	<i>J. F. Finlay, C.S.I.</i>	10 May 1903	In succession to Sir J. Westland.
	Governor-General	The Right Hon. Lord Curzon of Kedleston, G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E.	6 January 1899
Members of Council	General Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G. (extraordinary), Commander-in-Chief.	28 November 1902	
	Sir Thomas Raleigh, K.C.S.I.	3 April 1899	
	Sir E. F. Law, K.C.M.G.	31 March 1900	
	Major-General Sir E. R. Elles, K.C.B.	11 April 1901	
	Sir A. T. Arundel, K.C.S.I.	18 May 1901	
	Sir D. J. Ibbetson, K.C.S.I.	5 March 1902	
Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal	J. A. Bourdillon, C.S.I.	22 November 1902	Officiating.
	<i>Sir A. H. Leith Fraser,</i> K.C.&L	2 November 1903	
Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.	Sir J. J. D. La Touche, K.C.S.I.	14 November 1901	
Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.	Sir Charles M. Rivaz, K.C.S.I.	6 March 1902	
Lieutenant-Governor of Burma	Sir F. W. R. Fryer, K.C.S.I.	1 May 1897	Formerly Chief Commissioner.
	<i>Sir H. S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.</i>	4 April 1903	

ADMINIS- TRATION.	OFFICE.		Date of Appointment or Assumption of Charge of Office.	REMARKS.
	Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.	J. P. Hewett, C.S.I., C.I.E. F. S. P. Lely, C.S.I.	2 November 1903 18 March 1904	Officiating.
	Chief Commissioner of Assam -	J. B. Fuller, C.I.E. C. W. Bolton, C.S.I.	29 April 1902 27 April 1903	Officiating until 27 July.
	Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana and Chief Com- missioner of Ajmer-Merwara.	Sir A. H. T. Martindale, K.C.S.I.	9 March 1898	
	Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg.	Lieutenant-Colonel Sir D. Robertson, K.C.S.I. Sir J. A. Bourdillon, K.C.S.I.	10 February 1897 5 November 1903	
	Resident, Hyderabad - - -	Lieut.-Colonel Sir D. W. K. Barr, K.C.S.I.	1 September 1900	
	Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.	C. S. Bayley, C.S.I. Major H. Daly, C.I.E.	3 November 1901 6 November 1903	Officiating until 20 March 1904.
	Resident in Kashmir - - -	E. G. Colvin - - -	17 March 1903	Officiating from 24 September 1902.
	Resident and Agent to the Governor-General, Baroda.	Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Meade, C.I.E.	5 November 1901	
	Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan and Chief Commissioner of British Balu- chistan.	Colonel C. E. Yate, C.S.I., C.M.G.	24 December 1900	
	Chief Commissioner of the N.W. Frontier Province.	Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Deane, C.S.I.	9 November 1901	
	Political Resident, Persian Gulf and H.B.M.'s Consul-General at Bushire.	Major (temporary Lieut.- Colonel) C. A. Kemball, C.I.E.	1 July 1901	Officiating from 7 April 1900.
	Governor of Madras - - -	Lord Ampthill, G.C.I.E. -	28 December 1900	
	Members of Council - - -	Sir Henry M. Winter- botham, K.C.S.I.	19 December 1898	
		Sir J. Thomson, K.C.S.I. -	9 May 1901	
		G. Stokes, C.S.I. - - -	9 November 1903	In succession to Sir H. M. Winterbotham.
	Governor of Bombay - - -	Lord Northcote, G.C.I.E., C.B.	17 February 1900	
		Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.	12 December 1903	
	Members of Council - - -	Sir J. Montcash, K.C.S.I. -	6 August 1900	Acting Governor, 6 Sept.— 12 Dec. 1903.
		E. McG. H. Fulton, C.S.I. -	24 April 1902	
	Political Resident, Aden - - -	Major-General P. J. Mait- land, C.B.	25 June 1901	

Under the treaty concluded in 1902 with His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, of which the text was given in the last decennial issue of this Statement (1901-02, pp. 29 and 30), the Government of India acquired permanent administrative control over Berar, and in October 1903 the administration of that territory was made over to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

LEGISLA-
TION.

LEGISLATION.

Between the 1st April 1903 and the 31st March 1904, thirteen Acts were passed by the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations, three by the Legislative Council of Madras, five by that of Bombay, four by that of Bengal, two by that of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, three by that of the Punjab; and five by that of Burma. Five Regulations were also passed by the Governor-General in Council, on the recommendation of the local Governments of the provinces affected by them, in accordance with the provisions of 33 Vict. c. 3.

India.

Indian Tariff
(Amend-
ment) Act,
1903.

The following were the more important of the measures referred to:—
Act XII. of 1903 "further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894," provided for the continuation of the additional duties on sugar then in force until the 31st March 1904, when it was expected that the greater part of the

stocks of bounty-fed sugar in the European countries which were parties to the Sugar Convention would be exhausted. LEGISLA-
TION.

Act XIII. of 1903 "further to amend the Lepers Act, 1898," provided for the segregation and medical treatment of lepers belonging to Native States. Lepers
(Amend-
ment) Act,
1903.

Act XIV. of 1903 "to give effect to the Foreign Marriages Order in Council, 1903," was passed in order to give effect to an Order in Council regulating the procedure of a marriage-officer under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1892 (55 & 56 Vict. c. 23.), in regard to the notice to be given of an intended marriage. Indian
Foreign
Marriage
Act, 1903.

Act XV. of 1903 "to consolidate and amend the law relating to extradition and rendition of criminals," was passed with the double object of providing for British India an efficient version of the procedure established by the Extradition Act, 1870 (British Act), in regard to extradition between British India and the Powers which have treaties with the British Government, and, secondly, of consolidating and amending the Extradition Act, 1879 (Indian Act), in regard to the procedure in cases of extradition between British India and Native States. Indian Ex-
tradition
Act, 1903.

Act XVI. of 1903 "to make better provision for the organisation and administration of municipalities in the Central Provinces," made provision for the realisation of municipal taxes and the prevention of the accrual of arrears, the suppression of disorderly houses, the destruction of stray dogs, the sanitation of small towns, and various other matters of minor importance. Central
Provinces
Municipal
Act, 1903.

Act I. of 1904 "to provide for the regulation of the possession and sale of all poisons in certain local areas, and the importation, possession and sale of white arsenic generally," provided for the control of the sale of poisons generally within municipalities and cantonments, authorised the prohibition of the importation of white arsenic into British India except under licence, and empowered local Governments to regulate the sale of that poison. The Act also took power for the Governor-General in Council to apply to any other poisons the provisions relating to white arsenic. Protection was secured for acts done in good faith by medical men, chemists, and others. Poisons Act,
1904.

Act II. of 1904 "to consolidate and amend the law relating to the courts in the Central Provinces," introduced the separation, as far as practicable, of the civil from the criminal and revenue branches of the administration, and provided that appeals in important suits should lie direct from the District Court to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner. Central
Provinces
Courts Act,
1904.

Act III. of 1904 "to make further provision regarding the borrowing powers of certain local authorities" provided for the borrowing of money by certain local authorities, with the previous sanction of the Government of India, by means of the issue of short-term bills, and in any manner authorised by law for the purpose of discharging loans previously contracted. Local
Authorities
Loan Act,
1904.

Act IV. of 1904 "to provide for the regulation of the Border Military Police Force in the North-West Frontier Province" was designed to supply the want of a code to govern the members of the force and of legal authority for enforcing discipline among them. North-West
Border
Military
Police Act,
1904.

Act V. of 1904 "to amend the Indian Official Secrets Act, 1899," defined the criminality of the actions with which the Act deals in such a way as to make them more susceptible of proof, and it was made clear that the Act applies to the divulging of secret information connected with the civil administration as well as naval and military affairs. Amendments were also introduced to provide for the immediate arrest and preliminary examination of offenders. Indian Offi-
cial Secrets
Act, 1904.

Act VI. of 1904 "further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882," extended the principle of compulsory registration of documents, in order to lessen the difficulties to which the existing law gave rise in regard to priority between registered and unregistered instruments. Transfer of
Property
(Amend-
ment) Act,
1904.

Act VII. of 1904 "to provide for the preservation of ancient monuments and of objects of archaeological, historical, or artistic interest," was designed to secure the preservation to India of its ancient monuments, with particular reference to those in the hands of private owners, to control the traffic in Ancient
Monuments
Preservation
Act, 1904.

- LEGISLA-
TION.
- antiquities by reserving power to prevent the removal from British India of any antiquities it may be deemed desirable to retain, and to prevent the excavation by ignorant or unauthorised persons of sites of historic interest and value.
- Indian
Universities
Act, 1904. Act VIII. of 1904 "to amend the law relating to the Universities of British India" is referred to in the chapter of this review dealing with education.
- Madras
Coast Lights
Act, 1904. Act IX. of 1904 "to authorise the levy of dues on vessels for the provision of lights on the coast of the Presidency of Madras," authorised the levying of dues in order to meet the cost of the extensive scheme of lighthouse construction and illumination which has been undertaken.
- Co-operative
Credit
Societies
Act, 1904. Act X. of 1904 "to provide for the constitution and control of co-operative credit societies" was passed with the object of providing the requisite legal basis for the establishment in India of agricultural banks, or—to use a more appropriate expression—of co-operative credit societies, in order to furnish some means of obtaining capital, especially in connection with agricultural operations, otherwise than at usurious rates of interest. The Act lays down the fundamental conditions which must be observed, and also serves to give such societies a corporate existence without resort to the elaborate provisions of the Companies Act. The experiment will be watched with great interest, and annual reports will be submitted to the Secretary of State.
- Indian Tariff
(Amend-
ment) Act,
1904. Act XI. of 1904 "to revive and continue section 8(n) of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894," enabled the Government of India to continue to levy after the 31st March 1904 (*see* Act XII. of 1903) special duties on sugar imported from countries which, by maintaining high protective duties, render possible combinations to manipulate the price of sugar.
- Madras.
Madras
Impartible
Estates Act,
1903. Act II. of 1903 was intended to provide a permanent enactment to take the place of the Madras Impartible Estates Act, 1902 (*see* last year's issue of this statement, p. 4). Its object was to secure, so far as practicable, the preservation of the ancient *zamindaris* of the Presidency.
- Bombay.
Bombay
Land Record
of Rights
Act, 1903. Act III. of 1903 "to provide for the preparation and maintenance of a record of rights in the lands of the Bombay Presidency," was passed in order to facilitate the compilation of a record correctly representing the actual beneficial occupancy of, and interest in, land in the Presidency.
- Bengal.
Chota Nag-
pur Tenancy
(Amend-
ment) Act,
1903. Act V. of 1903 "to amend the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act and the Chota Nagpur Commutation Act, 1897," introduced various amendments in the statute law relating to landlord and tenant in the Chota Nagpur Division.
- Bengal
Settled
Estates Act,
1904. Act III. of 1904 "to facilitate the settlement of family estates in Bengal" provided facilities for the family settlement of immovable property in Bengal, with the object of preserving old or wealthy families from decay, maintaining their territorial influence, and preventing the subdivision of estates of historical and political importance.
- United Pro-
vinces.
Bundel-
khand
Encumbered
Estates Act,
1903. Act I. of 1903 "to consolidate and amend the law providing for the relief of encumbered estates in Bundelkhand," was designed to relieve indebted proprietors in the Bundelkhand districts, the misfortunes which had befallen those districts during the previous ten years and the ever-increasing indebtedness of the landowning classes having made remedial measure necessary.
- Bundel-
khand Alien-
ation of Land
Act, 1903. Act II. of 1903 "to amend the law relating to agricultural land in Bundelkhand," placed restrictions on the alienation of agricultural land in order to ensure the success of Act I., the experience of the Jhansi Encumbered Estates Act, 1882, having shown the necessity for such restrictions.
- Punjab.
Punjab
Court of
Wards Act,
1903. Act II. of 1903 "to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards in the Punjab" constituted a single Court of Wards for the province, with Deputy Commissioners as its local agents, in place of the separate Courts of Wards for each district, which had previously existed.
- Punjab
Loans Limi-
tation Act,
1904. Act I. of 1904 extended from three to six years the period of limitation of suits for the recovery of money due on account of money lent or advanced, or in respect of goods supplied, or on bonds, bills of exchange, or promissory notes.

Act III. of 1904 "to amend the law relating to Excise in Burma" enabled the local Government to make, by proclamation, additions to the list of intoxicating drugs of which the sale and possession may be restricted under the provisions of the Excise Act, 1896. The circumstances which led to this legislation were the large increase in the sale of cocaine in Rangoon, and the noxious results found attendant on the use of the drug.

LEGISLA-
TION.

Burma.

Burma
Excise Law
(Amend-
ment) Act,
1904.

Act IV. of 1904 was passed for the purpose of taking power under the Upper Burma Towns Regulation, 1891, to require reports to be made of the arrival of strangers in certain towns in Upper Burma.

Upper
Burma
Towns
Regulation
(Amend-
ment) Act,
1904.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

GENERAL.

Local self-government, municipal and rural, in the form in which it now prevails in India, is essentially a product of British rule. Beginning in the Presidency towns, the principle made little progress until 1870, when it was expressly recognised by Lord Mayo's Government that "local interest, supervision, and care are necessary to success in the management of funds devoted to education, sanitation, medical charity, and local public works." The result was a gradual advance in local self-government, leading up to the action taken by Lord Ripon's Government in 1882-84, and the various provincial Acts passed about that time, which form the basis of the provincial systems at present in force. Municipal committees now exist in most places having any pretension to importance, and have charge of municipal business generally, including the care and superintendence of streets, roads, fairs and markets, open spaces, water supply, drainage, education, hospitals, and the like. The number of such committees in each province is given in the body of this chapter. Local and district boards have charge of local roads, sanitary works, education, hospitals, and dispensaries in rural districts. A large proportion of their income is provided by provincial rates. Bodies of port trustees have charge of harbour works, port approaches, and pilotage. There is also a smaller number of non-elective local bodies discharging similar duties in towns other than constituted municipalities, and in cantonments. The importance of the work of local administration performed by these various authorities is best shown by a statement of the funds at their disposal. The income of the municipalities for 1903-04, apart from loans, sale of securities, and such-like extraordinary receipts, was £3,327,700. The sources of this income are shown in the table on the last page of this chapter. Of the revenue classed as "local," amounting to £3,263,500, the rates levied on land, for expenditure on roads, schools, hospitals, and general purposes, account for nearly 72 per cent. ; and among other sources of income belonging to the local boards are tolls on ferries and roads, school fees, and receipts from corporate property. The balance consists of grants by the Government for educational and other purposes.

The income of the port funds, exclusive of loans, &c., amounted in 1903-04 to £1,411,200.

The revenue of cantonment funds amounted to £196,750 ; that of town and bazaar funds came to £97,000 ; and other miscellaneous funds had a revenue amounting to £143,600.

Thus, the revenue managed by all the various local bodies amounted in 1903-04 to nearly £3,500,000, besides large sums proceeding from loans and sale proceeds of investments.

MUNICIPALITIES.

MUNI- CIPALITIES. General.

The municipal bodies exist, raise funds, and exercise powers under enactments which provide separately for the special requirements of each province, and of the three presidency capitals Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. In the majority of towns, most of the commissioners or members of the committees are elected by the townsfolk under legal rules, but in every town some, and in a few minor towns all the members, are appointed by the Government. In almost every municipal body one or more Government officials sit as members ; the number of Indian and non-official members, however, everywhere largely exceeds the number of Europeans and officials. The municipal bodies are subject to the control of the Government in so far that no new tax can be imposed, no loan can be raised, no work costing more than a prescribed sum can be undertaken, and no serious departure from the sanctioned budget for the year can be made, without the previous sanction of the Government ; and no rules or bye-laws can be enforced without similar sanction and full publication.

The sources of municipal revenue, apart from loans and Government contributions, are usually divided under the two heads, "Taxation," and "Municipal Property and Powers apart from Taxation." Of the taxes the most important are octroi duties, levied in the United Provinces, the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, the Central Provinces, and Bombay; and the tax on houses and lands, which holds the chief place in the other provinces, as well as in Bombay city, and also contributes a considerable share of the receipts in the provinces named above. There are also water rates and conservancy rates, tolls on roads and bridges, and taxes on animals and vehicles, and in some places a tax on professions and trades. The other sources of income include cattle-pound receipts, rents of municipal property, such as markets and slaughter-houses, and fees of various kinds.

The objects on which municipal funds can be spent are, mainly, water supply, hospitals and dispensaries, streets and roads, vaccination, drainage, sanitation, and education. Municipalities do more for the benefit of their citizens under these heads than was done before by Government officers; and the members of the committees generally evince diligence and public spirit in the performance of their honorary duties. The interest in the municipal elections, and in municipal affairs generally, is not keen, save in a few cities and large towns; but, as education and knowledge advance, interest in the management of local affairs gradually increases. It is reported from most provinces that municipal work is fairly well done, and municipal responsibilities are, on the whole, faithfully discharged, though occasional shortcomings and failures occur in particular towns. The tendency of these local bodies, especially in the smaller towns, is to be slow in imposing additional taxes, in adopting sanitary reforms, and in incurring new expenditure. Many members of municipal bodies are diligent in their attendance to work, whether at meetings for business or on benches for decision of petty criminal cases.

The following table exhibits the constitution of the municipal committees in 1903-04:—

	Number of Municipalities,	Total Number of Members.	By Qualification.			By Employment.		By Race.	
			Ex-officio.	Nominated.	Elected.	Officials.	Non-Officials.	Europeans.	Natives.
<i>Presidency Towns, &c. :—</i>									
Calcutta - - - -	1	50	—	25	25	Return not available.			
Bombay - - - -	1	72	—	16	56	7	65	12	60
Madras - - - -	1	33	1	8	24	9	24	7	26
Rangoon - - - -	1	25	—	6	19	3	22	13	12
<i>District Municipalities :—</i>									
Bengal - - - -	161	2,236	128	918	1,160	336	1,900	261	1,975
Bombay (including Karachi).	165	2,252	473	898	881	603	1,649	181	2,070
Madras - - - -	60	944	68	426	450	208	736	172	772
United Provinces - -	104	1,395	170	195	1,030	345	1,050	267	1,128
Punjab* - - - -	187	1,689	313	597	779	365	1,324	126	1,563
North - West Frontier Province.*	12	172	57	115	—	58	114	30	142
Central Provinces - -	46	576	21	163	398	125	451	62	514
Berar - - - -	12	179	2	105	72	55	124	25	154
Assam - - - -	14	141	24	70	47	50	91	30	111
Burma - - - -	40	518	161	262	95	191	327	148	370

* Including "notified areas."

The total indebtedness of municipalities amounted at the end of 1903-04 to £8,501,900, of which £2,428,300 was owed by the Calcutta Municipality and £3,161,400 by Bombay City. Against this total has to be set £737,600 standing at credit of the various sinking funds.

The Calcutta Corporation consists, under the Act of 1899, of 25 elected commissioners and 25 appointed, four by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, four by the Calcutta Trades Association, two by the Port Commissioners, and 15 by the Local Government. There is a General Committee, with executive powers, consisting of a chairman and 12 members, who are selected from among the commissioners, four by the elected, and four by the

MUNI-
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BENGAL.
Calcutta.

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nominated commissioners, and four by the Local Government. In discussing the views expressed by a special committee appointed by the Corporation to review the annual report on their behalf, respecting the administrative defects noted in the year's working, the Lieutenant-Governor says that he is fully satisfied that the period since the passing of the Act of 1899, by which the Corporation was remodelled, has been one of continuous, and for the most part successful, effort after reform, though he recognises that much still remains to be done. The re-organisation of the Accounts Department has made some progress, though Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes, Accountants and Auditors, who audited the accounts in 1904, found several defects, in spite of a "continuous and painstaking struggle against defective machinery and organisation."

The financial position of the Corporation is not unsatisfactory, and though the requirements of the city necessitate increase of expenditure, there is a considerable margin of taxation between the present incidence (19½ per cent.) of the consolidated rate and the legal maximum (23 per cent.). The question of instituting a Calcutta improvement scheme, on the lines of the Bombay scheme, had for some time been under consideration, but was not finally settled during the year under report. The revenue of the year, apart from extraordinary and debt headings, was £424,000, showing a satisfactory increase due to higher receipts from taxation. The expenditure on revenue account was £443,300, and the cash balances at the end of the year were reduced to £41,600. Of the receipts £359,100 accrued from municipal rates and taxes, which included, as in the previous year, a general rate of 9½ per cent., and water, lighting, and sewage rates aggregating 10 per cent., besides taxes on animals and vehicles and on trades and professions, &c. Collection of the rate continued to show improvement, the ratio of collections to the demand being over 96 per cent. The incidence of the net receipts from consolidated rates per head of the population was nearly Rs. 5½; and including other taxes the total incidence of taxation was nearly Rs. 6¾ per head. The total assessed valuation of the city rose to £1,653,900. Of the above expenditure, £111,700 was incurred in connection with water-supply, £30,800 on sewerage, £34,900 on lighting, and £256,000 on general purposes, including conservancy, loan services, &c. Besides all this, £252,700 was spent from loan funds, chiefly from the drainage and miscellaneous loan, but also from the water supply loan, and to a small extent from the loan raised for plague. Four per cent. loans to the amount of £300,000 were floated during the year at an average rate slightly above par, for drainage and water-supply and miscellaneous purposes. The indebtedness of the Corporation increased by a net sum of £249,200, and stood at £2,428,700 at the end of the year, which is well within the legal limit.

Interior of
Bengal.

The municipalities in the interior of Bengal numbered 161, of which four were constituted about the beginning of the year 1903-04. The incomes of the municipalities, excluding debt heads, amounted to £299,700, of which £237,900 came from taxation. The taxes are levied either on persons, according to their circumstances and property, or on holdings, at a rate generally 7½ per cent. of the assessed annual value, besides lighting and water rates; there are no octroi duties. The general question of improving the procedure of assessment engaged the attention of the Government, and a scheme was formulated for a trained staff of permanent assessors, the employment of whom should be optional for each municipality. The total expenditure of the funds, excluding debt heads, was £300,300, of which, £29,100 was for water-supply, £11,100 for drainage, £87,100 for conservancy, £34,000 for hospitals and dispensaries, and £51,700 for buildings and roads. The closing balances amounted to £62,900, being increased by the inability of the Howrah municipality to utilise the loan funds received from Government for drainage and other purposes.

There has been a marked increase of activity in the direction of providing water-supply and drainage, and the general advance in municipal government has been further shown in the larger number of meetings held, and the better attendance at each.

United
Provinces.

In the United Provinces the rules under the Act of 1900 were completed and a municipal manual was placed in the hands of the boards during the year 1903-04. The municipal boards numbered 104, as in previous years; but after the close of the year, 14 of the more backward were converted

into "notified areas." Octroi duties were levied in 82 towns; thirty-five schedules were entirely recast during the year, and upwards of 30 modified. The income of the municipalities, excluding loans, was £391,300, of which £282,800 accrued from taxation. Of the taxation revenue, octroi duties accounted for £204,900, compared with £197,900 in the preceding year, a gratifying increase in view of the widespread epidemic of plague. The incidence of taxation as a whole rose to Re. 1¼ per head of the population in municipal areas. Government contributions amounted to about £20,000, of which one-half was distributed among the poorer towns to enable them to carry out measures against the plague, and £4,000 was distributed to the Allahabad, Lucknow, and Cawnpore boards to help them to meet heavy plague charges. The loans raised included a total of £16,000 from the Government, and £67,000 raised by the Cawnpore board as a consolidated loan in the open market. The expenditure also showed an increase, amounting to £413,300, besides £41,000 for repayment of loans, &c. It included £165,200 spent on water supply, drainage and conservancy, and £35,800 on police, £16,200 on public instruction, and £47,300 on roads and buildings. The closing balances at the credit of the boards amounted to £135,600, showing a considerable increase owing to the Cawnpore board having still in hand a large part of their loan.

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CIPALITIES.

There were in the Punjab 139 municipalities, besides 48 notified areas, which have a modified form of municipal government. Elected members serve on 107 of the municipal committees, the proportion being generally two elected to one nominated member. The total income of the municipalities and notified areas, excluding loans and extraordinary receipts, was £328,900, of which £202,900 was raised by octroi duties, in force in 142 towns. The revision of the octroi schedules and of the standards of consumption which are used to detect and check the octroi taxation of through traffic, were deferred pending the decision of the Government of India as to the maximum rates to be levied, but these measures require to be taken in hand. The average incidence of taxation was Re. 1½ per head of the municipal population. The receipts under "extraordinary and debt" amounted to £46,100, chiefly loans from Government. The expenditure was £366,600, including £16,300 for repayment of loans, &c., £47,600 for fire brigades, lighting and police, £41,000 for education, £106,300 for water supply, drainage, and conservancy, and £28,100 for roads and buildings. The aggregate balances at credit of the municipalities at the end of the year amounted to £129,900, which was higher than at the beginning, but some of them fell below the prescribed minimum, chiefly owing to plague, which was rife in the Delhi, Lahore, Jullundur, and Rawalpindi divisions.

Punjab.

In the Frontier Province there were 10 municipalities and two notified areas, with a total income of £34,000, expenditure amounting to £34,900 and a closing balance of £12,600. The Kohat municipality owned a large part of this balance, and a scheme was drawn up for expenditure on town improvements.

North West
Frontier
Province.

In the town of Rangoon there is a municipal committee of 25 members, for the most part elected by the various national communities, with a salaried president. The ordinary revenue continued to increase, and amounted to £155,500, against £146,500, the corrected figure for 1902-03. Of the above total, direct taxation accounted for £96,200, falling at the rate of Rs. 6½ per head of the population. A loan for £100,000 was raised in the open market at 4½ per cent., on account of the new Hlawga water supply scheme. The gross expenditure was £367,700, apart from repayment of loans and advances; but excluding the large expenditure on loan works, the ordinary expenditure of the year was £142,500, as compared with £166,900 in the preceding year. Of this total, £23,500 was spent on conservancy, £19,700 on maintenance of drainage and water supply, £23,300 on roads and buildings, and £6,700 on public instruction. The debt of the municipality at the end of the year was £628,200, of which £106,700 is on account of the reclamation works; the net addition to the debt during the year was £69,200. The funds at the credit of the Town Lands Reclamation Fund at the beginning of the year amounted to £64,900, of which £25,400 was spent during the year.

BURMA.
Rangoon.

The number of other municipalities in Burma at the end of 1903-01 was 40, of which eight were administered under the Upper Burma Municipal

Interior of
Burma.

MUNI-
CIPALITIES.

Regulation of 1887. Elected members were serving on nine of the committees. The income of the municipalities, excluding debt heads, was £169,100, of which £72,500 came from taxation and ferry tolls, and £71,000 from markets and slaughter-houses. There are no octroi duties in Burma. Loan receipts amounted to £77,100, most of which was raised in the open market by Mandalay and Moulmein. The expenditure, excluding repayment of loans and advances, amounted to £222,100, the closing balances rising to an aggregate of £66,600. The expansion of expenditure is mainly due to the construction of a new bazaar at Mandalay; in addition to expenditure on waterworks at Moulmein and Prome, the cost of which is being met by loans. The amount spent on upkeep of water-supply and drainage works, conservancy and hospitals, was £65,200; and capital outlay on water-supply accounts for £22,200. The total outstanding indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the year was raised to £131,000. The municipal incomes are for the most part small, only eight, including Rangoon, exceeding £6,500 per annum. The incidence of taxation and tolls per head of municipal population was Re. 1½, the highest rate being Rs. 4 at Moulmein.

Central
Provinces
and Berar.

In the Central Provinces 46 towns had municipal committees in 1903-04, and 12 in Berar, but in the former the question of reducing some of them to the status of notified areas was under consideration. The municipal income of the two provinces, excluding loans and advances, amounted to £132,000, compared with £118,600 in the previous year. Of this total £64,400 was raised by octroi duties, which were levied in 25 towns in the Central Provinces. The incidence of taxation per head of the municipal population was 25½ annas, that of income from all sources being Rs. 2½. The incidence is lower in Berar than in the Central Provinces, and the municipalities there, although small, have in many cases very large balances. The expenditure was £124,500, excluding advances and repayment of loans, compared with £117,700 in the preceding year; this sum included £34,300 for upkeep of water supply and drainage, and for conservancy, and £13,000 for education. After taking into account a few small loans from Government, the balance at the credit of the municipalities at the end of the year was £46,400, compared with £35,400 at the beginning. An encouraging report is given of the working of the municipal committees in face of the plague epidemic which prevailed.

Assam.

The number of areas under municipal law in Assam, including two stations and three unions, remained at 14, but only three of them have a population of more than 10,000. The income, excluding deposits and advances, amounted to £17,000, but a large part of the receipts consists of contributions from Government, and only £8,200 was raised by rates and taxes, the incidence of taxation being 20½ annas per head of the municipal population. The expenditure was £17,300, of which £7,900 was spent on water supply, drainage and conservancy, including a small amount of capital expenditure. The government granted a small loan to Syihet. The closing balances rose to £3,900.

MADRAS.

Madras City.

On the municipality of Madras there are 33 commissioners, 24 being elected by the ratepayers, and of this number no less than 14 elective seats became vacant during the year. Three elections were contested, at which 19 per cent. of the registered electors came to the poll. The income of the year, excluding £33,300 borrowed in the open market and other extraordinary items, amounted to £105,900, of which £73,700 came from taxation and £25,100 from municipal property and powers apart from taxation, these two items showing a steady increase as compared with 1902-03. Taxation fell on the population at the rate of Rs. 2½ per head; the principal tax is one of 10 per cent. on buildings and lands, and there is also a water tax at 4 per cent. and a lighting tax at 1¼ per cent., besides a tax on professions and trades, and taxes and tolls on animals and vehicles; there are no octroi duties. The above-mentioned loan was a 4 per cent. loan for drainage works. The expenditure came to £109,200, of which £16,600 was spent on maintenance of the existing water supply and drainage works, £11,400 on new works, and £19,100 on conservancy. The outstanding debt of the municipality amounted on the 31st March 1904 to £402,700, against which must be set the sinking funds, amounting to £116,000. The Madras Government, in reviewing the working of the year, say that the administration of the

municipality was, on the whole, fairly satisfactory, but that the collection of taxes, the repair of roads, and the extension of sanitary works require much greater attention.

MUNI-
CIPALITIES.

The number of municipalities in the interior of Madras was 60, of which 56 contained elected members. Two towns, to which the privilege of election had been extended, did not exercise it. The right of electing the chairman was withdrawn from the Mannargudi municipality, owing to the extreme inefficiency of the administration; 36 towns enjoyed this privilege. The total income of the municipalities, excluding debt heads, was £230,300, of which £132,200 was drawn from taxation and tolls. There was a good increase in the receipts from taxes, which included the tax on buildings and lands and the water and drainage tax and the tax on arts and professions. The average incidence of taxes and tolls continued to rise, and was rather over one rupee per head of the municipal population; there are no octroi duties in these towns. The expenditure was £226,700, of which £67,000, or £30,000 less than in the previous year, was spent on public works. The outstanding debts at the end of the year amounted to £130,500, against which there were sinking funds of £7,000.

Interior of
Madras.

The municipality of Bombay is administered by a corporation consisting of 72 councillors, of whom 16 are nominated by the Government, 36 are elected by the ratepayers, 16 by the justices, 2 by the Chamber of Commerce, and 2 by the University. The revenue realised was £565,500, or £20,500 more than in 1902-03, owing for the most part to an increase in the receipts from property taxes. The operations of the City Improvement Trust had shown incidentally that property in the city was much under-assessed, and a revision of assessments was undertaken, with the result that the income of the municipality from this source has been permanently increased by more than £27,000. There were no changes requiring notice in the rates of taxation. The general tax, at the rate of 10 per cent., yields about one third of the income, octroi duties one seventh, and water revenue one sixth. The expenditure was £562,100, including a contribution of £23,300 to the Improvement Trust, £194,700 for debt services, £34,900 for maintenance of drainage and waterworks, and £102,800 for conservancy. The balance at the end of the year was £120,300, compared with £6,700 required by law, and although certain liabilities have to be set against this, it is claimed by the Standing Committee that the financial position of the municipality has substantially improved.

BOMBAY.
Bombay
City.

A loan for £25,000 was raised from the public for the construction of sewerage works; the outstanding debt at the end of the year was £3,161,400, the sinking fund amounting to £313,100. The expenditure from loan funds during the year was £28,100 on sewerage works, and £15,000 on other works, besides a plague expenditure of £16,300, compared with £15,400 in the preceding year. The expenditure since the plague began was £399,800 at the end of March 1904, of which £96,700 was received from the Government, and the remainder met partly by special plague loans and partly out of other loan funds.

Good progress was made with the work of the Bombay City Improvement Trust during the year; 248 properties were acquired at a cost of £259,800, the total thus spent up to the end of the year being £602,100. The difficult question of acquisition has now arrived at a stage in which the questions at issue between the owners and the Board are much simplified, and amicable arrangements are frequently practicable. The Board had in hand 26 schemes, of which 17 had received the sanction of Government and nine were under consideration; and they were in addition dealing with 16 slum areas. The provision of housing accommodation for the dispossessed population was proceeding steadily, but care was taken to interfere as little as need be with private enterprise in this direction. A loan for £400,000 at 4 per cent. was raised at an average rate of rather more than par. The year's revenue of the Trust amounted to £58,700, and the expenditure, exclusive of capital charges, to £46,600. The revenue consisted of the municipal contribution of £23,300 mentioned above, and other receipts from investments, rents, and other proceeds of property. The capital expenditure during the year amounted to £330,700, bringing the grand total to the end of 1903-04 up to £796,000.

MUNI-
CIPALITIES.
Interior of
Bombay.

The municipalities in the interior of Bombay numbered 165. The income of the municipalities was £407,300, excluding loans and advances, but including refunds of octroi duties, &c. to the amount of £51,700. Of the above total, £179,700 was raised by octroi duties and £135,800 by other taxes, the general incidence of all the taxes per head of the municipal population standing at Re. 1 $\frac{2}{3}$, and varying from Rs. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in Karachi downwards. The receipts showed a general increase throughout the Presidency proper, and though there was an apparent falling off in Sind, this is attributable to various special causes and is not to be considered as a real reduction of revenue. The expenditure, also excluding loan heads, increased by £5,000, owing to larger outlay on drainage at Ahmedabad, and stood at £386,800. The indebtedness of the municipalities amounted at the end of the year to £288,400. Expenditure on sinking funds and the repayment of debt during the year amounted to £24,200, and the amounts of the loans received were insignificant. The closing balance at credit of the municipal funds was £119,000.

DISTRICT
BOARDS.
General.

DISTRICT BOARDS.

The constitution of district boards with precise powers and responsibilities under the law took place more recently than the creation of municipalities; in most provinces district committees had, for many years, given assistance or exercised control in the administration of local roads, local hospitals, and local schools, but before 1870 there was no organised attempt to introduce rural self-government. The present system is based on the principles laid down by the Government of Lord Ripon, in 1882. In all the more advanced provinces district boards are constituted under different enactments. The funds of the boards are supplied for the most part from the yield of specific imposts, known as provincial rates, made over to them in whole or in part by the local governments. They have also other sources of income, such as cattle pound receipts (except in Madras), educational receipts, medical receipts, tolls from ferries and bridges, and contributions for specific purposes from the provincial funds. But the part of the district funds which admits of an extension of the general usefulness of the boards is that accruing from provincial rates. In most provinces the district boards delegate much of their detailed work to sub-divisional or "local" boards, which are constituted under the law, and are responsible for sub-divisions or parts of a district. The local boards contain a proportion of elected members, varying from three-quarters to a half of the whole number, in all provinces excepting Assam, where the elective system has not been generally introduced, and Madras, where it is only applied to members of district boards. The latter are to a large extent chosen, either by election or appointment, from the ranks of the local board members. The following table shows the general constitution of the boards in each province, the figures in italics relating to the local boards:—

	Number of Boards.	Total Number of Members.	By Appointment.			By Employment.		By Race.	
			Ex Officio.	Nominated.	Elected.	Officials.	Non-Officials.	Europeans.	Native.
Madras	{ 21 30*	657 1,173	103 79	247 1,094	307 —	251 349	406 824	135 103	522 1,070
Bombay	{ 24 207	523 3,046	5 37	285 1,643	233 1,366	131 634	392 2,412	65 127	458 2,919
Bengal	{ 42 104	842 1,249	213 46	296 845	333 358	270 175	572 1,074	214 110	628 1,139
United Provinces.	48	938	255	74	609	275	664	97	841
Punjab	{ 27 28	1,077 531	207 28	495 161	375 342	237 27	840 504	71 3	1,006 528
Central Provinces and Berar.	{ 23 76	481 1,273	8 26	109 308	364 939	80 129	401 1,144	22 5	459 1,268
Assam	19	364	60	171	133	71	293	132	232

* Besides 379 union panchayats, with 3,537 members.

In Bengal there were 42 district boards as in the previous year, and 104 local boards, the latter having charge of village roads and various duties deputed to them in respect of pounds, ferries, primary education, and other matters; and there were also 58 union committees entrusted with minor duties. At present the union committees, which are formed with the object of stimulating local interest in sanitary improvements, and are under the supervision of the local boards, are of little help to the administration. In the Bill to amend the Local Self-Government Act, provision is made for putting them directly under the control of the district boards. The income of the district boards, apart from the head of deposits and advances, rose from £519,000 to £525,500, owing chiefly to larger contributions from the local Government. The figures include £298,600 from the road cess. The expenditure, also excluding deposits and advances, was £513,300, of which £121,300 was spent on education and £324,800 on civil works, chiefly roads. The closing balances, exclusive of deposits, amounted to £145,900, which was considerably in excess of their amount at the end of the preceding year. A comparison of the figures of 1888-89 with those of 1903-04 shows that during the last fifteen years the growth of local self-government, although quiet and unostentatious, has nevertheless been healthy and vigorous. The road system has been reorganised, medical expenditure increased, and large drainage schemes put on foot, in spite of an unexpectedly inelastic revenue, by the aid of liberal Government grants.

DISTRICT
BOARDS.
Bengal.

There were, as in the previous year, 44 district boards and four district committees in the United Provinces. The income of the boards and committees during 1903-04 was £415,800, excluding deposits and advances; of this amount, £216,100 came from provincial rates, and £82,100 was contributed by the local Government. The ordinary receipts, apart from contributions, showed a decrease, owing to smaller receipts from provincial rates in Bundelkhand. The expenditure amounted to £417,600, of which £123,100 was spent on education with satisfactory results, £46,300 on the equipment and maintenance of hospitals and dispensaries, and £212,100 on civil works, chiefly roads and bridges. The new scheme of local finance was still under consideration, but it was hoped that it would be ready for introduction in 1906. When it is introduced, a larger measure of independence in the exercise of their financial powers will be secured to the boards, and ample opportunity will be afforded for the expenditure of the accumulated balances, which stood at £91,600 at the end of the year. This was less than in the previous year, but still far in advance of the prescribed minimum balance.

United
Provinces.

The number of district boards in the Punjab was 27, and that of the local boards 28, as at the end of the preceding year. Local boards have been found to be useless in many parts of the province, and have been abolished, though no such changes were made during the year; they only exist at present in seven districts. The district boards in nine districts are composed entirely of nominated or ex-officio members. The working of the district boards was generally satisfactory, and although in most districts the actual work is done by the official members, there are exceptions to this rule. Sub-committees have been established in most districts, with the object of interesting members in special departments of work. The year's income of the district boards, apart from loans and advances, came to £211,200, of which the chief items were £160,200 from local rates, agricultural conditions having been good, and £21,500 from civil works. The expenditure of the year was £205,900, of which the chief items were education, £44,500, medical and sanitary charges, £25,200; and roads and other public works, £60,300. The larger part of the plague charges has now been undertaken by the Government, provision being made that no district board shall be burdened beyond its capacity with this expenditure, but the total expenditure on this account was small in 1903-04. The closing balances of the district funds taken together amounted to £71,700, compared with £65,300 at the end of 1902-03.

Punjab.

In the Central Provinces and Berar, district councils and local boards have been established everywhere except in the backward tract of Mandla, and their numbers were 23 and 76 respectively. The number of meetings

Central
Provinces.

DISTRICT
BOARDS.

held by councils and boards was satisfactory, and it is generally admitted that the members of district councils are beginning to respond to the call made upon them. The income of the district funds amounted to £108,600, excluding debt heads, while the expenditure, also excluding repayment of loans, &c., was £104,200. The Berar district boards, six in number, have a much larger share, proportionately, than those of the Central Provinces in the above amounts, and the average incidence of "local" taxation per head of the population is three-quarters of an anna only in the Central Provinces, against $2\frac{3}{4}$ annas in Berar. The chief source of income, as in other provinces, is the provincial rates, but receipts from cattle pounds constitute a much higher proportion of the total in the Central Provinces than elsewhere, while in Berar there was up to the year under report a town fund or licence tax, which has now been abolished in non-municipal areas, the income tax being substituted for it. The expenditure, included £35,800 on education and £27,300 on public works; the former item includes a special recurring grant made by the Government of India for expenditure on primary schools in the Central Provinces. The total balances amounted to £77,700, of which no less than £60,100, or more than a year's revenue, was held by the Berar boards.

Assam.

In Assam there were 19 local boards, constituted under a Regulation of 1879, modified by executive rules. A special feature of their constitution is the presence of a large proportion of Europeans among their members, representing the planting community. Reforms were under consideration, with the object of introducing more uniformity into the constitution of the boards, regularising the election of members representing the planting interest, and securing the better representation of rural and commercial interests. The income of the boards, apart from debt heads, was £77,600; the local rates, which are assessed generally at one sixteenth of the land revenue, realised £40,900. The boards spent £75,400; about 50 per cent. of the total expenditure was devoted to public works, and 27 per cent. to education. The closing balances amounted to £28,100.

Madras.

In Madras there were 21 district boards and 80 taluk boards, and the number of village unions was 379. The taluk or subdivisional boards are not elective, the members being appointed by the Government, but some of them elect their vice-presidents. The village union *panchayats* or councils have each not less than five members; they deal chiefly with local sanitation, though in some cases they have the management of elementary schools, markets, and other local institutions entrusted to them by the taluk boards. The income of the boards and unions, excluding debt heads and contributions from one district board to another, increased from £643,800 to £676,000. The chief item is the land cess, levied at rates varying from one to two annas per rupee of the land revenue assessment, which yielded £12,600 more than in the previous year. The above figure includes also grants from provincial revenues amounting to £59,600, chiefly for education and public works. The expenditure of the boards, also excluding the heads mentioned above, amounted to £667,400, or nearly 2 per cent. more than in 1902-03. The chief items of expenditure were £280,300 on public works, £74,500 on medical institutions and sanitation, and £87,500 on education. About one-half of the expenditure is controlled by the taluk boards. The Mayaveram-Mutupet Railway, which belongs to the Tanjore District Board, brought in a net profit of 5.1 per cent. on the capital outlay. It was extended to Arantangi during the year.

Bombay.

In Bombay and Sind there were 24 district and 207 taluk (or subdivisional) boards, nearly all of which are partly elective. The income of the local boards, excluding debt heads, was £319,900, compared with £325,000 in the previous year. The cause of the decrease was the smaller amount contributed by the local government in comparison with 1902-03, when large grants for educational and medical purposes were made. The limit of aid to be given by the Government to local boards on account of primary education was, however, raised during the year from one-third to one-half of the board's expenditure. The receipts from rates, £195,200, were well above those of 1902-03, owing to the better season. The expenditure of the boards, also excluding debt heads, was £304,200, including

£106,900 on education, £149,300 on civil works, and £19,700 on medical objects. The actual balances at credit of the boards, which owing to the disorganisation by famine and plague were reduced at the end of the year 1900-01 to £75,700, stood at £142,100 at the end of 1903-04. The administration of the boards is said to have been, on the whole, satisfactory, though their working during the year was hampered by the continuance of the plague.

DISTRICT
BOARDS.

There are no local boards in Burma or Coorg. Their place is taken in Burma to some extent by the district funds under the control of Government officers. These had an income of £181,400 and an expenditure of £167,000 in the year under report. Those in Lower Burma, known as "District Cess Funds" are the largest, and account for £143,500 of the expenditure, of which £18,300 was on education and £61,600 on public works.

Burma.

PORT TRUSTS.

PORT
TRUSTS.

The custody of the harbours and the administration of harbour and shore affairs in the more important ports are placed by various legislative acts in the hands of Port Commissioners. Members of these Port Trusts are for the most part appointed by the Local Governments, and are usually representative of the various Indian and commercial interests of the place. Port trustees are empowered, subject to the control of the Government, to levy dues, to contract loans for port improvements, to do all that may be needed for the maintenance of the harbour and its approaches, and to erect warehouses, jetties, and docks for the convenience of traders and shipping. The Local Governments and, so far as can be judged, the public are well satisfied with the work done by the various Port Trusts. The Commissioners of Port Trusts are the only members of local public bodies who receive a small fee for each attendance at meetings for business. No members of municipal councils, or of district or local boards, receive any fees for the performance of their local duties.

There was a healthy development of trade, spread over nearly all headings, at the port of Bombay in 1903-04, the only important exceptions being in the imports of petroleum and grain. The exports of grain, with those of raw cotton, cotton piece goods, seeds, and other staples were considerably higher than in the good year 1902-03. The net result to the Bombay Port Trust was a rise in their revenue, which amounted to £429,400, a record figure. The receipts for wharfage fees and dock dues were £207,200, and from other sources, such as port dues, warehouse fees and rents, &c.; £222,200. The expenditure amounted to £379,800, including £174,300 for interest and sinking fund charges, £36,600 for the working and maintenance of the bundar properties, and £111,600 for that of the Prince's and Victoria Docks. These docks, on which rather more than 1½ millions had been spent up to the end of the year, yielded in 1903-04 a net return of £105,700. The number of square-rigged vessels entering the port rose to 2,384, of 2,833,000 tons register, of which 1,533, of 2,572,000 tons, paid dock dues. The debt of the Trust amounted at the end of the year to £3,833,000, including £106,700 raised at 4 per cent. during the year for expenditure on capital works. About two millions of this total is owed to Government, and the remainder consists of foreshore securities and debenture loans. The properties vested in the Board are valued at £4,004,000, and various depreciation, reserve, and sinking funds amounted in the aggregate to £432,000.

Bombay.

The receipts of the Calcutta Port Trust amounted to £531,000, which is rather better than in 1902-03, and the highest on record; the expenditure was £511,700, including the Kidderpore Dock Account and payments for interest and sinking funds. The surplus of £19,300 brought up the accumulated balances to £148,700, out of which a sum of £121,200 has been set aside as a Revenue Reserve Fund. Having regard to this position, the Commissioners further reduced the charges on trade and shipping in 1903-04 by an amount of £15,200, which, added to previous concessions, makes a total reduction of about £27,000 in the annual charges since July 1902. The jetties yielded a surplus of £36,900, and the petroleum wharf £14,100. The receipts from the Kidderpore wet docks were £169,600, there having

Calcutta.

PORT TRUSTS.

been an increase under practically all heads, owing to the much greater tonnage of exports handled; the working expenses were £159,800, showing a net profit, apart from interest charges. The total capital expenditure at the docks amounts to £2,138,300, and the net income is not yet nearly sufficient to pay for interest and sinking fund charges; but the marked improvement in the working results is satisfactory. A Commission was appointed during the year to report on a proposal for the establishment of a depôt for the export of coal at Luff Point; their finding was an adverse one in all respects. The chief improvements in progress were the construction of a second dry dock, and of a light draft caisson for the 60 feet river entrance, reclamation work, and provision of new warehouses. The sum expended during the year on capital works was £198,100, which was met partly by temporary advances from revenue funds and partly from the proceeds of a 4 per cent. debenture loan for £226,700 which was raised

Year.	No.	Net Tonnage.
1898-99	1,203	2,350,900
1899-1900	1,179	2,425,800
1900-01	1,412	2,939,900
1901-02	1,347	2,937,300
1902-03	1,309	2,884,600
1903-04	1,368	3,135,400

during the year. The number and tonnage of vessels berthed in the port in recent years are shown in the margin. In both respects the year's figures are above those of 1902-03, and the tonnage is the highest recorded. The outstanding debt of the port, including the dock loans, amounted at the end of the year to £3,338,000, of which £2,142,000 was due to the Government and the remainder to debenture holders. Against this

are to be set £282,200 at credit of sinking funds, and value of properties £4,374,000, besides the valuable Strand Bank lands held from the Government.

Rangoon.

The ordinary receipts of the port of Rangoon were £113,300 in the year 1903-04, and the expenditure £78,200. If the debt accounts be included, the total receipts were £118,800, and the gross expenditure was £104,600, the closing balance being increased to £64,600. There was an increase in the revenue derived from the Strand Bank properties, as compared with 1902-03, owing to larger importations. The total import trade of the port was higher than in 1902-03 or any previous year. The net tonnage of seagoing vessels entering the port was 2,003,000 tons, against 1,966,000 tons in 1902-03, and consisted almost entirely of steamers, the number of which was 1,189; 273 steamers of tonnage exceeding 4,000 tons entered the port, compared with 222 in the preceding year, and only 44 ten years ago. The scheme for the new port works was approved by the Local Government early in 1902, and sanction has been given to the detailed estimates for various portions which will cost £304,200. The whole scheme was estimated to cost about £617,000, to be raised by public loans. A loan for £67,000 at 4½ per cent. was floated at a premium, and the work was begun, though not very much was spent during the year. The financial position of the Port Fund is very good, and it is possible that the money required for interest and sinking funds for the amount to be raised for the improvements will be available from revenue without the imposition of additional taxation, which can, however, be levied if it is ultimately found to be necessary.

Madras.

The ordinary expenditure of the Madras Harbour Trust in the year 1902-03, the latest for which particulars are available, was £40,100, and its receipts were £48,500, excluding debt headings in either case. Taking into account payments from revenue to capital account, and the exceptionally large repayments of capital advances, as well as a decrease in the receipts owing to the operation of a reduced scale of tonnage rates, the total result was a decline in the balance from £77,000 to £60,900. The outstanding indebtedness to Government at the end of the year amounted to £277,000. The Government has reduced the rate of interest from 4½ per cent. to 4 per cent. There was a further small increase in the steam tonnage entering the port, to 1,241,000 tons. The proposal referred to in a previous Statement, to close the eastern entrance of the harbour and to open a new one in the north arm, was considered by a committee of experts appointed by the Secretary of State, and was approved by them. Steps have been taken to give effect to their proposals.

Karachi.

The opening up of new grain areas in the Punjab has made a new permanent source of traffic for Karachi, and the year 1903-04 showed results

considerably better even than those of the record year 1902-03, in the working of the Karachi Port Trust. The total income from revenue sources rose to £130,400, and showed an excess over the expenditure of £38,800. A sum of £28,600 was spent on capital works chiefly out of a loan of £30,000 floated during the year. The total liabilities of the Trust at the end of the year stood at £378,900. The net revenue from the piers and wharves was £49,000, which was 75 per cent higher than that of the preceding year. The gross tonnage of imports and exports passing over the piers and wharves was 1,273,300, against 802,600 in 1902-03, and the increase occurred not only in grain, but also in many other items of the trade. Inquiries were being prosecuted as to the steps most suitable for improving the port and offering facilities for the increase of trade.

PORT
TRUSTS

There are other minor ports at which smaller sums are raised yearly and expended on improvements, but these do not require notice.

STATEMENT showing the Number of Municipalities in British India, their Receipts and their Expenditure, for the Year 1903-04.

18

	Bengal.		United Provinces.	Punjab.	North-West Frontier Province.	Burma.	Central Provinces and Berar.	Assam.	Madras.		Bombay.		Minor Provinces.	Total.
	Presidency Corporation.	District Municipalities.							Presidency Corporation.	District Municipalities.	Presidency Corporation.	District Municipalities.		
Number of Municipalities and Notified Areas -	1	161	104	187	12	41	58	14	1	60	1	165	9	813
Population with municipal limits - - -	847,796	2,871,249	3,221,658	2,299,893	190,779	883,270	883,838	94,982	509,346	1,903,890	776,006	2,380,748	127,429	16,990,879
Receipts :	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Octroi - - - - -	-	-	204,886	202,921	25,094	-	64,398	-	-	-	104,013	179,192	24,592	805,096
Other Taxation - - - - -	359,074	237,943	77,923	26,681	340	168,703	29,278	8,181	73,737	132,189	383,859	135,226	2,461	1,635,595
Revenue sources other than Taxation - -	71,404	61,719	108,492	99,289	8,586	177,373	38,829	8,847	33,659	98,120	77,636	91,070	9,459	886,983
Extraordinary and Debt - - - - -	419,600	66,884	87,670	46,126	1	243,434	15,443	702	89,958	36,857	2,201,377	66,649	1,650	8,275,381
Total (1903-04) - - - - -	853,078	366,546	478,971	375,017	34,021	589,510	147,448	17,730	197,354	266,196	2,766,885	472,137	38,162	6,603,055
Corresponding Total (1902-03) - - - - -	547,329	330,032	393,111	376,363	33,978	654,976	126,048	15,787	169,111	265,769	2,432,417	445,425	33,985	5,813,831
Expenditure :														
Cost of Collection and Administration -	51,907	30,488	47,469	47,231	3,584	44,909	34,138	1,257	7,526	17,725	41,109	93,655	7,852	428,880
Public Health and Convenience - - - -	416,675	217,877	237,050	186,038	17,158	429,191	62,878	14,082	68,890	156,900	275,819	189,582	12,415	2,284,555
Public Safety - - - - -	36,530	18,550	48,360	47,593	6,265	20,578	2,459	763	5,171	8,227	57,963	16,759	3,245	272,468
Public Instruction - - - - -	1,890	9,649	16,205	41,015	3,809	22,176	13,239	596	1,426	26,015	7,524	52,580	1,984	198,108
Interest and Miscellaneous - - - - -	127,892	23,766	64,136	28,421	4,136	45,430	11,855	626	22,422	17,305	190,597	33,969	6,895	578,000
Extraordinary and Debt - - - - -	139,930	58,730	41,049	16,254	2,084	91,953	11,809	75	56,123	27,481	2,189,815	65,644	2,894	2,703,841
Total (1903-04) - - - - -	774,824	359,060	454,319	366,557	37,036	654,237	136,378	17,399	161,558	254,153	2,762,827	452,189	35,315	6,465,852

STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

CHAPTER II.

VITAL STATISTICS AND SANITATION.

(Detailed information on the subjects treated in this chapter is contained in the annual Report on Sanitary Measures in India, which is published as a Parliamentary Paper; and a brief review only is given in this place.)

VITAL STATISTICS.

The health of the European troops in India in 1903 was generally better than in the previous year, with the exception of the Madras command, which showed no change. The admission rate, the constantly sick rate, the death-rate, and the invaliding rate were all lower than in 1902. The following table gives details:—

VITAL
STATISTICS
European
troops.

Year.	Average Strength.	Ratio per Mille of Strength.			
		Admissions into Hospital.	Constantly Sick.	Deaths.	Invaliding.
1891-1900 (ten years' average) -	68,224	1,399	87	16·21	29
1902 - - - - -	60,540	1,078	66	14·68	37
1903 - - - - -	70,445	1,033	63	13·05	29

The chief causes of sickness were, as usual, venereal diseases and ague, which accounted for 23·9 and 23·5 per cent. respectively of the total number of admissions, that is to say, 247 and 243 respectively per thousand on the strength. The ratios for both these diseases, however, showed a decline as compared with the previous year, as also did those for pneumonia, dysentery, and remittent fever. The most notable increases were under the heads of simple continued and enteric fevers, influenza, cholera, and heat-stroke. It is to be noted that the ratio of admission for venereal diseases, which stood at 486 in the year 1897, continued the decline which has been nearly continuous since that year, falling from 281 in 1902 to the figure given above. Enteric fever and hepatic abscess were the chief causes of mortality, showing a death-rate of 4·19 and 1·29 per mille respectively, in each case a lower rate than in the preceding year. Enteric fever alone caused 32 per cent. of the total deaths, 1,384 admissions and 295 deaths being due to this disease. There was also a decline in the death-rate from nearly all the other diseases, the only notable exceptions being small-pox and cholera, which were both more prevalent also among the civil population. The loss by invaliding during 1903 amounted to 2,052 men, equal to 29 per mille of strength, against 2,255, or 37 per mille, in 1902. Venereal diseases were the cause of invaliding in more than 10 per cent. of the number of cases, and the next most important causes were malaria and debility. Half of the men invalided were under 25 years of age.

The health of the Native troops in 1903 was exceptionally good, for the admission and constantly sick rates were the lowest on record, and the same may be said of the death-rate, if the fatalities among men absent on furlough and sick leave be disregarded. The details are given below:—

Year.	Average Strength.	Ratio per Mille of Strength.		
		Admissions into Hospital.	Constantly Sick.	Deaths (including deaths during absence).
1891-1900 (ten years' average) -	127,666	852	32	16·62
1902 - - - - -	124,231	718	27	15·01
1903 - - - - -	124,660	662	25	13·97

VITAL
STATISTICS.

This favourable result was distributed over nearly all the chief causes of sickness and mortality, though cholera and enteric fever were more prevalent. As usual, the Native soldier suffered less than the European from small-pox, enteric fever, simple continued fever, diarrhoea, hepatic affections, and venereal diseases, and more from fevers, lung affections, and other diseases. Ague continued to rank first among the causes of admission, and accounted for 37 per cent. of the total. Pneumonia, as usual, was the chief cause of death, 30 per cent. of the deaths being due to this disease; while remittent fever and tubercle of the lungs accounted for nearly 9 and 7 per cent. respectively of the total mortality. The death-rate from cholera was high. The death-rate from enteric fever among the Native troops was only 0·2 per mille, as compared with 4·19 among the European troops. The deaths from plague during 1903 numbered 115. The number of men invalided for discharge was 1,395, the chief causes of this loss being, as usual, debility, intermittent fever, venereal disease, and rheumatism.

Jails.

As regards the health of the jail population, the year 1903 was the culmination of a long period of consistent progress. The death-rates per mille for all classes of prisoners were 35·96, 33·95, 30·63 and 29·97 in the last four quinquennial periods of the last century. For the three years 1901 to 1903, they were 26·87, 24·85, and 21·38 per mille. The jail death-rate has, therefore, fallen notably below the standard for the free population of the same ages. The ratio of admissions to hospital in the year 1903 was 889 per mille; the chief causes were dysentery and diarrhoea, which between them accounted for 16 per cent. of the admissions, and ague, which was the cause of 43 per cent. The death-rate ranged from 17 per mille in the inland jails of Burma to 34·2 in the Andamans, the latter figure being much lower than in the preceding year. The chief causes of death were tubercle of the lungs, dysentery, and pneumonia. There were only 23 deaths from plague, and there was very little cholera or small-pox, though rather more than in 1902. With the exceptions of Burma and Madras all provinces show a reduced jail death-rate, but these two provinces are still among those returning the lowest rates.

General
population.

The provincial death-rates among the general population are given in the marginal table. It must be borne in mind, however, that the accuracy

DEATH RATES.

	1902.			1903.		
	Rural.	Urban.	Total.	Rural.	Urban.	Total.
Bengal	33·3	36·0	33·4	33·2	36·4	33·3
Assam	29·0	28·5	29·0	26·6	26·2	26·5
United Provinces	31·5	46·7	32·5	39·2	54·9	40·3
Punjab	43·5	49·4	44·1	48·6	52·9	49·0
North-West Frontier Province.	24·1	27·6	24·4	28·0	32·8	28·4
Central Provinces	25·2	32·4	25·8	32·4	64·6	35·5
Berar	32·0	36·6	32·8			
Madras	19·3	28·2	20·2	21·5	27·3	22·2
Coorg	26·1	36·9	27·1	29·8	48·8	31·4
Bombay	35·8	60·2	39·0	41·5	59·9	43·9
Burma { Lower	20·0	29·9	21·2	23·0	32·3	24·1
Upper	15·8	29·9	17·3	19·8	39·2	21·8
Ajmere-Merwara	29·9	40·8	32·9	24·2	41·0	28·8

of the statistics is not yet very good, and that it varies in different parts of India. In every important province, except Bengal, where there was no change, and Assam, the death-rate was higher than in the preceding year, and in every province the urban were higher than the rural death-rates. The death-rate for the whole of India was 34·7 per mille, compared with 31·49 in 1902.

Cholera was more prevalent in 1903 than in the previous year, owing, it is said, in a large degree to an outbreak of the disease at the great festival at Hardwar, from which it was widely disseminated. The number of deaths from this cause was 312,800, which gives a rate of 1·37 per mille. As compared with the year 1900, when the number of cholera deaths was 797,200, and the death-rate from this cause was 3·7 per mille, the number for 1903 is not high. The number of deaths from plague forms the subject of a separate section at the end of this chapter. Fevers are returned as having caused 4½ million deaths, or a ratio of 19·66 per mille, but this heading is used by the village registering agencies to cover almost every class of disease, and it is not only untrustworthy in itself, but it also vitiates the returns under other diseases. The mortality rate from dysentery and diarrhoea is given as 1·21 per mille.

The mean birth-rate of the whole population under registration was 38.96 per mille, as compared with 39.38 in the preceding year. The

	1902.	1903.
Bengal	40.1	39.0
Assam	31.2	35.6
United Provinces	45.8	46.1
Punjab	43.8	42.9
North-West Frontier Province.	33.6	31.6
Central Provinces	18.3	45.1
Berar	56.9	
Madras	28.2	31.2
Coorg	23.9	26.5
Bombay	34.2	31.2
Burma { Lower	31.6	33.5
{ Upper	38.0	37.5
Ajmere-Merwara	36.1	29.5

VITAL STATISTICS.
provincial rates for the two years are given in the marginal table, which shows that the highest rate is that returned for the United Provinces, the lowest that for Coorg. In seven provinces the rate for 1903 was lower than that for the preceding year, but elsewhere there were increases, notably in Madras, where a larger number of births were recorded in 1903 than in any previous year. In eight provinces the birth-rate exceeded the death-rate, but in the Punjab, where the plague death-rate was 10.2 per mille, the death-rate was 6.1 per mille higher than the birth-rate; and in Bombay, where the plague death-rate was 15.2 per mille, there was a similar excess of 12.7 per mille in

deaths over births. The other exception was the small province of Coorg.

The total number of vaccinations performed among the civil population during 1903-04 was 8,457,000, being an increase of 26,000 on the previous year's work. Of primary vaccinations 95 per cent. were successful, and 68 per cent. in the case of re-vaccinations, 33 per mille of the population having been successfully vaccinated. The number of infants successfully vaccinated was 3,746,000, and of children between one and six years of age 3,235,000.

SANITATION.

Some of the important sanitary works which have been completed or were in progress, or under consideration, during 1903-04 were as follows:—

In Calcutta the two chief works which the Corporation have in hand are the suburban drainage scheme and the continuous water supply scheme. Of the former, large portions had been completed, though they could not be utilised until other parts had been carried out. The completion of these, however, was vigorously pushed forward during the year. A drainage scheme for Balliaghatta was sanctioned and was to be taken in hand shortly; and the scheme for the surface drainage of the suburbs was under preparation. The work of converting the intermittent into a continuous filtered water system went on steadily, and the improved system had been extended over a portion of the city containing 210,900 inhabitants. A scheme has been sanctioned by the Corporation to increase the water supply by six million gallons by erecting new pumps at Pulta. The average consumption of filtered water in the area under constant supply was 24.23 gallons per head. A scheme has also been proposed for improving the supply of unfiltered water, by enlarging the mains, &c. The birth-rate of the town is returned at 15.5 per mille, the death-rate as 35.1; probably many births escape registration; the death-rate was raised by a recrudescence of plague.

During recent years the Corporation have vigorously pursued the policy of mending or ending insanitary "bustees," or collections of huts, while at the same time they have opened out unhealthy areas by constructing a number of public squares and making new roads or widening old ones. But overcrowding, with its concomitant circumstances, is a great evil in the city. The scheme for the improvement of the city by means of a Trust, resembling in some respects that working in Bombay, had been for some time under consideration, and has received sanction since the close of the year under report.

In the municipalities of Bengal, other than Calcutta, there was considerable activity during 1903-04 in regard to the provision of an improved water supply. In the South suburbs of Calcutta the filtered water supply scheme was completed, and the new scheme for increasing the water supply of Darjeeling was brought into operation. Schemes were also in various stages for water supply improvement in Burdwan, Asansol, Manicktolla, Barisal, Gaya, and other municipalities. The municipal commissioners have

SANITATION. been empowered to appoint committees for the management of the water supply, and rules for their guidance have been drawn up. Drainage schemes had been or were being prepared for many municipalities, and preliminary work was done in respect of the Burdwan scheme, which is estimated to cost £11,700, but has long been postponed for want of funds. The actual expenditure on the construction of new works during the year was small. Some attention was paid to village sanitation, and a few improvement schemes were in contemplation. Inquiry was being made as to the need for a law on the lines of the Central Provinces Village Sanitation Act, especially in villages near railway stations.

United Provinces.

In the eight municipalities in the United Provinces in which there are waterworks, the expenditure under that heading was £30,600; and the same towns provided £32,800 for drainage works, out of a total of £47,800 for the province. Large drainage works were being carried out at Benares, Cawnpore, Agra, and other towns, and expensive schemes for Fyzabad, Mirzapur, and others were in contemplation. Plague was again prevalent in many of the municipalities, although the amount spent on plague measures was less than in the preceding year. On the whole, activity in sanitary matters was the most prominent feature of the municipal administration of the year, and the liberal subsidies given by the Government to the poorer towns enabled them to carry out much useful work. In regard to rural sanitation, some districts failed to utilize the full sums allotted for the purpose; but in most districts useful work was done, and in some cases the special grants for the improvement of wells, &c., were supplemented by contributions from the people themselves.

Punjab.

In the Punjab plague was again prevalent in almost all the towns of the Delhi, Jullundur and Lahore divisions, and it increased largely in the Rawalpindi division. Slight progress was made with the intra-mural drainage scheme of Delhi city, and sanction for the necessary loan was given. A revision of a similar scheme in Umballa was being undertaken, to bring it within the financial capacity of the town. Progress was made with the Simla sewage extensions, about £5,000 being spent during the year. Drainage projects were also under consideration at five other towns, and those prepared for Rawalpindi and Gujarat were sanctioned. The execution of the Amritsar waterworks was much advanced, and improvements to the water supply were in hand in Lahore, Umballa, and Dharamsala, while schemes with this object were under consideration in two other towns. The capital expenditure on water supply and drainage works from municipal funds was £51,800 in 1903-04, against £48,600 in the preceding year. The system of village sanitary notebooks was in force in every district, and was found to be of considerable value. Several of the district boards were giving special attention to village sanitation, sub-committees having been formed in most districts with this object, with a view to interesting members in special departments of work.

**BURMA.
Rangoon.**

The sewage system of Rangoon is on the Shone system, and has worked well, but the increase of the population in the area served has made it necessary to institute an inquiry as to the possibility of making it more efficient. The work of reclaiming and draining East Rangoon was continued during the year 1903-04, and a committee was appointed to report on reclamation matters generally. The scheme is financed by the cession by the Government of the townland rents for a period of 50 years to the municipality. The two sources of the water supply were formerly the Royal and the Victoria Lakes. But the supply from the former had been so bad that in 1900 its use for domestic purposes was discontinued. Owing to the deficient rainfall the supply from the Victoria Lake was restricted during the summer months, and a short supply of water was given, the Royal Lake water being also used for a period of six months. The Hlawga water supply scheme, which is being carried out to augment the present supply from the Victoria Lake, was being pushed forward, and three tube wells were also sunk. Water was being stored in the new lake during 1904. The birth-rate of the town is said to have been higher than in any previous year, probably owing to improved registration; the death-rate, corrected to allow for increase of population since 1901, was 32·58 per mille.

The expenditure on water supply in the municipalities of Burma other than Rangoon amounted to £28,800, most of which was spent on the Moulmein waterworks, now approaching completion. This scheme is an extensive one, and met with some opposition, but it is expected to have favourable results on the health of the town. At Prome also, a considerable amount was spent on improvement of the existing waterworks. The extensive Mandalay scheme will probably be abandoned, as separate provision has been made for the supply of the cantonments, and a less expensive system of wells will probably be adopted by the municipality. The Minbu plan has also been given up. Experiments with filters at Bassein and Akyab were in progress, and several tube wells were sunk. The expenditure under drainage was small, and was almost confined to minor sanitary improvements in Prome. In rural areas something, but not very much, was done in respect of village sanitation by expenditure from the small district cess funds.

SANITATION.
Interior.

Nearly every municipality in the Central Provinces and Berar had to bear a heavy burden of plague expenditure. Only in Nagpur and Amraoti was there any considerable expenditure on water supply, the pumping arrangements at these towns having been improved. There was a delay in completing the Seoni waterworks. Nagpur also was the only town where any material sum was spent on drainage works, and little has hitherto been done in this direction in any of the municipalities. As regards rural areas, it is reported that the interest of the local bodies is at present more with matters of education than of sanitation, but that the members are beginning to respond to the call that is made upon them in the latter direction also.

Central
Provinces
and Berar.

The small municipalities of Assam cannot afford costly works for a water supply, which has generally to be provided by the construction of wells and tanks, as funds permit. Sylhet received a loan from the Government for waterworks, but only spent a small part of it during the year. An outbreak of plague occurred at Dibrugarh, and was stamped out by energetic measures. But in many towns insufficient attention is given to sanitation, notably in Sylhet, the sanitation of which leaves much to be desired. The sanitary improvements effected in rural tracts were chiefly in the direction of providing a purer water supply by the construction or repair of masonry wells and the excavation of tanks at some of the larger villages; but more requires to be done in this respect in the Assam Valley.

Assam.

The new drainage works in Madras city do not appear to have made very much progress during 1903-04, and the expenditure was only £8,000. The estimate for the whole scheme was raised from £215,400 to £324,400, and a full report has been asked for as to this large increase. A considerable number of minor sanitary improvements were made, such as filling up of unused wells, &c. The quantity of water supplied from the Red Hills Lake was about 2½ per cent. greater than in the previous year; and the level of the lake was about an inch higher at the close of the year than at the beginning. When the drainage has been put in order there will be much to do for the improvement of the water supply, both in quantity and quality. The birth-rate of the town was 38·9 per mille, and the death-rate was 37·7 per mille.

MADRAS.
Madras City.

In the district municipalities in the Madras Presidency the expenditure on waterworks was less than in the previous year. The Vizagapatam and Cocanada waterworks were completed and opened during 1903. Waterworks for Coonoor and Guntur were in progress, and the works at Dindigul were being extended. A scheme for the water supply of Vellore was under the consideration of the Government at the end of the year. No drainage schemes of importance were executed during the year, but the scheme for the drainage of a part of Madura town had been prepared and submitted for the approval of Government, and investigations were in progress in respect of proposals for drainage in Ootacamund and other towns. The outlay on sanitation by local boards in Madras rose to £36,700, the greater part of the increase occurring under the head of water supply improvement.

Interior of
Madras.

The scheme of drainage proposed by Mr. Santo Crimp for the city of Bombay was being followed up in 1903-04. The Ferguson Road and Chinchpokli sectional sewerage works, and the Parcel sectional sewerage works, were completed during the year. The drainage works in connection with the scheme for subsoil and surface drainage were commenced, the expenditure on these during the year being £16,900. Contracts were given

BOMBAY.
Bombay
City.

SANITATION. for pipes, &c., required for part of the Malabar Hill sectional sewerage works, and other works of a minor character were in progress, besides the addition of 711 house connections, construction of urinals, &c. There is room for many sanitary improvements, but new schemes in all branches of sanitary administration are being constantly carried out. The lakes and reservoirs which supply the city with water were maintained in good condition. The rainfall was plentiful, and the lakes were fully replenished. The supply delivered to consumers was at the rate of over 40 million gallons a day. The birth-rate of the year 1903 is given as 21·1 per mille; the death-rate was 65·09, which is lower than that of any year since 1898, with the sole exception of the year 1902. The number of deaths from plague during 1903 is given as 20,800, which equals 26·78 per mille, a much higher rate than in 1902; and the year was, therefore, in other respects, more healthy than 1902. The rates are calculated on the population shown in the census of 1901.

Interior of
Bombay.

In the other municipalities of the Presidency the large expenditure on plague precautions continued to check the prosecution of sanitary works. Public works of the usual character are required in some form or other in almost every municipality. In one or two large towns, Poona for instance, where a constant water supply has been provided, drainage schemes are urgently required. Many need an improved water supply. During the year 1903, the total expenditure of the district municipalities on sanitation, including conservancy, drainage, and waterworks, rose from £106,000 to about £117,000, the item which accounts for the increase being the capital expenditure on new drainage works at Ahmedabad, for which a loan of £20,000 was raised in the open market. The extension of the Village Sanitation Act has been interfered with by the famine and plague, which have claimed the attention of district officers in recent years. The Act provides for the establishment of a sanitary committee or a sanitary board, consisting of members chosen by the Collector of the district or by the Local Government, to supervise sanitary matters.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES, AND LEPER ASYLUMS.

HOSPITALS
AND DIS-
PENSARIES.

There are in India, besides the large hospitals in Presidency and other important towns, a number of dispensaries which are maintained for the most part at the expense of municipal or local bodies. These are the chief agencies for the medical attendance of the rural population, but there is a large number of missionary dispensaries in many provinces for which no statistics are available; and an attempt is being made in a district of Bengal to deal with the question by issuing simple medicine chests to headmen of villages remote from dispensaries. But it is doubtful whether much benefit results from this experiment.

The hospitals in the larger towns are in many cases on an important scale, as, for instance, the Campbell hospital at Calcutta, with 752 beds and a daily average of 414 in-patients in 1903, the Sir J. Jijibhoy hospital in Bombay city with 339 beds, the Government General hospital at Madras with 473 beds, the Mayo hospital at Lahore with 225 beds, the Rangoon General hospital with 483 beds, and others. The expenses are met to a large extent by the State, especially in the Presidency towns, and State subventions are frequently given to dispensaries supported by local funds or private subscriptions. In Calcutta, the Government paid £43,000 towards a total expenditure of £64,000; in Bombay city, £23,200 out of £34,100; in Madras city, £29,000 out of £36,100. Elsewhere, however, the chief contributions are from local funds; of the £73,100 received by the Madras dispensaries in the interior, £60,300 came from local or municipal funds; in Burma, £26,400 out of £57,000 came from such funds; and so on. Private subscriptions do not form a large proportion of the receipts; in Bengal they amounted to £31,600, chiefly from native donors, including about £1,050 subscribed in Calcutta, and in the United Provinces to £8,600; elsewhere the amounts were smaller.

The year under notice shows a continued increase in the number of patients in attendance at the hospitals and dispensaries in most provinces, though in Bombay, the Central Provinces and Berar, and the United Provinces, the improved health conditions of the year led to a decline.

There is, however, an enormous mass of disease and sickness in India, which is as yet untouched by any hospitals or dispensaries.

HOSPITALS,
&C.

There are many leper asylums scattered throughout India, of which may be mentioned the Madras Government Leper Asylum (616 treated in 1903), the Matunga Leper Home, Bombay, the Trivandrum State Leper Asylum, and the Calcutta Leper Asylum, the last three having accommodation between them for about 1,000 lepers. There are also a large number of asylums or homes, under some sort of Government supervision in many cases, including nearly 50 asylums of the Mission to Lepers, at which 3,792 persons are returned as having been treated. The census of 1901 showed a decline in the number of lepers to 97,340, compared with 126,244 in 1891, and the proportion works out to 48 male and 17 female lepers in every 100,000 of the population. Berar had the largest proportion of lepers (2 per mille), followed at some distance by Assam, Bengal, the Central Provinces, Burma, Madras, and Bombay, in that order.

LEPER
ASYLUMS.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The treatment of lunatics at asylums prevails only on a small scale in India. In comparison with European countries insanity appears to be infrequent in India, and the census of 1901 showed a decrease of nearly 11 per cent. in the number of insane since 1891. The decrease occurred in nearly every province, and was explained in many of them by the probability that the insane would suffer more than the general population in years of scarcity of food.

LUNATIC
ASYLUMS.

In Bombay there are seven lunatic asylums, at which 782 lunatics were under treatment at the end of 1903; in Bengal, there are six asylums, with 1,045 patients, more than half of them being criminal lunatics; in the United Provinces, four asylums, with 1,150 patients at the end of 1903; three asylums, with 587 patients, in the Madras Presidency; two, with 306 patients, in the Central Provinces; one each in Burma and Assam, with 442 and 157 lunatics respectively; while the Punjab Lunatic Asylum at Lahore contained 539 patients.

PLAGUE.

The earlier history of the measures taken to combat the plague was summarised in the statement for 1901-02, pages 115 to 117. It was shown there that the Government of India had recognised that measures of compulsion should be eschewed, and that the efforts of Government officials should be directed to convincing the people of the utility of particular methods, and inducing them to carry them out of their own free will. These principles have been maintained and restated in the Resolutions recently issued by some of the Local Governments on the subject, as will appear from the following summary of the Resolution issued in November 1904 by the Government of Bengal.

PLAGUE.

The essential basis, it is there stated, of any measures adopted by Government in dealing with an epidemic must be the avoidance of the least appearance of interfering with the rooted prejudices of the people. The function of Government should be to inspire and encourage them to help themselves, placing within their reach material means to that end.

The system of reimbursing to municipalities and district boards the actual plague expenditure incurred is modified, and grants are to be made beforehand to Commissioners of Divisions for distribution according to the needs of infected districts, the authorities thus gaining some regulating power over the expenditure and the lines on which preventive and remedial action are to proceed. The active measures which Government officers can promote are considered under five heads:—

- (1) *Preventive Action.*—This includes general sanitation, the destruction of rats and mice, and inoculation. The latter is to be widely encouraged, but not pressed upon the people where it is unpopular, and is always to be performed by a duly qualified medical officer selected for the purpose.
- (2) *Enlisting and Organising Unofficial Help.*—When an outbreak of plague is anticipated in a municipal area, Ward Committees are to be appointed, in order to call attention to sanitary defects, to

PLAGUE.

arrange for the reporting of plague cases, to enlist voluntary agency for the protection of property in evacuated houses, to advise and assist in the distribution of charitable funds, and generally to help and give confidence to the people. In smaller towns and villages the co-operation of the leading inhabitants is to be enlisted for similar purposes.

(3) *Preliminary Arrangements in Anticipation of an Outbreak of Plague.*—

These include preparation of sites and provision of materials for huts for persons evacuating their houses, selection of a separate site for a plague hospital, and supply of disinfecting materials.

(4) *Measures to be Adopted on the Outbreak of Plague.*—

These are disinfection, destruction of infected material, evacuation of dwellings, and removal to plague hospitals. As regards disinfectants, orders are given that only those should be used which will secure the cordial co-operation of the people. Infected materials are to be dealt with according to circumstances, no compulsory measures, however, being allowed; and the people are to be encouraged, by the offer of compensation on the spot, to consent to the prompt destruction by fire of all probably infected clothing and bedding. When the epidemic has gained ground, the chief reliance must be placed on evacuation, the people being induced to dismantle the roofs of the empty dwellings. Free materials for huts are to be supplied to the poorer classes, every freedom consistent with ventilation and proper sanitary conditions being left to the people in the construction of their huts. Provision is to be made for the protection, by the police and by voluntary agency, of the property left in the evacuated dwellings. Cases of plague among vagrants, friendless strangers, or persons in lodging houses licensed under the Lodging House Act, are to be taken to plague hospitals. In no other cases must pressure be brought to bear for the removal of patients to hospitals, free medical attendance and medicines being given, if asked for, in their own homes.

(5) *The Organisation of Charity.*—This is to be done, so far as possible, by the Ward Committees and leading men of the town or village, aided by the District Officer.

Plague in
1903.

The mortality from plague during the year 1903 again showed a very large increase. The recorded deaths from the disease for the whole of

PLAGUE DEATHS.

Year.	Number.
1899	139,000
1900	92,800
1901	283,000
1902	583,900
1903	865,600

India, including Native States so far as reported, amounted in 1899 and the succeeding years to the figures given in the margin. As compared with other causes of death in 1903, the mortality from plague was more than twice as great as that from cholera, two and a half times as great as that returned under dysentery and diarrhoea, and more than seven times as great as that from small-pox. The month of highest mortality, as in the two preceding years, was March, when 138,100 plague deaths were recorded, and the

minimum was returned in July, when the number was only 11,900.

All the provinces of India were more or less affected by plague in 1903, except Assam, Burma, Coorg, Baluchistan, the North West Frontier Province, and Ajmere-Merwara, where no plague deaths, or a quite insignificant number, were recorded. In Bengal there was an increase from 33,000 deaths in 1902 to 65,700 deaths in 1903, of which 8,200 occurred in Calcutta. In the United Provinces plague was much more prevalent, the deaths rising to 80,700; but the plague death-rate at Cawnpore which was nearly 37 per mille in 1902 fell to 11.10 per mille. The Punjab also showed a great increase in plague, no less than 192,100 deaths being recorded as due to this cause. Twenty-one Punjab districts were infected by the end of the year. For this province also a Resolution on plague measures has been published, practically eliminating the element of compulsion, and leaving the choice of adopting or neglecting precautionary measures in a great measure to the people themselves, while providing assistance for those who are willing to accept it. The Central India States suffered heavily and return 26,200 plague deaths. The epidemics of plague which had begun in the Central Provinces and in Berar in the year 1902 extended rapidly and spread widely during the year under report. The deaths ascribed to this cause in the

two provinces were 35,300 and 16,200 respectively, and the actual figures may have been larger. In Madras there was a small increase in the number of plague deaths. Hyderabad State returns 28,100 deaths, a much higher number; but Mysore State was more free than in 1902. The largest number of deaths from plague in any province was again recorded in Bombay, where the disease accounted for 281,300 deaths in the British districts and 82,500 in the Native states of the Presidency, against 184,700 and 38,600 respectively in the previous year. The mortality exceeded that returned under "fevers." All the districts in the Presidency except Thar and Parkar and the Upper Sind Frontier were affected, and the total is the highest recorded since the appearance of plague in 1896. In Bombay city, the number of recorded plague deaths rose to 20,750.

PLAGUE.

There was a further large increase in plague mortality in the year 1904, the total for all India, according to the returns at present available, being 1,021,600 deaths. In the Bombay Presidency 276,100 deaths are returned, which is lower than in 1903, while the plague mortality in the city fell again nearly to the level of 1902. There were also fewer deaths in Calcutta than in 1903, but in the rest of Bengal the number (67,200) was slightly higher than that recorded in that year. The plague mortality in the Punjab was 351,700, which was, not for the first time, larger than that recorded in Bombay. The United Provinces with 161,700 deaths also showed a very great extension of the plague. The Central Provinces again take a high position in the list, with 40,900 deaths.

It has elsewhere been stated that in 1903 the deaths from plague in the native army were only 115, and in the jails only 23. These figures are in striking contrast with the enormous dissemination of plague among the general population. They point to the fact that the disease is controllable, and that if the sanitary conditions of the people at large could be brought up to the level of those enforced in the native army and the jails, and if the general population would adopt or submit to the precautions taken in cantonments and prisons, the present lamentable mortality from plague would be prevented. These precautions are concerned with the observation and segregation of persons coming from infected places, the destruction of rats, the prompt recognition of cases of illness, the isolation of suspected cases, the destruction or disinfection of all substances which may have been infected, and the evacuation of infected quarters. The efficacy of these measures—applied, it is true, under exceptionally favourable conditions—has been satisfactorily demonstrated in the case of the native army and the jails. In proportion as they find acceptance among the general population, and incline it to abandon ancient habits and prejudices, to conform to needful precautions and regulations, and to accept freely the proffered assistance of the State, plague in an epidemic form may be expected to lose its force. But it is necessary to recognise that the vastness, inertness and poverty of the population, the numerical weakness of the administrative and medical agencies at the disposal of the Government, and the insanitary conditions which exist in many parts of the country, present very serious obstacles to a rapid and complete realisation of this ideal.

Plague in the Native Army and in the Jails.

Since the conclusion of the year under report, it has been decided to institute a comprehensive inquiry into the natural history of plague, and the scientific problems connected with its propagation and dissemination, in the hope that, if knowledge on these matters is secured, some progress may be made in the practical methods of combating the disease. The Royal Society and the Lister Institute have consented to undertake the direction and supervision of the investigation, and to administer the moneys allotted to this purpose by the Secretary of State for India. The two Societies have appointed a Joint Committee of four to discharge these duties, and a fifth member has been added to represent the Secretary of State and the Indian Government. Two investigators have been selected by the Committee to undertake the work of research in India, and two members of the Indian Medical Service, having special experience in the work, have been deputed by the Government of India to co-operate with them. The expedition will have the use of the Government laboratories in India, and whatever other assistance it may require in that country will be freely afforded.

CHAPTER III.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

CRIME AND POLICE.

CRIME
AND POLICE.

The Commission which was appointed by the Government of India in July 1902 to inquire into the question of police administration (see the last issue of this Statement, page 26) presented their report on the 30th May 1903. On the 21st March 1905 the report was published by the Government of India, together with a resolution giving a comprehensive review of the whole subject, and setting forth the reforms which are to be introduced. This event is, however, outside the scope of the present Statement, and further details must be reserved for next year's issue.

Bengal.

The total sanctioned strength of the police force in Bengal, excluding the Calcutta force and the military police, was at the end of the year under review 24,742. The expenditure on the force during the year was £366,052, an increase of £10,959 on the previous year. Neither the superior staff nor the subordinates were considered to be sufficient for the police work to be done in the province.

The town police were almost everywhere inadequate in numbers, and were unfavourably reported on. As regards the rural police, the total number of *chaukidars* rose from 151,745 to 153,185. A steady improvement in the force was recorded, and the number of men of good castes is slowly increasing. A sum of £4,004 was paid in rewards to *chaukidars* as against £4,187 in 1902, but a much larger sum than in the previous year was paid in rewards for good service as distinguished from regular attendance. The *daffadari* system was in force in all divisions except Chota Nagpur, where the whole system was said to need thorough reform.

Of the total force employed at the end of the year, 92·3 per cent. of the officers and 28·9 per cent. of the men could read and write. The charges of torture and extortion brought against the police numbered respectively 19 and 68, as compared with 8 and 95 in 1902. Of these, 16 and 34 respectively were declared to be false or dismissed.

No change was made in the sanctioned strength of the military police (400), and their conduct and discipline were reported to be generally satisfactory.

The total number of cognisable* offences reported increased by 1,101 to 178,436. Of the total number made up of these together with pending cases, 141,808 were reported to the police, who investigated 70 per cent. of the whole number, as against 69 in 1902. Excluding cases in which inquiry was refused, the police inquired into 118,685 cases *suo motu*, and into 6,087 cases by order of a magistrate. The percentage of convictions was 36, as against 37·9 in 1902.

As regards serious crimes, the total number of cases of rioting and unlawful assembly tried fell from 2,452 to 2,068, the lowest on record since 1881. Convictions were obtained in 59 per cent. of the cases. On the other hand, there was an unsatisfactory rise under the heads *Dakaity*, Robbery, and Cattle Theft. Murders decreased from 398 to 387.

The newly developed Criminal Investigation Department worked most successfully during the year.

There was no change during the year in the sanctioned strength of the Calcutta Police Force, but there were at the end of the year a large number of vacancies in the ranks of the constables. The total number of cognisable cases was 38,853, as against 29,604 in 1902. After elimination of offences of a petty nature, the statements show an increase of 1,199 cognisable cases, almost the whole of which were under the heads of theft and burglary cases. The increase was considered to be partly due to improved reporting, but the

* Cognisable offences are those for which the police can arrest without a warrant.

number of cases actually brought to trial was smaller than in the preceding year.

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AND POLICE.

The total strength of the police force in the United Provinces was 26,928, and the total cost £410,090. The punishment roll was still rather heavy; the number of officers dismissed departmentally rose from 36 to 52, while the number of men dismissed fell from 178 to 157. Resignations increased from 687 to 726. On the whole, however, the year's record was satisfactory. Money rewards were more liberally given to the police and to village *chaukidars*, and the number of officers and men rewarded by promotion increased. Excellent work was done in the difficult task of breaking up and arresting dakaït gangs. Operations against the river dakaïts, who, under the guise of traders, annually invade Bengal by way of the Ganges, were specially successful. There was a considerable expenditure on buildings during the year, and much was done to improve the accommodation for the police.

United
Provinces.

The total volume of reported crime showed a decrease of 3,006 cases, or 1·8 per cent., on the figures of the previous year. Of the total record of crime for disposal, the police investigated 83,546 cases, or 49·2 per cent. Considering only crime reported to the police, 10·1 per cent. of the cases inquired into were not sent before the Courts for want of proof, 59·7 per cent. were sent before the magistrate, and in 30·2 per cent. no clue was obtained. In 46·2 per cent. of the total crime reported, inquiry was refused. The work was thus not quite so successful as in the previous year, when the percentages were 9·4, 61·2, 29·4 and 45·7 respectively.

As regards professional and organised crime, there were 410 cases of dakaïty for disposal as against 343 in 1902, and 17 cases of professional poisoning as against 16, while the number of true cases of robbery reported fell from 783 to 757. There was a steady improvement in the detection and prevention of dakaïties and robberies. The *Haburas*, a criminal tribe, were as usual active, and were responsible for a violent outbreak of road dakaïty. As regards other serious crimes, there was an increase in the number of murders, and the result of police action in this class of crime was not so good as in the previous year. A satisfactory decrease of 353 occurred in the number of cases of cattle theft for disposal, and the number of cases of ordinary theft fell by 2,152.

The number of cases decided was 54,078, or 3,242 less than in 1902. The percentage convicted was 83·2, as against 83 in the previous year, but in cases investigated by the police the percentage of convictions fell from 55 to 53·8.

There was a slight decrease of 411 in the number of cases of non-cognisable crime. Property stolen was valued at £118,690, a considerable increase, and the percentage of recovery was the same as in the previous year, 23.

The total strength of the police force in the Punjab at the end of 1903 was 3,123 officers and 15,225 men; the strength was during the year increased by 46 officers and 264 men. The estimated cost of the force was £236,248. The number of officers, including sergeants, who could read and write was 2,551 and of constables 3,750. Departmental punishments inflicted on members of the force numbered 1,711 and judicial punishments 103, as compared with 1,578 and 109 respectively in 1902. Dismissals numbered 213, and resignations without pension or gratuity 738.

Punjab.

The favourable agricultural conditions which prevailed during the year, together with general cheapness of food-grains and steady prices, produced a substantial drop in the total number of cognisable offences reported (85,074). Offences under the Penal Code, however, increased by 488 to 63,408. Of the total number of cases, 48,390 were reported to the police and 36,684 to magistrates. A large number of the latter were unfounded, and the true cases related for the most part to minor offences; very little true cognisable crime was brought to notice except through the police. There was a satisfactory decrease in serious offences against the person throughout the province, and dakaïties continued steadily to diminish in number, having dropped from 151 in 1900 to 58 in the year under review. The number of murders increased from 433 to 440. It is hoped that the passing of the

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AND POLICE.

Poisons Act of 1904 will materially assist the police in dealing with one branch of this form of crime.

The percentage of convictions in cases reported to the police was 30, as in 1902; the percentage of persons convicted to persons reported was 54, as against 50. The estimated value of property stolen during the year was £71,938, of which 33 per cent. was recovered, as compared with 44 per cent. in 1902.

There was an increase in the number of punitive posts, continued and imposed during the year, and this form of punitive prevention in checking crime has been attended by striking success.

Burma.

The total strength of the Burma civil police was 12,971, or 544 below the sanctioned strength, and the cost of the force was £248,125. The strength of the military police was 15,062. The chief features of the year's report are not very satisfactory. The difficulty in obtaining recruits for the civil police continued, and was accompanied by an increase in the numbers of deaths, resignations, desertions, and dismissals. The number of literate officers and men decreased by 6 and 124 respectively, the percentages at the end of the year being 98 and 85. The number of rewards showed a slight increase, and on the whole the conduct of the force was good.

The total number of true cognisable cases (40,096) was 2,178 higher than in 1902, though the latter year showed figures considerably in excess of those of 1901. There was a marked increase in violent crime; murders increased by 37 per cent., and cattle-theft, a very serious crime in an agricultural province, rose from 2,145 cases to 2,523. Hurt by dangerous weapons, an offence to which the Burman is prone, increased by 111 cases. Detection, on the whole, kept pace with the increase of crime. The percentage of convictions in true cognisable cases of all kinds investigated by the police was 67. Offences under the Gambling, Excise, and Opium Acts all showed an increase.

The relations between village headmen and the police were, with few exceptions, reported to be satisfactory, and assistance was generally rendered by village headmen and villagers in cases of violent crime. Rewards were liberally paid to them.

Good work was done during the year in the matter of the identification of criminals by the Central Bureau in Rangoon, but the figures dealing with the recognition of old offenders were not quite so creditable to the police as in 1902. The work of beat patrols was more satisfactory than in the previous year; the system is considered to be eminently suited to the conditions of Burma, and its revision and improvement was contemplated. The conduct of the military police was good, but the health of the force continued to be unsatisfactory.

Central
Provinces
and Berar.

The police report of Berar was for the first time amalgamated with that of the Central Provinces, the administration having been taken over on the 1st November 1903.

The strength of the police force showed a deficiency of 357 men. It was found increasingly difficult to obtain recruits, particularly in the Nagpur country and Berar. The death roll of the year was a heavy one, nearly double that of 1902, the increased mortality being the result of plague, which raged in several districts. The punishment returns were considerably lower than in the previous year, the decline being specially marked in departmental punishments on officers in the Central Provinces, which fell from 448 to 276. The total cost of the police was £133,521, as against £134,005 in 1902.

The year was generally a prosperous one, and the chief characteristic was the large decrease in reported crime. The number of cognisable offences in the Central Provinces was the lowest on record, being 16,632 (exclusive of nuisance cases) as compared with the previous minimum of 18,081 in 1898. In Berar also crime was abnormally low, the number of offences having fallen from 4,078 to 3,035. The decrease in crime was common to almost all heads of offences, but murders formed an exception in the Central Provinces, where the number rose to 131 from 115 in the previous year. Dakaities in the Central Provinces reached the abnormally low figure of 22, or about half the number in the previous year. In Berar there were 42 crimes of this nature, against 54 in 1902; and the fact that during the past five years the number of dakaities in Berar had been nearly double the number in the Central

Provinces seemed to call for more strenuous measures for the repression of this public danger. In robberies also the year's returns for Berar furnished a bad record, the number having increased from 69 to 104.

CRIME
AND POLICE.

The most important feature of the police action of the year was the attention that was paid to the doings of professional criminals coming from outside the provinces. From the disclosures which were thus made it was discovered that the Central Provinces and Berar were being largely exploited by criminals from up-country, and some smart captures were effected. The increased co-operation of the authorities of Native States which border on the Northern districts was noted as satisfactory.

The recovery of stolen property in the Central Provinces rose to the high percentage of 40; in Berar it remained stationary at 25.

The military police in Assam numbered at the close of the year 336 officers with 2,527 men, and the force was reported to have maintained its efficiency. The strength of the Civil force, including Union police, was 383 officers and 2,289 constables. There was again a complaint of lack of discipline in the rank and file of the Civil police, and resignations were numerous. Punishments showed little variation from the previous year.

The total number of cognisable cases for disposal was 16,771, as compared with 16,484 in 1902. Of this number, 10,112 were investigated by the police and 6,784 were decided, the percentage of convictions being 69·4. Cases reported to the police numbered 10,081, of which 93·4 per cent. were investigated, convictions being obtained in 80 per cent. of the cases brought to trial. Robberies, dakaities, and house-breakings showed a satisfactory decrease. One remarkable dakaity case took place, in which it was proved that a number of Afghans actually planned in their own country a descent upon a trader's house in the Cachar district, and succeeded in carrying away over £600 worth of property. Thanks to the personal exertions of the Inspector-General, 24 of the 27 dakaits were arrested and convicted.

Non-cognisable crime showed an increase from 16,039 to 16,718 cases.

The total number of *chaukidars* in the districts of Sylhet, Cachar and Goalpara, where alone a Rural Police force was maintained, was 6,807. In the two latter districts they were reported to have worked well throughout the year.

The total sanctioned strength of the police in the North-West Frontier Province was 3,115, as in 1902, and the estimated cost of the force £39,115. The province inevitably shows a worse record of crime than the other more settled provinces, and the returns for the year were, on the whole, distinctly satisfactory. There was a marked reduction in the number of serious crimes, especially in the Bannu District. The discipline and health of the force were good, but there was a regrettable increase in the number of resignations and considerable difficulty was experienced in recruiting. The percentages of literate officers and men were 83 and 17 respectively.

The number of cognisable cases reported was 9,512, as compared with 9,966 in 1902. The decrease was common to all classes of crime. Murders fell from 192 to 180, dakaities from 61 to 55, and robberies from 132 to 105. The percentage of convictions to cases reported was 28, as against 26 in the previous year. Property stolen was valued at £6,571, while the percentage of recoveries fell from 39 to 36. The number of persons ordered to furnish security for good behaviour was 677, as against 969 during the previous year. Only one new punitive post was established during the year.

The total strength of the Coorg police force was 224, and it cost £2,771. The total number of cognisable cases reported was 668, as against 604 in 1902, the increase being mainly due to breaches of special and local laws, public nuisances, and offences against the Excise Act. There were six cases of dakaity and only one of murder. The proportion of convictions obtained in cognisable cases investigated by the police continued to be high—76·9 per cent., as against 75·7 per cent. in the previous year.

The total strength of the police force in Madras (excluding the punitive police) was 23,819, the increase of 469 during the year being due mainly to the temporary establishment sanctioned for plague duty and to an addition to the strength of the railway police. The total cost of the force was

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£312,871, as against £298,809 in 1902. The recruiting difficulty in certain districts was as acute as ever, and there was a slight increase in the proportion of illiterate constables—15·5 per cent., as against 14·2 per cent. in the previous year. There was an increase from 24·7 to 29·3 in the percentage of men punished for offences other than absence without leave; but the higher percentage is, no doubt, partly attributable to closer supervision over beat duty. Judicial convictions declined from 212 to 209. The numbers of officers and men dismissed were practically the same as in the preceding year. The sanctioned strength of the Madras City Police was 1,445. In 1902 an increase to this force of 292 men had been sanctioned, and great difficulty was experienced during the year under review in getting recruits. Village police and village magistrates showed little improvement.

The year was one of general agricultural prosperity, with a fall in the prices of food grains and a consequent decrease of crime. The number of cognisable cases under the Indian Penal Code, excluding nuisances, numbered 58,458, as against 60,277 in 1902, and the number of true cases was 41,900, as against 44,302. There was again a deterioration in the detective results shown by the police. Thirty-six per cent. of true cases reported were detected—the lowest percentage for the past seven years. The percentage in cases of murder was 35, but the poor success of the police in dealing with dakaities was very noticeable. The proportion of convictions to cases prosecuted by the police was 79 per cent.—fractionally lower than in 1902.

Several arrests of important and leading criminals were effected during the year, the most notable being the capture of the notorious dakait, Mallaboyana Kondadu of Kistna, for whose apprehension a reward of Rs. 1,000 (£66 13s. 4d.) had been offered. In North Arcot the police arrested three conspicuous organisers of crime, and in Tinnevely some notorious gangs of dakaites were broken up. With the exception of a few not very important incidents, the public peace was well maintained.

Bombay.

The total strength of the police force in the Bombay Presidency, inclusive of Sind and railways, but excluding the special forces employed temporarily for famine duty, remained practically unchanged at 22,306. The total expenditure decreased from £311,696 to £291,693. There was again a slight improvement in the education of the force, the percentages of officers and men able to read and write being 71 and 48 respectively, as against 71 and 46 in 1902. The total number of punishments inflicted (3,300) exceeded that of the previous year by 37, but there was also a rise, from 616 to 789, in the number of money rewards granted.

With the continuance of improved seasonal conditions, a further decrease of crime took place, including a falling-off in cases of serious crime. Less property was stolen and a better percentage recovered. Plague was even more prevalent than in former years, and imposed heavy additional duties and responsibilities on the police. Successful operations against dakaites were carried out in Khandesh and the Southern Talukas of Satara. In Sind the force maintained its general efficiency, and the increase in crimes and falling-off in percentage which occurred in that province were considered to be due to ordinary fluctuations.

During the year 120,440 offences in all, cognisable and non-cognisable, were reported, as against 135,980 in 1902. The total number of cognisable cases reported to the police, or taken up by them, was 34,730. Including pending cases of the previous year, the complaints for disposal totalled 37,980, including 30,203 Indian Penal Code cases. Of these, all but 181 were investigated. The percentage of convictions in cases brought before the courts by the police was 78·65, as compared with 80·56 in 1902. The proportion of undetected cases to those for disposal was 18·66, showing a slight improvement on the figure for the previous year.

In Bombay City cognisable offences numbered 42,814, as compared with 31,783 in 1902. The increase was confined to offences under local Acts, and there was a marked decrease in the number of cases of serious crime. The percentage of convictions in police cognisable cases rose from 92·1 to 95·6. The aggregate value of property stolen rose from £18,850 to £19,291, and the percentage recovered from 59 to 65.

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Bengal.

The permanent staff employed on Sessions work in Bengal during the year consisted of 29 Sessions Judges and three Additional Sessions Judges. The magisterial staff of the province, including Calcutta, consisted of 411 Stipendiary and 1,701 Honorary Magistrates.

The total number of criminal offences reported was 303,459, an increase of 4,399 on the figures of 1902. The increase was almost entirely in offences under special and local laws, which rose by 4,017 and numbered 102,262; offences under the Indian Penal Code (201,197) having remained practically stationary. The number of cases declared to be false and dismissed constituted 19·8 per cent. of the whole number. Of the 244,722 true cases, 178,013 were brought to trial.

Presidency magistrates, including the municipal magistrates, dealt with 32,479 cases. Of the 31,848 persons brought to trial, 28,626 were convicted. Magistrates outside Calcutta had before them 146,110 cases, a slight increase on the figures of 1902, but considerably less than in 1900 and 1901. The pending file at the end of the year showed 4,314 cases, as against 4,998 at the end of 1902. Of the persons whose cases were disposed of, 58·2 per cent. were convicted. The total number of witnesses called in the magistrates' courts of the mufassal was 640,686, of whom 25·5 per cent. were discharged without examination and 1·7 per cent. were detained after the third day. The sentences passed by magistrates included 23,701 of rigorous imprisonment, 931 of simple imprisonment, and 1,783 of whipping, with or without other punishment.

Cases committed or referred to the Sessions Courts during the year numbered 1,807, or 29 more than in 1902. The number of cases disposed of was 1,774, and the pending file at the end of the year showed 261 cases. Of 4,405 persons under trial, 63·6 were convicted. There were 61 sentences of death, 392 of transportation, and 32 of whipping. The number of persons tried by jury was 1,060. In 922 of these cases the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict; 64 cases in which there was complete disagreement were referred to the High Court. Of these, 39 cases were decided, the verdict of the jury being accepted in 16 and rejected in 19. Of 2,298 cases tried with the aid of Assessors, the judge concurred with the opinion of both Assessors in 1,595 cases, and in 453 differed from both. The average duration of Sessions trials was 44·1 days. This is a marked and satisfactory improvement on the returns of previous years, the duration previously reported being 51 days for 1902, 53 for 1901, and 55 for 1900. Out of 28,012 witnesses, 12 per cent. were kept after the third day.

The High Court tried 65 cases, involving 78 persons, of whom 66 were convicted, and left eight cases undecided at the close of the year. The average duration of cases from commitment was 32·8 days.

Including 81 pending cases, there were before the High Court 1,073 appeals, of which 968 were decided. Out of 844 appeals from sentences of the Sessions Courts, the orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 707 instances and reversed in 41. Thirteen appeals by the local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year, the orders being reversed in six cases. The Sessions Courts decided 6,219 appeals and the Magistrates' Courts 4,982, the percentages of wholly unsuccessful appellants being respectively 66·1 and 67·2. Of the 51 death sentences referred from the Sessions Courts, 29 were confirmed and 13 commuted to transportation or imprisonment, while in six cases the person sentenced was acquitted. The High Court decided 249 revision cases and the Sessions Court 7,438.

The total charges for the year in connection with the administration of criminal justice amounted to £205,988, and the receipts to £104,714.

For legislative purposes the North-West Provinces and Oudh are united, but inasmuch as Oudh is not subject to the High Court of the North-West Provinces, the judicial statistics of the two are given separately. North-West
Provinces.

The feature of the year's statistics in the North-West Provinces was the marked decrease of crime. From 128,230 in 1902 (itself a year of low crime statistics) the number of offences reported fell to 123,602. Not since 1872 have the statistics of reported and investigated crime reached so low

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a level. The number brought to trial fell from 91,121 to 85,538. Under the Indian Penal Code 58,259 cases were returned as true, as against 62,254 in 1902. The total number of persons under trial decreased from 161,643 to 153,471. Of these the cases of 146,924 were disposed of in the Courts of Magistrates and 3,621 in the Courts of Session. The percentage of convictions in the former was 50 and in the latter 66. The average number of days during which each case lasted was 10, as compared with 9 in 1902. The number of cases which were pending over six weeks, though large in some districts, showed an improvement on the previous year's returns. Out of 301,643 witnesses summoned in Magistrates' Courts, the number detained after the second day was 7,915, a figure which appears rather excessive in view of the light criminal work of the year. It was generally observed by District Officers that magistrates did not make sufficient use of section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for dealing with frivolous and vexatious actions.

Out of a total of 16,000 appeals, 3,423 were rejected, and in 7,845 the previous orders were confirmed. Trials by jury numbered 116, and the number of cases in which the judge disagreed with the verdict and referred the case to the High Court was 10.

Oudh.

The total number of offences reported in Oudh was 41,919 (including 29,013 under the Indian Penal Code), as against 44,089 in 1902. The number of true cases was 29,775—considerably less than in the previous year. Corresponding with the decrease in the total number of offences, the total number of persons brought to trial fell from 57,067 to 55,308, while the percentage of convictions showed little variation from that of the previous year. The number of cases disposed of fell from 31,656 to 30,218, and the average duration from 9.12 to 9.07 in Magistrates' Courts and from 44.73 to 39.76 in the Sessions Courts.

As regards punishments, sentences of death and transportation fell from 58 and 188 to 47 and 139 respectively. The number of whippings (1,516) was nearly the same as in 1902, but the percentage of whippings to the total number of all punishments fell from 37 to 32.

The total number of appeals was 3,714, out of which 804 were rejected, while in 1,729 the previous orders were confirmed. The corresponding figures for 1902 were 4,107, 687, and 1,947.

Punjab.

One hundred and seventy-two thousand four hundred and seventy-four offences were reported in the Punjab during the year, and 120,371 were returned as true. The number of cases brought to trial in Courts subordinate to Sessions Courts was 99,420, the number of persons involved being 232,396. These figures show an increase of 361 cases and 3,815 persons brought to trial as compared with the corresponding figures for 1902. The percentage of convictions was 27, as in the preceding year.

Of the cases returned as true during the year, 87,061, or 72 per cent., were cases under the Indian Penal Code. Of these cases, those affecting life swung back from 821, the figure for 1902, to 870, or only 19 less than the figure for 1901. There was, however, a compensating fall of 7 in the number of murders, which had shown a steady decrease since 1900. Thefts, robberies, and daktaities all showed a slight rise.

District Magistrates disposed of 3,232 cases, as against 2,565 cases in 1902, and Honorary Magistrates also did good work. The number of disposals in the Sessions Courts was practically the same as in the two preceding years, namely, 381. The Chief Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction, tried five cases involving six persons.

The Chief Court confirmed the sentence of death passed upon 93 persons, commuted it in the case of 26, and acquitted 16 persons sent up under section 374, Criminal Procedure Code. The number of persons sentenced to solitary confinement fell from 8,204 to 7,363, and the number of persons whipped from 2,288 to 2,080. Forfeiture of property was ordered in 24 cases, as against four in 1902, 24 in 1901 and 139 in 1900.

Of 62,723 persons convicted, 17,102, or 27 per cent., appealed—9,357 to the District Magistrate, 6,948 to the Sessions Judge, and 797 to the Chief Court. Of these appeals 26 per cent. were summarily dismissed, and 41 per cent. dismissed after notice; while in the case of the remaining 33 per cent. the sentences were reduced, altered or set aside, or the proceedings were quashed.

In the Chief Court the number of appeals instituted rose from 610 to 622, while disposals fell from 632 to 629 and the pending file from 141 to 134. The number of appeals against acquittals was 7, as in the two preceding years. Applications for revision fell from 1,660 to 1,648, disposals from 1,449 to 1,438, and the pending file from 211 to 210.

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The total number of offences reported during the year in Burma was 78,987 as against 74,274 in 1902, an increase which was confined to Lower Burma. The percentage of true cases fell slightly in Lower Burma to 93·9, and in Upper Burma was the same as in 1902—namely, 87·6. True cases under the Indian Penal Code numbered 25,820 in Lower and 8,653 in Upper Burma.

Magistrates of all classes disposed of 73,861 cases during the year. The average duration of cases in Lower Burma was 10 days, as in the preceding year; in Upper Burma it rose from 8 to 9 days. The percentage of persons convicted or committed was 62·2 in Lower and 63·3 in Upper Burma, as against 62·3 and 66·5 respectively in 1902. Such high percentages of acquittals and discharges seemed to indicate that the preparation and prosecution of cases before the subordinate magistrates were capable of improvement.

The Sessions Courts in Lower Burma dealt with 925 persons, or 74 more than in 1902. Capital sentences referred to the Chief Court for confirmation numbered 95, of which 69 were confirmed and 11 reversed. The average duration of trials increased in the Sessions Courts from 51 to 53 days and fell in the Chief Court from 36 to 31 days. In Upper Burma, Sessions Judges disposed of 114 cases, as compared with 93 in 1902. The percentage of convictions dropped very considerably, from 78·4 to 61·1, and the duration of trials increased from 34 to 44 days. Of 28 death sentences referred to the High Court, 20 were confirmed and 5 reversed.

As regards punishments, the total number of cases in which solitary confinement was awarded rose from 1,234 to 1,287. The number of whippings increased to 3,216, while 93 and 347 persons were sentenced to death and transportation respectively.

In Lower Burma there was a slight decrease in the number of appeals preferred. The percentage of sentences confirmed was 70·24 and the average duration of appeals was 17 days. The number of appeals preferred during the year in Upper Burma rose from 1,390 to 1,575. Sentences were confirmed in 64·4 per cent. of the cases, and the average duration was 13 days.

The number of cases called for in revision by District Magistrates in Lower Burma (5,576) was again substantially greater than in the preceding year, and there was a considerable increase also in the revision cases called for by Sessions Judges. In Upper Burma less revision work was done than in 1902.

The total number of cases reported in the Central Provinces and the total number returned as true were, respectively, 23,786 and 20,993, as against 25,532 and 23,173 in 1902. This decline was very generally distributed throughout the provinces, and was attributed mainly to the agricultural prosperity of the year, though it seems also certain that the presence of plague in some districts was responsible for a great reduction in the number of cases of a petty nature.

Central
Provinces.

The strength of the magistracy fell from 375 to 373 during the year. The percentage of convictions and committals among the 34,078 persons whose cases were disposed of was 50·5. The average duration of police cases before the magistrates rose again from 10·4 in 1902 to 11 in the year under review, and there was said to be considerable room for improvement in the direction of more rapid despatch of criminal work. The number of witnesses examined in Magisterial Courts was 71,603, of whom 5·2 per cent. were detained after the third day.

The four Courts of Session disposed of 132 cases, as against 161 in 1902. The percentage of convictions rose from 66·8 to 72·1.

The percentage of appellate cases in which the sentence was confirmed fell from 83 to 68 in the Judicial Commissioner's Court and from 78 to 74 in Sessions Courts. In District Magistrates' Courts it rose from 59 to 68. Thirty-one sentences of death came before the Judicial Commissioner for

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The sentences of death, transportation, and rigorous imprisonment passed by the Courts of Session numbered respectively 33, 56, and 64, as against 23, 78, and 83 in 1902. In Magistrates' Courts solitary confinement was ordered in 313 and whipping in addition to imprisonment in 468 cases.

Assam. The judicial staff employed on criminal work in Assam consisted of two Session Judges, eight District Magistrates, 49 Stipendiary Magistrates, and 21 Honorary Magistrates. The offences reported to the Criminal Courts during the year numbered 30,951, including 23,352 under the Penal Code. There were 19,138 true cases, as against 18,905 in 1902.

Including cases which were under inquiry at the close of the preceding year, 20,828 cases coming before the Courts were accepted as true during 1903. Of these, 14,594 were brought to trial. The figures, as compared with those of 1902, represent an increase of 74 under the former and 200 under the latter head.

In the Courts of Magistrates, 14,341 cases were finally disposed of during the year, the proportion of convictions being 48 per cent. Courts of Session disposed of 161 cases, the pending file being reduced from 47 to 46. Of the 272 persons tried, 161 were convicted and 95 were discharged.

The High Court disposed of 76 appeals during the year, leaving seven pending at its close. Convictions were upheld in 63 cases and reversed in six. In appeals decided by the Courts of Session, the percentage of confirmations was 73·9, and in the Courts of District Magistrates 58·5.

The charges of the Criminal Courts amounted to £17,032, and the receipts to £9,131, an increase of £1,864 and £43 respectively on the figures for 1902.

North-West Frontier Province.

The total number of offences reported during the year in the North-West Frontier Province was 18,219, as against 21,095 in 1902. Of these 73 per cent. were returned as true. The only district in the province which did not share the general decrease was Dera Ismail Khan, where an increase of 20 per cent. was recorded in the total number of cases, and of 33 per cent. in the number found to be true. Complaints dismissed *in limine* numbered 4,964, the highest percentage being, as usual, in Hazara, where 44 per cent. of the total offences reported were dismissed summarily. The number of cases brought to trial was 12,497, which represents 94 per cent. of the offences admitted to have occurred. Forty-eight per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. In cases brought to trial under the Indian Penal Code, which numbered 6,123, the percentage of persons convicted rose from 26 to 28. The number of murders (172) was the lowest recorded since the province came into existence.

The number of persons who appealed to District Magistrates was 627. The steady fall in the percentage of persons who elected to appeal is a satisfactory feature, and indicates that speculative appeals have been checked by the power now vested in magistrates to enhance sentences. Of 785 persons whose appeals were decided by the Courts of Session, 260 had their sentences reversed or altered.

Berar.

Although Berar is now under the administration of the Central Provinces, the statistics of judicial administration for the year 1903 were not amalgamated, and it will be convenient to deal with them separately. The number of offences reported in Berar during the year was 15,859, as compared with 16,934 in 1902, and the percentage of complaints summarily dismissed rose from 12·2 to 14·9. This was an improvement, but there was still room for a large increase in the number of complaints summarily dismissed. The total number of offences brought to trial (13,668) was less by 1,405 than in the previous year. The percentage of convictions among the persons whose cases were disposed of was 44·8, as against 45·5 per cent. in 1902. The average duration of proceedings fell from 10·3 days to 8·9 days, and the average period of detention of witnesses showed an improvement. The pending file showed a slightly increased number of cases at the end of the year.

The number of appeals filed was 525, as against 724 in 1902. In 67 per cent. of cases the appeals were dismissed. The Judicial Commissioner reversed 3·8 per cent., and the Sessions Judge 18·6 per cent.

The number of offences reported in Coorg (1,531) declined by 111, and the trials held numbered 1,330, or 70 less than in the previous year. The variation was in each instance due to a decrease in the number of cases falling under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, 1859, owing to the overstocking of the labour market and the decline of coffee planting. Excluding breach of contract cases, which were mostly compromised, the Criminal Courts dealt with 1,938 persons, of whom 31·2 per cent. were convicted. There were only eight convictions of heinous crime, and only three persons were sentenced to transportation.

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Coorg.

There was a considerable decrease in the total numbers of cases and appeals instituted during the year in Madras, excluding those in the Village Magistrates' Courts, the figures being 292,955 and 9,533 respectively, as against 305,444 and 10,437 in 1902. The number of cases instituted in the Village Magistrates' Courts, however, increased from 9,971 to 10,158. There was a decrease of 1,498 in the number of offences under the Indian Penal Code, and of 9,428 in the number of offences under special and local laws reported during the year. Under the Penal Code the decrease was chiefly under theft (1,332) and criminal trespass (842). Under special and local laws the decrease was chiefly in offences under the Towns Nuisance Act (7,128). In regard to grave crimes, the number of offences affecting life was the same as in the previous year, while the number of robberies and daktaities decreased by 248. The percentage of convictions in cases brought to trial was 23·84 in the case of offences under the Penal Code, and 86·44 in the case of offences under special and local laws, the average percentages for the preceding five years being 26·14 and 85·76 respectively. The number of European British subjects brought to trial was 136, of whom 86 were convicted.

Madras.

Of 16,594 persons tried in the Village Magistrates' Courts, 5,036 were convicted. In the regular Magistrates' Courts in the mufassal, 221,067 cases were instituted, as against 238,780 in 1902. The number of cases left pending at the end of the year was less than that of the previous year by 158. The total number of persons under trial in these courts was 374,675, of whom 368,273 were dealt with, as against 387,894 in the preceding year, the percentage of convictions falling from 51·12 to 50. The number of sentences, alike of whipping, fine, and imprisonment, was less than in 1902, a natural consequence of the reduction in the number of cases disposed of. The number of appeals was 7,400; in 61·27 per cent. the convictions were confirmed.

The cases committed to Sessions Courts in the mufassal numbered 1,168, and 2,862 persons in all were tried, both figures being considerably lower than those for 1902. One thousand one hundred and seven persons were tried by jury, 1,291 with the aid of assessors, and 15 partly by jury and partly with assessors. The Sessions Judges of Kurnool and Nellore were not satisfied with the working of the jury system; in other districts it was said to have worked fairly satisfactorily. The percentage of convictions was 48·58. Appeals numbered 1,187, the sentence appealed against being confirmed in 69·11 per cent. of the cases.

The number of cases instituted before the Presidency Magistrates rose from 65,249 to 70,720. The percentage of convictions was 90·5. A sum of £329 levied as fines in cases of cruelty to animals was paid to the S.P.C.A.

The High Court received for trial 48 Sessions cases, in which 73 persons were concerned. The percentage of convictions was 65, as against 86 in 1902. Thirty other cases and 83 death-sentences were also referred by the Sessions Judges to the High Court, the sentence of death being confirmed in 49 cases. The number of appeals received during the year was 864; in 79 per cent. of the total number of cases decided, the proceedings of the lower courts were not interfered with.

The total number of offences reported during the year in Bombay (including Sind) was 162,843, as against 162,883 in 1902. The number of offences against property, however, fell from 21,254 to 18,159, a decrease which seems to be due to the return of a normal harvest after a period of famine and scarcity. Of the total number of cases, 148,445 were returned as true. Cases brought to trial numbered in all 138,208, involving 244,163 persons, the figures being considerably less than those for the preceding year. Of the persons under trial, nearly 45 per cent.

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were acquitted or discharged, and 41 per cent. were convicted. The total number of cases decided was 138,133, as against 147,299 in 1902. Of these 98 per cent. were disposed of by magistrates. Of the total number of persons convicted, 62 per cent. were tried summarily, as against 52 per cent. in 1902 and 36 per cent. in 1901. The average duration of cases fell from 28 days to 7·2 days. There were 58 sentences of death and 127 of transportation, as compared with 59 and 216 respectively in the preceding year. Whippings decreased in number from 2,257 to 2,025. The percentage of whippings to the total number of all punishments was 16·45, as against 18·22 in 1902. The number of Europeans brought to trial, mostly for minor offences, was 525, of whom 397 were convicted.

Out of a total of 5,330 appeals, 32 per cent. were rejected; in 33 per cent. the sentences were confirmed and in 17 per cent. reversed. Applications for revision numbered 2,520, the sentence being reduced in 145 cases, reversed in 266 cases, and enhanced in 31 cases.

Persons tried by jury and with the aid of assessors numbered 379 and 1,257 respectively. In the High Court the verdict of the jury was approved in all cases. In the Courts of Sessions the percentage of cases in which it was approved was 88, as against 94 in the preceding year. In cases tried with assessors, the judge agreed with all or some of the assessors in 80 per cent. and differed from all in 20 per cent.

JAILS.

JAILS.

The variations of the jail population in the whole of India during the last five years are shown in the following table:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.
Jail population of all classes on 1st January	101,664	108,741	115,059	109,406	102,125
Admissions during the year	440,948	471,529	487,374	586,895	484,420
Aggregate	542,612	580,270	602,433	696,301	586,545
Discharged during the year from all causes	448,981	478,532	493,693	581,281	477,167
Jail population on 31st December	93,865	101,738	108,740	115,020	109,878
Convict population on 1st January	93,682	98,873	105,047	97,196	93,828
Admissions during the year	156,112	171,256	176,568	207,437	174,060
Aggregate	249,794	270,129	281,615	304,733	267,888
Released during the year	160,503	172,202	178,362	194,924	167,354
Casualties, &c.	4,082	4,167	4,381	4,796	3,326
Convict population on 31st December	85,209	93,760	98,872	105,013	97,204

The total number of prisoners (440,985), including those under trial, admitted to jail during the year was about 6½ per cent. less than in 1902. With the exception of the North-West Frontier Province, Burma, Assam, and Coorg, the decrease was common to all provinces, and was largest in Madras 12·8 per cent., the United Provinces 8·9, and Bombay 8·5 per cent. The release of nearly 16,000 prisoners on the 1st January 1903 in celebration of the Coronation contributed materially to the reduction. The total daily average population fell from 106,375 to 93,093 (a decrease of 12·5 per cent.), and has not been so low since 1891.

One hundred and fifty-six thousand one hundred and twelve convicts were admitted during the year, as against 171,256 in 1902, being a decrease of nearly 9 per cent. The proportionate reduction in the case of males was 8·5 per cent., and in the case of females 15·4 per cent. The falling off in the number of admissions to jail is generally attributed to the prosperous conditions of the year and the cheapness of food grains.

During the year 98 prisoners escaped, compared with 74 in 1902, but 61 were recaptured before the end of the year, leaving 37 still at large. Escapes

were most frequent from the jails of Assam, where they are attributed to the insecurity of the jail buildings and the laxity of the police guard.

One thousand and sixty juvenile offenders were admitted during the year, as against 1,514 in the previous year, and the number bears a somewhat smaller proportion to total admissions than that of the previous year.

Fifty-seven per cent. of the persons admitted to jail came from the classes engaged in agriculture and in the care of animals. Nineteen per cent. were persons employed in miscellaneous callings and 9 per cent. gained their living by personal service.

The number of persons imprisoned during the year who had been previously convicted fell from 23,431 to 20,901, the proportion to total admissions remaining much the same. It appears probable that the figures were affected by the general decrease in crime, but there are indications that the need for inflicting more deterrent punishment, particularly on hardened offenders, tends to be more widely recognised by the Courts.

Attention continues to be paid to the subject of the identification of habitual offenders, and the system of identification by means of finger-print impressions has in some provinces been attended with a considerable measure of success.

As in the preceding year, the great majority of prison offences committed related to work, under which 54.6 of the offences reported were returned. The ratio of punishments to the total daily average population rose by 31 per cent.; the increase occurred chiefly under minor punishments, and was common to all provinces except the North-West Frontier Province and Coorg. It was most marked in the Central Provinces and Burma, where the ratio rose by 109 and 52.7 per cent. respectively. The figures for the different provinces are given in the following table:—

	1903.			1902.			1901.		
	Daily average Population.	Offences dealt with by Criminal Courts.	Offences dealt with by Superintendents.	Daily average Population.	Offences dealt with by Criminal Courts.	Offences dealt with by Superintendents.	Daily average Population.	Offences dealt with by Criminal Courts.	Offences dealt with by Superintendents.
Madras	8,899	19	15,256	10,702	15	14,819	10,813	13	13,924
Bombay	7,915	36	9,297	10,053	20	10,110	10,422	23	10,746
Bengal	17,476	40	31,828	19,636	29	34,458	19,181	49	40,267
United Provinces	21,345	11	38,763	26,038	20	42,963	27,527	19	42,788
Punjab	11,199	91	38,837	11,928	84	38,591	12,644	123	37,951
Burma	10,672	50	42,863	11,076	58	38,643	11,510	48	36,636
Central Provinces	3,789	26	9,538	3,870	20	5,476	4,465	12	5,795
Assam	1,296	31	1,929	1,362	19	1,639	1,463	21	1,503
North-West Frontier Province.	971	1	1,206	893	4	1,500	881	5	1,541
Coorg	64	2	60	62	—	69	97	1	266
Hyderabad Assigned Districts.	—	—	—	1,087	2	620	1,389	3	904
	83,626	310	189,577	96,707	271	183,948	100,392	317	192,320

The aggregate number of corporal punishments tends steadily to decline. The total fell from 1,315 in 1902 to 1,100 in 1903, and bore a smaller proportion to the total number of punishments. The decrease in this respect was marked in the Central Provinces, where the ratio fell from 3.45 in 1902 to 1.31 in 1903. The total number of cases in which penal diet (with and without solitary confinement) was prescribed decreased by 356.

The treatment of habitual criminals, and their separation from casual offenders, received careful attention, particularly in the Punjab and the United Provinces.

The number of convicts who came under the mark system decreased from 33,396 in 1902 to 29,896 in 1903. The decrease is partly due to the smaller prison population of the year, and also to the release of a large number of

JAILS.

convicts in celebration of the Coronation. Opinions are divided as to the merits of the system. In some provinces it is said that convicts are fully alive to its benefits; in others it is urged that the rules involve a great amount of clerical labour, that the advantages are too remote to appeal to long-term prisoners, and that marks are granted as a matter of routine for merely passive good conduct.

The important matter of providing separate sleeping accommodation for prisoners continued to receive attention during the year under review.

The total cost of maintenance per head of average strength rose from £4 5s. 9d. to £4 6s. 5d., the increase being generally due to the lower average population during the year. The cash earnings of prisoners showed a decrease of 1s. 4d. a head, as compared with the previous year, and in consequence of the increased gross cost of maintenance and the decrease in the earnings, the net cost per prisoner rose from £3 6s. 2d. in 1902 to £3 8s. 10d.—the charge varying from £5 0s. 4d. in Assam to £2 3s. 10d. in Coorg. The greatest rise took place in the Central Provinces, where each prisoner cost £3 17s. 9d., as against £1 11s. 1d. in 1902, mainly owing to the fact that the cost of establishment had to be distributed among a smaller population than in the previous year. In more than one province the manufacturing results were adversely affected by the release of several of the most skilled artisans on the occasion of the Coronation.

The progressive fall in the death-rates exhibited by the returns for the last 24 years is remarkable and affords legitimate cause for congratulation, the more so when it is remembered that the conditions of life, economic and hygienic, to which the majority of the free population have, of recent years, been subjected, have been far from favourable, and that the main causes of sickness within the jails have remained unaltered, and have diminished only slightly and recently in the extent of their incidence. The death-rate, which was 26·87 per mille in 1901 and 24·85 in 1902, fell in the year under review to 21·38, which is the lowest on record. To this result all but three provinces contributed in different measure, the decrease of mortality being most marked in the Andamans, the Punjab, the United Provinces, and the Central Provinces. Excluding provinces for which no comparison is possible, the death-rate among prisoners was 19·53 per mille, as against 34·7 among the free population, although the proportion of sick prisoners was enhanced by the greater prevalence of illness outside the jails. The highest death-rates were recorded in the Andamans (34·21), Assam (31·75), and Bombay (26·41). While plague was widely diffused and frequently assumed an epidemic form, only 34 cases and 23 deaths were reported from the jails, notwithstanding the fact that 159 of the 245 prisons were situated in infected towns or districts. Cholera accounted for 97 cases, with 57 deaths, as compared with 36 and 24 respectively in 1902, and small-pox was also slightly more prevalent, but not more fatal. All other diseases which usually assume an epidemic form, showed a diminution. A notable feature of the returns was the marked decrease of cerebro-spinal fever, which had threatened to assume alarming dimensions.

Peual Settlement at Port Blair.

The number of convicts remaining in the settlement at the end of the year under review was 13,906, as against 12,724 at the end of the previous year, and there was an increase from 12,922 to 13,326 in the average daily strength. There were 113 releases under the twenty years' rule, and 1,908 convicts were received during the year. The number of jail offences, most of which were of a petty nature, rose slightly to 2,619, and punishments were more numerous in proportion. Sixty-six convicts escaped during the year, as against 57 in the previous year. Of these 45 were recaptured.

The receipts of the settlement during 1903-04 amounted to £53,821, as compared with £45,927 in 1902-03, and the expenditure rose from £125,138 to £136,639. The net cost of each convict increased from £6 2s. 2d. to £6 4s. 3d.

There were 19 English looms at work in the female jail at the end of the year, and 4,000 more suits of cotton clothing were turned out than in the previous year. The land under tea cultivation was 505 acres, and the tea manufactured amounted to 153,496 lbs., or 12,296 lbs. less than the outturn of the previous year. The decrease was attributed mainly to unfavourable weather at the commencement of the year, and to an inadequate supply of labour.

The general health of the settlement was on the whole better than in the previous year. The rainfall was 116 inches, as compared with 138 inches in 1902-03. Although there was an increase in the number of admissions for fever, mortality from that disease showed a satisfactory decline. Dysentery showed a falling-off in admissions and deaths, but there was not a marked decrease either in the admissions or in the death-rate from phthisis.

JAILS.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

The permanent Civil Judicial Staff employed in Bengal during 1903 consisted of 14 High Court Judges; 29 District and Sessions Judges; 3 Additional District and Sessions Judges; a Chief Judge and 4 Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; 3 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 53 Subordinate Judges, and 293 Munsifs. Additional temporary officers were also employed in various districts during the year.

CIVIL
JUSTICE.
Bengal.

The number of civil suits pending on the original side of the High Court at the end of 1902 was 1,718, including 67 pending suits received by transfer from other courts, and the number instituted during 1903 was 908. During the year 971 suits were disposed of, as against 726 in 1902, and the pending file fell to 1,674. There were 965 suits pending for over one year, showing an increase of 36 over the figures of the previous year. The number of insolvency cases pending at the end of the year decreased from 211 to 190.

In the civil courts in the mufassal, the total number of ordinary suits and small causes instituted was 668,354. This number is considerably the largest on record, being 25,547 in excess of the figures for 1902. The increase is mainly attributable to the natural development of population and prosperity, and occurred chiefly in suits under the Rent Law. The number of suits disposed of was 648,209, a figure which is also in excess of that for any previous year. A marked increase in the average duration of cases before District and Subordinate Judges was noted as unsatisfactory.

In the Presidency Small Cause Court, both institutions and disposals showed an increase on the previous year's figures. The number of pending cases had risen steadily from 1,205 in 1899 to 2,516 in 1903.

The arrears of appeals continued to be very heavy, although a slight reduction was effected by the High Court, owing to a considerable increase in the number of appeals disposed of (3,873), combined with a slight decrease in the number preferred (3,751). The number of appeals pending at the end of the year was 7,340, a number representing over two years' average appellate work. The appointment of an additional judge was sanctioned, however, early in 1904, and a further reduction of arrears may accordingly be expected. In the Subordinate Courts, 19,853 appeals were instituted and 20,426 disposed of. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year (13,085) was 35 more than at the end of 1902.

Institutions of civil cases in the North-Western Province to some extent recovered from the fall in 1902, and numbered 90,548. This is still behind the provincial average for the past six years, viz., 91,881. Plague appears only to have affected the institution of civil suits during temporary periods of panic in particular districts.

North-
Western
Provinces.

The pending file was reduced from 9,787 to 9,703, but the number of cases pending over three months at the end of the year increased from 2,385 to 2,494. Although there were nearly 2,000 more cases for disposal than in 1902, the number of cases decided after contest decreased by 715, and cases decreed *ex parte* and compromised were considerably more numerous than in the previous year.

There were 12,391 appeals before the Subordinate Courts during the year, as compared with 13,704 in 1902, but the year closed with a pending file higher than that with which it opened. Before the High Court there were 3,567 appeals for disposal, as against 3,628 in 1902. Of these 1,568 were disposed of. The pending file rose slightly by 66, but an increase of 120 in second appeals is more than counterbalanced by a reduction of 61 in the pending file of first appeals.

The number of applications for execution of decrees filed during the year was 88,446, representing an increase of about 2,000 over the figures of the

CIVIL
JUSTICE.

preceding year. Disposals, however, more than kept pace with institutions, the pending file at the end of the year being reduced from 12,485 to 12,074. Realisation was complete in 19,960 cases, and partial in 16,593, while 51,053 applications were wholly infructuous. The percentage of fructuous applications to the total number of applications disposed of was 40.

Village Munsifs decided 7,080 cases out of a total of 7,270 for disposal. Of these 540, or 7 per cent., were contested cases, as compared with 6 per cent. in 1902.

Oudh.

The total number of suits instituted in Oudh was 46,841, as against 47,257 in 1902. In all, 56,673 suits were before the courts, and the number decided was 48,220, as compared with 47,240 in the previous year. The pending files fell from 8,505 to 8,453. The average duration of contested suits rose from 80.16 to 90.93 days. The total number of appeals from decrees before the courts was 5,238, as against 4,981 in 1902, but the pending file was reduced from 2,145 to 1,820. Of the appeals decided, 209 were dismissed, while previous orders were confirmed in 1,984 cases, modified in 438, and reversed in 584. Miscellaneous appeals numbered 774, out of which 658 were disposed of, previous orders being confirmed in 310 cases, modified in 23, and reversed in 103.

The Village Courts Act was extended during the year to parts of the Lucknow and Khevi districts. Of the total number of 257 Village Munsifs, only 16 took cases. Of 238 cases for disposal, 141 were disposed of, leaving 97 pending at the end of the year. It was said to be too early yet to speak with any confidence on the working of the Village Courts Act.

Punjab.

There was a further decrease of 4,986 in the total number of suits instituted in Civil Courts in the Punjab (214,622). The steady decrease in the volume of civil litigation was ascribed mainly to the effect of the Land Alienation Act in reducing pre-emption and mortgage suits, but it is probable that there were other contributory causes, notably plague. The total number of suits brought by money-lenders against agriculturists again fell, from 100,449 to 93,900, while suits to establish rights of pre-emption continued to decline.

Out of 258,751 suits for disposal in District Courts, 229,614 were decided. As compared with 1902 there was a fall of 6,602 in the number of disposals, but the pending file was reduced by 618. The average durations of contested and uncontested cases were 50 and 30 days respectively, as against 45 and 27 days in the previous year. This rise is a consequence of a change introduced in the method of calculating duration of cases; the duration of a case dismissed for default and subsequently re-admitted being now calculated from the date of first institution.

The percentage of appeals to appealable orders was the same as in 1902, namely 23. In Divisional Courts, 6,466 appeals were instituted, a decrease of 431, and the pending file was reduced by the same number to 1,988. In 36 per cent. of the cases the orders of the lower Courts were upheld. In District Courts appeals fell from 6,164 to 6,048, and the pending file decreased from 802 to 565. The percentage of confirmations was 53.8.

In the Chief Court, 9 original cases, 854 appeals from decrees, and 265 appeals from orders were instituted during the year. In 40 per cent. of the appeals the decisions of the lower Courts were affirmed. The number of disposals fell from 977 to 837, and the pending file rose from 1,529 to 1,811. The continued accumulation of arrears in the Chief Court was an unsatisfactory feature of the year's record.

Burma.

In the Burma Civil Courts there was a considerable increase in the volume of original litigation. The total number of suits instituted rose from 64,618 to 68,656; the increase being common to both sections of the province. In Lower Burma suits for money or movable property accounted for almost the whole of the increase; in Upper Burma it was attributed to the growth of trade and population. The number of cases disposed of during the year was 69,127, as compared with 64,784 in 1902. Of this number 20,859 were contested. There was a general decrease in the average duration of cases, and the pending file was reduced from 5,111 to 5,113.

The total number of regular appeals rose slightly to 5,377, of which 918 were pending at the close of the year. Decrees of lower Courts in Lower Burma were confirmed in 63 per cent. of cases, modified in 8 per cent., and

reversed in 27 per cent., the figures showing little variation from those of 1902. Out of 1,295 cases disposed of in District Courts in Upper Burma 62 per cent. were confirmed, as against 60 per cent. in the previous year. In Divisional Courts in Lower Burma the decrees were confirmed in 69 per cent. of the cases. In Upper Burma, only 11 appeals came before Divisional Judges, previous orders being confirmed in 6 of the cases. The Chief Court disposed of 274 appeals, as against 306 in 1902.

CIVIL
JUSTICE.

Applications for execution of decrees rose in Lower Burma from 23,739 to 25,658, and in Upper Burma from 8,411 to 8,814.

The question of the establishment of a separate Judicial Service for Lower Burma was still under consideration during the year under review, but the introduction of the new service has since been sanctioned.

The number of suits instituted in the Central Provinces fell from 80,681 to 75,933, a decrease which was probably partly attributable to the return of agricultural prosperity. The number of cases disposed of was 76,779, and the pending file was reduced from 13,325 to 12,509. The average duration of contested cases rose from 106 days to 114 days, and that of uncontested cases from 54 to 58 days.

Central
Provinces.

There was a considerable decrease in the number of appeals instituted, and a slight increase in the number disposed of. In the Court of the Judicial Commissioner 280 regular second appeals were disposed of, as against 500 in 1902, and the pending file rose from 40 to 207. Divisional Judges disposed of 395 cases, as compared with 388 in the previous year, and the number pending fell by 23. The District Appellate Courts had before them 5,116 appeals, and disposed of 4,311, the corresponding figures for 1902 being 5,598 and 4,703 respectively.

Applications for execution of decrees numbered 80,974, as compared with 91,572 in 1902. Of the applications disposed of, 57.4 were wholly infructuous, and in 19.5 per cent. satisfaction was obtained in full.

A new scheme was introduced during the year providing for the appointment of a large additional number of Munsifs and the gradual relief of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars from civil work unconnected with the Rent Law.

The Civil Judicial Staff in Assam consisted of 3 District Judges, 8 Subordinate Judges, and 33 Munsifs. The number of original suits instituted during the year was 30,033, a decrease of 249 on the figure of 1902. The decrease was confined to Sylhet, there being an increase in the Assam Valley Districts and Cachar. Altogether there were 36,344 suits for disposal, and 30,537 were disposed of. This number was 152 less than the total disposed of in the previous year, the number of cases disposed of in Sylhet falling by 604. The pending file rose from 5,192 to 5,352.

Assam.

In the High Court 196 appeals were preferred during the year, as against 91 in 1902. One hundred and two were disposed of, and the pending file rose from 201 to 295. Previous orders were confirmed in 60 cases, modified in 4, and reversed in 5. In Subordinate Courts 1,051 appeals were instituted, and 1,130 disposed of, the pending file being reduced from 939 to 882. Of 1,046 appeals decided after hearing the decisions of the lower Courts were affirmed in 74.9 per cent., and reversed in 15 per cent.

The number of applications for execution of decrees disposed of was 16,885, full satisfaction being obtained in 2,648 and partial satisfaction in 3,763 cases.

The suits instituted in the North-West Frontier Province during 1903 numbered 19,325, as against 18,797 in the previous year. Bannu continued to retain its place as the most litigious district in the province, while the institutions in Kohat were the lowest recorded for many years. All the districts of the province recorded a satisfactory decrease in pre-emption suits, with the exception of Peshawar, which was responsible for 394 cases out of the 698 instituted.

North-West
Frontier
Province.

Of the 23,109 suits for disposal in the district courts, 21,098 were decided, a slightly greater number than in 1902. The average duration of suits in the province fell from 42 to 40 days in contested cases and from 25 to 22 days in uncontested suits.

CIVIL
JUSTICE.

District judges and subordinate judges with appellate powers disposed of 486 appeals, as against 552 in 1902. The proportion of appeals in which the order of the lower court was interfered with was 30 per cent., as compared with 26 per cent. in the previous year. Divisional Courts disposed of 951 regular appeals, or 78 less than in the previous year. Of these no fewer than 700 were disposed of in the Peshawar divisional court. Previous orders were interfered with in 28 per cent. of the cases in Peshawar and 33 per cent. in the Derajat.

Berar.

The number of suits instituted in Berar during the year was 20,538, as against 24,842 in 1902. The decrease was common to all districts except Wun, where there was no plague. The figures showed that while plague seriously affected the number of suits which were not concerned with permanent interests, it had not the same effect on the institution of suits affecting permanent interests in land. There were in all 29,416 suits for disposal, as compared with 35,045 in the preceding year, and 74·5 per cent. were disposed of. The average duration of contested cases rose further from 226·4 days to 235·6 days.

As regards appeals, the number of cases for disposal and the number actually disposed of were higher than in 1902, both in the Judicial Commissioner's Court and in the Court of the Civil and Sessions Judge. The average duration of cases increased in each Court.

Of 30,378 applications for execution of decrees, 24,931 were disposed of, and the pending file was reduced from 6,561 to 5,447. But in no district was the number of pending cases reduced in proportion to the smaller number of cases to be disposed of.

Coorg.

The number of Civil Courts in Coorg was five, as in 1902. The total number of institutions declined from 1,550 to 1,511, but the value of suits increased by £574 to £18,364. The total number of suits decided (1,507) exhibited a falling off as compared with the previous year, but the disposals practically kept pace with the institutions, and the pending file only rose by four. Of 41 appeals disposed of during the year, in 23 the decisions of the courts below were confirmed and in 10 reversed. Execution proceedings (2,655) were 475 less than in 1902; the proportion of wholly infructuous applications (70·9 per cent.), though still exceedingly high, exhibited a slight improvement.

Madras.

There was no noticeable variation in the number of tribunals which exercised jurisdiction in Madras in 1903, except that Village Courts fell from 5,377 to 5,197. The year was marked by a considerable diminution in the volume of litigation, which was generally attributed to the favourable character of the season. The total number of suits instituted was 322,898, or 10,618 less than in 1902, the decrease occurring chiefly in the Village Courts, District Munsifs' Courts and Districts Judges' Courts. The number of appeals preferred was 12,336—541 more than in 1902. In spite of the decrease in the number of suits instituted, the amount involved in original litigation during the year rose from £3,000,000 to £8,246,606. In Village, Agency and District Courts the pending files were reduced, but arrears increased in the Revenue, District Munsifs' and Subordinate Judges' Courts, as well as in the Presidency Court of Small Causes.

Before Village Courts 78,967 suits were instituted, a decrease of nearly 6,000 on 1902, and 79,775 were disposed of. Out of 100,971 ordinary suits and 127,525 small causes for disposal (of which 75,729 and 117,034 respectively were instituted during the year) District Munsifs disposed of 76,361 and 117,404 respectively, as against 79,732 and 120,728 in 1902. In Subordinate Judges' Courts the numbers of ordinary suits and small causes disposed of were respectively 869 and 17,353, as compared with 987 and 18,229 in the previous year. In District Courts the numbers were 434 and 586, the figures for 1902 being 417 and 1,293 respectively.

In the High Court an increase of 22 in the number of suits instituted (218) was accompanied by a decrease of 28 in the number disposed of (175), and 154 cases were pending at the end of the year, as against 106 at its commencement. The average duration of contested suits was 219 days, of uncontested 266 days. The number of appeals of all kinds preferred to the High Court was 3,673. Two hundred and fifty-five first appeals and

1,095 second appeals were disposed of during the year, leaving 537 and 4,278 respectively pending for disposal.

CIVIL
JUSTICE.

In the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) the total number of suits instituted showed a decrease from 187,570 to 182,971, which was attributed partly to plague. Of these, 75 per cent. were for money or movable property, and 17 per cent. related to immovable property, all other suits totalling 8 per cent. The percentage of contested suits was 30, as in 1902. There was a slight improvement in the average duration of contested and uncontested suits, the figures being 163 and 89 days respectively, as against 188 and 96 days in the previous year. The total number of suits disposed of was 184,003, as against 188,267 in 1902, and arrears increased from 38,678 to 38,677.

Bombay.

Including arrears from the previous year to the number of 4,262, there were 9,299 appeals before the courts, of which 5,501 were decided, the pending file being thus reduced to 3,798. In 2,706 cases the decrees of the lower courts were confirmed, while 971 were not prosecuted or were dismissed. The average duration of appeals fell from 240 to 214 days.

Applications for execution of decrees numbered 200,472, and 203,329 were disposed of, arrears decreasing from 57,681 to 54,824. Excluding 2,630 applications disposed of by transfer, or under the Dakhan Agriculturists' Relief Act, 68 per cent. of the applications proved wholly infructuous; full satisfaction was obtained in 14 per cent. of the cases, partial satisfaction in the remainder. The total amount recovered in execution rose from £278,316 to £337,485. The number of persons imprisoned in process of execution was 895, as against 973 in 1902.

The total number of applications for declaration of insolvency disposed of during the year was 206, in addition to 81 applications transferred or withdrawn. The applications were granted in 46 per cent. of the cases and rejected in 54 per cent.

In the four districts to which the Dakhan Agriculturists Relief Act applies, there was a decrease of 3,006 suits, or nearly 65 per cent. of the whole decrease. The falling-off in these districts was attributed partly to a rise in the number of Conciliation agreements and partly to the favourable season.

CHAPTER IV.

REGISTRATION.

REGISTRATION.
General.

The Registration Law of 1877 was in force during the year under review throughout British India, with the exception of Upper Burma, for which Regulation II. of 1897 still provides a less complete procedure, and of certain other tracts in which the conditions are exceptional. For the purpose of registration, documents are divided into (a) those of which registration is compulsory, or necessary to the validity of the deed, and (b) those which are not required by the law to be registered, but which can be so treated or not at the option of the holder, though liable, if unregistered, to be superseded by subsequent registered documents, subject to the equitable doctrine of notice. In the former class are deeds of gift of immovable property, or other documents, excluding wills, which affect rights in such property of value more than Rs. 100, and, with certain exceptions, annual or longer leases. In the second category, that of optionally registrable documents, are those relating to immovable property not included in the above-mentioned classes, deeds affecting movable property, wills, and other documents. As concerns transfers of immovable property, however, the situation is affected in most provinces by the Transfer of Property Act of 1882. This Act was in force during the year under review throughout British India, with the exception of Burma (outside Rangoon), the Punjab, and Sind, and other scheduled districts. Under its provisions all transfers by sale or mortgage of immovable property had to be registered, excepting that in the case of tangible immovable property of value below Rs. 100 transfer might alternatively be effected by delivery of the property and the registration of mortgage deeds for such small sums was not compulsory. The Act was amended in 1904, the most important change being that all deeds transferring immovable property, of whatever value, require to be registered, though when the value is less than Rs. 100 transfer may still be made without a deed; and a similar change was made in respect of the leases to which the Act applies. The operation of the Act has also been largely extended in Lower Burma. Offices are established in every district for the registration of documents, and for keeping copies of such documents. *Ad valorem* fees are charged for registration, and a small fixed fee for searching the records. The total registration receipts of the year 1903-04 were £326,900 as compared with £312,600 in the preceding year; and the cost of the registration offices was £177,800, leaving a surplus of £149,100, against £140,800 in the year 1902-03.

Bengal.

There was in the year 1903 a decrease in the total number of deeds registered in Bengal from 1,468,000 to 1,448,000. The deeds affecting immovable property which come under the compulsory classes were chiefly responsible for this fall. They comprised 978,900 registrations, the value of the property concerned being £11,946,000. Optional registrations relating to immovable property showed a slight increase, numbering 290,820. Sales of immovable property showed a small advance, numbering 398,600. Mortgages coming under the compulsory heading numbered 153,500, or rather less than in 1902, but the value represented was greater. The aggregate value of the property affected by the documents registered amounted to £14,664,000; more than one fifth of that amount is contributed by the comparatively small number of deeds (4,654) registered in Calcutta. The number of registered transfers of holdings by tenants paying at fixed rates or enjoying occupancy rights was 300,600, the transfer was made in 195,100 cases to other ryots, and in 32,600 cases to traders or money-lenders. Occupancy holdings realised 19·9 years' purchase against 19·2 years' purchase in 1902. Registrations under the Bengal Tenancy Act numbered 87,800.

Registrations under the Bengal Land Records Maintenance Act of 1895 were in progress during the year ending in September 1903, the latest year for which statistics are available, in parts of the Champaran and Muzaffarpur districts, but the operations were on a small scale, and showed a tendency to decrease. The total number of mutations recorded during the

year was 2,785 (2,075 sales and 728 successions), against 3,111 in the preceding year. Only 916 mutations were recorded on application, as against 1,094 in the year 1901-02.

REGISTRATION.

The number of documents registered in the United Provinces fell from 199,900 to 198,200 in the year 1903, of which 161,200 affected immovable property. The number of registered sales of such property fell from 41,700 to 43,900, and that of mortgages rose from 69,900 to 71,800; while the number of term leases again showed a decided fall, and has now returned to the amount usual before the disturbance caused by the introduction of the Tenancy Bill. The value of the immovable property affected by the deeds registered was £6,433,000. The value of all classes of property affected by all deeds registered during the year was £7,086,700.

United Provinces.

The number of documents registered in the Punjab in the year 1903 was 72,500, or rather more than in the preceding year. In the class of compulsory registrations of immovable property, the deeds numbered 55,450 against 50,950 in 1902, an increase which indicates the revival of business from the effect of the passing of the Alienation of Land Act, a revival which had begun in the later months of 1902. Including the optional classes, registrations of deeds affecting immovable property numbered 67,200, of which 25,500 were sales and 36,400 were mortgages. The total value of all classes of property transferred under the documents registered was £2,530,000, of which £2,013,000 represents sales and mortgages of immovable property.

Punjab.

The number of registrations in Lower Burma increased from 28,300 to 33,400, the increase occurring for the most part in deeds of which registration is compulsory, and being ascribed partly to the high prices of paddy and partly to speculation in land. The aggregate value of immovable property affected was £3,792,000, which was 53 per cent. above the figure for 1902. Of this total, £1,819,000, or 48 per cent., represents property in Rangoon town. The registration system of Upper Burma differs from that of Lower Burma, but the intention is to introduce the Lower Burma system, with rules under the Registration Act, at some not far distant date. The deeds affecting immovable property registered in Upper Burma showed no noticeable variation in 1903 as compared with the previous year, but the value of the property affected was higher, amounting to £315,600; 521 deeds affecting movable property were filed under the optional system established in 1898-99.

Burma.

The number of registrations in the Central Provinces and Berar fell from 55,100 to 52,400, of which 32,700 were made in Berar. The number of registrations relating to immovable property under the compulsory heads has fallen considerably in the Central Provinces, which is held to be a sign of greatly increased prosperity among the agricultural classes. In Berar they were more numerous than in 1902, possibly owing to movements in the cotton trade. The aggregate value of the property affected fell to £1,443,700, which included £653,600 under sales, and £512,000 under mortgages, of immovable property. The greater part of the sales are made to agriculturists, while mortgages, on the other hand, are to a larger extent made to the non-agricultural classes.

Central Provinces and Berar.

In Assam 55,400 documents were registered, or 4 per cent. more than the total of the preceding year; 75 per cent. of the registrations occurred in the Sylhet district; 47,200 of the deeds related to transactions affecting immovable property, which were more numerous than in the previous year. The aggregate value of property affected by the deeds registered was £595,500, of which £451,800 related to immovable property. The number of registrations in the optional class rose from 12,600 to 14,200.

Assam.

In Madras the number of registrations rose from 937,600 to 943,400, though many districts showed a decline. The number of registered sales of land was 332,000, or rather more than in the preceding year; of that number more than half affected land worth less than Rs. 100; the number of other deeds affecting immovable property was lower than in the previous year, while those relating to movable property, which are comparatively few in number, showed a slight recovery. The value represented by the registered sales and mortgages of immovable property amounted to £10,138,000, by other deeds affecting such property £3,165,000, and by deeds affecting movable property

Madras.

REGISTRATION.
Bombay.

The number of registrations in Bombay was 161,600, or 3 per cent. less than in 1902, the decrease occurring in most districts, and being ascribed in part to the liberal grant of agricultural loans by the Government, partly to the ravages of plague, and partly also to the recovery of the ryots from past bad seasons. The decrease occurred in practically all classes of deeds. Registered deeds of sale or exchange and mortgages of immovable property numbered 68,100 and 50,600 respectively, against 65,700 and 55,400 in the previous year; but the average value of all deeds transferring land was higher than in the preceding year, and the aggregate value represented by such deeds was £5,750,000. Deeds affecting movable property showed a decline both in number and in the value of the property concerned.

Under the special law for the protection of agriculturists in the four Deccan districts of Poona, Satara, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur, there were 90,000 registrations, which was nearly 12 per cent. below the total of the previous year, owing to the same causes as were noted above. Sales, leases, and mortgages of agricultural land all shared in the fall, and the transactions between agriculturists on both sides appear from the returns to have increased, whether owing to genuine agriculturists having undertaken money-lending or to money-lenders having registered themselves as agriculturists after acquiring land. The aggregate value of property concerned in these special registrations was £305,700.

North West
Frontier
Province.

The figures of registration in the North West Frontier Province are small in comparison with those of other provinces, but it may be observed that there was an increase in the compulsory classes of registrations, affecting immovable property, from 9,000 to 9,400, occurring in the Peshawar district.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

JOINT
STOCK
COMPANIES.

The Report on Joint Stock Companies for 1903-04 for the whole of India shows that the number of new joint stock companies registered was 123, with a nominal capital of £1,754,600, and a paid-up capital of £22,400; while 74 companies, with a paid-up capital of £581,800, ceased to work. On the other hand, the paid-up capital of 441 companies was increased by an aggregate amount of £1,017,600, while 89 companies reduced their paid-up capital by £271,300 in all. The net result was that at the end of the year there were in operation 1,489 companies, with a nominal capital of £36,928,000 and a paid-up capital of £26,474,000, which is 1·5 per cent. larger than the figure for 1902-03. The companies are most important in the provinces of Bengal and Bombay, which possess 43 and 39 per cent. respectively of all the paid-up capital; in Madras the number of companies (443) was larger than in either of the two former provinces, but the paid-up capital constituted only about 7 per cent. of the whole; in the United Provinces the paid-up capital of the 86 companies aggregated 5 per cent. of the whole; in no other province did the aggregate paid-up capital of registered companies reach £600,000. The Bombay companies are, taking the figures as they stand, the richest, the average of paid-up capital for the 336 companies in that presidency being £30,600; while for the 416 companies of Bengal it is £27,300, for the 443 of Madras £4,300, and for the 86 of the United Provinces £15,300. The average in Bengal has risen much in recent years, owing to the extinction of most of the native provident societies with practically no paid-up capital, but it showed a small decline in 1903-04. This was also the case in Bombay, where there still remain 63 companies having no paid-up capital. The number of such companies increased in Madras from 20 to 49 during the year, most of those newly created being of the nature of death or marriage benefit societies. The distribution of paid-up capital among registered companies for different classes of industry was as follows:—

	Paid-up Capital.		Paid-up Capital.
	£		£
Banking and insurance	- 3,254,000	Mills and presses	- 12,547,000
Trading and shipping	- 5,269,000	Tea and planting	- 2,433,000
Mining and quarrying	- 1,756,000	Other industries	- 1,215,000

The group of companies with the largest aggregate subscribed capital, £12,547,000, constituting over 47 per cent. of the total paid-up capital, were for weaving and spinning or for pressing cotton, jute, wool, and silk; and nearly 58 per cent. of the capital of such undertakings belonged to the Bombay Presidency. In the 15 years from 1889-90 to 1903-04 the number of joint stock companies at work has risen from 886 to 1,489, and the paid-up capital has risen from 15¼ to 26½ millions of pounds.

JOINT
STOCK
COMPANIES.

PATENTS AND DESIGNS.

The total number of applications filed in 1903, the latest year for which statistics are to hand, for the registration of inventions under the Patents Law was 536, or 12 more than in the preceding year. Of these, 56 were refused or abandoned, and 112 were undecided at the end of the year. Forty-seven only of the applications were made by natives of India, 126 by Anglo-Indians, and 363 by other persons. The number of specifications filed during the year was 330, or 45 less than in the preceding year. The number of exclusive privileges kept alive by payment of the prescribed fees was 542. There were 41 applications for the registration of designs, of which 10 were rejected.

PATENTS.

FINANCE.

CHAPTER V.

FINANCE.

FORM OF ACCOUNTS.

The accounts of the Government of India show the transactions in India in rupees : the totals of these transactions are then converted into pounds, at the rate of Rs. 15 = £1 : the sterling transactions in England are next stated : and the last two sets of figures are added together, so as to show in pounds the combined transactions in India and in England. The comparatively small sums which have to be brought to account owing to the facts that the remittances to defray the net expenditure in England are not effected at exactly sixteenpence to the rupee, and that the Government is under obligations to carry out certain transactions at fixed rates differing from the rate of sixteenpence to the rupee, are included in a single line under the head of Exchange.

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The gross revenue and expenditure of British India in 1902-03 and 1903-04 were as follows :—

Gross
Revenue and
Expendi-
ture.

	1902-03.	1903-04.	Difference
Revenue	£ 77,434,915	£ 83,756,155	£ +6,321,240
Expenditure	74,365,366	80,759,755	+6,394,389
Surplus	£ 3,069,549	2,996,400	— 73,149 (<i>less</i>)

The gross revenue includes all receipts, and the gross expenditure all payments. The financial position of the Government can, however, be much better appreciated by reference to the following table of Net Revenue and Expenditure, in which the charges of revenue-earning departments are treated as deductions from revenue, and the receipts of spending departments are treated as deductions from expenditure.

NET REVENUE.*

FINANCE.

	1902-03.		1903-04.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-).		Net Revenue and Ex- penditure.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Land Revenue, &c. :							
Land Revenue	17,689,653		18,508,738		+819,085		
Forests	1,295,029		1,477,393		+182,364		
Tributes from Native States	581,995		410,827		-171,168		
		19,566,677		20,396,958			+830,281
Opium : Net Receipts		2,846,869		3,506,178			+659,309
Taxation :							
Salt	5,931,933		4,981,704		-950,229		
Stamps	3,434,401		3,538,237		+103,836		
Excise	4,384,181		4,932,500		+548,319		
Provincial Rates	2,741,449		2,821,967		+80,518		
Customs	3,829,848		3,839,066		+9,218		
Assessed Taxes	1,402,672		1,206,636		-196,036		
Registration	312,659		326,041		+13,382		
		22,037,143		21,646,151			-390,992
Commercial Undertakings :							
Post Office	83,157		103,929		+20,772		
Telegraph	-32,763		-59,189		-26,426		
Railways	228,949		860,669		+631,720		
Irrigation	193,746		231,756		+38,010		
		473,039		1,137,165			+664,076
Miscellaneous Receipts :							
Mint	-12,776		99,181		+111,957		
Miscellaneous	-254,316		-82,733		+171,583		
		-267,092		16,448			+283,540
Exchange		31,571		58,429			+26,858
Total Net Revenue	£	44,688,257		46,761,329			+2,073,072

NET EXPENDITURE.*

	1902-03.		1903-04.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Debt Services (excluding amounts charged under Railway Revenue Account and Irrigation)		965,018		801,565		-163,453
Military Services :						
Army	16,221,402		16,775,780		+554,378	
Military Works and Special Defence Works.	1,058,368		1,016,625		-41,743	
		17,279,770		17,792,405		+512,635
Collection of Revenue		4,704,858		4,938,385		+233,527
Civil Services :						
Civil Departments	10,366,855		10,381,887		+15,032	
Miscellaneous Civil Charges	3,640,258		3,631,364		-8,894	
Civil Works (including Railways charged to Provincial or Local Revenues).	3,751,798		4,118,384		+366,586	
		17,758,911		18,131,635		+372,724
Famine Relief and Insurance		982,576		905,680		-76,896
Provincial Balances :						
1. Increased by portion of allotments not spent in the year.				1,195,259		
2. Decreased by expenditure from balances.		-72,425				+1,267,684
Total Net Expenditure charged against Revenues.		41,618,708		43,764,929		+2,146,221
Surplus		3,069,549		2,996,400		-73,149

* Figures for the 11 years ending 1903-04 will be found in Parliamentary Paper, House of Commons o 1905

FINANCES.
Net
Revenue
and Ex-
penditure.

Thus there was in 1903-04, as compared with the previous year, an increase in the net revenue of £2,073,072, and an increase in the net expenditure of £2,146,221; in India the net revenue was higher by £2,103,424 and the net expenditure by £2,443,859, whilst in England the net disbursements were less by £267,286. In 1902-03 there was a surplus of £3,069,549, and one of £2,996,400 in 1903-04.

Detailed explanations of the figures of revenue and expenditure are annually laid before Parliament in the Financial Statement of the Government of India and in the Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State. It will be sufficient here to refer only to the most important increases and decreases in 1903-04:—

Net Revenue.

Increases.—The Land Revenue in 1903-04 showed an advance of £819,085 over the figures of the previous year. The improvement was general throughout India, and is attributed to the recovery of the country from the effects of the famine of 1899-1900. The increase in the Excise revenue, £548,319, is chiefly due to the same cause. Under Opium there was an increase of £659,309; the prices realised at the Calcutta sales in 1903-04 were exceptionally high, and the exports of Malwa opium were also large. Under Railways the improvement amounted to £631,720.

Decreases.—Towards the close of the year 1902-03 the Government of India decided to make important reductions in the Salt duty and the Income Tax. In accordance with this decision the Salt duty was lowered from the 18th March 1903 to 2 rupees per maund in India generally, with corresponding reductions in those districts, excluding Burma, where the duty had been less than that generally imposed, and from the 1st April 1903 the limit of exemption from income tax in the case of private incomes was raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. Owing to these reductions there was a decrease in 1903-04 in the net revenue from Salt and Assessed Taxes amounting to £950,229 and £196,036 respectively.

Net Expenditure.

Increases.—The most important is that under the head of Provincial Balances, viz., £1,267,684. In 1902-03 the revenue accruing to the Provincial Governments was £19,746,970 and their expenditure £19,819,395, the excess outlay, £72,425, being taken from their balances. In 1903-04, the amount that was credited to them out of the total revenue receipts rose, owing to large special grants by the Government of India, to £21,554,521, while their expenditure was only £20,359,262. There was thus £1,195,259 to be added to their balances, and the Provincial Adjustments were thus less favourable to the Government of India in 1903-04 than in 1902-03 by £1,267,684 (= £1,195,259 + £72,425). The special grants by the Government of India which have been referred to above were as follows:—

	£
To Bengal, Madras, the United Provinces, and Assam, in connection with the introduction of new arrangements for regulating the financial relations between the Government of India and the Governments of those Provinces - - - - -	1,000,000
To Bombay, the Punjab, and the Central Provinces to enable them to close the year with the prescribed minimum balance - - - - -	241,700
To eight provinces for expenditure on education and various objects of public utility - - - - -	1,084,300

The expenditure on the Army in 1903-04 shows an increase of £554,378, due chiefly to charges on account of the Mission to Tibet and the Aden Boundary Commission. Under Civil Works there was an increase of £366,586.

Decreases.—There was a decrease of £163,453 in the net payments for interest (excluding amounts charged under the Railway Revenue Account and Irrigation).

The tables in the Appendix show the net revenue and expenditure in India of the several Provinces under the chief heads for the years 1902-03 and 1903-04, and the net payments in England. FINANCE

The following summary shows the surpluses or deficits in the various Provinces and the net expenditure by the Government of India and the Secretary of State:—

Provinces, &c.	1902-03.		1903-04.	
	Surplus.	Deficit.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	£
Bengal	8,413,632	—	7,849,933	—
United Provinces	4,488,197	—	4,250,441	—
Punjab	2,541,780	—	3,283,081	—
Burma	2,349,816	—	2,532,742	—
Central Provinces	577,446	—	527,255	—
Assam	225,937	—	141,305	—
Madras	3,760,650	—	3,139,301	—
Bombay	3,498,215	—	4,289,191	—
North-West Frontier Province	—	—221,712	—	—202,938
Berar	357,922	—	336,350	—
India, General	—	—5,255,318	—	—5,690,531
England	—	—17,667,016	—	—17,399,730
Net result	3,069,549	—	2,996,400	—

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PUBLIC WORKS.

The total capital outlay on railways and irrigation works, during the two years, was as follows:—

	1902-03.	1903-04.
Amount supplied by Ordinary borrowing or from the Cash Balances, without being charged against the Revenue of the year:	£	£
State Railways	3,260,640	4,535,105
Irrigation Works	564,191	507,898
Amount met by Debenture Stock issued by the East Indian Railway Company.	1,303,361	—
Amount defrayed from Revenue:		
Provincial Railways	54,659	26,550
Preliminary railway expenditure not originally charged to construction.	18,565	—
Protective Railways	1,625	96,605
Protective Irrigation Works	94,742	144,446
Other Irrigation Works*	66,405	22,298
Total Direct Outlay by the State	5,364,188	5,332,902
Outlay by companies guaranteed or subsidised by Government	2,194,067	1,857,961
Outlay by railways outside Government accounts	668,060	418,691
Outlay by Local Boards	—	—
Total Capital Outlay on Railways and Irrigation - £	8,226,315	7,609,554

* Excluding capital outlay on the minor works, against which interest is not charged in the accounts.

FINANCE.

DEBT.

Debt.

The following table shows the alteration in the amount of the debt that took place in 1903-04, the amount of the rupee debt in India being expressed in pounds at the rate of Rs. 15 = £1 :—

	Amount of Debt on 31st March 1903.	Amount of Debt on 31st March 1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
In India (permanent)	78,369,377	79,616,202	1,246,825	—
„ (temporary)	—	333,333	333,333	—
In England (permanent)	130,296,261	131,045,844	749,583	—
„ (temporary)	3,500,000	2,000,000	—	1,500,000
Total	£ 212,165,638	212,995,379	829,741	—

In India a loan of two crores of rupees (£1,333,300), bearing interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., was raised at an average price of 98.1 per cent. In England £1,500,000 India 3 per cent. Stock was issued at an average price of £98 19s. 0d. per cent., the proceeds being used for the discharge of £600,000 debentures of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and towards the discharge of India Sterling Bills falling due in the year. Of the £3,500,000 sterling bills outstanding on 1st April 1903, £1,500,000 were discharged without replacement. Bills in replacement of the remaining £2,000,000 were issued at average rates of £3 7s. 5d. (June, 1903), £3 11s. 6d. (September), £3 12s. 11d. (December), £3 5s. 2d. (March, 1904).

OTHER OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Other obligations.

Particulars regarding the obligations of the Government of India other than the permanent or temporary debt, and of loans by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, are given in the following tables :—

OBLIGATIONS.

	Amount outstanding 31st March 1903.	Amount incurred 1903-04.	Amount discharged. 1903-04.	Amount outstanding 31st March 1904.	Increase 1902-03.	Decrease 1902-03.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Savings Bank Deposits	9,040,875	3,643,472	2,886,009	9,798,338	757,463	—
Deposits of Service Funds.	1,157,892	96,555	83,739	1,170,708	12,816	—
Excluded Local Funds	243,103	756,891	719,941	280,053	36,950	—
Railway Funds - -	75,243	64,215	66,548	72,910	—	2,333
Deposits of Sinking Funds.	81,931	9,884	—	91,815	9,884	—
Special Loans -	1,126,802	—	58	1,126,744	—	58
Treasury Notes -	29,861	—	—	29,861	—	—
Departmental and Judicial Deposits.	3,555,241	17,457,532	17,406,651	3,606,122	50,881	—
Total - -	15,310,948	22,028,549	21,162,946	16,176,551	867,994	2,391

LOANS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

FINANCE

	Amount outstanding 31st March 1903.	Amount advanced 1903-04.	Amount repaid 1902-03.	Amount outstanding 31st March 1904.	Increase 1903-04.	Decrease 1903-04.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loans by the Government of India to Port Trusts, Municipalities, Native States, &c.	8,799,492	500,084	387,235	8,912,341	112,849	—
Loans by the Provincial Governments.	3,798,772	516,676	988,400	3,327,048	—	471,724
Total	12,598,264	1,016,760	1,375,635	12,239,389	—	358,875

CASH BALANCES.

The following statement shows the amount of the cash balances, and the extent to which they were increased or reduced by the transactions of the year :—

Cash balances.

	On 1st April.			Increase or Decrease.	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	In 1902-03.	In 1903-04.
	£	£	£	£	£
In India	11,880,301	12,082,416	11,869,552	+202,115	-212,864
In England	6,693,137	5,767,787	7,294,782	-925,350	+1,526,995
Total	18,573,438	17,850,203	19,164,334	-723,235	+1,314,131

COINAGE AND PAPER CURRENCY.

The value of the coinage at the Mints in India was :—

Coinage and paper currency.

	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£
Silver	12,383,966	13,889,738
Copper	91,765	127,857
Total	12,475,731	14,017,595

The silver coinage in 1903-04 consisted of 161,717,556 rupees, 7,060,180 quarter rupees, 14,631,520 eighth rupees, and 18,965,538 British dollars for use in Singapore, Penang, and Hong Kong. A small part of the rupee coinage was undertaken on behalf of the Native States of Indore, Sirohi, and Khairpur, the balance being for circulation in British India.

The receipts and expenditure of the Indian Mints were as follows :—

	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£
Receipts	411,238	2,884,766
Expenditure	424,014	2,785,585
Net Receipts	-12,776	99,181

FINANCE.

The expenditure includes, in addition to ordinary mint charges, a payment to the Gold Reserve Fund of the net profit on the coinage of new rupees. The amount of the net profit so included in the two years is as follows:—

1902-03, £264,028; 1903-04, £2,627,575.

On the 31st March 1904, the Gold Reserve Fund consisted of Consols and other stock of the nominal value of £6,376,520, in addition to a sum of £167,575 held in India in gold or in the Treasury balances.

Paper Currency.—On the 31st of March 1904 the value of notes in circulation was £25,474,436, being greater by £1,658,698 than on the corresponding date in 1903. The paper currency reserve was, in gold £10,789,567, in silver coin £7,665,043, in silver bullion £353,163, and £6,666,663 invested in securities of the Government of India.

RATE OF EXCHANGE.

Rate of
exchange.

In 1902-03 the Secretary of State for India in Council sold Bills and Telegraphic Transfers on the Treasuries in India for Rs. 27,74,67,265, and received for them £18,499,947; the average rate was thus 1s. 4·00184*d.* per rupee. The Bills and Telegraphic Transfers sold in 1903-04 amounted to Rs. 35,67,94,845; the sterling received was £23,859,303; and the average rate was 1s. 4·04909*d.* per rupee.

CHAPTER VI

SURVEYS.

SURVEYS.

SURVEY OF INDIA DEPARTMENT.

The work of the Survey of India Department falls under various heads, namely, the trigonometrical survey, topographical surveys, forest and cadastral surveys, special surveys and explorations, and map production. The latest available information on most of these matters relates to the year 1902-03. Particulars of the progress of forest and cadastral surveys, which are carried out partly by local agencies, are given in the chapters on forests and land revenue. The Survey Department has now a general control over the forest surveys, and in most provinces over the cadastral surveys. The recent Bombay survey, however, was conducted by a separate department, and there is also a Madras Survey Department in charge of the operations in that Presidency. At the end of the year 1904 a Committee was appointed by the Government of India to consider, in consultation with experts from England, the question of the state of the topographical surveys and other cognate matters.

Reviewing first the operations of the Survey of India Department during 1902-03 as a whole, the field operations of the year were carried on by three double and 15 ordinary parties and two detachments. Of these, one party was employed on trigonometrical surveys; one double and six ordinary parties and one detachment on topographical surveys; one double and two ordinary parties on forest surveys; one double and two ordinary parties and one detachment on cadastral and traverse surveys; and four parties on scientific operations. The operations of the Forest Survey Branch were continued in addition to the above.

The party (No. 24) which was engaged on trigonometrical work, having completed the Manipur Minor Meridional series, was employed in extending the Great Salween principal series eastwards. Trigono-
metrical.

The total area topographically surveyed during the year was 22,646 square miles; 53 per cent. of this area was surveyed on the 1-inch scale, the remainder for the most part on the scale of 2 inches to the mile. The work of all the parties was carried on in continuation of that of the previous year, no change in the locale of operations having occurred. The amalgamated parties Nos. 11 and 21, engaged in Upper Burma, surveyed an aggregate area of 2,432 square miles on the 1-inch scale in the Shan States. It has been decided to carry this survey right up to the frontier. No. 10 party was engaged in the eastern portion of Upper Burma in revising and adding to the maps produced by reducing the cadastral sheets, inserting hills and other topographical detail. This work was carried out over the area of 3,336 square miles, on a 1-inch scale. Another party, No. 3, engaged in Lower Burma on similar operations, completed 1,786 square miles of new detail survey and 2,934 square miles of supplementary topographical survey, all on the same scale. The question as to how far topographical surveys should be carried in Burma has been decided, and a five years programme has been fixed for parties Nos. 3 and 10, embracing a large area of the more important tracts of country. No. 12 party continued the survey of Sind on the 2-inch scale, and completed an area of 1,946 square miles, besides a special survey of the desert portions lying to the east, on the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch scale, of which 2,164 square miles was completed. They also made a survey of the Sambhar Salt lake and its surroundings. The work of No. 15 party consisted in topographical survey of 1,499 square miles in Sind, in addition to reconnaissance survey on the frontier, and the compilation of maps of various cantonments. The Himalaya party, No. 18, carried out supplementary topographical surveys in an area of 3,653 square miles in the Montgomery, Lahore, and Amritsar districts of the Punjab, to render the large scale *patwari* maps of the province available for topographical purposes. They were also engaged with the Simla and the riverain surveys. No. 14 party Topo-
graphical.

- SURVEYS.** continued its work in the Allahabad division of the United Provinces, where it is engaged in a full topographical survey on the scale of 2 inches to the mile; 1,885 square miles were completed during the year. A detachment in the Central Provinces mapped and surveyed 2,831 square miles of Jubbulpore and the surrounding districts; the maps being based on various existing sources, and corrected by supplementary survey in the field.
- Special operations.**
Geodetic. Two parties (Nos. 22 and 23) were combined and employed on latitude observations at stations in the vicinity of Calcutta. The operations have in view the testing of Major Burrard's theory that the deflections of gravity in India, which had previously been attributed to accidental and local attractions, could in reality be classified by regions. This theory appears now to have been established, and it will have a profound influence on future investigations and programmes.
- Tidal and levelling operations.* The recording of tidal curves by self-registering tide gauges, their reduction, and the publication of tide tables, were continued during the year by No. 25 party at nine stations, two having been closed during the year. The levelling detachment was again employed in Upper Burma on two separate lines of levelling, namely, from Thazi to Minbu and from Sagaing to Tantabin, and completed 215 miles of work.
- Magnetic.* The Magnetic Survey party, No. 26, made good progress, although, owing to non-delivery of certain instruments from England, only four out of the five base stations were in working order. These were at Barrackpore, Dehra Dun, Colaba, and Kodaikanal, the Rangoon observatory not yet having had its magnetographs tested by Kew. Observations were taken at nine repeat stations and 370 other places.
- Geographical surveys and explorations.** Under the geographical head are included surveys and reconnaissances which are executed on the scale of half an inch to a mile or smaller scales. In Sind, as already mentioned, an area of 2,164 square miles of desert country was surveyed on the half-inch scale; while a surveyor attached to a shooting party brought in a reconnaissance survey of 38,000 square miles of Western Thibet. Much work was also done across the frontier.
- Map production.** The Drawing Office was engaged as usual in the compilation and revision of the various general maps, and on additions to standard sheets when fresh material was available, besides publishing and preparing the sheets received from the field parties, issuing cadastral maps, and miscellaneous work. Three sheets of the new 1:500,000 map of India were practically completed, and two other sheets were in hand. The new 32-mile lithographed map of India had not made such quick progress as was hoped; but it was further advanced during the year. The usual large quantity of provincial and other maps and plans occupied the drawing, photographic, and lithographic branches.
- OTHER SURVEYS.**
- Marine surveys.** The marine survey vessels "Nancowry" and "Investigator" were employed in surveying the Burmese coast. The former, on its way from Calcutta, attempted to observe the bore of the Megna river, but failed to obtain precise observations owing to the loss of an anchor. The approaches to the Hinze basin were surveyed, and it was found that, owing to the large rise and fall of the tide, the basin could be entered by vessels of fairly deep draught if required, though the basin was found to be much smaller than was supposed. Good progress was made with the survey of the Maya river, and subsequently the survey of the Arakan coast was taken in hand and a re-survey of Akyab was commenced.
- Geological.** The report of the Geological Survey Department for the year 1903-04 is not available. During the year 1902-03 the Department was engaged in the investigation of coal fields on the Shillong plateau in Assam and in the Mianwali district of the Punjab, on neither of which was a decision reached during the year; also of promising deposits of chrome iron in Baluchistan and fire-clay in Assam. A survey of the auriferous region of Chota Nagpur was continued and completed, but the results were not favourable, as they did not include a single instance which could reasonably be regarded as a legitimate mining proposition. Other inquiries of an economic nature were also carried out in connection with iron and manganese in the

Dhar State, an oilfield in Burma, and other matters, with inconclusive results. Geological surveys not having a directly economic character were also in progress in many parts of India, including Assam, Baluchistan, Burma, the Dhar State in Central India, Kashmir, and Madras, while an officer of the Department accompanied Professor Koken, of Tübingen, on a tour of observation in the Salt Range of the Punjab. SURVEYS.

The Botanical Survey of India is also being conducted not only from a scientific, but also from an economic and agricultural point of view. Various investigations were carried out by officers of the Department, or by native collectors, with a view to the completion of the botanical records and publications. The economic questions dealt with were chiefly concerned with the various species of *Agave* that occur in India, the sources of the fibres vaguely classed as Indian hemp, and similar matters. The number of plants distributed from the Calcutta Botanic Garden during the year was nearly 39,000. A large portion of the central section of the great banyan tree in the Gardens fell in March 1904, owing apparently to the progress of natural decay. Botanical.

The Archaeological Surveyor of Western India toured in Central India, the Central Provinces, and Rajputana. The expenditure on the conservation of ancient monuments in the Bombay Presidency amounted to £2,200; that in the Central Provinces and Berar to £700. The amalgamation of the archaeological circles of the United Provinces and Punjab was effected in July 1903. There are still, however, two officers, one of whom, known as the Superintendent, has his headquarters at Lahore and is concerned solely with the architectural side of Muhammadan archæology. The other officer, known as the Surveyor, has the supervision of the buildings at Agra, Jaunpur, Delhi, Lahore, and Ajmere, and deals with matters affecting Hindu and Buddhist buildings. The former was engaged at first in excavations at Charsada, in the Frontier Province, and subsequently visited Chamba and the ancient temples of Kashmir, and places in the United Provinces. The North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan have been placed, as regards archæological work, under the separate charge of Dr. M. A. Stein. The amount of £12,400 was spent in the United Provinces and Punjab circle from Government revenues on conservation of monuments. In Madras, excavation of prehistoric remains at Adinachallur and other places in the Tinnevely district resulted in the unearthing of a very large number of objects of great interest. In Bengal, the chief work of the year was the excavation of the ancient site of Vaisali at Basarh and the adjacent villages in the Muzaffarpur district; £4,150 was spent on conservation in Bengal. In Burma, the amount of such expenditure was £5,100. Much progress was made in improvements to the Mandalay palace and its surroundings. The report of the Director-General of Archæology, which will give a summarised view of the archæological work of the year 1903-04, has not been received in time for review in this Statement. Archæo-logical.

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Meteorological observations were recorded during the year 1903-04 at 242 stations, of which 193 were maintained by the Government of India. Of these latter, seven were first-class observatories and 41 second-class, the remaining 145 belonging to class 3, in which less frequent observations are taken. The area under observation embraces not only India, but the whole of the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean down to Zanzibar and the Seychelles, and the area northwards up to Resht and Kashgar. Besides observing stations, inquiries are made from ships entering Indian ports, which give valuable meteorological data. The points investigated are rainfall, snowfall, barometric and thermometric readings, cloud movements, storms and earthquakes. Daily charts and weekly and monthly reviews, as well as seasonal forecasts and storm warnings, are issued. meteo-logical Department.

The forecast of the probable rainfall for the monsoon of 1903, issued in June of that year, was founded mainly on information regarding the snowfall on the mountain region to the north and north-west of India, and on the distribution of barometric pressure in India and over the Arabian Sea during the month of May, as compared with the meteorology of previous years. The

SURVEYS. forecast predicted a monsoon of at least normal strength, and probably somewhat above it, with some delay in the early part of the season. The general character of the season proved to be in fair accordance with this forecast. The rainfall during the monsoon period, June to October, was between 10 and 20 per cent. in excess of the normal in Assam, the United Provinces, Berar, and Madras; and, approximately normal, within a variation of 10 per cent. above or below, in the other provinces, with the exceptions of Chota Nagpur, Behar, and Baluchistan, where the deficiencies amounted to 13, 21, and 36 per cent respectively.

The forecast of the winter rains, from December 1903 to February 1904, predicted that they would be generally deficient and late in their commencement, and this also was borne out by the result.

Warnings of approaching storms are sent to ports on the Bay of Bengal from Calcutta, and to ports on the Arabian Sea coast from Simla. The revised system of storm signals introduced in 1898 provides for fuller signals being sent to the larger ports, the port authorities deciding in each case whether they will have the full or the less complete signals. On the Bay of Bengal 22 ports received warnings, three of them on the "brief" system. On the western side of India warnings were sent to 24 ports, to seven of them on the "extended" system. The system of flood warnings to canal, civil, and railway officers, to military officers, and to private firms, continued to be useful; 847 such warnings were issued by the Meteorological Department during the year. The warnings are generally stated by the recipients, with few exceptions, to have been timely and satisfactory.

Rainfall.

The average rainfall and the actual rainfall of the three years 1901 to 1903, in the regions into which India has been divided, were as follows:—

Meteorological Division.	Area, Square Miles.	Number of Stations.	Normal Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall.		
				1901.	1902.	1903.
Punjab Plains - - -	120,000	29	<i>Inches.</i> 21·28	<i>Inches.</i> 18·08	<i>Inches.</i> 15·92	<i>Inches.</i> 20·04
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.	83,500	44	39·16	32·40	33·17	41·81
Rajputana, East - - -	67,000	29	} 23·11 {	14·78	19·73	} 21·45
Rajputana, West - - -	58,000	10		5·76	7·62	
Central India States - -	91,000	25	42·90	41·50	36·87	39·60
Behar - - -	30,000	15	45·20	38·77	44·03	32·88
Western Bengal - - -	38,000	14	53·70	47·82	47·60	47·27
Lower Bengal - - -	54,000	28	65·73	65·82	70·51	60·92
Assam and Cachar - - -	61,000	17	95·10	89·36	106·27	94·60
Orissa and Northern Circars	27,000	32	51·84	46·23	49·65	59·58
Central Provinces, South -	61,000	19	52·46	53·38	35·51	55·58
Berar and Khandesh - - -	43,000	13	34·93	34·47	29·85	39·05
Gujarat - - -	54,500	13	32·80	16·00	29·92	29·64
Sind and Cutch - - -	68,000	10	9·04	2·70	9·25	6·37
North Deccan - - -	48,000	13	30·78	30·52	32·60	30·33
Konkan and Ghâts - - -	16,000	11	134·46	139·09	134·78	140·47
Malabar and Ghâts - - -	18,000	8	114·93	119·77	124·76	127·01
Hyderabad - - -	74,000	17	32·91	32·17	28·26	48·37
Mysore and Bellary - - -	58,000	18	29·16	28·41	30·43	44·40
Carnatic - - -	72,000	36	36·77	39·13	47·75	49·80
Arakan - - -	11,000	6	154·05	150·62	156·44	148·48
Pegu - - -	32,500	7	78·02	73·13	66·43	79·08
Tenasserim - - -	10,500	4	173·34	175·15	151·11	165·94
Upper Burma - - -	?	13	38·16	38·30	36·85	34·21

Over the whole of India, excluding Burma, the rainfall of 1903 was 1·94 inches above the normal, averaging about 43 inches.

CHAPTER VII.

LAND
REVENUE.LAND REVENUE, INCLUDING FISHERY RECEIPTS AND
CAPITATION TAX; AND WARDS' ESTATES.

The subjoined table shows the receipts and disbursements on account of land revenue for each province, as entered in the Finance and Revenue Accounts for the financial year 1903-04.

DETAILS of LAND REVENUE and EXPENDITURE.

	India (General).	Bengal.	United Provinces.	Punjab.	North- West Frontier Pro- vinces.	Burma.	Central Pro- vinces.	Deccan.	Assam.	Madr.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary Land Revenue -	88,933	2,643,671	4,262,129	1,563,280	114,940	1,395,109	554,905	517,640	328,738	3,847,440	2,655,281	17,972,082
Recovery of Survey and Settlement Charges.	—	14,715	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,715
Sale of Proprietary Right of Government in Land.	17	356	1,706	822	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	2,493
Assessment of alienated lands, less quit-rents.	—	5,834	—	14,363	289	—	—	—	—	—	611,448	631,914
Sale of Waste Lands and Redemption of Land Revenue.	97	5,581	146	62,587	—	1,316	1	—	408	1,230	—	61,365
Capitation Tax, or House Tax levied in lieu.	412	464	—	—	—	642,689	—	—	—	—	—	643,565
Receipts for the Improve- ment of Government Estates.	—	45,989	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45,989
Fisheries and other Receipts classed as Miscellaneous.	8,679	18,928	47,420	46,233	6,775	810,164	4,178	4,371	33,700	193,280	27,446	639,474
Total Gross Revenue -	98,168	2,733,538	4,311,400	1,676,765	121,930	2,849,578	559,084	522,011	362,868	4,041,950	3,294,176	20,071,527
<i>Deduct</i> portion credited to Public Works for irrigation.	—	—	94,224	121,356	5,082	917	—	—	—	493,093	123,937	837,139
Total credited to Land Revenue for 1903-04.	98,168	2,733,538	4,217,176	1,555,409	116,848	2,848,661	559,084	522,011	362,868	3,548,857	3,170,238	19,234,388
Total for 1902-03 -	540,690	2,743,303	4,185,096	1,434,986	111,418	2,221,650	627,425	—	430,538	3,677,444	2,652,276	18,436,845
EXPENDITURE.												
District Administration	685	211,078	247,407	122,714	20,710	155,837	65,025	32,283	37,535	280,441	167,006	1,387,657
Survey and Settlement	9,787	59,610	28,537	48,150	13,499	41,584	13,877	304	7,805	57,795	8,523	295,571
Land Records and Agri- culture.	9,385	6,735	238,561	108,039	9,218	47,039	45,247	1,079	16,047	128,161	164,569	768,114
Charges directly con- nected with the collec- tion of Land Revenue.	978	42,860	17,677	1,258	1,667	135,145	2,608	57,035	8,448	244,404	84,522	596,930
Total Charges in India.	37,835	320,287	532,272	278,159	61,113	379,685	126,757	90,701	68,976	707,801	454,940	3,043,471
Charges in England	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	404
Total Charges, 1903-04												£ 3,043,875

* Included in India (General).

The chief source of revenue in India has from ancient times been a share of the produce of the land. Nearly two-thirds of the total population

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returned some form of agriculture as their principal means of subsistence at the last census. The administration of the land revenue is, therefore, even more important from a social and political than it is from a financial point of view; and a proper treatment of the subject involves not only an account of the revenue collections but also some notice of the relations between landlord and tenant, as well as between the Government and the revenue payer, and of changes in ownership or occupancy of the land.

REVENUE SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS, &c.

Indian revenue settlements are broadly classified as follows. In the first place there are permanent settlements, by which the demand of the State has been fixed and made unalterable for ever; and, secondly, there are temporary settlements, under which the State demand is revised at recurring periods of greater or less duration. The permanently settled districts cover the greater part of Bengal, parts of the United Provinces and Madras, and a few other isolated tracts. The temporarily settled tracts fall into two broad divisions; Zamindari (in some provinces called Malguzari or Talukdari), where the landlord, or proprietary group, pays the land revenue to the State, whether the land is cultivated by the revenue payers themselves or by means of rent-paying tenants; and Ryotwari, where the cultivator as a general rule pays direct to the State. In both these tracts the rates of land revenue are settled for periods varying, according to the province, between ten and thirty years, the latter figure prevailing in all the larger provinces with the exception of the Punjab and the Central Provinces, where settlements are usually made for twenty years. In the Zamindari areas, where estates range from hundreds to many thousands of acres, the periodical assessment is a share, generally rather less than one-half, of the ascertained or assessed rental enjoyed by the proprietors; in the Ryotwari tracts, where the estates are small and cultivated by peasant proprietors, the periodical assessment is imposed on the cultivated area at rates per acre fixed with reference to the productiveness of the land, and varying in different provinces from one-fifth to one twenty-fifth part of the gross value of the produce. The United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, the Punjab, the Central Provinces, and Orissa mainly contain estates held by proprietary communities or large proprietors; while in Bombay, Burma, Assam and Berar, and in the greater part of Madras, the land is held and tilled by petty proprietors.

The appended table gives the acreage of the surveyed areas in which the various tenures prevail, and the amount over which proprietary right was transferred, either by order of court or by voluntary gift or sale (including mortgage with possession, and excluding inheritances and temporary transfers) during the agricultural year 1902-03. The figures are in thousands of acres:—

	Ryotwari (peasant proprietors).	Zamindari (larger proprietors) and Village Communities.		Total.	Transfers.
		Permanently settled.	Temporarily settled.		
Upper Burma - - - -	49,035	—	—	49,035	62
Lower Burma - - - -	54,981	—	—	54,981	482
Assam - - - - -	26,056	3,909	1,370	31,335	48
Bengal - - - - -	—	81,984	15,566	97,550	*
United Provinces—Agra - - -	—	6,160	46,437	52,597	1,002
” ” Oudh - - - - -	—	1,156	14,182	15,338	468
Punjab - - - - -	—	—	62,222	62,222	475
North-West Frontier Province -	—	—	8,498	8,498	142
Sind - - - - -	30,076	—	—	30,076	125
Bombay - - - - -	44,691	—	3,890	48,574	833
Central Provinces - - - -	1,612	—	42,878	44,490	811
Berar - - - - -	11,333	—	—	11,333	170
Madras - - - - -	60,773	29,665	—	90,438	457

* Figures not available.

The Ryotwari area may be said, therefore, to embrace more than 278 million acres, the Zamindari area under permanent settlement

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123 millions, and under temporary settlement 195 millions. In the permanently settled tracts of Bengal the land revenue falls at about two-thirds of a rupee per acre of cultivated land, and represents on an average about one-fifth of the rental, or perhaps one twenty-fourth of the gross value of the produce; in the permanently settled tracts of the Agra province the incidence is about Re. 1½ per acre of cultivated land; in the similar tracts of Madras it is considerably lower than this. In the Zamindari area under temporary settlement the land revenue represents usually something less than one-half of the actual or estimated rental, and is probably about one-tenth to one-twelfth of the gross value of the produce. The average incidence of the land revenue per acre of fully assessed cultivated land in the temporarily settled tracts, as given in the returns for 1902-03, is approximately Re. 1½ in the United Provinces, rather over Re. 1 in the Punjab, Re. 1½ in Berar, Rs. 2½ in Lower Burma, Re. 1¼ in Upper Burma, Rs. 2½ in Assam, Rs. 2½ in Sind, Re. 1¾ in Bombay, 9 annas in the Central Provinces, Rs. 2½ in Madras, and Re. 1½ in Bengal. Rates of rent and revenue vary greatly according to the productive power of the land, according to the advantages of climate and rainfall or means of irrigation, and according to the facilities for carrying produce to markets or to the seaboard. In Sind and Madras the land revenue rates given above include the charge for irrigation supplied by the State; elsewhere payment for water, supplied by State canals or reservoirs for purposes of irrigation, is made over and above the land revenue, either according to the area irrigated or according to the quantity of water used; but the State demand on any land is not enhanced on account of increased productiveness due to improvements made by the proprietors or occupiers themselves.

Survey and settlement operations were in progress during the year ending in September 1903 in sixteen districts of Bengal. The total area included in these operations was 17,244 square miles, contained in 17,348 villages. The area cadastrally surveyed was 3,757 square miles; preliminary records were written for 4,039 villages; records were attested for 3,213 villages, and finally published in 1,872 villages. The rents of nearly 89,000 tenants were settled. The total area of which a record of rights had been completed in settlements under the control of the Director of Land Records was 32,482 square miles. The cadastral survey and settlement operations on the permanently settled lands of North Behar had been finished. The Champaran and Muzaffarpur reports were noticed in last year's issue of this Statement. The reports for Saran and Darbhanga have since been received. These also contain an immense amount of information, which it would be idle to attempt to summarise, as to crops, incidence of rent, the pressure of the population on the soil, and the average income of the petty proprietor, the tenant cultivator, and the agricultural labourer. In both districts, but especially in Saran, the population is very dense, and the agricultural labourer class is very near the starvation line in bad years, though the pure cultivator class, which forms about three-fifths of the population, is in a moderate condition of comfort. It is recorded that in Saran the incidence of the Government revenue per cultivated acre is just over 14 annas, that of rent being nearly Rs. 4¼. In both districts the survey operations have been of great advantage to the progress and prosperity of the district, hitherto hampered by the uncertainty of the rental demand.

The settlement of rights in the Backerganj district, and in Ranchi, North Bhagalpur, and North Monghyr made good progress, and similar work was in progress in private estates in Purnea, Gaya, Singhbhum, and the Sonthal Parganas, and in other districts. Settlements of land revenue were also being made in various temporarily settled tracts and Government estates.

In the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh the cadastral surveys, which are carried out by the village accountants (patwaris), were brought to a close in the Azamgarh, Manipuri, and Jalaun districts. The settlement officer of Azamgarh reported that the maps were very good and the records as good as could be expected. It is reported that there was a general improvement in the maintenance of land records, owing to the strengthening of the inspecting staff. The regular revision settlements in Oudh have now been completed, with the formal closing of the settlement of the Gonda district. This revision began in 1889 and continued without remission until the end of the

United
Provinces.

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REVENUE

year under report. In the Agra Province the settlements of the Shahjahanpur and Meerut districts were formally closed. The report on the Meerut settlement, as was stated last year, showed that the assessment was increased by 34·4 per cent. In Shahjahanpur, where settlement was undertaken for the express purpose of re-adjusting the existing demand rather than of obtaining any enhancement, the new demand was very slightly less than the old. Operations were advanced towards completion in most of the districts where they had been begun in previous years; they were still in hand in three districts, and about to be commenced in a fourth. Fresh assessments were sanctioned for several subdivisions, the rate of increase varying from 3 per cent. to 11 per cent. The delicate task of introducing the new system of fluctuating assessments into the Bundelkhand districts remained to be undertaken.

The year ending in September 1903 was the first revenue year in which the new Tenancy Act was in force throughout. There is a difficulty in gauging the effect of the Act, owing to the want of a suitable standard of comparison. It is observed, however, that there was an increase of 14 per cent. in the number of suits for arrears of rent in the Agra districts, and that this has been accompanied by a similar increase in the number of applications for ejectment on account of an unsatisfied decree for arrears of rent. This is due to the new Act having extended the procedure to tenants-at-will. The actual number of ejectments was small—only 7,747 in the year—but the working of the Act in this respect will require to be carefully watched. The object of the Act was to induce landlords to give their cultivators some fixity of tenure; if they did not choose that their tenants should acquire any rights, they were at least to grant them long-term leases. But at present, owing perhaps partly to the long-standing prejudice of the tenant against leases, the number of seven year leases has been small, and amounted to 8,517 only in 1902-03, of which 5,093 were in the Meerut division, where the provisions of the Act appear to be best understood. The area of holdings in the Agra Province is given as 27·7 millions of acres, of which 8·9 millions were held by tenants with occupancy rights, 10·9 millions by ordinary tenants, and one million by ex-proprietary tenants or other tenants with privileged rights, while the remainder was rent free or nominally rented. In Oudh, the holdings amounted to 9·6 millions of acres, of which all but 2 millions were held by ordinary tenants. The number of transfers of proprietary interests in land was higher than the figures of the preceding year, but the increase is to a large extent accounted for by the rise of nearly 19,000 in the number of succession cases. The following table shows the number of sales of revenue-paying land by private transfer, and of mortgages, for recent years:—

	Sales of Revenue Paying Land.		Mortgages.	
	Agra.	Oudh.	Agra.	Oudh.
1894-95	17,052	2,717	8,256	7,144
1896-97	22,599	3,487	13,388	8,205
1898-99	18,935	4,944	8,262	10,874
1900-01	21,657	4,797	9,778	9,328
1901-02	20,567	4,353	9,177	9,029
1902-03	20,108	4,975	9,488	14,793

The most important event of the year was the introduction into Bundelkhand of special laws for relieving proprietors of their debts and restricting their powers of transfer.

Punjab.

In the Punjab, settlements were completed in Muzaffargarh and two other tracts, and were in progress in the Attock, Jhang, and Gujranwala districts. The chief feature in the Muzaffargarh settlement was the introduction over a large area of the system of fluctuating assessment. One of the most prominent points in Punjab land revenue administration in recent years has been the extension of fluctuating in place of fixed forms of assessment for irrigated lands. Under these systems, only matured crops are charged with revenue; their popularity is growing, but some difficulties are found in working them, and it is as yet too soon to offer any final opinion as to their value.

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REVENUE.

By the end of the year ending in September 1903, the Punjab Alienation of Land Act had been in force for more than two years. The Act appears to have attained its main object of placing material checks on alienations of land, without unduly impairing agricultural credit, and without causing any substantial depreciation of the value of land, while it has had a highly beneficial tendency to curb habits of profuse extravagance among zamindars. The figures in regard to mortgages go to prove that forms of mortgage permitted by the Act are coming into use, and that the mortgage value of land has risen, as compared with 1901-02. As to the effect on the sale price of land, it is too early to draw any satisfactory conclusions. On the whole, it is considered that the hopes and expectations entertained when the Act was passed have been realised in a highly satisfactory measure.

In the Frontier Province, settlements were already in progress, or were begun during the year, in all districts except Peshawur. In the Hazara district the work was delayed owing to the mountainous character of the country, but some of the work in Kohat and Dera Ismail Khan was completed. In the latter, as in some other parts of the province, the fluctuating system has been introduced. Owing to the growing tendency of the land to pass into the possession of the money-lending classes, it was decided to apply the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, with certain modifications, to the Bannu, Hazara, and Dera Ismail Khan districts.

North-West
Frontier
Province.

In Burma, a party of the Survey of India was employed on cadastral survey in the Shwebo and Pakokku districts. The latter district has not before been under cadastral survey, and the amount of work to be done is large. Special surveys outside these areas were also done by provincial agency, and extra parties were employed on revision survey in Ma-ubin and Mandalay. Settlement operations were in progress in twelve districts. Four settlements were sanctioned and new rates were applied to three-quarters of a million acres of cultivated land. These were (1) the original settlement in Myaungmya and Pyapon, by which the revenue demand was doubled; (2) the revision settlement of Akyab, which resulted in an increase of 33 per cent.; and (3) and (4) the summary settlements in Lower and Upper Chindwin, which yielded increases of 30 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively. The area under supplementary survey (42,000 square miles) was much higher than in 1902-03, owing to the inclusion of the Magwe and Lower Chindwin districts, where settlement had been completed.

Burma.

The transfer of cultivated lands to the hands of non-agriculturists and the increase in the areas sublet continued. Legislative measures to restrict the alienation of land have recently been in contemplation, but the question was still under consideration. The area let at full rents is given as 2,204,600 acres, and the average rent as about Rs. 9 per acre. Sales of land increased, but the area under mortgage declined, owing to redemptions and to a satisfactory fall of 25 per cent. in the number of new mortgages.

The survey work carried out in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year ending in September 1903 was small, and does not require notice. Settlement operations were in progress in the Sambalpur, Chanda, and Mandla districts, in the zamindaris of the Raipur district, and in the ryotwari villages of Nimar, Betul, and Chhindwara. The work was completed in the Raipur zamindaris, and was very nearly concluded in Nimar, Betul, and Chhindwara. Operations had in the preceding year been discontinued in most of the Raipur district, other than the zamindaris, owing to repeated crop failures; but sanction has been given for their resumption.

Central
Provinces.

The returns of cultivating occupancy in the Central Provinces show that 5½ millions of acres were held by the proprietors, while 16¼ millions were held by tenants, at an average rent of 11¼ annas per acre; 2½ millions of this were held by absolute occupancy tenants, at an average rate of Re. 1 per acre, settled for a period of 30 years; and more than 7 millions by occupancy tenants. The above figures leave out of account the 600,000 acres held under the ryotwari system in the Central Provinces, and the whole area of Berar, which is under the ryotwari system. The area occupied for cultivation in the Central Provinces was the largest that has been recorded for many years. The prosperity of the land-holding classes was also indicated by the increase of the agricultural livestock, by the comparatively mild

- LAND REVENUE.** pressure that was needed to secure a full collection of the revenue, and by the ease with which the tenants satisfied the demands of their landlords, as shown by a fall in the number of rent-law, and ejection suits.
- Assam.** In Assam, resettlement operations in Sibsagar and Kamrup continued without interruption during 1903-04, and progress was achieved which is very satisfactory considering that the system followed is new to the province. A group of villages was dealt with in each district, and in both cases the settlement officers proposed a small reduction of the revenue, as well as redistribution. The settlement of land for ordinary cultivation showed a satisfactory advance in the Assam Valley and in Cachar, but did not make much progress during the year in Sylhet. A small portion of the land revenue is obtained from permanently settled estates in Sylhet and Goalpara. Of the remainder, some is obtained under annual re-settlements, some by periodical revisions. The permanently settled area is rather less than four million acres, including a large proportion of waste, and it yielded a revenue of £25,100; the area of land paying full revenue rates under periodical or annual settlement was 2,593,000 acres, and it paid about Rs. 2 per acre.
- Madras.** The Madras Survey Department was engaged during the year ending in June 1904 in resurvey prior to resettlement in the Kurnool, Nellore, and Salem districts, and the out-turn of work, together with original cadastral surveys of proprietary lands, amounted to 2,449 square miles. Five settlement parties were at work, in connection with the initial settlement of the districts of Malabar and South Canara, and the resettlements of Kistna and Salem. The new rates of assessment were introduced into some subdivisions of South Canara. The land revenue demand in the districts settled and resettled since the commencement of the operations was, in the agricultural year 1903-04, 28 per cent. in excess of the demand prior to the settlements; and the total expenditure of the Settlement Department up to June 1904 was £945,200. In the ryotwari lands the extent of "dry" holdings increased by one per cent., and that of "wet" holdings by rather less than one half per cent.; and the total occupied area under crops amounted to 19½ million acres, or 84 per cent. of the total holdings, against 83½ per cent. in the previous year.
- Bombay.** An establishment of six permanent surveyors was sanctioned for each of the three divisions of the Bombay Presidency proper, and a good amount of survey work was done by them and, in Sind, by the usual five survey parties. Revised rates of settlement were announced during the year in subdivisions of Surat and Khandesh, and an original settlement was introduced into 188 villages in Khandesh. In Sind, revised rates for the Mehar taluka of the Larkhana district were sanctioned. There was an increase of about 300,000 acres in the total area under cultivation in the Presidency, owing chiefly to a good inundation in Sind. The good rainfall of the year, however, also caused a slight increase in the occupied area in nearly all districts of the Presidency proper, except in the Southern division. So far as any change can be noted in a single year in the relations between landlord and tenant, the good season of 1903-04 seems to have produced a slight improvement. A decrease in the number of mortgages seems to be directly connected with the improved position of the revenue-paying classes.

COLLECTION OF THE REVENUE.

LAND
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The fluctuations of the land revenue in past years may be seen in the following table, which does not include that part of the land revenue receipts which is credited to "Irrigation" :—

	Land Revenue Receipts excluding Receipts due to Irrigation.	Variation (Average of Five Years, 1881-85=100).
	£	
1861-65 (five years' average)	13,287,000	90.1
1866-70	13,327,000	90.4
1871-75	18,977,000	94.8
1876-80	14,076,000	95.4
	(includes the great famine of South India),	
1881-85	14,748,000	100.0
1886-90	15,445,000	104.7
1891-95	16,522,000	112.0
1895-96 (single year)	17,467,000	118.4
1896-97	15,983,000	108.4
1897-98	17,122,000	116.1
1898-99	18,306,000	124.1
1899-1900	17,205,000	116.7
1900-01	17,503,000	118.7
1901-02	18,288,000	124.0
1902-03	18,437,000	125.0
1903-04	19,234,000	130.4

The total advances made by Government to cultivators in the financial year 1903-04 are given as follows in the Accounts of the Government of India :—

	By the Government of India.	By provincial Governments.	Total.
	£	£	£
Advances for improvement of land	5,570	101,123	106,693
" relief of agriculturists and similar purposes.	4,842	305,479	310,321
Total	10,412	406,602	417,014

The details for the agricultural year will be found below under each province.

The progress of the land revenue will now be reviewed province by province. The figures are taken from the land revenue reports relating to the agricultural year, while those given above are from the corrected Accounts of the Government of India, and relate to the financial year.

The land revenue of Bengal remains fairly constant, as most of the province is under permanent settlement. The figures of the revenue demand for each of the last three years are given as follows :—

	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£	£
Permanently settled estates	2,155,143	2,155,269	2,154,139
Temporarily settled estates	235,755	239,846	237,499
Estates under the direct management of Government.	281,771	288,837	306,450
Total	2,672,669	2,683,952	2,698,088

The total amount collected during the year under report, including collection of arrears, was approximately equal to the current demand, rather less than 98 per cent. of the current year's demand being realised in the year. This percentage is again very satisfactory, the current year's revenue

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being collected with great success; and the balance outstanding, of the current and arrear demand, was only £59,800. The number of estates which became liable to sale for non-payment of Government dues was 13,764, and of these 1,245, or 9 per cent., were sold, against 1,279 in the previous year. Under the Public Demands Recovery Act, 173,200 certificates were filed for recovery of arrears of revenue, cesses, &c., compared with 151,100 in the previous year; attached property was sold in 6,427 cases, and 69 defaulters were imprisoned. Defaulters may deposit the amount due, with a penalty, within 30 days after the sale of the property under the certificate system, and thus have the sale set aside, and recourse is frequently had to this procedure, some 1,400 cases being mentioned in which sales were set aside during the year. Advances to agriculturists under the Loans Acts amounted to £24,100, the larger part under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. In the six years, 1897-98 to 1903-04, the total of the advances made amounts to £116,300, and of this, £97,600 has been repaid and £400 remitted. Very little of the interest which had accrued was outstanding. The difference between the interest calculated at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the rate at which the Government can borrow, and $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., the rate charged to borrowers, exceeded by £2,700 the amount of the remissions.

The gross rental of the 43 districts in which the Bengal Cess Act was in force was returned for road cess purposes at £11,894,700 for the year 1903-04, which is £537,700 above the assessment of the previous year, as compared with £8,745,000 for 40 districts in 1873. The three added districts represent a rental of £354,800. The current demand of land revenue in these districts amounted to £2,665,500, or about $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the rental valuation given above.

United
Provinces.

The latest report on land revenue affairs in the United Provinces relates to the year ending 30th September 1903. The monsoon of 1902 was late, and showed some fluctuations, but the season was on the whole favourable to agriculture. The cultivated area was nearly half a million acres in excess of that of the previous year—the largest recorded. The demand and collections of land revenue in the last three years are given as follows:—

		1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.
Land revenue, current and arrear	demand -	£ 4,284,657	£ 4,280,315	£ 4,313,388
	collections -	4,221,819	4,174,497	4,220,004

The arrears included in the demand of 1902-03 were very small, and had, in fact, been to a large extent suspended. Deducting such suspensions, as well as other items which were not required to be collected, the receipts were practically equal to the demand thus rectified. In the next year the large reductions of revenue in Bundelkhand, granted on account of deterioration in 1901, and now shown as suspensions and included in the demand in the table above, were to be treated as remissions, and excluded. The other headings of revenue dealt with in the Land Revenue report, but not strictly classed as land revenue, are the occupiers' rate (receipts, £488,400) and the owners' rate (receipts, £18,600), which constitute payments for irrigation, as well as cesses (receipts, £701,700), &c. Of coercive processes for recovery of sums due to Government, there were 26,600 writs, 3,852 arrests, 4,495 cases of attachment of movables, 147 of attachment of estates, and one case only of sale of immovable property. These figures were much below those of the preceding year, the collection of revenue being carried out generally without much difficulty. Of the 227 estates under attachment, 165 were released during the year. The amount of the loans sanctioned under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act was £12,800.

Punjab.

The latest Punjab land revenue report is for the year ending on the 30th September 1903. The agricultural conditions of the year were fairly good, except in some areas in the south and east of the province, and on the whole the harvests were considerably better than they were in the previous

year. The fixed land revenue demand for the year amounted to £1,377,200, of which £1,292,500, or 93·8 per cent., was collected, besides £28,800 on account of arrears. Collections were made promptly and without much difficulty in most parts, though in the Hissar district, owing to an unfavourable season, only 34 per cent. of the demand was collected. The total amount of revenue which it was necessary to suspend was £81,000, or less than half the total suspended in 1901-02. Remissions amounted to £7,200. As was stated last year, large remissions had been made under the provisions of the Budget of March 1903. There remained at the end of the year under report a recoverable balance of £165,700 under suspension, for the most part in the Delhi division. The "fluctuating" system of land revenue, applied for the most part either to canal-irrigated lands or to lands subject to floods, is reported to be increasing in popularity, and it is being gradually extended. The revenue under this heading amounted to £191,600 in 1902-03. There was a further amount of £104,600 classed as miscellaneous land revenue. The number of writs of demand issued against defaulters fell to 20,400, but there was a rise in the number of warrants, which was 1,500; movables were sold in 3,899 cases, against 3,282 in the previous year; but cases in which direct management of the estate was resorted to fell from 10 to 3; imprisonments numbered 11. Attention is being given to the improvement of this branch of the work, which appears to need reform, in the direction of less severity. The advances during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act amounted to £36,000, and £24,000 was advanced under the Land Improvements Act.

LAND
REVENUE.

The report for the North West Frontier Province covers the same period as that for the Punjab. The season, as in the parent province, was, on the whole, favourable, and the yield of irrigated crops was good and that of unirrigated crops nearly up to the average. The fixed land revenue demand was £106,800, of which 98 per cent. was collected, besides a small amount due for arrears. Fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue between them contributed £11,600. Coercive processes included 3,261 writs of demand, 1,254 warrants, and 166 sales of movables. The agricultural advances outstanding at the end of the year amounted to £6,900.

North-West
Frontier
Province.

The meteorological conditions of the year ending in June 1904 were good in Burma, in spite of the lightness of the early rains, and the harvest was an undoubted success. The gross demand of current year's revenue

Burma.

—	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£
Land Revenue -	1,322,192	1,454,381
Household tax -	351,161	309,412
Fisheries -	189,256	193,859
Capitation tax -	320,583	327,577
Other sources -	116,231	134,918
TOTAL -	2,299,433	2,420,147

for the whole province under the various heads of revenue under review is shown in the marginal table; that of 1903-04 is 5 per cent. higher than that of 1902-03. Satisfactory harvests, together with the normal growth of the cultivated area, which now stands at about eight million acres in Lower Burma, and the substitution of land revenue for household tax in some newly settled areas of Upper Burma, resulted in an increase of the land revenue demand by

10 per cent., coupled with a decrease in the amount of remissions. The collections of current land revenue amounted to £1,433,900, which is largely in excess of the figure for 1902-03, for the reasons given above. There was some diminution in the actual yield from the household tax, or *thathameda*; owing to the substitution of direct land assessment in several districts. The number of persons assessed to capitation tax rose to 1,179,000, and the yield showed a corresponding increase. The river and other fisheries are a considerable source of revenue in both the upper and the lower parts of the province; measures have been taken for the resuscitation of the sea fishing industry by the grant of advances. The heading "other sources" includes receipts from petroleum royalties, from ruby mines, from water rate, &c. The amount of agricultural advances was £24,100.

The latest land revenue report from the Central Provinces is for the year ending in September 1903. The monsoon of 1902 began late and was defective, especially in the southern part of the province, where the rice crop suffered very severely. Elsewhere, however, the autumn crops were moderately good; and the wheat crop in the spring in the northern districts

Central
Provinces.

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REVENUE.

was exceptionally large. The demand on account of the land revenue of the year under the general system of the province stood at £561,300, reduced by large suspensions and remissions to £450,900, to which may be added £20,100 for arrears outstanding. Collections on account of the year's revenue were almost exactly equal to the amount demanded. The remissions mentioned above amounted to £60,500, and the suspensions, which have for the most part been subsequently turned into remissions, to £44,300. There was a further demand on account of land revenue not on the roll and miscellaneous revenue, current and arrear, amounting in all to £29,200; and the receipts under these heads came to £23,800. Coercive processes showed a general decline; 338 defaulters were arrested and only 8 imprisoned; 1,713 attachments and 197 sales of movable property were effected; and the number of estates sold numbered only 4. Advances under the Land Improvements Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act amounted to £109,200 during the year. The amount of these loans outstanding at the end of September 1902 was £293,300, of which £125,700 bore no interest.

Berar.

The latest report available respecting land revenue administration in Berar relates to the year ending on the 31st July 1903. The rainfall was below the average, and was not well distributed. The out-turn of crops did not rise above three-fourths of the normal, and jowar, or large millet, which covers 43 per cent. of the crop area and forms the staple food of the people, gave a low yield compared with the good crop of the preceding year. Prices, however, were lower. The land revenue demand for the year, including cesses, amounted to £512,800, of which practically the whole was collected during the year. The arrears outstanding were inconsiderable. No defaulter was imprisoned for non-payment of revenue; the area of land sold on this account was 16,200 acres; personal property was sold in 19 cases. The amounts advanced under the Land Improvements Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act were only petty.

Assam.

The rainfall in Assam during 1903-04 was about equal to the average, and though its distribution was peculiar the result was, on the whole, favourable, the produce of the year being estimated as 14 per cent. above the normal. The current land revenue demand rose from £389,600 to £399,200, and the collections from £367,700 to £374,300, in spite of the fact that, owing to a revision of the rules relating to instalments, the payment of some of the revenue was deferred. Including arrears, the amount collected was £391,600, and £6,800 was remitted; the percentage borne by these two sums to the total current and arrear demand being 92 per cent. In addition to this there were miscellaneous receipts to the amount of £33,000. The number of sales of land for non-payment of revenue was 536 against 554 in the previous year. On the other hand, sales of movable property increased from 358 to 453. The amount of agricultural loans granted in Assam is insignificant.

Madras.

For the Madras Presidency the latest report available deals with the year ending on the 30th June 1903. The season was generally favourable to agriculture, and the out-turn of all crops, wet or dry, was generally fair, prices showing a material fall. The total demand on account of the year for land revenue, including charges for irrigation, was £4,005,500, besides cesses amounting to £542,800, and the total collections were £4,492,500. The uncollected balances of current dues and of arrears at the end of June 1903 amounted to £70,900, of which more than three-fourths had been collected or written off by the end of November 1903. Of the above land revenue demand, a sum of £332,800 represents land revenue due from permanently settled estates, and £51,100 quit-rents from villages held under special tenures, the remainder coming for the most part from the assessment and water rate paid by peasant proprietors. The number of ryotwari (peasant proprietors') villages rose to 23,593, and the area of their holdings was more than 23 millions of acres, the extent under occupation having increased by 9 per cent. as compared with that of 1901-02, which was also a favourable year. The land revenue demand on this area was £3,072,300, putting aside cesses and certain special charges for water, which together amounted to £616,900. In spite of the fact that the realisations of revenue in the year exceeded those of the preceding year by about £120,000, and that the percentage of collections to demand rose from 97.1 to 98.5, there

was a considerable reduction in the number of coercive processes employed; but there is still room for further reductions. The number of notices of sale was 200,400, and sale of real property was carried out in 7,756 cases. The area of land so sold was 30,600 acres, against 45,700 acres in the previous year; a considerable proportion of it is of inferior quality, and is bought in by the Government at a nominal price. Advances under the Land Improvements Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act amounted to £33,900.

LAND
REVENUE.

In all parts of the Bombay Presidency proper, except Gujarat, the rainfall was both timely and sufficient in the year 1903-04, and in Gujarat, though it was below normal, it was nowhere deficient, and a large out-turn of cotton, fetching high prices, greatly helped to promote agricultural prosperity. In Sind the inundation was a good one. The total demand on account of land revenue, including the demand on account of former years, amounted to £2,888,900, compared with £2,746,700 in the previous year. Collections amounted to £2,630,400, which was better than those of the previous year, both in respect of its proportion to the demand, and also in actual amount, owing chiefly to the good inundation in Sind. The number of occupancies increased slightly in all divisions with the exception of the southern, and stood at 1,529,000. The number of distraints for non-payment of revenue fell from 2,222 to 1,831, showing that less difficulty was found in making the collection than in the previous year. The amount of remissions in the Presidency proper fell from £198,300 to £45,100 in the year ending on the 1st August 1903, and the outstanding balances on account of that year and previous years stood at £206,700, against £543,500 on the 1st August 1902. The agricultural advances made in the Presidency proper had also fallen from £266,700 in 1901-02 to £138,500 in 1902-03, while in Sind the advances increased to £47,900, and the outstanding balances of revenue to £69,500.

Bombay.

WARDS' ESTATES.

WARDS'
ESTATES.

Courts of Wards have been established in most of the larger provinces. Primarily intended for the protection of the Government revenue, they are also beneficial to the interests of the owners, and recent changes in the law have been made, to a large extent, with this object. Before 1899, the Courts had power to assume the management of estates of minors, of persons physically or mentally incompetent to manage them, or of persons declared by the local Government, at their own request, to be disqualified for managing them. Since that year, various provincial Acts have been passed, giving to the Government further powers of putting estates under the control of the Court, without consent of the owners, when the latter are in a special degree unqualified for their proper management. The duty of the Courts is to manage the estates under their charge to the best advantage of both proprietors and tenants, to support the family of the proprietor, and to educate young wards; to pay off debts due by the estates, and to spend the surplus income on the improvement of the property in the best attainable way.

In Bengal 72 wards' estates and 82 other estates were under the management of the Court of Wards for the whole or part of the year 1903-04, with a total rent and cess income of £554,500. The collection of rents and cesses, including arrears, amounted to rather more than the current demand. With other items, the receipts of the estates amounted to £1,038,100. The disbursements were £918,200, of which £159,100 was for Government revenue and cesses, £38,100 for dues of superior landlords, £53,700, or 9·8 per cent. of the rental, for cost of management, £96,800 for wards' and family expenses, £22,000 for improvements, and £326,600 for investments and payment of debts. The total of the debts stood at £1,148,500, of which £436,200 represents the debts of the Bettiah estate, which is involved to the extent of more than three and a half times the amount of the rent roll. This also includes £376,000 owed by estates taken under management during the year, several of which, notably the estate of Sir S. M. Tagore, were large and deeply involved. The Burdwan Raj was released from management during the preceding year, after being for seventeen years under the control of the Court. The cost of management for this whole period had been 3·3 per cent.

Bengal.

WARDS'
ESTATES.

of the total rent and cess demand. The huge property, covering about 4,194 square miles, with a population of rather over 2 millions, had been ably managed, and the expenditure, besides the expenses of the family and improvements to the estate, included the maintenance of a college and schools and a public library, an experimental farm, &c. The estate was handed over with a cash balance of £77,200 and Government securities to the amount of £90,400. None of the estates released during 1903-04 were important.

United
Provinces.

The number of estates under the Court of Wards in the United Provinces at the close of the year ending in September 1903 was 180. None of the estates released during the year had any special importance. Some of the estates which came under management were of considerable size, the most deeply indebted being one in the Ghazipur district, which had debts to the amount of about £21,700, with an income of £11,000. The season was on the whole a good one, and current rental collections amounted to 95 per cent. of the demand, while 24 per cent. of the arrears was paid up. The aggregate receipts of all the estates under management for the whole or part of the year was £587,300, and the charges amounted to £596,600, of which £199,100 was for the Government demand, £56,100 was for the education and maintenance of the wards, £12,300 for improvements, and £182,900 for repayment of debts, the cost of management falling at the rate of 9.4 per cent. of the gross income. The Government land revenue, with cesses and rates, actually paid, amounted to 50.6 per cent. of the current rental collections. The total liabilities of all the estates under management, including debts previous and subsequent to assumption of charge, were £3,047,800, of which £1,365,300 had been repaid, while £949,100 had been replaced by more favourable loans. The heavy debt of £353,000 owing by the small Rampur state of Moradabad under a decree for dowry was settled by compromise. Several of the agricultural banks started two years before had died of inanition; with regard to the rest their prospects were not certain; success or failure seems to depend largely on the interest taken by the Court of Wards' staff.

Punjab.

The new Punjab Court of Wards Act came into force in June 1903. At the end of September 1903 the number of estates under the management of the Court was 44. Four estates were brought under management, of which one, the Kot Fateh Khan estate in Rawalpindi, had a cultivated area of 29,000 acres, an income of £5,400, large assets, and small liabilities. This income was only surpassed by three others of the estates under management. One important estate, namely, Guler, is in a hopeless position, and little progress was made in respect of the Sher Shah estate, the prospects of which are more hopeful; but the figures of income for the estates as a whole are considered to have been gratifying, having regard to the agricultural conditions of the year. The gross income was £70,800, besides £8,000 obtained by loans and sale of properties; and the expenditure, excluding investments and repayments of debt, amounted to £42,900. The cost of management was 6 per cent. of the gross income, £8,300 was spent on family and educational charges, and £8,100 on improvements. Three estates were released, the results of their management being said to be satisfactory.

North-West
Frontier
Province.

There were 44 estates under the Court of Wards in the Frontier Province during the year ending in September 1903, with receipts amounting to £78,800 and a total expenditure of £76,200. Satisfactory work was done in respect of the management of the estates and their clearance from debt. The total liabilities at the end of the year were £107,000, the sum of £13,800 being cleared off as a result of the year's working.

Central
Provinces.

In the Central Provinces the policy of relieving the Court of Wards of the management of estates in which it is unsuitable or not advantageous was pursued during the year ending in September 1903, and the result was a decline in the number of estates under management from 122 to 107. Of the latter number, six are, for various reasons, not included in the following statistics. The gross income of the remainder was £74,800, of which £45,900 represented rental collections. The rice crops of 1902 were in many cases poor, but the percentage of collections was fair, and now that large sums have been written off as irrecoverable the arrears of rent are reduced to reasonable dimensions. The expenditure was £83,800, including £28,200

for Government dues. The debts were reduced by a net amount of £2,200, and stood at £111,200. The establishment by which the estates are managed was being revised on an efficient but economical basis; the cost of management was rather less than 14 per cent. of the year's income. WARDS'
ESTATES.

Four estates in Madras were released during the agricultural year ended on 30th June 1903, and two taken under management, so that 37 remained under the control of the Court. The most important of the estates released was the Saptur estate in Madura, the current income of which had increased by nearly 60 per cent. during its sixteen years of management, and stood at £5,300, while £7,700 had been expended on irrigation works and £4,200 on other improvements. The season was, on the whole, favourable on most of the estates; 667,100 acres, or 80 per cent. of the total area of all holdings on these estates, were cultivated. The rent collections during 1902-03 on account of the current year amounted to £174,700, or nearly 75 per cent. of the current demand; the demand on account of arrears amounted to £174,900, of which £70,600 was collected during the year, and £25,700 written off as irrecoverable. The cost of management was reduced to 12 per cent. of the ordinary receipts. The balance at the credit of all estates, invested and uninvested, at the end of the year was £435,200; the debts due were £837,300, of which no less than £745,000 was owed by two estates, Karvetnagar and Kalahasti, taken temporarily under management in 1899, under the additional powers given by the Act of that year. The Government demands amounted to £95,600, and education and maintenance of wards and families accounted for £24,700, the total charges, including repayment of debts and investment in Government securities, being given as £302,200. Madras.

In Bombay the estates under Government management during the year 1903-04 were of several kinds, namely, estates under the management of collectors or other guardians, estates in charge of the Talukdari Settlement officer, and encumbered estates in Sind. Outside Gujarat the estates were of small area. The estates of the second category are all in Gujarat; they included 613 estates, of which many had been handed over to the Talukdari Settlement officer's charge in order to enable the talukdars to obtain loans for themselves and their tenants. Their nominal gross revenue was £73,300, of which £61,700 was realised during the year. The improvement of agricultural conditions made possible a large reduction in the amount of agricultural loans, and also the recovery of £20,900 lent by the Government. As the result of the special inquiry made into the condition of the Ahmedabad talukdars, reductions were sanctioned by the Government amounting to 12 per cent. of the revenue fixed at the revision settlement. The manager of encumbered estates in Sind had 500 estates in charge. The year's revenue of these estates amounted to £56,600, and the expenditure to £53,300, which included £11,400 spent in reducing debts. Bombay.

CHAPTER VIII.

OPIUM REVENUE, AND TAXATION.

OPIUM.

OPIUM,
General.

The opium revenue is partly raised by a monopoly of the production of the drug in Bengal and the United Provinces, and partly by the levy of a duty on all opium exported from Native States. Though the poppy can be grown in most parts of India, its cultivation in British territory is permitted only in parts of Bengal and of the United Provinces, with the unimportant exception of a small amount of cultivation for local use in the Punjab and Ajmere-Merwara, and on the frontier of Upper Burma; and the area on which cultivation is permissible is calculated each year with a view of obtaining a stated amount of opium, with the proviso that, under present orders, the area under poppy in 1899-1900, namely 627,300 acres, is not to be materially exceeded. The cultivator of opium in the monopoly districts receives a licence, and is granted advances to enable him to prepare the land for the crop, and he is required to deliver the whole of the produce at a fixed price to opium agents, by whom it is despatched to the Government factories at Patna and Ghazipur. This price has been Rs. 6 per seer since 1895. The supply of prepared opium required for consumption in India is made over to the Excise Department, and Rs. 8½ per seer is credited to opium revenue for the amount thus consumed. The chests of "provision" opium, for export, are sold by auction at monthly sales which take place in Calcutta; and, in order to prevent speculation and to steady prices, the quantity to be offered at each sale during each year is notified in the previous year. Opium (known as Malwa opium) is also grown in Baroda and in some of the Native States of Rajputana and Central India. Most of these States have agreed to assimilate their internal opium arrangements to the British excise system, and to prevent contraband dealings. They levy heavy dues on opium exported from their territories for the China market, and such opium pays to the Indian Treasury a duty, which had been £40 per chest (of 140 lbs.) for several years until December 1894, when it was raised to £43½. It was reduced to £40 in July 1896, and to £33½ in October 1897, and stood at the latter figure during the year under report.

The yield of the opium revenue during recent years has been :—

—	1896-97.	1897-98.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Opium Receipts :*							
Auction sales of monopoly opium.	£ 3,233,568	£ 2,660,697	£ 3,394,290	£ 4,109,349	£ 4,150,290	£ 3,662,600	£ 4,678,371
Duty on Bombay (or Malwa) opium.	892,189	647,092	852,792	835,117	542,683	661,038	871,853
Cost of opium issued to the Excise Departments, and miscellaneous.	147,068	145,392	154,900	157,877	159,049	174,805	186,291
Total - -	4,272,825	3,453,181	4,401,982	5,102,342	4,852,022	4,498,438	5,736,045
Opium expenditure, chiefly in Bengal.	1,657,795	1,592,744	1,727,154	1,785,875	1,609,690	1,618,493	2,225,744
Net Opium Revenue - £	2,615,030	1,860,437	2,674,828	3,316,467	3,242,332	2,879,945	3,510,301

* This does not include the license fees, duty, &c., on opium consumed in India, which amounted to £844,426 in 1903-04, as shown below under "Excise."

The exports of Bombay opium to China averaged 25,500 chests in the ten years ending in March 1901, but had fallen to 17,500 chests in 1901-02 and 19,300 chests in 1902-03. In the year under report, owing partly to a rumoured failure of the China crop, they rose to 25,340 chests; but the rumour proved to be exaggerated, and the shipments have since declined. The main permanent causes of the decline in the exports of Malwa opium to China are said to be the increased production of the cheap Chinese drug, and the low rate of exchange of the dollar as compared with the rise in the sterling value of the rupee. The amount of Malwa opium which entered the Bombay Presidency during the year was 27,500 chests, or 28 per cent. more than in the year 1902-03. The average price for one-year old opium, including export duty, was Rs. 1,223 per chest—about the same as in the preceding year.

OPUM.
Bombay.

The net area cultivated with the poppy in the Ganges Valley in recent years, excluding areas on which the crop was sown but failed, is shown in the margin. Both in the Behar and the Benares Agencies the season of the year ending with October 1903 was unusually favourable for poppy cultivation, and the general average gross produce per acre was 6·7 seers, compared with an average of 5·2 seers in each of the last seven years. The opium is received and prepared at the Government factories at Patna and Ghazipur, where the out-turn for the year included 5,280 chests of opium for the Excise Department, about 400 lbs. of various opium alkaloids, 1,464 lbs. of medical opium, and 64,700 chests of provision opium for the Chinese market. During the financial year ending in March 1904, 48,000 chests of provision opium were sold in equal proportions from Behar and Benares, and the average price realised per chest was Rs. 1,462. The average cost per chest amounted to Rs. 506. There was a great increase in the price realised in the latter part of the year, and the average price obtained in February 1904 was Rs. 1,765 per chest. The average price during the financial year 1902-03 was about Rs. 1,144½ per chest, compared with Rs. 1,297 and 1,361 respectively, in the two preceding financial years.

Bengal.

	Acres.
1896-97	581,181
1897-98	516,671
1899-1900	627,311
1901-02	591,837
1902-03	582,807

SALT.

SALT.

The salt revenue is raised by a duty on all salt imported into, or manufactured in, India. The rate of duty has in past times ranged from one-fifth of a rupee (in Burma) to 3¼ rupees (in Bengal) per maund of 82½ lbs.; during the year 1903-04 the rate was 2 rupees over the whole of India, excepting Burma, where it was one rupee per maund, the Kohat salt mines, the produce of which paid duty at the rate of Rs. 1½ per maund of 82½ lbs., and the mines in the Mandi State, where the rate of duty was 6 annas per maund, the share received by the Government of India being 4 annas per maund. These rates were fixed in March 1903, and show a reduction of 20 per cent. on those previously in force, except in the cases of Burma, where the rate remained the same, and Kohat, where only a small reduction was made. It may be mentioned that in the Budget for 1905-06 a further reduction at the rate of 8 annas per maund, or 25 per cent., in the general rate of salt duty was announced. An exception was again made in respect of Burma, where the rate remains unchanged.

General.

The Indian sources of salt supply are the coast, where salt is manufactured for the consumption of all southern and western India, and for part of Burma and Central India; the salt lakes and pits of Rajputana, which supply the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and a part of Central India; the salt mines of the Punjab, which supply that province and a varying area southward; and importations from beyond the sea, which supply Bengal and the greater part of Burma. The duty is levied on salt at the place of manufacture, or at the port of importation, before it passes into consumption.

SALT.

The Salt Revenues and Charges in the year 1903-04 were as follows:—

PROVINCE.	Price of Government Salt, and Excise on Salt made locally.	Duty on Salt imported from England.	Duty on Salt imported by Sea from other Places.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.	Charges.	Net Salt Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northern India - - -	1,137,577	—	—	9,962	1,147,539	64,300	1,083,239
Burma - - - - -	16,785	33,341	53,098	—	103,224	1,038	102,186
Bengal - - - - -	841	773,933	668,736	10,390	1,453,405	20,487	1,432,918
Madras - - - - -	1,295,050	326	720	6,291	1,302,387	126,994	1,175,393
Bombay - - - - -	1,197,716	1,035	967	44,192	1,243,910	118,372	1,125,538
TOTAL 1903-04 - -	3,647,469	808,640	723,521	70,835	5,250,465	331,191	4,919,274
TOTAL 1902-03 - -	4,229,656	872,951	1,001,144	80,654	6,184,405	345,749	5,838,656

The charges above shown do not include a sum of £200,900 paid under treaties to Native chiefs who have assigned the management of their salt sources to the Government of India.

The rate of salt consumption per head of the population differs widely in the several provinces. If the total of licit consumption is compared with the population, the following results appear:—The consumption in the saliferous tracts of Bengal, including Orissa, was 12·47 lbs. per head; in Behar, 9·03 lbs.; in the rest of Bengal, 11·18 lbs.; in Gujarat, 9·9 lbs.; in the rest of Bombay 10·7 lbs.; in Sind, 7·37 lbs.; in Madras, 16·5 lbs.; in the Central Provinces and Berar, 11·89 lbs.; in the United Provinces, 7·72 lbs.; in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, cis-Indus, with Kashmir, 7·56 lbs.; in Central India, 8·63 lbs., and in Rajputana, 7·38 lbs. These figures compare in several instances very favourably with those of 1902-03, and in no case show any important decrease. The rate of consumption in Burma is not accurately known, but is believed to be high.

The consumption of salt and the duty realised during the last 31 years are shown in the table in the margin, which has been taken from the returns of the Director-General of Statistics under the Government of India. It will be observed that the amount of the duty received shows a slight divergence from the figures given above.

Northern India.

	Quantity.	Duty.
	Maunds.	£
1868-69 to 1872-73 (average)	22,973,000	3,335,000
1873-74 to 1877-78	24,184,000	3,971,000
1878-79 to 1882-83	27,761,000	4,393,000
1883-84 to 1887-88	32,429,000	4,141,000
1888-89 to 1892-93	33,432,000	5,351,000
1893-94 to 1897-98	34,211,000	5,505,000
1898-99	35,269,000	5,719,000
1899-1900	35,058,000	5,695,000
1900-01	35,815,000	5,837,000
1901-02	35,580,000	5,780,000
1902-03	36,671,000	5,889,000
1903-04	37,592,000	4,918,000

Kohat mines, the Mandi mines, and the brine springs at Sultanpur. From these are supplied the wants of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, part of the United Provinces, parts of the Behar districts of Bengal, the northern districts of the Central Provinces, and the greater part of the Rajputana and Central India States. The most important sources are the Sambhar Lake and the Mayo mine. At the Sambhar Lake only 572,000 maunds of salt were produced in 1903-04, owing to the character of the season, compared with 4,744,000 maunds in the previous year. Since the year 1870, when the lake was leased by the Government of India, 117 millions of maunds of salt have been taken from it, and the financial results show a total credit balance of £243,500, without taking into account the large stock of salt in hand. The Sambhar salt is sold at a uniform price of 4 annas per maund, with a

charge of 3 pies for clearance; the sales in 1903-04 amounted to 4,119,000 maunds. In the Mayo mine 2,083,000 maunds of salt were excavated. This salt is sold at 9 pies per maund, apart from the duty, and a charge of 6 pies a maund for delivery to the railway; the price of Didwana salt is also 9 pies; Pachbadra salt is sold at the rate of 1½ anna with a charge of 3 pies for clearance; Kohat salt fetches on the average about 10 pies. The total amount of salt which passed into consumption was 8,113,533 maunds, distributed as follows:—

SALT.

	1902-03.	1903-04.
Punjab and N.W. Frontier Province, cis-Indus, including Native States and Kashmir (chiefly rock salt).	Maunds. 2,591,498	Maunds. 2,683,226
Ditto trans Indus (chiefly Kohat salt)	325,453	381,274
United Provinces (chiefly Sambhar salt)	3,269,782	3,269,650
Behar	153,126	168,101
Central Provinces	84,567	106,270
Rajputana	811,104	868,899
Central India	494,292	539,003
Other places, including Afghanistan	91,088	97,110
TOTAL	7,819,675	8,113,533

The salt consumed in Bengal comes from abroad or from other parts of India; up to a few years ago a small amount was annually manufactured in Orissa, but this manufacture has been discontinued, and the accumulated stock of locally made salt has now been exhausted. In the other maritime tracts of the province, also, the manufacture of salt is prohibited. The amount of salt imported by sea during the year 1903-04 was 11,170,000 maunds, as shown in the margin; there was an increase of 5 per cent.

Bengal.

Salt Imports by Sea.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Maunds.	Maunds.
From United Kingdom	5,233,000	5,599,000
" Germany	900,000	1,530,000
" Red Sea	3,604,000	3,529,000
" Persian Gulf	230,000	109,000
" Madras	—	147,000
" Bombay	598,000	256,000
Total	10,615,000	11,170,000

as compared with 1902-03. Half of the total imports came from the United Kingdom, but English salt has in recent years been to a large extent displaced by salt imported from Aden and the Red Sea. Imports of German salt returned to rather more than the figure of 1901-02. The amount of Madras salt carried into Orissa by rail rose from 328,800 maunds to 918,800, while the imports of the same article by sea began again, under the encouragement of new regulations, which admit of the duty being paid, not on exportation, but on arrival. This salt is specially manufactured, and is of high quality, which enables it to compete with Liverpool salt. The average wholesale price of salt, including duty (Rs. 2 per maund), at the chief marts of Bengal was about Rs. 3½, having decreased by almost exactly 8 annas, as compared with the previous year. The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt in 1903-04 was Rs. 53½ per 100 maunds from the ship's side at Calcutta, exclusive of duty, compared with Rs. 56½ in 1902-03.

The net amount of salt consumed in the province was 11,148,000 maunds, as compared with 11,046,000 maunds in 1902-03. The consumption of salt

	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Saliferous tracts (including Orissa).	12·21	12·47
Rest of province	11·18	11·18

per head of the population during the last two years is given in the marginal table. It will be seen that the rate of consumption in Bengal outside the saliferous areas remained stationary. This is ascribed to an unfavourable season in some districts, and in part to a recrudescence of illicit manufacture.

The number of cases in which contraband salt was confiscated was 1,510, and there were 577 prosecutions instituted during the year for offences under the salt laws.

SALT.
Madras.

There were in Madras available for the manufacture of salt by solar evaporation 21 Government and 45 other factories; but of these, six Government and three other factories were not at work during the year 1903-04. The season was very unfavourable for salt manufacture, on account of heavy rains. The amount of salt produced is given as 6,667,000 maunds, or nearly 32 per cent. less than in 1902-03, and nearly the lowest figure recorded in the last ten years; of this amount, 4,129,000 maunds were manufactured in private factories. An attempt has been made to produce by sifting a large-grained salt which should compete with Bombay salt, of which a large quantity is imported annually; but the difficulty of disposing of the siftings except at a loss has resulted in its abandonment, though the Bombay method of manufacture is still followed to some extent in two factories. The average wholesale price of "excise" (i.e., private factories) salt works out to nearly Rs. 3½ annas per maund, or rather more than in the preceding year. Government salt is sold at fixed prices (the usual rate being 3 annas per maund) with a view to controlling the price of "excise" salt; it is reported that the average retail price of salt varied in the several districts between Rs. 2⅓ and Rs. 3⅓. Excluding the salt used for fish-curing, or bought by the French Government, the total of salt issued for consumption during the last three years was as follows:—

---	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Government, excise, and sea-imported salt -	Maunds. 8,984,828	Maunds. 9,122,219	Maunds. 9,980,183
Salt imported from Bombay by railway -	615,050	658,503	510,957
	9,599,873	9,780,722	10,441,090

After deduction of salt exported from the Presidency, which amounted to 1,548,000 maunds, the average consumption per head of the population was 16·5 lbs. in the whole Presidency, including Mysore and Coorg, with the Native States except Travancore and Cochin. The corresponding figure for 1902-03 was 16·05 lbs.

During the year under report there were 136 bonded yards in the Madras Presidency open for curing fish under special regulations, whereby cheap salt is sold to fish-curers. The quantity of fish brought to be cured was 53,271 tons, the weather having been favourable for fishing, and 824,800 maunds of cured fish left the yards in a fit condition for use. The cost of the yards to the Treasury was more than covered by the amount realised for salt. Prosecutions under the salt laws were much less numerous than in previous years; of 2,375 persons charged with salt offences, 316 were released by departmental officers with a warning, and 2,013 were sent for trial.

Bombay.

The salt supply of Bombay comes from the Pritchard salt brine works, owned by the Government, on the Runn of Cutch (Baragra salt); from sea-salt works on the coast; and by importation. Of the sea-salt works one, at Dharasna, is worked by the Government; the remainder, of which there are some hundreds, are owned by, or leased to private individuals; the imports of salt come chiefly from Goa. The year was not very favourable for the production of salt, and the issues of salt were large, so that the stock at the Pritchard salt works fell rather below the amount desired by the Government, namely, a reserve equal to two years' supply. The following table shows the issues of salt from each source for the last two years:—

SALT.

	1902-03.		1903-04.	
	Total Issues.	For Local Consumption.	Total Issues.	For Local Consumption.
Baragra salt	Maunds. 2,091,508	Maunds. 392,195	Maunds. 2,270,211	Maunds. 438,690
Sea salt	7,121,109	2,033,485	6,462,757	2,014,264
Imported salt	272,815	221,891	280,855	225,366
Total	9,485,432	2,647,471	9,013,823	2,678,320

The issues of duty-paid salt in the whole Presidency, excluding Sind, were at the rate of 10·5 lbs. per head of the population, but in Gujarat, as usual, the average was lower, amounting only to 9·9 lbs. per head. The corresponding figures of the previous year were 10·38 lbs. and 8·9 lbs. per head of the population. The comparison is very favourable in Gujarat, but elsewhere in the Presidency the cyclone of May 1903, which destroyed many of the stocks of sea salt and raised the price of the remainder, tended to restrict the consumption. Outside Gujarat, there was a decline of $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. per head. The bulk of the Baragra salt is exported to the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, and Central India; while the Madras Presidency and its States, Hyderabad, Mysore, Calcutta, and the Central Provinces take large amounts of sea salt. The cost price of Baragra salt is fixed at $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per maund, and the purchasers get the full benefit of the reduction of the tax to Rs. 2 per maund. But the price of sea salt was, in most districts, higher than in the previous year, owing to the cyclone. The average market price per maund ranged between Rs. $2\frac{1}{6}$, the price in the Ahmedabad district, and Rs. $4\frac{3}{4}$ in Bombay. The number of detected offences against the salt law was 710, most of them being clandestine removals of natural salt; this figure is 50 per cent. below that of the preceding year. Twenty-nine fish-curing yards were open at the end of the year. The quantity of fish brought to be cured in bond was 184,400 maunds, and 56,400 maunds of cheap salt were issued to fish-curiers; the fish-curing season thus showed a marked improvement over that of last year.

The Sind salt supply is derived chiefly from the sea-salt works at Maurypur, and in smaller quantities from salt deposits at Saran and Dilyar on the edge of the desert, and by importation. The amount passed into consumption during the year was 287,600 maunds.* The consumption per head of the population was 7·37 lbs., against 7·39 lbs. in the preceding year and 7·13 lbs. in 1901-02. The average market price of salt is returned as having been Rs. $2\frac{7}{8}$, which shows a reduction, as compared with last year's average, of rather more than the 8 annas by which the duty was reduced. One fish-curing yard was worked during the year, and used 970 maunds of salt and 4,600 maunds of fish. All the salted fish manufactured was exported.

The amount of imported salt which paid duty in Burmese ports during the year 1903 was 1,275,000 maunds. This comes chiefly from England and Germany, and pays a duty of Re. 1 per maund; imports from Germany constituted about 54 per cent. of the total given above, Liverpool salt comprising 42 per cent. A marked feature of the year was the attempt made by the Liverpool shippers to recover the position which they formerly held in the imports into Burma. In 1902 their shipments had amounted to no more than 25 per cent. of the total. The excise duty on locally manufactured salt was levied generally by a composition rate on vessels used for boiling brine, the amount of which varied in different parts of the province; but a system of levying duty on actual output is being experimentally tried in the Hanthawaddy, Bassein, and Myaungmya districts, and has proved financially successful and is increasing in favour with the manufacturers. The

* From Maurypur	Maunds. 239,200
" Saran	16,200
" Dilyar	20,500
Net imports	11,700

SALT.

estimated output of locally manufactured salt in 1903 was 705,600 maunds, against 544,800 in 1902. The total amount of local salt actually consumed, as distinct from the amount issued, cannot be accurately stated, but it may be estimated at about 610,000 maunds. Prices of salt ruled generally lower than in 1902, mainly because of the lower rates quoted by importers in Rangoon, owing to competition. It is not, however, apparent that the lower prices led to any increase in consumption. The imports of salted fish fell from 333,300 to 232,400 maunds, owing to the low prices prevailing, which hindered the competition of salted fish from the Straits Settlements.

EXCISE.

EXCISE.

General.

The excise revenue of India is raised by various methods, including :— (1) Monopolies for the manufacture or for the sale, or both, of liquors over defined areas ; (2) Still-head duty and fees on spirits manufactured at central distilleries ; (3) Licences for the working of outstills at specified places, with the privilege of selling the produce ; (4) Licences for the sale of various kinds of liquor ; (5) Tax on trees used for the manufacture of toddy, or on mhowra flowers used for distillation ; (6) Licences for the sale of intoxicating drugs ; (7) Duty on opium and hemp drugs consumed.* Tobacco, which is grown in almost every village, and is consumed by nearly all men and by many women in India, is not subjected to any duty ; tea and coffee are also free from all duties, with the exception of the small tea cess now levied for the purposes of the trade. The proceeds of the excise duty on woven cotton goods manufactured at power mills are brought to account under the heading of " Customs."

Over almost the whole of Bombay and the Punjab, over the populous parts of Madras, the United Provinces and Burma, and over part of Bengal and the Central Provinces, a still-head duty is levied on all Indian spirit according to its alcoholic strength ; but in some cases the duty is levied on the raw material from which the spirit is distilled. The still-head duty ranges from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 (in Burma, Rs. 6) per gallon of London proof spirit ; if the cost of licences be added, the total duties are in some places more than six rupees per gallon of London proof spirit. The system of excise management followed in these tracts is called the central distillery system, and assumes different forms in different provinces ; in Northern India the distilleries are places under Government supervision where licensed distillers are allowed to set up stills and to manufacture spirits generally after a more or less rude fashion. Elsewhere they are large concerns, under private or Government management, at which spirits are made on improved principles. Efforts are continually made to adapt the systems of excise as far as possible to the conditions of each province. In certain parts of India, including the north and west of Bengal, about half of the Central Provinces, the whole of Assam, and in limited tracts in Burma, revenue is levied on Indian spirits by licensing the establishment of private stills, which is called the out-still system. The central distillery system is admittedly the best for preventing the spread and consumption of cheap liquor ; and the Government of India have in past years declared their intention to restrict the out-still system as narrowly as possible. The difficulties are that in sparsely-peopled forest tracts the materials for illicit distillation are everywhere available ; the tribes addicted to drinking often live in these regions ; an adequate and trustworthy preventive staff cannot be kept ; and illicit practices prevail, to the consequent demoralisation of the people, if weak liquor cannot be obtained in some lawful way.

* A customs duty is also levied on all imported spirits, wines and beer, but credited to the head of Customs. The import duty is six rupees per gallon on London proof spirit ; 2½ rupees per gallon on sparkling wines ; one rupee per gallon on other wines ; and one anna per gallon on beer.

The following table gives the excise revenue of 1903-04 for each province under the different heads, as shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts:—

EXCISE.

	India (General)	Bangal.	United Provinces.	Punjab.	North-West Frontier Province.	Burma.	Central Provinces.	Berar.	Assam.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
License and distillery fees, and duties for the sale of spirits, fermented liquors, and drugs, viz. —												
Foreign liquors, &c.	10,514	80,643	52,636	18,563	1,769	97,001	1,137	362	1,390	28,123	23,342	321,680
Country spirits	51,344	526,977	397,030	105,267	5,559	94,563	112,113	100,600	47,258	482,126	546,802	2,608,368
Toddy	2,602	78,648	11,388	—	—	34,563	1,938	1,379	16	688,097	97,080	869,800
Opium and its prepara- tions.	2,118	48,671	17,993	28,019	2,332	21,091	14,438	10,410	22,044	22,475	2,374	192,765
Other drugs	2,575	113,353	114,270	23,776	3,379	1	6,119	1,502	14,627	12,317	19,273	316,282
Duty on opium consumed in India.	487	123,337	37,139	9,387	561	246,818	26,547	16,707	101,409	33,667	53,424	650,054
Accrue on land cultivated with the poppy.	—	—	—	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000
Duty on ganja	—	112,277	—	—	—	—	8,579	1,791	13,914	8,562	14,139	159,263
Fines, confiscations, mis- cellaneous.	3,754	2,395	152	75	1	3,583	89	217	70	4,836	4,857	20,279
Total Revenue	72,404	1,036,396	630,563	186,683	18,001	407,021	170,685	132,958	201,627	1,130,252	600,391	4,980,096
Deduct - Charges	7,939	54,237	7,981	8,833	519	46,764	3,424	1,497	1,317	86,465	86,903	213,923
Net Revenue, 1903-04	77,565	1,082,159	623,487	182,810	18,082	450,357	167,261	131,461	200,310	1,113,787	773,389	4,766,168
Net Revenue, 1902-03	131,499	1,900,326	549,808	174,036	12,362	352,546	146,856	—	103,619	976,222	699,875	4,237,449

• Included under India (General).

A net sum of £524,400 was yielded by customs duties on exciseable articles imported into India during the year 1903-04, and thus the total net drink and drugs revenue amounts to nearly 5½ annas a head on the population affected. The year shows the highest figure which has been reached by the excise revenue, but the Government of India have recently, in circular orders to the local Governments on the subject of a memorandum by Mr. Lely, I.C.S., an additional member of the Governor-General's Council, re-stated their ruling that the raising of revenue is not a primary object of excise administration, and have ordered it to be impressed upon excise officers that the growth of excise revenue is to be regarded as satisfactory only when it results from the substitution of licit for illicit manufacture and sale, and not from a general increase of consumption. The growth of the net excise and customs revenues on liquors and drugs consumed in India during past years is shown in the margin.

With regard to the specific suggestions made by Mr. Lely in his memorandum, the Government expressed their entire concurrence with the view that close attention should be paid to the locality of existing shops, and not only to the sites for new shops, and they formulated the general rule that an established shop should not be allowed to remain on a site which would not be permissible for the location of a new shop. Others of Mr. Lely's suggestions respecting liquor shops, such as that they should be concentrated in a single part of a town, should be half a mile from any place of common resort, &c., were reviewed by the Government of India and remitted for the consideration of the local Governments, who have passed such orders as were considered suitable to the circumstances of their respective provinces, with a view to carrying out the Government of India's policy, stated thus by that Government:—
“The Government policy is to discourage drinking and to do all that is possible, without undue interference with the liberty of the subject, to suppress the degrading and demoralising habit of intoxication.”

For the 228½ millions of the population inhabiting the various excise tracts covered by the statistics, the total number of shops licensed for the

Excise retail sale of spirits, fermented liquors, opium and drugs, is as follows, province by province:—

PROVINCE.	Number of Retail Shops licensed in 1903-04 for the Sale of					Total in 1903-04.	Total in 1902-03. (revised.)	Population of Excise Area, by Census of 1901.
	Country Spirits.	European Liquors Imported or made in India.	Toddy and Rice-Beer or other Indian Fermented Drinks.	Opium.	Narcotic or Intoxicating Drugs, other than Opium.			
Bengal - - - -	3,382	556	30,033	1,716	3,718	39,405	37,557	74,620,000
United Provinces - -	5,998	303	4,281	1,214	3,796	15,532	13,369	47,671,000
Punjab - - - -	1,275	283	41	1,445	1,287	4,331	4,319	20,306,000
North-West Frontier Province.	54	49	—	87	93	283	276	2,042,000
Burma - - - -	72	442	1,552	121	—	2,187	2,159	9,187,000
Central Provinces - - -	6,811	103	613	952	1,055	9,534	9,103	9,305,000
Berar - - - -	1,081	32	929	423	177	2,642	2,642	2,664,000
Assam - - - -	213	60	23	752	298	1,346	1,361	5,760,000
Madras - - - -	10,178	684	18,770	1,208	590	31,430	31,259	38,196,000
Bombay and Sind - -	2,769	439	8,737	1,095	1,145	14,185	14,433	18,534,000
Total - - - -	31,833	2,951	64,979*	9,013	12,099	120,875	118,472	228,285,000

* Of this number, 10,923 are licences for domestic consumption only, issued in Bengal and Bombay, which were not included in the similar table given last year.

The increase in the Central Provinces is due to the taking over by Government of the outstills in the zamindari estates in the Chanda district, there having been a decrease in the number of outstill shops in the Central Provinces proper; the increase in Bengal occurred for the most part under the head of toddy licences. The Bombay figures under "other drugs" include 163 shops for the sale of cocaine, which now for the first time requires a licence for its sale. There were thus 120,895 licensed shops for the retail sale of intoxicants and narcotics in British India, or one shop or domestic consumption licence to an average of 1,888 of the population. In the United Kingdom in 1903-04 there were nearly 171,600 licences for the retail sale of beer, wine and spirits, or one shop to about 245 of the population. Occasional or part-year licences have been excluded from the figure for the United Kingdom, and, so far as possible, from those for India. The number of them issued in the United Kingdom during the year was 28,300, while the temporary or part-year licences which have been excluded from the Indian figures are less than 2,000 a year.

Bengal.

In Bengal the total excise revenues of 1903-04 and the two previous years, as given in the departmental returns, were as follows:—

Receipts from	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£	£
Country spirits - - - -	468,115	497,239	526,911
Foreign liquors and rum - - - -	38,291	41,815	40,461
Fermented local liquors, toddy, and rice-beer	106,067	110,227	113,213
Opium - - - -	174,685	176,810	172,806
Ganja, bhang, and their compounds - - - -	213,224	225,352	230,311
Miscellaneous - - - -	1,305	1,072	2,729
Total Excise Revenue - - - -	1,001,687	1,052,515	1,086,431
<i>Add</i> duties levied in the Presidency on imported liquors.	141,667	148,891	148,849
Total Revenue from Drink and Drugs } £	1,143,354	1,201,406	1,235,280

The excise revenue was 3 per cent. higher than the figure for 1902-03, which was the highest on record; the advance was most marked under the head of country spirits, while there was a decline in the receipts from opium owing to smaller consumption. The average incidence of the total excise revenue in Bengal was 3½ annas per head, of which nearly two-thirds was derived from liquors. Of the country spirit revenue, that accruing under the out-still system in the year under report slightly exceeded that under the distillery system, the order of 1902-03 being thus reversed. The former system is in force in the Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions, and in parts of western Bengal, containing altogether a population of 40 millions; the rest of the province, containing 34½ millions, is under the central distillery system. The number of central distilleries was 29, in addition to 33 depôts; that of out-stills was 2,116. The still-head duty levied on central distillery liquor ranged from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 per gallon of proof spirit. The consumption of country spirits in the out-still area cannot be accurately stated, but is estimated, from statements furnished by the vendors, at about 1½ million gallons at London proof; the amount of imported spirits consumed in the province cannot be stated; issues of country spirits from distilleries rose to 692,600 gallons, which is 6 per cent. higher than in 1902-03; and 36,900 gallons of rum, mostly imported from Shahjahanpur, were consumed.

To the third item in the table given above, toddy contributed £73,000, and rice beer £39,900. A large proportion of the people consume rice beer, and there were 12,282 licences for home-brewing in addition to those included in the tabular statement above, while free home-brewing of small quantities is allowed.

Ganja is grown under close supervision in the Rajshahi district, and its cultivation elsewhere in the province, including the Tributary States of Orissa, is forbidden. A large amount is annually exported, the chief items in 1903-04 being, to the United Provinces, 117 maunds; to Assam, 579 maunds; to Nepal, 262 maunds, and 192 maunds (15,800 lbs.) to London. The area of land employed for ganja cultivation was 2,730 acres, and the produce was about 10,375 maunds. The number of shops for the retail sale of ganja in the province was increased by 33 to 2,793. The consumption of opium was 2,258 maunds, against 2,351 maunds in the previous year. No shops are licensed for selling opium prepared for smoking after the Chinese fashion, known as *chandū*, or after the Bengali manner, known as *madak*, and it is believed that the consumption of opium in those forms is decreasing. Attention has been directed to the use of cocaine as an intoxicant, and the drug was brought under the excise law. Vigorous measures were being taken by the Department under the new powers thus given, and it is believed that this noxious habit has been brought under some control.

The latest excise report for the United Provinces relates to the year ending in September 1903. For the last three years the gross excise revenues have been :—

Gross Receipts from	1900 01.	1901 02.	1902-03.
	£	£	£
Country spirits and fermented liquors -	296,509	346,395	379,147
Foreign liquors and rum -	38,840	43,479	48,176
Opium -	50,047	53,362	54,616
Other drugs -	84,657	87,733	101,271
Miscellaneous -	231	286	268
Total -	£ 470,284	531,255	583,478

EXCISE.

The general prosperity of the people is reflected in the continued expansion of the excise revenue. The gross receipts for the year under report exceeded the record figures of the previous year by nearly 10 per cent. This increase has been attained partly by the enhancement of the quantitative duties levied, partly by improved administration; and the consumption of country spirits, though $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. larger, did not increase to quite the same extent as the revenue. The increase of receipts occurred chiefly under the head of country spirits, though all headings show higher figures. The revenue from this source is raised for the most part under the distillery system, though some tracts on the north and on the south of the province are under farming or out-still systems. It is the policy of the Government to centralise the distilleries in order to improve methods of manufacture, establishing bonded warehouses for the local distribution of liquors. The rate of still-head duty charged has been increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ per gallon of London proof spirits in most parts of the province, a proportionate enhancement being fixed for spirits 25 degrees under proof. The number of out-stills and shops rose from 1,440 to 1,455. The consumption of spirits under the farming and out-still systems cannot be stated, but the amount of country spirits consumed in the distillery tracts, which constitute most of the province, is given as 1,367,500 gallons at London proof, or $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than the consumption of the previous year.

The amount of the quantitative duty on Bengal ganja was, as before, Rs. 6 to Rs. 9 per seer. The duty on charas was Rs. 4 per seer, which also was the general rate of duty on ganja from places other than Bengal. The quantity of hemp drugs consumed included 342 maunds of ganja, 2,271 maunds of charas, and a large quantity of bhang, the two former figures showing an increase. An inquiry was held into the question of the smuggling of ganja into the province from Bundelkhand states. The consumption of opium also (1,581 maunds) was rather higher than in 1901-02.

Punjab.

The gross excise revenues in the Punjab in the last three years were raised as follows :—

Receipts from	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Spirits made in India	£ 95,114.	£ 101,865	£ 108,734
Imported liquors and beer	13,312	14,575	14,840
Opium	39,357	40,236	39,039
Other drugs and miscellaneous	19,190	21,673	24,080
Total	£ 166,973	178,349	186,693

It is possible that part of the increase of receipts under country spirits was due to the greater activity in the suppression of illicit distillation, resulting in a higher consumption of licit spirit. There is an enormous amount of illicit distillation in many districts of the Punjab, and as the price of licit liquor is from 10 to 14 times that of the illicit product the practice is hard to suppress. The measures mentioned in recent reports have greatly improved the quality of the licit spirit, and the course which is now suggested is to reduce its price in selected districts, at the same time taking stringent measures against illicit distillation.

The quantity of spirits manufactured at the private distilleries is returned as 257,500 gallons at London proof strength. Imported liquor to the amount of 69,700 gallons must be added, in order to obtain the figure of consumption in the Punjab. The province stands fourth in respect of population; but in the excise revenue is almost lowest of the great provinces, owing partly to the abstemious character of much of the population, and partly to the consumption of illicit spirit. The licit spirit supply works out at an average of about one-tenth of a quart per head of the population in the year. It is

reported from several districts that the plague caused a considerable increase in the consumption of spirits, which are regarded by the people as a prophylactic. There is practically no revenue from native fermented liquors, which are not consumed to any extent. The amount of opium retailed, or issued from the Government treasuries, is returned as 1,346 maunds. The area under poppy was 8,395 acres, against 6,914 acres in 1902, and the yield is returned as 1,797 maunds, or 57 per cent. more than in the earlier year, and a fall in the wholesale price was the result. The import duty on Malwa opium is Rs. 4 per seer, and on that imported from Kashmir and the Hill States Rs. 2 per seer. There was a considerable consumption of bhang (2,216 maunds), and the retail sales of charas are said to have increased from 878 to 963 maunds. It was determined to increase the rate of duty on this harmful drug from Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 per seer, with effect from the 1st April 1904.

The excise receipts in the North West Frontier Province amounted to £13,600 only, and though this is higher than in 1902-03 the consumption of spirits and hemp drugs had fallen off largely. The licit opium consumption showed an increase, owing to stringent measures against smuggling.

In Burma the gross excise revenue during the past three years was raised thus :—

Receipts from	1901-02.	1902 03.	1903-04.
	£	£	£
Liquors imported or made in Burma by European methods at distilleries.	83,442	75,320	97,551
Country spirit (i.e. spirit made at out-stills) - -	8,895	8,839	9,633
Toddy - - - - -	31,431	37,240	34,771
Rice-beer - - - - -	77,771	72,004	80,356
Opium - - - - -	205,338	204,330	303,345
Fines - - - - -	3,199	2,871	3,342
Total - - - £	410,076	400,604	528,998
Add,—Duty on Imported liquors - - -	74,705	83,722	102,741
Total - - - £	484,781	484,326	631,739

The revenue derived from spirits and fermented liquors was much higher than in 1902-03, when the figures were unduly low, and was 10 per cent. greater than that recorded in the earliest of the three years. Most of the increase occurred under the heading of licences for sale of imported liquors, the consumption of which appears to be increasing in the province. With the increase in agricultural prosperity a larger consumption of liquors might, perhaps, be expected; but the attention of the Department is being given to measures for the restriction of the alleged growing tendency to drunkenness in Lower Burma. In certain places where there is an ascertained demand for country-made spirit, out-stills are permitted under strict and close supervision; there were 39 of these out-stills in Lower Burma and 12 in Upper Burma during 1903-04. The excise duty on distillery spirits is Rs. 6 per gallon, which is the same as the import duty on foreign spirits. The increase of nearly 50 per cent. in the opium revenue is held to show that the new measures introduced experimentally in Lower Burma in 1902, and extended in 1903 to Upper Burma, have substituted to some extent licit for contraband opium. Some of the main features of the scheme have been to increase the number of shops, so as to bring a supply within a more reasonable distance of authorised opium consumers; to place all sales at the licensed shops under the direct supervision of a Government officer; to ensure thereby that opium is sold only to persons permitted to possess it, and in quantities not exceeding the legal limit; to increase the supplies to the shops to the extent needed to meet the demands of such persons; and to strengthen the preventive staff so as to check the trade in contraband opium. The scheme is still on its trial, and no final opinion on its success can yet be given.

Excise. No statement can be given of the amount of country spirit made at the out-stills, or of the production of toddy or rice-beer; nor are there available accurate statistics of the consumption of imported beer and spirits. The issues of spirits made in Burma by European methods rose from 55,724 to 69,195 gallons; the amount of opium issued from the Government treasuries was 1,797 maunds, which was 40 per cent. more than in the preceding year, owing to the new arrangements mentioned above.

Central
Provinces.

In the Central Provinces the excise receipts of recent years have been as follows:—

Receipts from	1894-95.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£	£	£	£
Country spirits - - -	115,649	69,637	80,414	95,326	110,357
Opium - - - - -	65,298	48,514	46,574	53,512	58,079
Ganja - - - - -	18,055	11,246	11,839	12,862	14,435
Toddy - - - - -	1,493	1,457	1,561	1,618	1,633
Miscellaneous, including foreign liquors	1,937	2,827	3,056	2,990	3,605
Total - - - £	202,432	133,681	143,444	166,308	188,109

These figures show that the Excise Department has shared in the reviving prosperity of the province, but they are still below those of the year 1894-95, which was the last normal year before the famines. It is believed that there was a fairly general rise of 30 per cent. in the amount of spirits consumed, and that the province is now reverting to its normal consumption, after a long series of most abnormal years. The issues of spirits from the distilleries were equivalent to 306,800 gallons at London proof strength, an increase of 31 per cent. compared with the preceding year. The consumption in out-still areas cannot be stated.

The excise system of the province was during the year under the consideration of a Committee appointed to report on the existing system and to suggest improvements. Their report was not received within the year. The greater part of the country is supplied with spirits from out-stills, from which nearly 41 per cent. of the country spirit revenue is derived; the number of these out-stills was 1,929, having been increased by the taking over of excise arrangements in some zamindaris by the Government. The policy of curtailing the area under out-stills continued to be followed. In two districts, Nagpur and Nimar, a modified bonded warehouse system had been for some years on its trial, and the desirability of extending this system to other parts of the province was one of the matters referred to the Committee.

There was a large increase in the amount of opium issued from the Government treasuries during the year—769 maunds, against 702 maunds in 1902-03—but there is much smuggling in the north of the province, and this figure is far from representing the whole of the actual consumption of opium. The duty on ganja was raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per seer at the beginning of the year 1901-02, and the consumption at first fell; but in the year under report it rose again to 824 maunds, which shows an approach to its level under the lower duty. Its cultivation has recently been prohibited in the feudatory states of Orissa, and inquiry was ordered with respect to its cultivation in some feudatories of the Central Provinces. The number of licences for the cultivation of ganja in the Nimar district rose from 111 to 140, but the area cultivated was 146 acres only, and it was necessary to import some of the drug from the Bombay Presidency.

In Berar the gross excise revenue of the last three years has been as follows :—

Excise.
Berar.

	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Country spirit and toddy - - - -	£ 68,480	£ 81,928	£ 101,862
Opium - - - - -	16,847	22,381	27,782
Ganja - - - - -	2,708	2,836	3,361
Foreign liquors and miscellaneous - - -	481	577	599
Total - - - - -	88,516	108,722	133,604

As in the case of the Central Provinces, there was an increase under all heads, and especially under that of country spirits. The central distillery system was in force throughout three districts and in the greater part of a fourth, and will be further extended. Elsewhere, the outstill system exists, and there were 581 outstills during the year. The consumption of distillery liquor amounted to 197,300 gallons at London proof, which was much higher than in previous years. A uniform rate of stillhead duty on country liquor, namely Rs. 2½ on strength of 25 degrees below proof, and Rs. 1½ on strength of 60 degrees below proof, came into force in the preceding year. The amount of opium issued from the Government treasuries increased to 393 maunds, and 162 maunds of ganja and 22 maunds of bhang were consumed. With effect from the 1st April 1901, the rates of duty on opium and ganja were raised respectively from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per seer and from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per seer. Neither of these drugs is produced in Berar, the cultivation of poppy and of hemp for this purpose being forbidden.

The excise revenue of Assam for the year 1903-04 and two previous years was distributed thus :—

Receipts from	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Country spirits - - - - -	£ 46,854	£ 46,382	£ 47,175
Imported liquors and rum - - - - -	1,517	1,506	1,390
Opium and its compounds - - - - -	114,067	119,435	124,353
Ganja and its compounds - - - - -	26,318	27,197	28,543
Miscellaneous, including toddy, &c. - - -	113	142	165
Total - - - - -	188,869	194,662	201,626

Two important administrative changes were made in the Assam excise department in 1903-04, the first relating to the division of the chief control between the Commissioner of the Assam Valley districts and the Chief Commissioner of the province, the latter of whom will control excise matters outside the Assam Valley; and the second change being the appointment of three excise inspectors. The excise revenue in the year under report exceeded the figures for 1900-01, which were the highest previously recorded. The returns from country spirits were higher, and the revenue from opium, which is by far the most important part of the excise revenue of the province, was exceptionally large, owing to the prosperity of the Assamese agricultural population by whom opium is consumed. The country spirits are for the most part consumed by the immigrant population, which has grown rapidly during the past few years; no estimate of the consumption of spirits for the year is available, as the central distillery system has not been introduced except as an experiment in the Sibsagar district, and the out-still system prevails everywhere

Excise. Orders were not passed by the Government of India during the year upon the report prepared by the Assam authorities as a consequence of Mr. Buckingham's memorandum, but several changes were made, among the most interesting of which may be numbered the experimental introduction of a distillery system in Sibsagar. The number of spirit shops was reduced from 216 to 213, no new shop being opened, and all complaints against the sites of shops received the most careful consideration. The indigenous population in the two Surma Valley districts consumes most of the ganja issued (649 maunds). Taking the province as a whole, the consumption of opium per head of population is more than twice as large as in any other part of India, and seven or eight times that of Bengal or the United Provinces. The amount of opium issued from the Government treasuries was 1,335 maunds, which was 61 maunds more than in 1902-03, but this increase leaves the consumption still very markedly less than it was a generation ago, and hopes are expressed that the opium habit is slowly diminishing.

Madras. The gross excise revenue of Madras during the last three years was raised thus :—

Receipts from	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£	£
Country spirits - - - - -	357,969	403,282	478,515
Toddy - - - - -	497,089	529,654	585,706
Foreign liquors and miscellaneous - - - - -	32,523	30,620	33,330
Opium and other drugs - - - - -	66,337	72,249	76,719
Total - - - - -	953,918	1,035,805	1,174,270
Add,—Customs duties on imported liquors - - - - -	62,256	69,696	76,631
Total Revenue from Drink and Drugs - £.	1,016,174	1,105,501	1,250,901

Distillery supply systems are in force over the greater part of Madras. The distilleries are all private concerns working on European methods. In some small tracts non-distillery systems are in force, but these areas are being restricted. Still-head duty is levied on all spirits issued from the distilleries; the rate varies, but generally speaking is Rs. 4½ per gallon at proof strength. The amount of country spirits consumed in 1903-04 in distillery areas is returned as 1,207,000 gallons at proof strength, compared with 1,012,000 gallons in the preceding year. The increase is ascribed to the favourable character of the season, and partly also to improved arrangements by which contractors are obliged to keep stocks of liquor in outlying parts, the temptation to rely on illicit liquor in such areas being thus lessened. Owing to these causes, the spirit revenue showed a noteworthy advance, as also did the revenue from toddy. Under both these headings the receipts were much higher than those of any previous year. Over nearly the whole of the Presidency a tree tax, ranging from one rupee to six rupees a year, is imposed on all palm trees tapped for fermented toddy, while the shops for retail sale of toddy are separately sold by auction to the highest bidder. The amount of toddy consumed in the Presidency cannot be stated, but the increase in the receipts from the tree tax by more than 10 per cent. points to a larger consumption. On the general question whether the consumption of intoxicants is increasing in the Madras Presidency, raised by Mr. Lely's memorandum mentioned above, the Government of Madras remark that facilities for drinking have during the last 20 years been kept rigidly in check, that the luxury of drinking has been made more expensive, and that the quantity of intoxicants consumed per head of the population has decreased.

The use of opium is almost restricted to the districts in the north-east of the Presidency, chiefly the Godavari district, where the rate of consumption (111 grains per head) is high. The quantity consumed in the Presidency, including that used in the manufacture of drugs, is given as 978 maunds, compared with 890 maunds in 1902-03. The amount of hemp drugs of all kinds sold by retail is returned as 1.127 maunds.

The central distillery system obtains throughout practically the whole of the Bombay Presidency, but it differs from the similar system of Madras. In the most prevalent form in Bombay, the monopolies of manufacture and sale of country spirit over an excise area are sold together to one contractor, who guarantees a fixed minimum return of duty to the Government, and nearly all the revenue is obtained from still-head duties. In the Madras distillery system the monopoly of manufacture is separated from that of retail vend, and much of the revenue is obtained from the auction sale of shop licences. The Bombay still-head duty ranges between Re. 1 and Rs. 5½ per proof gallon, averaging about Rs. 3½. In several of the minor Native States the British system of excise management has been adopted; in some others the chiefs have engaged to manage their excise affairs so as to avoid competition with British excise arrangements. The general fiscal results of the excise management in Bombay, Sind, and Aden during the last three years were—

Excise.
Bombay.

Gross Receipts from	1901-02.	1902-03.*	1903-04.
Locally-made liquors, including toddy -	£ 596,357	£ 417,634	£ 682,470
Foreign and Indo-European liquors -	18,023	12,096	23,353
Opium -	49,160	34,257	56,829
Intoxicating drugs -	31,600	20,591	33,104
Miscellaneous items -	10,773	7,015	5,409
Total Excise Revenue -	705,913	491,593	801,165
<i>Add.</i> —Customs duties on imported liquors -	193,094	203,939†	215,148
Total Revenue from Drink and Drugs - £	899,007	695,532	1,016,313

* Eight months only.

† Twelve months.

The rate of consumption of country spirit per head of the population in Bombay proper rose from 7·2 drams, the average of the last five years, to 8·2 drams in 1903-04. The amount of country spirit consumed in the year was returned as 2,087,000 gallons at London proof strength, against an average of about 1,853,000 gallons for each of the last five years. The figures as a whole are taken to be a satisfactory indication of returning prosperity. The revenue from toddy, which stood at £103,500, also shows a notable increase. In Sind the consumption of country spirit was stationary, and the revenue from this source showed a slight falling off as compared with the preceding twelve months. Issues of opium from Government treasuries for internal consumption are returned at 1,020 maunds in Bombay and 250 maunds in Sind, each of which figures is higher than the corresponding figure for 1902-03. The increase was most notable in Sholapur, Khandesh, Ahmednagar, and Ahmedabad, and is attributed to gradual recovery from the famine. The amount of hemp drugs sold during the year included 2,959 maunds of bhang (chiefly in Sind), 755 maunds of ganja (chiefly in Bombay), and 533 maunds of other preparations. These figures in each case show an appreciable increase in consumption; but they are generally subject to large fluctuations, especially in Sind, where the consumption of bhang reached the high amount of 4,251 maunds 11 years ago.

STAMPS.

The stamp revenue is leviable under Act VII. of 1870 (the Court Fees Act), which imposes fees on plaints, petitions, and other documents, with specified exceptions, filed before civil, criminal, or revenue courts, and under Act II. of 1899 (the Stamp Act), which imposes duties on commercial transactions recorded in writing, such as conveyances, bonds, cheques, bills of

STAMPS.

Excise. exchange, receipts, and the like. The following table gives the stamp receipts, province by province, for the year 1903-04:—

	India (General).	Bengal.	United Provinces.	Punjab.	North- West Frontier Pro- vince.	Burma.	Central Pro- vinces.	Bihar.	Assam.	Madras.	Bombay.	Total.
of court fee stamps	£ 15,239	£ 965,178	£ 420,775	£ 134,737	£ 15,975	£ 109,476	£ 65,991	£ 33,154	£ 47,240	£ 352,781	£ 233,785	£ 2,448,334
of commercial and of stamps.	7,590	349,684	128,572	78,780	9,533	64,522	29,324	23,178	18,164	203,538	131,066	1,062,591
and miscellaneous	248	4,508	2,799	6,350	168	3,225	878	296	430	7,540	44,464	69,322
Stamp Re- venue of 1903-04.	23,077	1,322,868	550,146	269,867	25,726	106,220	96,701	56,558	65,830	662,859	409,335	3,580,247
Revenue of 1902-03	62,526	1,304,590	556,460	263,316	25,946	175,591	97,419	6	68,280	349,899	399,568	3,473,711

* Included under India (General).

The refunds of the year were £42,010; and the charges of collection and cost of stores came to £122,379.

CUSTOMS.

Customs.

Import duties, which had been abolished in India in 1882, and were re-imposed in 1894, are levied, generally speaking, at the rate of 5 per cent. of the value of the goods. The chief, though not the only, exceptions are railway material, industrial or agricultural machinery, food grains, raw materials such as coal, jute, raw cotton, or wool, besides books, and gold and unset precious stones, which are all admitted free of duty; petroleum, which pays one anna per gallon; and iron and steel, on which an import duty of 1 per cent. *ad valorem* is levied. At first cotton goods were exempted, but in December 1894 a 5 per cent. duty was imposed on imported cotton goods and yarns, while a countervailing excise duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* was imposed on all yarns of counts above 20 spun at power mills in British India. In February 1896 the cotton duties were revised; all cotton yarns whether imported or manufactured in India, were freed from duty, while a uniform duty of 3½ per cent. *ad valorem* was imposed on all woven cotton goods either imported from abroad or manufactured at power mills in India, the products of the village handloom industry being exempted. A duty is levied on exported rice and rice-flour at the rate of 3 annas per maund of unhusked rice. An Act empowering the Government of India to put a countervailing duty on any imported goods which have received a bounty, direct or indirect, from the country of export, was passed in 1899; and this was put in force with regard to sugar. Subsequently, in accordance with the views of the Brussels Convention, and in view of the protection enjoyed by sugar-growers in certain countries in their home markets, Act VIII. of 1902 was passed, by which a special additional duty was imposed on sugar coming from countries where the duties on imported sugar exceeded those levied on locally produced sugar by 6 francs per 100 kilogrammes in the case of refined sugar, or 5½ francs for other sugar, the amount of the additional duty being one-half of such excess. In August 1903 a further amendment of the Tariff Act was passed, giving power to continue the countervailing duties until the 31st March 1904, but this was subsequently held to be inconsistent with the undertakings of the Government, in view of the fact that bounties were abolished with effect from 1st September 1903 by the States adhering to the Convention, and the duties were therefore discontinued, so far as concerned sugar of the new crop coming from those countries.

The appended table shows the changes in the net customs revenue caused by the above-mentioned changes, giving the figures for 1894-95, during which the new tariff was in force, with the addition of the 5 per cent. duty on cotton goods from the 27th December 1894; 1895-96, during which the tariff remained as at the end of the previous year, until the reduction of the cotton duties in February 1896; and the three most recent years, during the whole of which the tariff remained unchanged, with the exception of the sugar duties, the duty on woven cotton goods being 3½ per cent., and cotton yarns being on the free list:—

	1894-95.	1895-96.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Sea Customs, import duty :	£	£	£	£	£
Arms, ammunition, and military stores.	10,126	11,403	12,563	10,699	8,252
Liquors.	406,355	440,669	469,256	504,006	542,196
Petroleum	213,118	270,782	348,222	356,438	291,303
Cotton manufactures	256,631	776,483	683,214	634,189	653,193
Silver bullion and coin	230,557	231,859	204,054	258,976	267,069
Other metals	135,078	168,641	154,010	201,716	222,827
Other articles	630,450	686,725	863,432	800,565	910,205
Countervailing duties on sugar	—	—	244,398	73,360	— 22,572
Export duty on rice	594,017	609,581	595,680	823,280	780,863
Miscellaneous	6,694	1,770	22,307	19,626	21,674
TOTAL Sea Customs	2,483,026	3,197,913	3,597,136	3,682,855	3,675,010
Land Customs	15,884	13,397	14,185	18,301	21,307
Excise duty on cotton manufactures.	6,897	40,632	114,456	121,698	135,740
Miscellaneous (including warehouse and wharf rents).	10,773	18,672	20,386	18,974	18,767
TOTAL NET CUSTOMS REVENUE	2,516,580	3,270,614	3,746,163	3,841,828	3,850,824

CUSTOMS.

The total receipts remained about the same as in the previous year, in spite of considerable variations under special headings. The income from the countervailing duties on sugar disappeared, and was replaced by a net charge on account of refunds. The continued large imports of silver are a remarkable feature of the last three years, and afford an index of the increasing prosperity of the country. The growth of the receipts from the excise duty on cotton goods shows the healthy vitality of this important industry. The reduced receipts from petroleum are due to the replacement of Russian and American oil by oil from Burma.

PROVINCIAL RATES.

Provincial rates or cesses are levied for the most part on the land. They are imposed to meet charges for local roads, local schools, local sanitary work, local postal arrangements, and in some provinces for village police. They are assessed either on the "assets," or rental value, or else, as is the case in the ryotwari provinces, on the land revenue, and they are collected with the land revenue. In Bengal there are two cesses, for roads and public works respectively, which are limited by law to half an anna in the rupee of the rental in each case, or one anna in the rupee ($6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.) for the combined cesses. They are levied on immovable property outside the municipalities on a valuation made and kept up from year to year for this purpose. In the ryotwari provinces of Bombay and Madras the incidence of the local rates (for roads and schools) is precisely that in force in Bengal, with the difference that the percentage is on the revenue instead of on the rent, and that they form, therefore, probably a smaller proportion of the profits of the land. In Lower Burma the local rates amount to 10 per cent., and in Assam to 8·3 per cent., on the ryotwari revenue. These are the highest rates. In the Punjab, the United Provinces, and the Central Provinces, the local rates are assessed on double the land revenue, that revenue being, except in the case of the Central Provinces, rather less than half the rental assets. In the Punjab they are equivalent to 5·2 per cent. on the rental value. Elsewhere they do not exceed 4 per cent. In the Agra Province they are charged at 6 per cent., but two-fifths of the produce are devoted to the maintenance of the village watch, which in Bengal and other parts of India is a charge upon special contributions assessed and collected apart from the local rates.

PROVINCIAL RATES.

PROVINCIAL RATES. The following is a table of the rates and cesses collected during the year:—

	India (General).	Bengal.	United Provinces.	Punjab.	North-West Frontier Province.	Burma.	Central Provinces.	Berar.	Assam.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
REVENUE.												
District Local Fund:												
Cess on Land for expenditure on roads, schools, hospitals, and general purposes.	4,089	325,501	380,210	152,691	0,850	117,398	20,179	22,699	40,901	432,691	169,444	1,704,551
Provincial:												
Cess on land for expenditure on roads, schools, &c.	—	325,647	—	—	—	—	252	—	—	—	—	325,899
Cess on land for famine assurance, canals, and railways.	—	—	87,197	40,109	4,701	—	13,165	—	—	—	—	145,231
Cess on land for district post.	—	25,009	—	7,810	468	—	2,085	—	—	—	—	36,160
Cess on land for village service and patwaris.	3,835	—	166,755	96,943	8,405	—	29,832	20,402	—	178,354	27,509	532,086
Assessment on wards' estates for establishment charges.	—	10,382	—	1,112	131	—	—	—	31	—	—	11,666
Miscellaneous - - -	3,086	—	64,265	—	413	—	—	—	—	2,002	—	69,766
Total Receipts	11,010	686,629	698,427	298,465	24,027	117,398	75,463	43,101	40,932	603,047	226,953	2,825,349
Refunds and charges of collection.	6	30,948	295	237	22	5,301	90	25	177	1,089	4,344	42,594
Net Receipts, 1903-04	11,004	655,681	698,132	298,228	24,005	111,904	75,373	43,076	40,755	601,958	222,609	2,782,755
Net Receipts, 1902-03	48,205	638,194	708,237	270,373	22,971	107,239	77,579	—	46,299	601,133	185,338	2,099,568

* Included under India (General).

INCOME TAX.

INCOME TAX.
General.

The principal provisions of the Income Tax Act (II. of 1886) are that incomes derived from salaries and pensions, or from interest on securities (classed as Parts I. and III. in the returns), if amounting to Rs. 2,000 per annum, should pay five pies in the rupee (equal to $6\frac{1}{2}d.$ in the £), and if less than Rs. 2,000, four pies in the rupee ($5d.$ in the £); that companies (Part II.) should pay five pies in the rupee on their net profits; and that income derived from other sources (Part IV.) should pay according to a graded scale from Rs. 20 on an income of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 42 on Rs. 1,999, the tax on incomes of Rs. 2,000 and upwards being five pies in the rupee. All incomes of less than Rs. 1,000 ($£66\frac{2}{3}$) a year were exempted by an Act passed at the beginning of the year 1903-04, which substituted that minimum limit for the limit of Rs. 500 which previously existed. The tax is not levied on profits or incomes derived from agriculture, or on military salaries of less than Rs. 500 a month ($£400$ a year).

The receipts on account of income tax in each province were as follows:—

	Gross Collections.	Refunds and Collection Charges.	Net Receipts	
			1903-04.	1902-03.
	£	£	£	£
India (General)	91,967	437	91,530	111,082
Bengal - - - - -	335,766	13,922	321,844	380,940
United Provinces - - - - -	138,456	1,554	136,902	174,967
Punjab - - - - -	86,800	1,520	85,280	105,392
North-West Frontier Province - - - - -	6,729	149	6,580	7,551
Burma - - - - -	81,606	3,367	78,239	79,956
Central Provinces - - - - -	20,510	290	20,220	24,453
Berar - - - - -	9,673	447	9,226	*
Assam - - - - -	17,052	163	16,889	21,116
Madras - - - - -	172,182	3,436	168,746	205,882
Bombay - - - - -	253,924	5,953	247,971	267,183
Total, 1903-04	1,214,665	31,238	1,183,427	—
Total, 1902-03	1,410,428	31,906	—	1,378,522

* Included under India (General).

The decrease, owing to the above-mentioned raising of the limit of exemption, was marked in all provinces, though least noticeable in Burma.

The figures in the following paragraphs are taken from the provincial reports, and differ to some extent from those given above, which were taken from the final Accounts of the Government of India.

In Bengal the collections in 1903-04 amounted to £315,300, compared with £375,100 in the previous year, and the number of assesseees fell from 131,100 to 54,500. The elimination of assesseees with incomes below Rs. 1,000 has, therefore, relieved more than one half of the former assesseees, while losing only one-sixth of the demand. Deducting from the 1902-03 figures the receipts from the class now exempted, the revenue of the year under report shows an increase at the rate of 2·5 per cent. The realisations under Part IV. amounted to £197,500, from 37,975 assesseees, compared with £241,600 from 100,570 assesseees in 1902-03. Calcutta contributed £169,300, against £182,700 in the previous year; £85,600 of this was under Part IV. The collections under Parts II. and IV. show an incidence per head of the population of approximately Re. 1½ in Calcutta, which is about the same as in Bombay, but less than in Rangoon.

In the United Provinces the total receipts for the year 1903-04 were £132,250, compared with £189,400 in the previous year. This shows a decline of 21 per cent., owing to the raising of the minimum limit; and the number of assesseees, 32,100, was 58 per cent. less. The classes which appear to have benefited most from the change are the small money lenders, the dealers in food stuffs and piece goods, and the Government servants on small salaries.

The total receipts in the Punjab were £77,800, which is 20 per cent. less than the receipts of the preceding year. But if the tax paid by assesseees with incomes less than Rs. 1,000 be deducted from the 1902-03 figure there remains an increase of about 5 per cent. Under Part IV. a net total of £57,500 was realised from 18,400 assesseees, 9 per cent. having been struck off the initial assessment on objection. The separation of the North-West Frontier Province has not caused any important reduction in the receipts of the last three years, owing to the paucity of wealthy income-tax payers in the districts concerned.

The Income Tax Act, though in force in the whole of Burma and the Shan States, has only been made operative in certain selected towns and villages throughout Lower Burma, and in Mandalay town alone in Upper Burma; no fresh villages were brought under the Act during the year. The number of assesseees fell from 31,412 to 14,872, but the total collections amounted to £79,100, which was not 3 per cent. below the total of 1902-03. In Rangoon there was an increase in the receipts under Part IV., in spite of the change of the law. The total collections in Rangoon amounted to £44,600, including the tax on the salaries and profits of the Burma Railways Company; the collections under Part IV. in the town were £20,700, paid by 2,906 assesseees. The incidence per head of the Rangoon population of the collections in the town under Parts II. and IV. was Rs. 2½, which is higher than that prevailing in Calcutta or Bombay, owing to the heavy contributions of the Railway Company.

In the Central Provinces the yield in 1903-04 was £19,200, or £4,300 less than that of the previous year, while the number of assesseees was less by 58 per cent. Under Part IV. the collections for the year were £11,000, paid by 2,891 assesseees.

In Assam the yield of the tax was £16,400, which was 20 per cent. below the figure for the previous year, being collected from only 45 per cent. of the number of assesseees. The profits of the tea companies, on which the prosperity of the province mainly depends, are taxed in Calcutta and in London, but 42 per cent. of the receipts from the tax are paid by persons in the employ of companies, collections under Part IV. being comparatively small.

The collections in Madras fell to £160,300 in consequence of the raising of the taxable minimum, and the incidence of taxation throughout the Presidency fell from 1¼ anna to 1½ anna per head of population. The detailed

INCOME
TAX.
Bombay.

returns for 1903-04 are not available, and particulars cannot, therefore, be given of the tax paid in Madras city.

In the city of Bombay, where 59 per cent. of the income tax of the Presidency was paid, the receipts of the year were £143,500, from 20,000 assesseees, about half of this sum being collected under Part IV. The receipts from profits of companies are also important in Bombay city, amounting to £20,000. For the whole Presidency the collections amounted to £241,800, compared with £260,300 in the preceding year, the number of persons paying the tax having fallen from 91,332 to 49,245. Of this amount, £143,900 accrued under Part IV. The collections under Parts II. and IV. together, namely, those on private salaries and industrial and professional incomes, work out to an incidence of Re. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ per head of the population in Bombay city. This is far above the incidence in other parts of the Presidency, though Karachi and Ahmedabad showed an incidence of 9 and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ annas per head respectively.

CHAPTER IX.

FORESTS.

FORESTS.

The subjoined table gives the forest receipts, expenditure, and net revenue for each province during the year 1903-04 from the Finance and Revenue Accounts :—

	India, (General).	Bengal.	United Provinces.	Punjab.	North West Frontier Province.	Burma.	Central Pro- vinces.	Berar.	Assam.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
REVENUE.												
Receipts	£ 46,639	£ 71,035	£ 152,030	£ 114,520	£ 6,789	£ 551,235	£ 93,724	£ 40,477	£ 45,049	£ 177,122	£ 183,438	£ 1,481,117
EXPENDITURE.												
General direction	£ 5,847	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£ 5,847
Conservancy and Works	£ 20,485	£ 24,251	£ 42,573	£ 54,169	£ 2,268	£ 142,007	£ 80,199	£ 6,317	£ 12,712	£ 80,275	£ 44,090	£ 450,306
Establishments	£ 12,309	£ 22,669	£ 29,533	£ 22,326	£ 1,773	£ 81,486	£ 39,115	£ 9,767	£ 14,553	£ 55,453	£ 64,306	£ 354,380
Charges in England	£ 2,485	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£ 2,485
TOTAL Expenditure	£ 41,106	£ 46,909	£ 72,096	£ 77,095	£ 4,041	£ 322,493	£ 69,314	£ 16,084	£ 28,265	£ 116,738	£ 118,396	£ 813,618
Net Revenue or Forest Surplus, 1903-04	£ 5,533	£ 24,135	£ 79,934	£ 37,425	£ 2,748	£ 227,742	£ 23,410	£ 24,393	£ 16,884	£ 60,454	£ 65,040	£ 667,499
Net Revenue or Forest Surplus, 1902-03	£ 444	£ 41,216	£ 67,422	£ 41,754	£ 3,135	£ 255,585	£ 24,404	£ 0	£ 16,847	£ 51,885	£ 43,615	£ 546,320

* Included under "India (General)."

Systematic conservancy of the Indian forests is based on the Forest Law of 1878, which gave to the Government powers of dealing with private rights in the forests of which the chief proprietary right is vested in the State. The principle upon which the forest administration is based is that State forests should be administered for the public benefit, and they are worked, therefore, with a view of combining all reasonable facilities for their use by the public with the protection necessary for their preservation as sources of fuel and timber and retainers of moisture in the soil. The forests are classified, according to the degree of completeness of the management undertaken, as "reserved," "protected," or "unclassed" forests. In the case of reserved areas the control of the Forest Department is more complete than in the case of the protected or unclassed forests. In the latter category, the area of which cannot be stated with any great exactness, there are included large tracts of uncultivated land, especially in Burma, much of which will in all probability pass into cultivation as agricultural land. Among the most important measures of conservancy are the exclusion, so far as possible, of the yearly fires which used to devastate the forests, the maintenance of a supply of seed-bearing trees, and the regular reproduction of timber of the more valuable kinds. At the present time the reserves cover an area of nearly 92,000 square miles; and they may hereafter be further extended in Madras and Burma, where the work of reservation is as yet incomplete. Outside the reserves there are about 150,000 square miles of State forests, including 9,300 square miles of protected forests, and 9,400 square miles of "district protected forests" in the United Provinces. Some part of this area will eventually be brought within the reserve area, and all of it is, with more or less completeness, managed and worked for the benefit of the people, of their cattle, and of the public revenue. The forests with which this

FORESTS. chapter deals are, almost exclusively, those which belong to the State. The limited areas of private forest are, except where they have been leased to the Government, being gradually exhausted; and as yet few private communal or village forests have been successfully brought under conservancy. In every province a very few of the most valuable timber trees are declared to be reserved trees, and can only be felled under special licence. Outside the reserves, the country folk are generally allowed to obtain from the State forests timber, bamboos, firewood, and grass for their own use free of charge; inside the reserves, persons specially licensed are allowed to extract timber or other produce, on payment of fees, though all rights recognised by the forest settlements are preserved to the public. Forest revenue is raised by royalties on, or by the sale of, timber or other produce and by the issue at specified fees of permits to graze cattle, or to extract for sale timber, firewood, charcoal, bamboos, canes, and minor forest produce. Some of the better-managed Native States, such as Kashmir, Mysore, Travancore and Baroda, have followed the example of the British Government, have organised systematic forest administration, and enjoy a considerable forest revenue.

The following paragraphs treat of forest administration in each province. The figures of revenue and expenditure, being compiled from administrative returns for the year ending in June, do not agree precisely with the figures given in the table on the preceding page, which are taken from the finally corrected financial accounts for the year ending in March 1904.

Bengal.

In Bengal, at the end of the year, the areas of reserved and protected forests were 6,014 and 3,567 square miles, besides 4,033 square miles of unclassed forests in the Chittagong Hill tracts. Survey operations were carried on and brought to a close by a detachment of the Forest Surveys in Singhbhum, Darjeeling, and Kalimpong, and 307 square miles were surveyed on the 4-inch scale. Settlement operations were in progress in Chittagong and Buxa. A considerable amount of progress was made with working plans, which had been sanctioned over an area of 4,394 square miles of forest, while they were being compiled for a further area of 1,328 square miles. Attempt was made to exclude fire from 2,169 square miles, and the effort succeeded in 95 per cent. of that area. This figure is not so good as in previous years owing to one large fire in the Samta range, which originated outside the forests and burnt a forest area of 80 square miles. Forty-seven per cent. of the total area was thrown open to cattle for grazing, including all the unclassed forests, 1,809 square miles of protected forests, and 597 square miles of reserves. The year was favourable for natural reproduction, but it is noted that reproduction of the more valuable trees depends on absolute closure to grazing. The yield of timber was 4,294,000 cubic feet, which was 36 per cent. less than in 1902-3, owing chiefly to changes in the Sundarbans, where the forests have been over-worked in the past; the outturn of fuel (32½ million cubic feet) was also smaller; the number of bamboos taken from the forests was 25½ millions. The financial results show a surplus of £23,900 or 34 per cent. of the gross receipts.

United Provinces.

The total area of reserved forests in the United Provinces fell from 3,918 to 3,895 square miles in 1903-04, in addition to 153 square miles of leased forests; there was also an area of 30 square miles of protected forests under the Forest Department at the end of the year, besides 9,363 square miles of "district protected forests," which are under the Forest Act, but are controlled by district officers, and 77 square miles of unclassed forest. There is no settlement of rights remaining to be done in the Central and the School forest circles, but in the Oudh circle there is a considerable amount of work still left. Satisfactory progress was made in the preparation of working plans for the reserved forests, and the area of forests not under a working plan was only 375 square miles, for 303 of which no regular plan is required. Survey operations are equally advanced, being practically complete in the Central circle. Protection from fire was attempted over 3,211 square miles, and was remarkably successful, only about 14 per cent. of that area being destroyed by fire. The area thrown open to cattle, for the whole or part of the year, was 2,114 square miles, and the number of cattle grazed was over 600,000. The yield of the forests was 6,830,000 cubic feet of timber, 11,120,000 cubic feet of fuel, and 17½ million bamboos, besides

minor produce. These figures again show a marked increase. The removal of forest produce is almost entirely carried on by outside agency. The only important departmental operations are the supply of fuel to Naini Tal, the export of railway sleepers, and the manufacture of turpentine and colophony. The latter industry is proving a success, the produce being of excellent quality and prices being good. The gross forest revenue was £151,200, and the expenditure was £76,500, leaving a surplus of £74,700, besides a small net receipt from the working of the district protected forests.

FORESTS.

The reserved forest area administered by the Punjab Forest Department at the end of 1903-04 comprised 1,917 square miles, besides 116 square miles under military or other control. The protected forests aggregated 4,909 square miles, while an area of 1,914 square miles appears on the books of the Forest Department as unclassified forest and 539 as leased forests. As in other recent years, a considerable area under each class was "disforested" for transfer to the canal colonies, a loss which will be to some extent made good by the substitution of irrigated plantations under the Forest Department. A record of rights was completed for 12 square miles of protected forests, and was in progress over 221 square miles. All the reserves, excepting 153 square miles, had been taken under survey, but large areas of protected and unclassified forests were unsurveyed. Working plans for several forests were in different stages of preparation, though no new plan was sanctioned during the year. They are complete for 1,829 square miles of protected forests, 480 square miles of reserves and 297 square miles of leased forest, and are under compilation for a further area of 1,480 square miles. For most of the remaining area it is reported that plans are not required. The year was favourable as regards forest fires; the area burnt was 1 per cent. of the total area under the Forest Department; special fire protection was attempted over an area of 862 square miles, of which 9 per cent. was burnt. Natural reproduction was bad, so far as regards the deodar, which holds the most important place in this province; the area of regular plantations rose to 977 acres, but the area under cultural operations fell from 6,475 to 5,934 acres. The total yield of the forests for the year was returned at 4,419,000 cubic feet of deodar and pine timber and 27½ million cubic feet of firewood, besides about a million bamboos; 34½ million cubic feet of timber and fuel were removed by free-grantees and right-holders without charge or at special rates; 3½ millions were worked out by Government agency, and 3¾ millions by purchasers. The area available for grazing under the charge of the Department was 9,278 square miles, and of this 90 per cent. was thrown open to cattle, while an additional 2 per cent. was open during part of the year; 853,000 cattle are reported to have grazed in the forests, for the most part by right under the settlements. The total forest revenue of the year was £110,000, against an outlay of £63,700, yielding a surplus of £46,300.

Punjab.

The total area of the reserves under the direct control of the Department in the Frontier Province was 234 square miles, and there were also 131 square miles of civil protected forests. It is not necessary to enter into the details of the working of this area; but it may be stated that there has been a steady and substantial increase in the out-turn of timber and fuel. A noteworthy development is the action taken to regulate the use of the village forests, for which rules came into force on the 1st January 1904. The rules are to be administered by the Deputy Commissioner, and are intended to stop the exhaustion by which these forests were threatened.

North-West
Frontier
Province.

The reserved forest area in Burma was increased by 329 square miles during the year ending in June 1904, bringing it up to 20,038 square miles; the unclassified forests, much of which will ultimately be cultivated, are given as covering rather more than 103,000 square miles. Settlement of rights has been completed over nearly the whole area of the reserves. A Survey of India party (No. 20) completed 1,115 square miles of forest survey in various parts of the province, but large areas of reserves remain to be surveyed. Working plans were completed for 3,266 square miles by the end of the year, and plans for a further 2,007 square miles were being compiled. In the meantime annual or preliminary plans of operations are formed for all

Burma.

FORESTS. reserved forests. The results of fire protection were much better than in the previous year. The area which it was attempted to protect was increased to 8,150 square miles, of which about 6 per cent was burnt, a result partly due to a favourable season and partly to the energetic efforts of the staff. Fair progress was made with the extension of teak and catch *taungya* plantations in Lower Burma. Planting at the Mergui rubber plantation was retarded, owing to the damage done by wild animals; the area planted up to the end of the year was 1,588 acres. The quantity of teak extracted from the forests was 11½ million cubic feet, equal to 237,500 cubic tons; of other timbers, nearly 17 million cubic feet were extracted, besides 19½ millions as fuel. The year was more favourable than the preceding one for floating timber down the rivers, and the output improved accordingly. The total of teak exports from Burma was 171,100 tons, compared with 157,900 tons in 1902-03, and the average value per ton is stated at about £6, or rather more than in the preceding year. The receipts for the forest year were £568,000, and the expenditure was £233,400, leaving a surplus of £334,600, which was much higher than the surplus of the preceding year, owing to the larger amount of timber extracted, and also to the high prices obtained at the sales of Government teak.

Central
Provinces
and Berar.

Berar having been placed under the Government of the Central Provinces in 1903, the Berar forests were administered during the year 1903-04 as a forest circle under that Government, and the statistics of the two provinces may be reviewed as a whole. The grand total of the area of the forests was 22,675 square miles, or 172 less than in the previous year, as the result of disforestation in the Nimar district. Survey work in the northern circle had been completed, and that in the southern circle very nearly so; but much still remained to be done in Berar, and the services of the Forest Survey of India were being employed there. No new working plans were sanctioned during the year, and though good progress was made in one plan in the Balaghat division, most of the work under this heading was still in abeyance pending re-classification of forests. Fire was excluded from rather less than 97 per cent. of the 7,100 square miles in which special fire protection was attempted, and from 87 per cent. of that partially protected. The year was generally favourable for natural reproduction by seed. Various projects for the improvement of the forests were in hand, such as the combined field and forest cultivation in Berar and the northern circle, experiments with furniture woods in the southern circle, the revival of the tussar silk industry, and trials of lac and sandal growing. Eighty per cent. of the area of the forests was open to cattle for grazing during the whole of the year, and the number of cattle grazed was about three millions. The amount of timber removed from the forests during the year, chiefly by private persons, was 3,952,600 cubic feet, that of fuel 22,836,600 cubic feet, and 15½ million bamboos were extracted, with other minor produce. The forest revenue of the year, including the Berar circle, was £134,400, against an expenditure of £87,700, leaving a surplus of £46,700, compared with a surplus of £42,100 in 1902-03. In the Berar and Southern circles the revenue was the highest on record. The steady expansion of the forest revenue is held to be an index of the improved conditions of the provinces, and still further development is to be expected as communications with the lines of railway are opened up, especially in the eastern districts, where a beginning is being made in exploiting the valuable *sâl* forests, hitherto hardly touched.

Assam.

The State forests in Assam are divided into reserved forests and unclassed State forests, the latter including lands recently cultivated and all lands at the disposal of the State other than reserved forests. The area of reserved forests stood at 3,778 square miles, as in the previous year. The area of unclassed forests is given as 18,500 square miles; but of this large area perhaps one half consists of grass or treeless tracts. An area of 160 square miles was surveyed by the Imperial Forest Survey Branch, besides survey work by divisional officers. In Goalpara the *sâl* (*shorea robusta*) forests are worked under a working plan, which was being revised, and preliminary plans were in hand for some other areas, but most of the forests are worked under yearly plans. Special fire protective measures extended over 996 square

miles, and were successful in respect of nearly the whole of that area; 196 square miles were protected on a less ambitious scale in Goalpara, none of which was burnt. The grazing question presents no difficulties in Assam; about one quarter of the reserves was opened to cattle, and the large area of unclassed forest was open to all animals throughout the year on payment by professional graziers and free to ryots. Natural reproduction was good on the whole, though sâl seeded badly in Goalpara. The rubber plantations at Charduar are being gradually extended, and covered 2,831 acres at the end of the year, yielding 5,360 lbs. of rubber. The gross result of the working of the forests is given as 4½ million cubic feet of timber and 8 million cubic feet of fuel. The revenue for the forest year ending in 1904 was £45,100, which was better than in any recent year, and the surplus was £15,000.

FORESTS.

There was a net increase of 104 square miles in the reserved forests and lands in Madras during the year ending in June 1904, and the total area of reserves was 19,559 square miles, of which 17,923 square miles were classed as forests. Of the reserved forests, 271 square miles were finally included during the year under report; a further area of 1,119 square miles of reserved lands was awaiting settlement and inclusion in the forests. Two parties of the Survey of India completed 800 square miles of topographical survey, and minor survey work was also done by the Department. As regards the management of the forests, detailed working plans were sanctioned for 972 square miles during the year, and plans for 3,789 square miles were under preparation; but the greater part of the forests is still worked under annual plans. Protection from fire was undertaken over 5,600 square miles, but was successful in less than 91 per cent. of that area. The difficulty of achieving much success in this direction until the people are willing to co-operate is recognised by the Government. The area of the reserved forests open to cattle for grazing was 17,900 square miles, and 1½ million cattle are reported to have grazed in them. Natural reproduction was satisfactory in most areas. The regular plantations, covering 27,125 acres, consist chiefly of teak in Malabar, eucalyptus on the Nilgiri and Palni hills, and casuarina on the eastern coast, and there is a large area under other cultural operations. The yield of the forests according to the returns was about three million cubic feet of timber and 17½ million cubic feet of fuel, besides 37 millions of bamboos, and other minor produce; this outturn of timber and fuel was smaller than that of the previous year. The timber included 4,800 cubic tons of teak, chiefly from north Malabar. The total receipts were £179,400, which was the highest on record; and the surplus was £59,900.

Madras.

The area of the reserved forests in the Bombay Presidency was 13,486 square miles at the end of 1903-04, and that of the protected forests 1,320 square miles. There were also various reserves under the management of the Department covering an area of 12,044 square miles, and 1,699 square miles of fodder reserves and pasture lands under the Revenue Department. The demarcation and settlement of the forest area has been for many years in progress, and it is believed that, so far as such a matter can approach finality, a conclusion has now been reached as to the area which can be beneficially treated as forest, and as to the establishment which is required to manage it. Working plans for 698 square miles were sanctioned, but they still had to be taken in hand over rather more than half the forest area. Fire protection was attempted over 9,441 square miles, of which about one-sixth was ravaged by fires. Natural reproduction was good in most parts of the Presidency, and teak seedlings did well where they were not damaged by fire; in Sind the good inundation gave satisfactory results in this respect. The yield of the forests included 4½ million cubic feet of timber, 33½ million cubic feet of fuel, and about 5½ million bamboos. The revenue amounted to £178,300, and the expenditure to £118,800, leaving a surplus of £59,500.

Bombay.

The area of reserved forests in Coorg was 242 square miles up to the end of the year, when three large blocks, comprising 168 square miles, were taken into the reserves, the reserved lands being thus reduced to 121 square miles; there was also a small area of protected forests; the chief timbers are teak and sandal wood. No new working plans were approved during

Coorg.

FORESTS. the year; such plans exist for 178 square miles; preliminary plans will be made for the newly included area. The steps taken by the Forest Department to deal with the "spike" disease in sandal trees have not been successful so far as the extermination of the disease is concerned. It is, however, reported that they have succeeded in preventing its extension during the last two years. The season was an unfavourable one as regards fires; protection was undertaken over about 209 square miles, and was successful over nearly 98 per cent. of that area. There was, again, owing to smaller sales, a decrease in the quantity of timber removed from the forests, which amounted, including all the forests, to 221,400 cubic feet, in addition to 219 cubic tons of sandal wood, compared with 244,500 cubic feet, with 190 tons of sandal wood, in 1902-03. The forest surplus rose from £6,100. to £9,100.

CHAPTER X.

AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL RESOURCES.

AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE.

In every large province of India an Agricultural Department has been organised, which is charged with the duty of supervising the maintenance of the village records of land tenures, rent, produce, and land transfers, and with the work of organising and directing State undertakings for the furtherance of agriculture and for the improvement of stock. The Agricultural Departments also keep the public and the Government informed concerning the condition and the out-turn of the crops, the range of prices, and the approach of dearth or famine in any particular tract. There is an Inspector-General of Agriculture with the Supreme Government, whose function it is to guide and correlate the agricultural inquiries carried on throughout India, whether by the Supreme or the Provincial Governments, and to act as adviser to both in all matters pertaining to agriculture; while under him work the Agricultural Chemist, the Entomologist, and the Cryptogamic Botanist. During the year under report it was decided to establish an Agricultural Research Station, with an experimental farm and an agricultural college, on the Government estate of Pusa in the Darbhanga district of Lower Bengal. The scheme was fully described in a Resolution published by the Government of India on the 29th February 1904. The main functions of the farm are, to serve as a model for Provincial Governments to initiate lines of experiment, to test varieties of crops and seeds, to test the results obtained in provincial farms, and to provide a field for practical training for the College and for research work at the Research Station. The College is to have a complete curriculum, theoretical and practical, the full course of instruction taking five years. In connection with the College and the institution generally, other specialist appointments, in addition to those mentioned above, are being created, namely those of Bacteriologist, Biological Botanist, and Agri-Horticulturist, together with skilled assistants.

With a view to more thoroughly co-ordinating the work carried on by these officers and by the various scientific departments, and of directing it to the greatest possible extent towards practical research, a Board of Scientific Advice has been established, consisting of the heads of those departments, and such other scientific authorities as the Government may invite to serve on it; and the Government of India has the advantage of the advice of a special Committee of the Royal Society on the recommendations made by the Board.

The following provincial details on the subjects of seasons and crops, agricultural inquiry and experiment, and the working of the land records organisation, are taken from the reports of the Departments of Land Records and Agriculture.

The season 1903-04 in Bengal was on the whole not favourable to agricultural operations. The rainfall of June and August was defective in most parts of the province, and some uneasiness was at one time caused as to the prospects of the year. But the later part of the year gave a heavy rainfall, which to a large extent made up the deficiency. The area under autumn crops was $14\frac{3}{4}$ millions of acres, or one-third of a million less than in the preceding year; the winter rice crop covered $27\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres, against $29\frac{3}{4}$ in 1902-03; and $14\frac{7}{8}$ millions were returned as having been sown with summer crops, or about two-thirds of a million more than in the previous year. The total area of all crops was $57\frac{7}{8}$ millions of acres, compared with a normal area of $62\frac{7}{8}$ millions, and with $59\frac{7}{8}$ millions in 1902-03. The final estimate of the out-turn of autumn crops was 81 per cent. of the normal; the winter rice crop was estimated to be 90 per cent., and the spring crops 90 per cent. of an average crop. Besides the winter rice

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crop, which is by far the most important crop of the province, the following crop out-turns may be quoted: autumn rice, 80 per cent. of the normal; jute, 94 per cent.; maize, 74 per cent.; sugar cane, 94 per cent.; indigo, 65 per cent.

An investigation into sugar cane diseases was conducted by the Cryptogamic Botanist at the two experimental farms at Burdwan and Dumraon. A scheme of experiments in irrigation is now being taken in hand at these two farms and at the new experimental farm at Cuttack in Orissa, which was started during the year in accordance with the recommendations of the Irrigation Commission. Space will not admit of a reference to all the various experiments and investigations which were being conducted at the experimental farms and elsewhere in the province, both by the Government and by private individuals. The Lieutenant-Governor reported that a growing interest was being displayed in agricultural progress, but that the results obtained at the Government farms were not sufficiently disseminated among the people. A Provincial Agricultural Association had therefore been started in Calcutta to co-operate with the Government Director in his work.

The Silk Committee, formed in 1898-99 for the promotion of Pasteur's method of silkworm rearing, continued its operations in the silk-rearing districts. The operations, which consist in instructing the rearers how to select seed and to rear silkworms, have been attended with a considerable measure of success, and a new policy has been adopted, of establishing nurseries with mulberry plantations. Sericultural instruction is given in various schools; and itinerant overseers are also employed for the purpose of examining seed before purchase by rearers. Progress has been made in extending the silk industry in Midnapore and in the tributary states of Orissa.

There is no land record staff in Bengal, but in the tracts which have been cadastrally surveyed a considerable amount of statistical information is available as to cultivation, stocks and crops, and attempt is being made to introduce a record of the mutations of tenures. Reference has already been made, in the Registration chapter of this Statement, to the working of the Bengal Land Records Maintenance Act of 1895. Records are maintained in the Government and wards' estates which have been surveyed and settled.

United Provinces.

The monsoon of 1903 in the United Provinces opened late, but was favourable in August and September; heavy rains in October, however, did some damage to the growing autumn crops. The weather was very favourable for the spring crops generally. The crop area of the autumn harvest was a million acres below the preceding year's figures, and amounted to about 22 million acres, while the area under spring crops, 21½ million acres, was two millions larger than in 1902-03. As regards the nature of the crops sown, rice, cotton, and small millets showed some falling off, for the most part owing to the light rains in June and July; but the autumn crops, which are sown a little later, show an increased area. Wheat occupied an area of about 7¾ million acres, and is reported to have given an out-turn over the whole provinces of 90 per cent. of the normal. Barley (4¾ million acres) yielded the same percentage; peas and gram (7½ millions) 85 per cent.; millets (6¾ millions) 80 per cent., and rice (6 million acres only, as compared with 7 million in 1902-03) 80 per cent. Indigo, sown on 141,000 acres, gave an out-turn which was 80 per cent. of the normal; and sugar cane, occupying rather more than a million acres, yielded 85 per cent. It is, however, stated that these estimates are made by the local staff, and cannot be trusted implicitly, and that there is a probability that the autumn crops were over-estimated, the spring crops under-estimated.

More than 90 per cent. of the village accountants and their assistants under the Land Records Department hold certificates from a patwari school, and only a small and decreasing number are exempted by reason of their age or efficiency. Their work is tested by supervisors and also by superior officers. In addition to the maintenance of the record, the patwari staff also makes cadastral surveys and records of rights, and this is carried out with very fair success.

The Agricultural Department gave assistance to the public by the distribution of implements and seeds, boring for wells, and issue or maintenance of 10 bulls for the improvement of the breeds of cattle. The seed

distribution is being extended; over 4,000 maunds of sound seed were sent out during the year to small cultivators, besides considerable transactions with landlords and planters. It is issued for the most part on loan, an equivalent amount of the produce being returned at harvest time *plus* 25 per cent., and there is practically no loss in recovery.

At the Cawnpore experimental farm the season of the year ending in June 1904 was, not, on the whole, unfavourable; though the autumn crop sowings were much delayed by the late monsoon. The operations were concerned, as usual, with manurial experiments and experiments with varieties of sugar cane, maize, jowar, and Kabuli gram, deep and shallow tillage, and some other matters. The Meerut Demonstration Farm, which was formerly under the District Board, was brought under the administration of the Agricultural Department. Experimental work has been abandoned in favour of demonstrations. The private demonstration farm at Jatau continued its useful work.

In the Punjab the conditions were favourable for sowings in both the harvests of 1903-04, and the conditions of agriculture, and its results, were excellent throughout the province, excepting in the Delhi and Gurgaon districts, which fared badly in both harvests. The autumn-sown area was nearly 13 millions of acres, and the following spring crop covered nearly 15½ millions; the areas actually harvested were 10½ and 13¾ million acres respectively, the area on which crops failed being smaller than usual. Wheat occupied more than 7½ million acres, of which about 3¾ millions were irrigated. The yield of the food crops as a whole is stated to have borne the proportion of 113·8 per cent. to the normal, while wheat yielded 118·6 per cent. The latter is the most important of the crops of the province, and its yield is estimated at more than 3 million tons. Sugar was grown on about one-third of a million acres, and yielded a crop equal to 96·7 per cent. of the normal. Cotton was grown on a million acres, and was above a normal crop, the average of the years 1900-01 and 1901-02 being taken as the standard for comparison.

The total area of crops matured on irrigated land in the year 1903-04 was about 9½ millions of acres, of which about 3½ millions were irrigated from wells. Colonisation on the Chenab Canal, the extension of the Western Junna, Bari Doab, and Sirhind Canals, and construction of new canals elsewhere, have resulted in the following increase of the area irrigated by Government canals during the last ten years:—

	Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
1893-94	2,523,378	1899-1900	4,243,524	1902-03	4,887,677
1897-98	4,395,453	1901-02	4,530,766	1903-04	5,508,896

On the Chenab Canal the area allotted to cultivators in the year ending in September 1903 amounted to 72,000 acres, bringing the gross allotted area to a total of 1,773,400 acres, which is practically the maximum that the canal can at present irrigate. The area of crops sown was 1,551,000 acres. This was rather below the area sown in the previous year, owing partly to a rapid fall in the river at the time of sowing the spring crop; but on the other hand the crops were better.

Colonisation operations in the Jhelum Colony also were advanced, most of the preliminary business of boundary laying, &c., being finished, and an additional area of 43,500 acres being allotted. A feature of the scheme is the system of horse-breeding grants to applicants who possess a certain number of mares. No allotment was made during the year in the Chunian Colony on the Bari Doab Canal.

Satisfactory reports were received respecting the efficiency of the patwaris under the Land Records Department; returns and annual papers were submitted with commendable punctuality.

At the Lyallpur experimental farm, the chief object which has been kept in view in arranging the work is the study of different varieties of Punjab crops, especially of wheat, and their improvement by cross-fertilisation and selection. It is hoped that distribution of seed may soon be undertaken; but this cannot be done until a thoroughly satisfactory and superior variety

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of wheat has been secured. Cotton experiments are also made, and various other trials of different crops.

North-West Frontier Province.

The rainfall in the North-West Frontier Province in the year 1903-04 was favourable for the sowing of all crops and the out-turn was very good in respect, especially, of the spring crops. The area harvested, both in the autumn and the spring harvests, much exceeded that of the preceding year, as well as the average of the last three years, which is taken as the normal. It was just over 2½ million acres, of which 910,000 acres were under wheat, and 375,000 acres under maize, the aggregate area of food grains being 2½ million acres. The wheat yield was said to be the best within living memory, and barley and gram gave remarkably high out-turns, half as large again as the average of the preceding three years.

Central Provinces and Berar.

Berar having been amalgamated with the Central Provinces in October 1903, the agricultural conditions of the two provinces may be considered together. The rainfall of 1903, in contrast with that of the preceding year, was extremely heavy over the whole province, and at once the rice tracts reaped a splendid harvest, while a bumper wheat crop in the north was only prevented by the absence of rain in January. Cotton and juar, however, were comparative failures, the crops being damaged, and in some cases ruined, by excessive moisture. Prosperity, therefore, veered from the west to the east of the province, and this was undoubtedly of enormous benefit to the province as a whole, for the cotton area had never suffered in the famine periods as the other areas did, and in addition, the height of cotton prices helped to mitigate the effects of a poor cotton crop. The expansion of the cotton area in recent years is a notable feature of the agricultural history of the province. The area under wheat was 3 million acres; and spring crops as a whole showed an advance of 1½ million acres, or 26 per cent., as compared with the year 1902-03. In spite, however, of the good results noted above, the produce of the Central Provinces is said to have been still something short of a normal out-turn on the area under crop before the famines. Recent years have seen the beginning of State irrigation in the province, nine large tanks being opened as famine works, and several large projects being prospected or begun. This work was prosecuted energetically during the year, and £63,000 was spent on protective and other irrigation works. The area under irrigation from village tanks and wells shrank, owing to the abundant rainfall, to 317,600 acres.

The Land Records staff was revised and strengthened in Raipur, and in Berar the system of Land Record supervision, introduced into Akola and Buldana in 1901, was extended to the other four districts. The ordinary work of the Department, as well as the improvement of the form of various village records, was carried out satisfactorily. The Land Records staff in Berar, however, is still in its early stages.

The Agricultural Department in the Central Provinces has been largely developed during recent years. The staff has been strengthened, two experimental farms have been purchased, at Hoshangabad and Raipur, in addition to the already existing farms at Nagpur and Telinkneri, several demonstration farms have been established, district agricultural associations and a Hindi Agricultural Gazette have come into existence, while attention has been given to the improvement of agricultural education. Of the experimental farms, Nagpur was the only farm on which much experimental work was conducted in the year 1903-04. The associations form a link between the Department and the agricultural community, and have already done much good work, in spite of their recent origin.

Burma.

In Burma the early rains in the year 1903-04 were light, the middle rains slightly deficient, and the later rains were heavier and continued longer than is usual. The area of crops rose from 11½ million acres to 13 millions. Of this amount, nearly 9½ million acres were sown with rice, and the yield was an excellent one. The final forecast for the 15 chief rice-producing districts of Burma estimated a full normal out-turn, and for the whole province the proportion was estimated at 91 per cent. of the normal. The cultivation of cotton, though not extensive at present compared with other cotton-producing provinces, is making fairly satisfactory headway. The area under

this crop was 160,100 acres, and the percentage of out-turn was 88 of the normal, against 93 in the preceding year.

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The Land Records Department keeps up to date the information gained at settlement, and conducts a supplementary survey annually, for the purpose of fixing the revenue demand, over an area which amounted to 41,900 square miles in 1903-04. It also keeps up the topographical maps on a scale of 1 inch or 2 inches to the mile. The scheme for employing village headmen has been under trial, with varying results, in several districts. On the whole it appears to be working with some success, and is being extended. There are 18 survey schools, at which an average number of 464 scholars attended during the year.

Beyond experimental gardens there are no establishments in the province for the conduct of agricultural experiments; but seeds of various products which appear to merit investigation are distributed for cultivation in suitable parts of the province.

In Assam the rainfall of the year 1903-04 was sufficient in both valleys of the province, but in some districts it was not well distributed; a large rainfall in October and November proved very favourable to the winter rice crop, which yielded a bumper out-turn; the scantiness of the winter rains occasioned a short out-turn of mustard. The area cropped was rather more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ millions of acres, of which nearly 4 millions were under rice, one-third of a million under tea, and a quarter of a million under mustard. The various rice crops yielded bumper out-turns, well above the normal, in almost all districts. The yield of tea was exceptionally large, as is shown later in this chapter. Assam.

Nearly all the village officials under the Land Records Department had obtained a certificate in surveying. There were three survey schools in the province, at which 134 certificates were granted during the fifteen months ending in June 1904. The work of this staff requires careful supervision, and each district was visited by the Director of the Department or by the Superintendent during the year.

At the newly started Shillong experimental farm, experiments were continued with a view to discover new crops that may be grown profitably in the Khasi Hills. Among potatoes, a new variety named the "Patna" was favourably reported on. A large number of other experiments were continued with maize, flax, fruit trees, &c. American cotton has been tried, but hitherto without success. Silkworm cultivation was tried on a small scale and is reported to have succeeded, the silk being pronounced to be of a fine quality.

In Madras the rainfall was, on the whole, favourable to agricultural operations, and the area under crops, excluding permanently settled estates, rose to 28 millions of acres, including $6\frac{1}{2}$ millions of "wet" cultivation, against $27\frac{7}{8}$ millions in 1902-03 and an average of $26\frac{1}{2}$ millions for the past five years. Rice covered nearly $7\frac{3}{4}$ millions, showing an increase of half a million acres; while millets ($8\frac{1}{2}$ millions) showed a substantial decline. The area under cotton was $1\frac{3}{4}$ million acres, and was 200,000 acres above the corresponding area in 1902-03, as the result of good and timely rainfall. The out-turn of rice, according to the returns, was something like 92 per cent. of a normal crop; but the averages are based on the figures of the village officials, which are notoriously under-estimated, and the crop was a good one. The average prices of rice for the year were lower in all districts. Madras.

The district revenue establishments having proved unequal to the task of maintaining the village survey records, a special staff was introduced during the year into several districts where the records were fairly complete and ready for maintenance, and the appointment of a Deputy Director of Land Records was sanctioned. Some difficulties were at first found in the working of the staff, owing to the absence of sufficiently definite rules, but steps were taken to revise the procedure.

Two experimental farms, at Bellary and at Koilpatti in the Tinnevely district, were started two years ago, but there has been at present little of value achieved. The sugar cane farm at Samalkot was more successful, and the distribution of selected seed had already been begun. It has been proposed to commence pumping experiments in various localities, on the

AGRICULTURE.

model of those conducted by a private gentleman at Melrosapuram, with the object of increasing the productive capacities of poorer soils. Experiments made at the farm attached to the Saidapet College with a variety of indigo known as *indigofera arrecta* were not successful, but they were to be repeated, and other varieties of indigo, which are held to be of commercial importance, were to be grown at the Agri-Horticultural Gardens at Madras. The number of students at the Saidapet Agricultural College was 46. The reorganisation of the College, and its transfer to the Agricultural Department, were under consideration.

Bombay.

In the Bombay Presidency also the season of 1903-04 was on the whole favourable. The monsoon was late, but when it came it was sufficient and seasonable for all sowing operations for the autumn harvest, and though the October rains ceased too early in Gujarat and the Deccan, the average fall in the year was above the normal in many districts. The Sind inundation was a good one. The area under crops in the whole Presidency was 28½ millions of acres, of which 4½ millions were in Sind; the figures for the Presidency proper show a slight fall as compared with the previous year, those for Sind an increase of 19 per cent. Forty-four per cent. of the crop area of the Presidency, compared with 51 per cent. in 1902-03, consisted of millets; cotton covered 13 per cent. of it; wheat showed a large expansion, from 1½ to 2 million acres. The area irrigated in the Presidency, 4 million acres, consists chiefly of lands in Sind irrigated by Government or private canals; these amounted to more than 3 million acres, the area irrigated in the Presidency proper being 704,000 acres, chiefly of well irrigation. The out-turn of crops was generally good, cotton giving an especially satisfactory yield.

A large number of varied experiments were conducted at the farms at Poona, Manjri and Surat, as well as in other places of minor importance. Land has been acquired for a new farm at Nadiad. But the most important of the experiments in the Presidency is perhaps the trial of Egyptian cotton on land inundated from perennial canals in Sind, which appears to have met with a considerable measure of success. A new farm was to be started at Mirpur Khas in Sind, on which the suitability of Egyptian cotton, as well as other questions, could be tested. An important scheme for improving the system of agricultural education and research by developing the teaching of the Poona College of Science was under consideration.

The Land Record staff was at work in all the districts of the Presidency proper, and supervised the preparation of the records of rights in 46 subdivisions. In addition to their ordinary duties they proceeded with the training of village accountants in survey, and were also utilised in connection with the destruction of locusts.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

Before giving the area under different crops, and its territorial distribution, for 1902-03, the most recent year for which complete figures are available, it is necessary to explain that the "crop area" is in all cases greater than the area of cultivated land, owing to double cropping. The extent to which this practice prevails is shown at the end of the following tables, which contain the detailed analysis of the crop area.

TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRINCIPAL CROPS IN 1902-03.
 Figures in Thousands of Acres, omitting 000.

AGRI-
CULTURAL
PRODUCE.

I.

	Rice.	Wheat.	Barley.	Millets.			Gram (Pulse).	Other Food- Grains, in- cluding Pulses.	Total Food- Grains.
				Cholum or Jowar.	Cumbu or Bajra.	Other Millets and Maize.			
Upper Burma	1,535	20	—	996	106	92	69	268	3,086
Lower Burma	6,798	—	—	—	—	21	2	27	6,848
Assam	3,998	10	—	—	—	1	1	100	4,110
Bengal	37,057	1,446	1,456	135	62	2,253	1,078	5,340	49,527
Agra	4,351	5,057	3,032	2,192	1,684	1,608	3,878	4,344	26,146
Oudh	2,629	1,378	1,058	317	330	763	1,579	2,342	10,901
Punjab	606	6,414	733	1,207	1,975	1,359	1,975	1,512	15,781
North-West Frontier Province	26	699	170	75	164	368	152	101	1,745
Sind	787	313	8	643	767	2	70	196	2,786
Bombay	1,441	1,241	27	7,403	5,373	628	507	2,920	19,540
Central Provinces	4,553	2,286	17	2,251	48	172	869	3,990	14,186
Berar	37	217	—	3,169	68	4	140	410	4,045
Madras	7,735	20	3	4,657	3,046	1,920	158	7,092	24,631
Minor Provinces (Ajmere, Coorg, and Manpur).	81	14	46	80	43	85	14	21	384
Total	71,634	19,615	6,550	23,125	13,666	9,971	10,492	28,663	183,716

II.

	Oilseeds.	Condi- ments and Spices.	Sugar.	Fibres.			Indigo.	Opium.	To- bacco.
				Cotton.	Jute.	Other Fibres.			
Upper Burma	908	33	19	127	—	1	—	—	25
Lower Burma	68	23	13	14	—	—	—	—	35
Assam	343	8	42	3	35	2	—	—	5
Bengal	3,635	269	711	87	2,111	156	255	213	502
Agra	807	55	947	1,205	—	92	125	212	47
Oudh	249	9	205	34	—	20	11	174	15
Punjab	809	37	320	1,042	—	57	35	8	51
North-West Frontier Province.	66	5	26	24	—	—	—	—	7
Sind	982	5	3	193	—	1	6	—	8
Bombay	1,425	164	54	2,355	—	108	1	—	77
Central Provinces	1,905	42	24	1,140	—	85	—	—	10
Berar	341	48	1	2,766	—	22	—	—	13
Madras	2,145	371	126	1,581	—	81	221	—	140
Minor Provinces (Ajmere, Coorg, and Manpur).	18	1	—	33	—	—	—	1	—
Total	13,096	1,070	2,491	11,104	2,146	625	654	608	935

III.

	Tea.	Coffee.	Fodder Crops.	Orchards and Garden Produce.	All other Crops.		Total Area Cropped during the Year.	Area Cropped more than once.	Net Area Cropped during the Year.
					Food.	Non- Food.			
Upper Burma	2	—	27	39	36	8	4,311	858	3,953
Lower Burma	—	—	2	340	39	75	7,452	5	7,447
Assam	340	—	57	359	31	116	5,431	358	5,073
Bengal	135	—	65	1,036	1,199	1,061	60,962	10,745	50,217
Agra	8	—	776	266	139	60	31,385*	5,153	26,232
Oudh	—	—	101	94	57	4	11,874	2,708	9,166
Punjab	10	—	1,845	127	343	16	26,240*	3,535	22,705
North-West Frontier Province	—	—	52	8	37	13	2,462*	437	2,025
Sind	—	—	1	35	—	39	3,459	258	3,201
Bombay	—	—	17	128	—	5	24,374	636	23,738
Central Provinces	—	—	261	84	32	10	17,779	896	16,883
Berar	—	—	—	23	—	1	7,265	26	7,239
Madras	11	50	217	768	—	341	30,683	3,789	26,894
Minor Provinces (Ajmere, Coorg, and Manpur).	—	60	2	3	5	—	507	38	469
Total	506	110	3,403	3,315	1,918	1,739	234,184	28,942	205,242

* These figures show area sown, and exceed the aggregate of the preceding columns (which, in the case of these provinces, take into account the result of sowing) by half a million acres in Agra, the same amount in the North-West Frontier Province, and 5½ million acres in the Punjab.

AGRI-
CULTURAL
PRODUCE.

Regarding some of the more important staples of Indian agriculture, particulars for the year 1903-04 are given below. The information and tabular statements are taken from the estimates published by the Government of India, which in many cases do not correspond exactly with the figures given above for the year 1902-03.

WHEAT.

The ascertained and estimated area under wheat is given thus:—

	Average Wheat Area for preceding Five Years.	Areas Cultivated with Wheat in	
		1902-03.	1903-04.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Punjab - - - - -	6,824,000	6,995,200	7,765,700
North-West Frontier Province - - - - -	—	822,900	994,100
United Provinces - - - - -	6,357,800	6,909,500	7,885,000
Bengal - - - - -	1,521,900	1,417,000	1,508,600
Central Provinces - - - - -	2,197,200	2,284,900	2,912,200
Bombay - - - - -	1,715,400	1,797,300	1,924,900
Sind - - - - -	468,900	331,600	552,000
Berar - - - - -	274,600	217,000	452,600
Hyderabad - - - - -	739,100	652,000	1,134,700
Rajputana - - - - -	822,800	818,400	1,115,300
Central India - - - - -	927,000	840,600	1,522,300
Mysore - - - - -	3,500	5,100	5,700
Total - - - - -	21,852,200	23,091,500	27,773,100

It was an exceptionally favourable season for wheat in 1903-04, and the good crop of the preceding year was exceeded by some 20 per cent., both in area and in yield. The total harvested area is still below that of the early nineties, but the record was passed by nearly a million acres in the United Provinces, and by a third of a million acres in the Punjab. In the Punjab and in Sind there was an exceptionally good yield; in the United Provinces the season was not quite so good as that of 1902-03; in Bengal it was about the same; the crop was least successful in Bombay. The estimated out-turn of the year in the chief wheat-growing provinces is given in the margin, in comparison with the yield of 1902-03.

	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Tons.	Tons.
Punjab - - - - -	2,314,700	3,076,200
United Provinces - - - - -	2,972,500	3,230,000
Central Provinces - - - - -	666,600	750,100
Bombay - - - - -	532,600	515,800
Bengal - - - - -	485,900	527,800
Central India - - - - -	220,800	360,900
North-West Frontier Province - - - - -	234,600	302,100
Rajputana - - - - -	190,800	294,400

The total estimate for India was 9,387,500 tons, against 7,766,100 tons in the preceding year, and an average of 6,250,000 tons for the five preceding years. Wheat exports are subject to great fluctuations. The figures are as follows:—

1,053,000 tons in - - - - -	1885-86	976,000 tons in - - - - -	1898-99
689,000 " - - - - -	1889-90	485,000 " - - - - -	1899-1900
1,515,000 " - - - - -	1891-92	2,500 " - - - - -	1900-01
500,000 " - - - - -	1895-96	515,000 " - - - - -	1902-03
95,000 " - - - - -	1896-97	1,296,000 " - - - - -	1903-04

OIL SEEDS.

The area under, and the yield of, the main oil-seed crops for all India may be approximately given thus:—

	Average for preceding Five Years.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Area in acres - { Linseed, rapeseed, and mustard.	5,505,200	6,014,100	7,126,600*
{ Sesamum oil-seeds	2,627,000	3,733,700	4,006,400
Total - - - - -	8,132,200	9,747,800	11,133,000
Yield in tons for all seeds, so far as reported	1,146,700	1,398,800	1,542,800

* This figure does not include an area in the United Provinces, conjecturally estimated at 3 million acres, on which the crop is grown mixed with other crops. The yield of that area is included in the figure given.

The area under these crops was specially large in 1903-04, and in most provinces they were grown under favourable conditions; the rape-seed crop in the Punjab yielded exceptionally well, and Bengal had a good average

AGRI-
CULTURAL
PRODUCE.

	1902-03.		1903-04.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Linseed - - -	316,400	3,794,000	430,800	3,829,400
Rape-seed - - -	196,300	1,647,000	217,100	1,689,400
Cotton-seed - - -	198,700	674,000	133,900	445,500
Sesamum - - -	186,600	1,940,000	175,600	1,619,300
Castor-seed - - -	87,600	614,000	78,300	461,300
Earthnuts - - -	51,800	477,000	96,100	757,900
Other sorts - - -	72,300	776,000	102,300	874,400
Total - - -	1,109,700	9,922,000	1,234,100	9,677,200

crop, both of rape and linseed. The sesamum crop was injured in some provinces by excessive rainfall, and the yield only slightly exceeded that of 1902-03. The total amount and value of the oil-seeds exported in the last two years is shown in the margin. The decline in value, against an increase in quantity, was due to the overstocked

condition of the market, which caused a general and important fall in prices. The sudden development and expansion of the trade in cotton-seed noted in last year's Statement was not maintained, though the exports were still large in view of the recent origin of the trade. Earthnuts were exported in much larger quantity from Madras, and in addition to the figure given in the marginal table, which relates to the trade of British India only, there is a large export of groundnuts from Pondicherry to France. The latest figures available, those for 1902-03, show an export of 53,400 tons, valued at £485,000. This crop now seems to have recovered from the serious check which it recently suffered owing to disease and drought. The total area sown with groundnut in Madras and Bombay was 461,800 acres, against 491,100 acres in 1902-03 and an average of 278,700 acres in each of the preceding five years.

The area and yield of the Bengal autumn and winter rice crops were much below the figures of the preceding year, and though the crops of Madras and Burma, especially the latter, were good, the total yield of the crop in 1903-04 was not good. The winter crop of Bengal is by far the largest factor in the statistics for the three provinces mentioned in the table below, and covered, in the year under report, an area of 27½ million acres, compared with 29½ millions in the preceding year. The figures estimated for the last two years are as follows :—

	Area in Acres.			Yield in Tons of Cleaned Rice.		
	Average of preceding Five Years.	1902-03.	1903-04.	Average of preceding Five Years.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Bengal - - -	38,186,300	37,553,700	35,096,400	17,510,000	17,949,000	15,915,000
Madras - - -	6,796,100	7,734,800	8,178,300	2,447,000	2,874,000	3,071,000
Burma (15 districts) - - -	6,113,400	6,521,300	6,660,900	2,550,000	2,651,000	3,221,000

Other provinces, notably Assam, the United Provinces, and the Central Provinces, produce a large quantity of rice, a considerable proportion of their cultivable area (generally amounting to about 20 million acres) being thus employed, as may be seen from the table given earlier in this chapter. The quantity of rice and rice-flour exported from India and Burma beyond the sea in 1903-04 was 2,250,000 tons, which was rather less than the total of the preceding year. About 74 per cent. of the exports went from Burma, which also exported 74,800 tons of paddy and 120,000 tons of husked rice to other provinces and states in India. It is estimated that Burma has this year (1905) an exportable surplus of 1,936,400 tons of cleaned rice.

The Indian export duty of three annas per maund on rice yielded to the Indian Treasury a net sum of £780,900 in 1903-04, against £823,300 in the previous year. Siam and Saigon, which with Japan constitute the only other considerable rice-exporting countries of the world, levy the same or a slightly higher rate of duty on rice exports.

AGRI-
CULTURAL
PRODUCE.
COTTON.

The area under cotton in India is returned and estimated as follows:—

	Average Cotton Area for preceding Five Years.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Madras (ryotwari villages only)	1,388,000	1,581,000	1,791,000
Bombay, Sind, and Bombay Native States	4,416,000	4,982,000	5,385,000
United Provinces	1,010,000	1,239,000	841,000
Punjab and North-West Frontier Province	995,000	1,221,000	1,294,000
Central Provinces	757,000	1,136,000	1,247,000
Berar	2,359,000	2,766,000	2,846,000
Nizam's Dominions	1,615,000*	2,359,000	2,641,000
Burma	147,000	149,000	152,000
Central India	488,000	591,000	772,000
Rajputana	400,000	457,000	395,000
Bengal	150,000	100,000	96,000
Assam	—	—	31,000
Mysore	—	—	58,000
Total	13,725,000	16,581,000	17,549,000

* Incomplete.

If there be included a rough estimate of 121,000 acres under cotton in the zamindari area of Madras, the total area of the crop is 17½ millions of acres, more than a million acres above the area of 1902-03, which was then the highest recorded; and if those tracts be excluded for which returns are now made for the first time, the increase is 880,000 acres, although there was a shrinkage of 400,000 acres in the United Provinces caused by the late arrival of the monsoon. Owing, however, to the unfavourable nature of the season in those provinces, as well as in Berar, the Central Provinces, and Hyderabad, the estimated yield, excluding Assam and Mysore, which made returns for the first time, is approximately the same as in the preceding season, namely 2½ million bales. The average yield for the last five years is returned as about two million bales, but the figures for these years are incomplete in several respects.

The exports of raw cotton from India were—

1894-95	-	-	-	3,387,000 cwts., valued at £5,806,000
1896-97	-	-	-	5,216,000 " " 8,647,000
1897-98	-	-	-	3,723,000 " " 5,914,000
1898-99	-	-	-	5,411,000 " " 7,459,000
1899-1900	-	-	-	4,373,000 " " 6,617,000
1900-01	-	-	-	2,576,000 " " 6,752,000
1901-02	-	-	-	5,700,000 " " 9,617,000
1902-03	-	-	-	6,045,000 " " 9,838,000
1903-04	-	-	-	7,931,000 " " 16,251,000

It is not necessary here to dwell on the efforts which are being made by the Government of India to classify the Indian cottons, to introduce the most suitable varieties, and to extend the area under cotton cultivation, since full information was given in two papers which were presented to Parliament during 1904, viz., "The Improvement of Indian Cotton" (Cd. 1982), and Professor Dunstan's "Report on Cotton Cultivation in the British Empire and in Egypt" (Cd. 2020).

The following is an estimate of the cultivation and the production of tea in British India and Travancore during recent years; no figures are available regarding its cultivation in Cochin State:—

AGRI-
CULTURAL
PRODUCE.
TEA.

	Area under Tea, in Acres (Mature and Immature Plants).			Production of Tea in Lbs.		
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Bengal - - -	135,129	135,158	135,956	46,204,000	46,028,000	50,888,000
Assam - - -	338,186	339,640	338,278	134,896,000	132,117,000	145,199,000
Madras - - -	6,184	6,613	7,047	827,000	1,067,000	1,124,000
United Provinces - -	8,252	8,121	8,047	2,420,000	2,139,000	2,071,000
Punjab - - -	10,235	9,324	9,399	2,087,000	1,616,000	1,915,000
Travancore - - -	25,279	24,880	24,580	4,608,000	5,360,000	7,242,000
Burma - - -	1,502	1,521	1,520	261,000	262,000	271,000
Total - - -	524,767	525,257	524,827	191,303,000	188,589,000	208,710,000

These figures show a slight reduction of the area under tea, and there is reason to believe that the real reduction was greater than appears from them, and amounted to more than 4,000 acres. During some recent years, notably 1897 and 1898, the growth of the tea area was very rapid, but the present tendency is towards restricting its further extension, under the discouragement of low prices. The area under mature plants increased by nearly 14,000 acres, owing to recent extensions coming into full bearing; and the newly planted area was, therefore, less than 4 per cent. of the whole. The total area under tea was 85 per cent. greater than it was in 1885. The output was 192 per cent. greater, and showed, according to the returns, an increase of 20 million lbs. in 1903; but here again it is suspected that the figures are not complete, as the exports to foreign countries by sea increased by 25½ million lbs. Of the output shown above, rather more than 5 million lbs. was green tea in 1903. Nearly nine-tenths of the total tea cultivation is limited to the provinces of Assam and Bengal. It may be observed that the small tea production of Burma may be neglected so far as the tea trade generally is concerned, because most of the tea made is eaten in the form of pickled tea. The tea gardens of India are reported to have given employment during 1903 to 478,000 persons permanently and 92,800 temporarily. In spite of the enlarged production, which surpassed all previous records, the average prices of tea at Calcutta during the year show a general rise of some importance over the low figures of the last three years. That the average price for so large a production should have advanced by nearly one-fifth of a penny for tea sold in London, by seven-twelfths of a penny for the Calcutta sales, and by nearly one-ninth of a penny according to the declared value of the exports from India, is significant of the advance in developing outside markets and the relief afforded by the increasing manufacture of green teas in India and Ceylon. The exports of Indian tea by sea during the last three years are returned as follows:—

	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
To United Kingdom - - -	159,014,000	152,896,000	170,187,000
„ Canada - - -	1,059,000	5,554,000	8,576,000
„ Australia - - -	7,478,000	4,569,000	6,402,000
„ China, Treaty Ports - -	225,000	379,000	5,702,000
„ Russia - - -	1,625,000	3,968,000	4,547,000
„ Persia - - -	2,531,000	3,254,000	2,171,000
„ Turkey in Asia - - -	2,626,000	3,273,000	2,830,000
„ United States - - -	1,089,000	2,672,000	1,528,000
„ Other Countries - - -	4,038,000	4,859,000	5,217,000
Total - - -	179,685,000	181,424,000	207,160,000

The total exports of Indian tea in 1886-87 were 78½ million lbs. only. During the year under report the exports to the United Kingdom, Canada

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PRODUCE.

and Russia had a remarkable increase; for the amount shown under the head of Russia does not cover the large amounts shipped for transit by the Siberian railway through Dalny and Port Arthur, which come under the heading of "China Treaty Ports," and these amounted to 4,905,000 lbs. There were also nearly 2 million lbs. of tea under the head of exports by land, but the greater part of this comes under the head of exports to Kashmir.

According to the British returns the tea imported into the United Kingdom for home consumption or re-export has come from China, India and Ceylon in the following proportions :—

In the Year	From China.	From India.	From Ceylon.
1865	93 per cent.	2 per cent.	0 per cent.
1875	86 "	13 "	0 "
1895	66 "	30 "	2 "
1895	16 "	46 "	32 "
1902	6 "	54 "	36 "
1903	7 "	55 "	31 "
1904	9 "	55 "	31 "

The import duty on tea entering the United Kingdom was raised from 6d. to 8d. a pound after the end of the year under report, and it is not therefore within the scope of this Statement to discuss the effect of the increased duty.

COFFEE.

Cultivation of coffee is restricted for the most part to a limited zone in Mysore, Coorg, and the Madras districts of Malabar and the Nilgiris. The area reported as under coffee at the end of 1903, with corresponding figures for the two preceding years, is given below; but the figures are not of much value, as information is in some cases withheld by planters, especially in Madras :—

	1901.	1902.	1903.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Coorg	65,732	59,417	50,246
Madras	36,722	34,950	35,870
Mysore	126,735	114,660	111,854
Travancore and Cochin	7,022	6,217	6,334
Burma, Assam, &c.	446	373	329
Total	236,657	215,617	204,633

The prices of coffee as declared for export purposes have fallen from Rs. 75½ per cwt. in 1894 to Rs. 47 in 1903-04. There is no local market for coffee, and the competition of cheap Brazilian coffee has affected the price in the consuming markets. In spite of anticipations of a smaller supply of Brazilian coffee there was no improvement in 1903 in prices, as the stocks held were so large; but an impetus was given to the export trade, which may be taken as the best criterion of the progress of the coffee industry, very little coffee being consumed in India. The amount of exports is shown below :—

	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
To United Kingdom	13,053,000	17,416,000	17,075,000
" France	11,287,000	8,811,000	11,717,000
" other Countries	4,220,000	4,419,000	3,828,000
Total	28,565,000	30,146,000	32,620,000

The returns show that 25,400 persons were employed permanently, and 55,000 temporarily, on the coffee estates.

There are no trustworthy statistics of the area of cinchona cultivation outside the Government plantations, but it is to be noted that during the last five years there has been a steady fall in the quantity of cinchona bark exported from India, which was 3½ million lbs. in 1899-1900, but had sunk to 1½ million lbs. in 1903-04. The export has, however, varied widely in earlier years.

On the Government cinchona plantations of the Darjeeling district in Bengal 170 acres were planted during 1903-04. The rainfall was about up to the average, and the planting season was well advanced, with the result that the number of trees in the plantations was increased by about 291,000 during the year, and stood at nearly 3½ millions at the end of it. The quantity of dry bark harvested on the plantations was 306,700 lbs., and the purchases of bark from private plantations amounted to 119,600 lbs. The factory, which supplies Bengal, the Punjab, and Assam, used 421,500 lbs. of quinine-yielding barks, producing 12,314 lbs. of sulphate of quinine, and 290 lbs. of sulphate of cinchonidine; and 52,400 lbs. of mixed *succirubra* and hybrid barks, from which 3,800 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge were extracted. The issues of quinine rose to 12,000 lbs., but those of cinchona febrifuge fell to 3,500 lbs., owing partly to the cessation of the demand for South Africa, partly to a smaller consumption by the Indian public. The quinine supplied to the public is sold at post offices in 5-grain packets; the febrifuge is sold at the factory; but a large part of the issues are made to Government officers for dispensaries and medical depôts.

The rainfall in the Madras cinchona plantations was above the average, and some damage was done to young plants; but the stock of trees in the plantations was increased by over 200,000, amounting to 2½ millions. The year's crop amounted to 116,300 lbs. of bark, besides 431,200 lbs. purchased from private plantations. The amount of bark worked up in the factory was 486,000 lbs., consisting for the most part of purchased bark. The produce was 16,100 lbs. of sulphate of quinine and 5,900 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge. The machinery recently installed worked well, but a larger water supply is required, and is being arranged for, in order to keep up work continuously through the year. From this factory are supplied the requirements of Madras, Bombay, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, Ajmere, Burma, Coorg, Berar, and Mysore; the issues during the year were 15,040 lbs. of quinine and 3,359 lbs. of the febrifuge. The sale of quinine at post offices in the Madras Presidency and elsewhere showed a satisfactory increase in the year under report, and a proposal for selling 7-grain powders was under consideration. Quinine was issued to local fund and municipal dispensaries at the rate of Rs. 13 per lb., and the febrifuge was sold to the public at the rate of about Rs. 12 per lb.

In Bengal, where nearly the whole of the jute crop is grown, the rainfall JUTE. was weak at the beginning of the sowing season of 1903, but it improved later, and the collector's reports estimate the area sown as 2,209,300 acres, with a yield equal to 87 per cent. of a normal out-turn. The total yield, in bales of 400 lbs., was estimated at 6½ million bales in 1903, against 5½ millions in 1902, and an average of 5½ millions in each of the last five years. These figures do not include the jute production of Assam, estimated at 90,000 bales in 1903, and of Cooch Behar, 50,000 bales, which would increase the total estimate to 6½ million bales. The fluctuations of the jute export trade during recent years have been as follows:—

Year.	Raw Jute.		Jute Manufactures.	Total Exports.
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	Cwts.	£	£	£
1883-84	7,018,000	3,062,000	890,000	3,952,000
1891-92	8,532,000	4,566,000	1,675,000	6,241,000
1897-98	15,023,000	6,754,000	3,954,000	10,708,000
1898-99	9,865,000	4,628,000	3,866,000	8,494,000
1900-01	12,415,000	7,245,000	5,243,000	12,488,000
1901-02	14,755,000	7,865,000	5,807,000	13,672,000
1902-03	13,036,000	7,418,000	6,013,000	13,431,000
1903-04	13,721,000	7,812,000	6,313,000	14,125,000

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Of the raw jute exports in 1903-04, over 43 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, 19 per cent. to Germany, more than 14 per cent. to the United States, and 10 per cent. to France.

INDIGO.

In spite of an unfavourable opening, the season was on the whole good for indigo in Bengal, but the area continued to contract. The area under indigo in the four indigo growing provinces, as reported, is given in the margin. It will be seen that, if allowance be made for an under-statement of some thirty or forty thousand acres, which is believed to have been made in the United Provinces, Bengal was the only province in which there was a decline in 1903. The estimated yield, in Bengal as well as in the other provinces, is much higher than that of 1902,

—	Average of preceding Five Years.	1902.	1903.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Bengal	431,100	255,500	249,700
United Provinces	256,400	135,800	104,000
Punjab	90,100	42,000	76,700
Madras	260,400	212,200	279,000
Total	1,038,000	645,500	709,400

when the season was unfavourable. The out-turn for the four provinces together is given as 106,000 cwt., compared with 79,200 cwt. in 1902 and an average of 145,000 cwt. for each of the preceding five years; and this estimate may have been exceeded. The total exports of recent years have been :—

	Cwts.	£
1888-89	142,000	valued at 2,633,000
1890-91	118,000	" 2,049,000
1895-96	187,000	" 3,570,000
1896-97	170,000	" 2,914,000
1898-99	135,000	" 1,980,000
1900-01	102,000	" 1,424,000
1901-02	90,000	" 1,235,000
1902-03	65,000	" 804,000
1903-04	60,400	" 717,500

Exports by sea, besides a small quantity annually exported across the land frontiers of India.

SUGAR.

The area under sugar in India is estimated as follows for the provinces mentioned :—

—	Area in Acres.			Out-turn in Tons.	
	Average of Five Preceding Years.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Bengal	802,000	663,500	645,400	681,600	667,300
United Provinces	1,215,000	1,151,800	1,070,600	904,100	876,700
Punjab and North-West Frontier Province.	366,000	336,000	348,300	367,500	272,100
Madras	46,000	46,500	41,800	93,400	83,700

There was a small recovery in the area under sugar cane in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, but elsewhere the downward tendency of previous years continued. In the United Provinces the area was, with one exception, the smallest on record, the rainfall having been deficient during the planting season, and the crop having also suffered from heavy storms. In Bengal, however, the yield was estimated at 94 per cent. of the normal. The out-turn in the Punjab shows a large decline, owing to a rectification of the method of estimating it, which was unduly liberal in former years. In reality, that province, as well as Madras, had about an average output of sugar. There is also a certain amount of sugar cultivation in most of the other provinces, and the total area under sugar in 1902-03 was given as nearly 2½ millions of acres. The yield is generally something rather less than a ton of raw sugar per acre. The imports of sugar, including

confectionery and molasses, during recent years are given as follows, the figures representing for the most part refined sugar :—

AGRI-
CULTURAL
PRODUCE.

—	1896-97.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
From Austria-Hungary	5,775	53,187	38,891	66,065	112,897	44,401	14,963
„ Germany -	37,940	20,698	3,026	20,100	28,857	7,284	365
„ Mauritius -	74,442	105,205	88,667	124,476	109,158	118,309	144,156
„ China -	6,965	9,284	15,850	24,372	9,138	28,430	17,449
„ Java -	4,873	8,125	12,909	11,262	16,033	28,683	66,777
„ other Countries -	4,125	6,776	8,700	17,565	21,654	74,686	72,982
Total	134,120	203,875	168,043	263,840	297,737	273,110	316,692

The legislation under which countervailing duties were imposed on bounty-fed sugar has been noticed in a former chapter under the head of "Customs." The chief features of the table given above are the rise and decline of imports from Austria-Hungary, the practical cessation of imports from Germany, the steady increase in the imports from Java, and the rise of the figures under "other countries." In the year 1903-04, the United Kingdom contributed 33,287 tons to the total under the latter heading.

CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Early in the year 1903-04 the entire control of horse, mule and donkey breeding in certain districts, whether with Imperial or District Board stallions, was transferred from the Civil Veterinary Department to the Army Remount Department; the work of the Civil Department being confined, as regards those districts, to questions connected with cattle, except in so far as horses may be treated in the dispensaries maintained by the Department. The districts in question are those, situated in the Punjab, Baluchistan, Sind, and the United Provinces, in which horse or mule breeding specially flourishes. Outside them, the Civil Department controls breeding operations of every sort. Government stallions will be allotted only to the selected districts, but the stallions belonging to District Boards in the non-selected districts are controlled by the Department. Of these there were on the register, at the end of 1903-04, 32 horse stallions, 86 ponies, and 75 donkeys, a large proportion in each case being located in the southern portions of the Punjab. The district horse and donkey stallions covered 5,700 mares in the year under report, the donkey stallions over 300 pony mares and 162 donkeys.

Horse, mule
and donkey
breeding.

As regards cattle, the operations of the Department are intended to be directed towards improvement of the breeds, investigation of diseases, and maintenance of veterinary dispensaries. Proposals have been under consideration for the establishment of bull-rearing runs throughout India, by which it is believed that the recognised breeds could be improved or maintained, and measures have been taken in several provinces to give effect to the scheme. The most important centre of cattle-breeding is the Hissar Cattle Farm, which was taken over by the Civil Veterinary Department for a seven years' period in 1898-99. The farm contains 11 herd bulls and 736 cows, selected with great care as good specimens of the Harriana and Nagore breeds, besides a large number of young stock and cultivation bullocks, and some mules, donkeys and zebras. Thirty-seven bulls were issued from the farm during the year, nearly all of them having been purchased by the Punjab Government. They were carefully reared, pure-bred Harriana cattle, and are sure to improve rapidly the stock of the districts in which they are placed. By the end of the period of seven years, the farm will be able to supply from fifty to one hundred true-bred bulls annually to the districts at prices ranging from £10 to £13. Mule and donkey breeding operations are also carried on at the farm; and the cultivation has been greatly improved. Rapid progress has been made throughout all branches of the farm, which is now in a satisfactory financial position. A large number of cattle fairs and shows were inspected and favourable reports were generally given of the classes of animals shown. Prizes are offered both out of Imperial and local funds.

Cattle-
breeding.

CIVIL
VETERINARY DE-
PARTMENT.
Horse and
cattle
disease.

Arrangements were being made to introduce and work the Glanders and Farcy Act in Calcutta, where the disease is very prevalent. Cases dealt with by officers of the Department amounted to 72 in all India; but this is a mere fraction of the probable actual number which occurred.

Among cattle, a considerable number of deaths from rinderpest were reported in Bengal, Burma and Madras, and the number of deaths from disease in all provinces is returned at 258,400, a figure which the Head of the Department considers to be approximately correct. Very material progress was made with preventive inoculation in each province. This practice is being introduced whenever possible, and it is generally found that villagers have no objection to it when its advantages are explained to them. In the Darjeeling and Chittagong hill tracts, only 3.25 per cent. of the injected animals succumbed in affected herds, whereas in an ordinary outbreak of rinderpest among such cattle from 90 to 98 per cent. usually die. The number of outbreaks of rinderpest dealt with was 390, and 47,360 cattle were immunised, of whom only 280 died. So with regard to anthrax inoculation; 48 outbreaks were dealt with, 6,385 were animals immunised, and only 33 died. A serum for hæmorrhagic septicæmia and one for charbon symptomatique are being prepared at the Muktesar Laboratory, and much other good work was done. The Bacteriologist and part of his staff conduct operations at Bareilly during part of the year. Veterinary dispensaries, attended by veterinary assistants, have been established in most provinces. The number of veterinary assistants under the Civil Veterinary Department was 308.

Veterinary
instruction.

The total number of students who passed out from the various veterinary colleges and schools was 103, of whom 50 had gone through a three years' course, the remainder having taken the salutri's two-year course at Bombay or having passed through the Ajmere College or Burma School. The Ajmere College was to be amalgamated with the Punjab College from April 1904, when the course was to become a three years' one. A veterinary college was started in temporary premises in the Madras Presidency, at first with only 20 students. When the College has been properly equipped it will be one of the best in India. There is a great demand for veterinary graduates and assistants, and good men find no difficulty in getting suitable employment.

MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINING.

MINERAL
RESOURCES.

A review of the mineral production of India during the six years, 1898 to 1903, by Mr. Holland, Director of the Geological Survey of India, has recently been published among the records of that Survey. The following notes, which are based on it, present only a very brief and imperfect summary of the large amount of information which it contains.

There has been a great increase in the value of the output of all minerals, which may be roughly stated as £5,000,000 in 1903 against £3,500,000 in 1898. But while there has been remarkable progress in developing the few minerals which are consumed by direct processes, such as coal, gold, &c., the minerals and metalliferous ores which depend for their successful exploitation on the utilisation of bye-products have, necessarily in the circumstances of the country's industries, been neglected.

COAL.

In the case of coal, the Indian out-put has risen from a little over 4 million tons in 1897 to 7½ million tons in 1903, the Bengal mines giving an increasing proportion of the total. The figures are given below. It will be noticed that the output in 1903 is only slightly higher than that of 1902,

owing partly to a check in the production at the Singareni mine in Hyderabad, by a serious mining accident in June 1903.

MINERAL
RESOURCES.

	Coal produced in					
	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Bengal	3,622,100	4,035,300	4,978,500	5,487,600	6,259,200	6,361,200
Hyderabad	394,600	401,200	469,300	421,200	455,400	362,700
Assam	200,300	225,600	216,700	254,100	221,100	239,300
Rewah State	134,700	164,600	164,500	164,400	171,500	193,300
Central Provinces	149,700	156,600	172,800	191,500	197,000	159,200
Elsewhere	106,800	110,000	116,900	116,900	120,300	122,700
Total	4,608,200	5,093,300	6,118,700	6,635,700	7,424,500	7,438,400

During the six years the exports of coal have overtaken, and are now far ahead of, the imports. The railways have reduced their purchases of foreign coal almost to vanishing point, while at the same time their demand has formed a gradually shrinking fraction of the total output of the Indian mines, a fact which points to the development of other coal consuming industries. Of the coal which is imported, the greater part comes from the United Kingdom. The exports go for the most part to Ceylon and the Straits Settlements.

Although there are promising deposits of iron ore in India, only one attempt **IRON.** to manufacture iron on European lines, namely, the Barakur Iron and Steel Company's undertaking, has hitherto been successful. That company at present has manufactured pig iron only, but arrangements have been made for starting the manufacture of steel. Prospecting operations on a large scale have, however, been carried on recently in the Central Provinces, the results in one area being unfavourable and in the other undetermined at the time when the report was written. The Native charcoal-iron industry still holds its own outside the range of the railways which distribute the cheap imported material. The iron ore raised in Bengal in 1903 is stated as 61,300 tons, and there are small quantities returned from the Central Provinces and other areas. The large and increasing imports of iron and steel into India seem to show that there is room in the country for a large iron manufacturing industry.

The production of gold has shown a steady increase, from 390,600 ounces, **GOLD.** valued at £1,568,000, in 1897, to 603,200 ounces, valued at £2,302,500, in 1903. Nearly all the output comes from the Kolar gold fields in the Mysore State, though promising work in reef mining has recently been commenced in Hyderabad and in the Dharwar district of Bombay, while preparations are also being made to extend dredging operations on the Upper Irrawaddy in Burma.

The rapid rise of manganese ore mining is probably just now the most **MANGANESE.** conspicuous feature of the mineral industry in India. Starting in the year 1893, the production has risen to 171,800 tons in 1903. Up to 1899, the ore came exclusively from Madras, but since then a still larger quantity (101,500 tons in 1903) has been obtained from the Central Provinces, where the ore bodies are very rich and pure. Deposits have also been discovered recently in the Bombay Presidency, while a small quantity came from the Gwalior State in the year under report.

India supplies something like half the world's demand for mica. **MICA.** The returns of the output are untrustworthy, but the amount exported in 1903-04 was 21,500 cwt., of which about 18,000 cwt. came from Bengal, the chief seat of the industry. It is, however, to be observed that the Indian producer has not secured a satisfactorily large share of the recently increased trade in this mineral.

The ruby industry in Burma has been prosperous during recent years, **RUBIES.** the yield of rubies in the year 1903 being stated as 231,600 carats. The Ruby Mines Company has prospered under the revised terms of lease granted by Government in 1898, and the receipts in 1903 are given as £98,600.

MINERAL RESOURCES. **PETROLEUM.** The petroleum industry has advanced at a greater rate than any other of the Indian mineral industries in recent years, and the year under report saw the greatest advance of any, as the production rose from 56,607,700 gallons in 1902 to 87,859,100 gallons in 1903. The internal production, which came, all but 2½ million gallons, from Burma, for the first time almost equalled the imports (88½ million gallons). There is besides a considerable export of paraffin wax (43,900 cwts. in 1903-04). Of the oil imported in 1903, 80 per cent. came from Russia, and 15 per cent. from the United States, the latter trade showing a recovery from the low figures of the two preceding years. Of the Burma oilfields, that of Yenangyaung in the Magwe district still occupies by far the most important place, the Yenangyat field in the Pakokku district coming next. A new field, at Singu in the Myingyan district, came into prominence in 1903, producing over 5½ million gallons.

Inspection of Mines.

The number of mines of all kinds coming under the Mines Act of 1901, that is to say, excluding quarries or excavations of a less depth than 20 feet, was 646 in the year under report, of which 295 were coal mines, situated chiefly in Bengal. They gave employment to 102,200 persons, of whom 66,900 were men, 30,700 women, and 4,600 children; 68,300 of them, including 20,100 women and 1,700 children, were employed below ground. The coal trade being comparatively dull during 1903, there was a decrease in the persons employed, to the number, it is stated, of 9,400 as compared with 1902. But in ordinary times the supply of mining labour is stated to be inadequate, and the position of the miners is an advantageous one. The wages at coal and gold mines are good, and those at coal mines in particular are said to have increased 50 per cent. in the last 10 years. Coal miners earn 5, 6, or 7 annas, or more, a day, and a miner and his wife may sometimes earn a rupee a day between them. At other classes of mines the rates are not so good. There were 68 fatal accidents, causing 81 deaths, during the year 1903, and 84 serious accidents, resulting in injury to 87 persons. Inspections of mines by the three members of the inspecting staff numbered 540, and 67 mines were also inspected by district and other officers. The establishment of a school of mines was under consideration in Bengal.

CHAPTER XI.

PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC
WORKS.
General.

During the year under review the Public Works Department was represented in the Council of the Governor-General by Sir A. T. Arundel, K.C.S.I. The post of Public Works Secretary was held throughout the year by Mr. A. Brereton, C.S.I.

The engineer establishment of the Department, including Bombay and Madras, but excluding the now separate Military Works Department, was maintained at a strength much the same as that of the preceding year.

The following statement shows the composition of the superior engineer establishment, as it stood on the 30th June in 1903 and 1902:—

	Government of India List.	Government of Madras List.	Government of Bombay List.	Total.
Royal Engineer officers - - -	54	5	3	62
Other military officers - - -	8	—	—	8
<i>Civil Engineers:</i>				
Appointed from Europe - - -	308	56	46	410
Europeans appointed in India - -	147	2	6	155
Natives appointed in India - -	71	20	27	118
Total for 1903 - - -	588	83	82	753
Total for 1902 - - -	588	86	79	753

The upper subordinate engineering staff is largely composed of natives. The numbers of this establishment in the three Presidencies were as follows:—

	India.	Madras.	Bombay.	Total.
Europeans - - - - -	176	54	23	253
Natives - - - - -	350	122	176	648
Total - - - - -	526	176	199	901

The engineering branch of the Department is divided into two services, Imperial and Provincial, the former of which is recruited in England and the latter in India. The pay, and leave and pension rules, of the two services are different, but in other respects there is no distinction between the members of the two divisions, and the highest posts in the Department are open to both. The civilian element of the Imperial service is recruited from the Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill; it has been decided, however, to close this College at the end of October 1906, and the recruitment of certain candidates in 1905 will be made from students who have obtained one of the University degrees prescribed by the Secretary of State in Council or such diploma or other distinction in Engineering at some Institution connected with one of the Universities named as may in the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor of that University be approximately equivalent thereto. In making these appointments the Secretary of State for India will act with the advice of a Selection Committee, including at least one eminent representative of the engineering profession. It is also proposed by the Secretary of State, as at present advised, to recruit the permanent establishment in this country on the same general lines in future years. The Provincial service draws its recruits from students of the Indian colleges who are natives of India, and from upper subordinates of the Public Works Department.

The operations of the Department deal with three kinds of works, viz., Railways, Irrigation, and Buildings and Roads. The Railway Department

PUBLIC
WORKS.

is an Imperial service under the direct control of the Government of India; the establishment employed on irrigation, and on buildings and roads, is subdivided into different Provincial services, controlled by the local administrations subordinate to the Supreme Government. Under the head of "Buildings and Roads" are included many miscellaneous works, such as improvements in towns, paving, water supply and drainage, harbours, lighthouses, &c.

The annual expenditure on public works is met partly from money raised by loan, and partly from the ordinary revenues of the year. The class of works on which borrowed money is expended comprises the railway and large irrigation works, which are expected to yield sufficient net revenue to cover the interest on the capital expended on them. For the railways and more important irrigation systems, distinct capital and revenue accounts are kept, but for the smaller works of irrigation, and most of the works included in the class of buildings and roads, such accounts are not kept, though a distinction is made in the accounts between expenditure on new works and expenditure on repairs to existing works.

The following statement of the total receipts and expenditure under the head of "Public Works" for 1903-04 is compiled from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the year :—

		RECEIPTS.	
		£	
Railways	- - - - -	21,557,866	
Irrigation	- - - - -	2,911,763	
Buildings and Roads	- - - - -	555,503	
	TOTAL - - - - -	25,025,132	

		EXPENDITURE.	
		Charged to Revenue.	Not Charged to Revenue.
<i>Railways :</i>		£	£
Construction	- - - - -	26,550	4,535,105
On Revenue Account	- - - - -	20,697,197	—
<i>Irrigation :</i>			
Construction	- - - - -	123,122	507,898
Ditto from Famine Relief Grant	- - - - -	144,446	—
On Revenue Account	- - - - -	2,556,885	—
<i>Buildings and Roads :</i>			
Military Works	- - - - -	1,034,654	—
Civil Works	- - - - -	4,602,254	—
	TOTAL - - - - -	29,185,108	5,043,003

The expenditure charged against revenue includes the following items of "Interest on Debt" :—

		£
Railways	- - - - -	4,441,781
Irrigation	- - - - -	994,235

On the 31st of March 1903, £122,563,691 of permanent public debt had been incurred on account of railways, and £25,555,952 on account of irrigation.

The amount paid under the head of "Annuities in purchase of railways," which is included in the Railway Revenue Account, is £3,004,620, of which £1,268,582 is in respect of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, purchased in 1900.

RAILWAYS.

RAILWAYS.

A full account of the results of railway operations in India is given in the Railway Administration Report annually presented to Parliament, and the aim of the following section is merely to give a short summary of the chief facts. As the accounts of the several railways had not been finally closed when the following statistics for the year 1903 were prepared, the figures must be accepted as only approximately correct.

In the financial year 1903-04 there was a surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to £860,669. The table below is taken from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1903-04:—

	Imperial.	Provincial and Local.	England (sterling converted at £1 = Rs. 15).	TOTAL.
REVENUE.				
Railways—	£	£	£	£
State railways—(Gross traffic receipts).	20,543,018	33,343	230	20,576,591
Guaranteed companies—(Net traffic receipts).	941,463	—	—	941,463
Subsidised companies—(Repayment of advances of interest).	32,590	—	7,222	39,812
TOTAL	21,517,071	33,343	7,452	21,557,866
EXPENDITURE.				
Railway Revenue Account—				
State Railways—				
Working expenses	10,359,100	19,058	—	10,378,158
Interest on debt	3,301,384	—	1,140,396	4,441,780
Annuities in the purchase of railways.	—	—	3,004,620	3,004,620
Interest chargeable against companies on advances.	194,327	2,469	218,885	415,681
Interest on capital deposited by companies.	25,506	3,066	1,193,429	1,222,001
Guaranteed companies—				
Surplus profits, land and supervision.	102,066	—	—	102,066
Interest	15,245	—	1,032,772	1,048,017
Subsidised companies—				
Land, &c.	29,997	503	—	30,500
Miscellaneous railway expenditure	48,082	6,292	—	54,374
TOTAL	14,075,707	31,388	6,590,102	20,697,197
		Net gain	£	860,669

In the figures of expenditure are included all charges falling on the Government for management and working expenses of railways, for interest on their capital outlay, as well as for the gradual redemption (by charge to the revenue account) of the commuted capital of the East Indian, Eastern Bengal, Sind-Punjab and Delhi, and Great Indian Peninsula railways, through the agency of sinking funds and annuities, and of that portion of the Oudh and Rohilkhand railway debt incurred in excess of the money raised through the agency of the "Discount" Sinking Fund. The figures also include charges for land required by the companies, for control, and for miscellaneous items, such as headquarters establishment and surveys.

2. The statistical results of working of the various classes of railways during 1904 are given in the following table. The aggregate net earnings of all Indian railways, including steam-boat service and suspense items, but excluding other indirect charges, amounted to 5.94 per cent. of the

Statistical results of working.

RAILWAYS. total capital outlay on open lines, against 5·65 per cent. in the previous year:—

Class.	Length of Line Open on the 31st December 1904.	Total Capital Outlay on Open Lines to the 31st December 1904, including Steamboat and Suspense.	Total Number of Passengers Carried.	Total Weight of Goods Carried.	Gross Earnings, including Steam-boat Service.	Working Expenses, including Steam-boat Service.	Net Earnings, including Steam-boat Service.	Percentage of net Earnings on Capital Outlay on Open Lines.
5' 6" Gauge.								
State lines worked by companies	Miles. 6,915·22	£ 84,949,184	No. 58,804,457	Tons. 22,285,336	£ 10,506,034	£ 4,507,185	£ 5,998,849	
State lines worked by the State	4,840·06	50,714,240	41,376,936	10,797,658	5,831,327	2,376,900	3,454,427	
Companies' lines guaranteed under old contracts.	1,408·36	17,516,266	29,766,392	2,117,378	2,078,000	1,066,067	1,011,933	
Companies' lines guaranteed under modern contracts.	32·04	191,400	210,400	56,300	17,500	8,760	8,760	
Assisted companies' lines	844·18	4,352,484	5,206,042	913,656	466,202	101,455	214,747	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies.	709·93	4,719,778	3,087,547	1,415,548	263,524	136,041	228,483	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by State railway agency.	201·70	787,000	2,105,107	293,318	92,933	49,133	43,800	
TOTAL FOR 1904	14,951·47	163,234,012	140,665,852	39,009,706	19,205,620	8,933,231	10,462,389	6·41
TOTAL FOR 1903*	14,476·91	159,223,200	127,385,000	33,366,000	17,563,067	8,054,257	9,508,800	5·97
3' 3½" Gauge.								
State lines worked by companies	7,382·08	45,775,395	55,726,031	9,208,738	4,277,688	2,347,197	1,930,491	
State lines worked by the State	692·63	4,577,089	5,083,400	1,061,500	571,840	286,933	284,907	
Companies' lines guaranteed under modern contracts.	†	†	120,618	19,000	4,541	2,043	2,498	
District Boards' lines	99·46	300,467	1,603,000	476,000	34,932	16,934	17,999	
Assisted companies' lines	1,345·44	6,289,739	14,835,488	2,396,678	1,023,538	435,565	587,973	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies.	724·22	3,045,000	8,653,997	740,093	242,692	143,783	98,899	
Lines owned and worked by Native States.	1,223·04	2,794,136	8,160,601	628,197	319,025	143,673	176,353	
Lines in foreign territory	73·60	1,004,856	743,100	244,172	20,204	26,400	12,804	
TOTAL FOR 1904	11,540·47	63,786,981	84,935,325	14,964,273	6,513,451	3,407,527	3,105,924	4·87
TOTAL FOR 1903* and †	11,353·76	60,389,133	78,824,900	13,876,000	6,236,000	3,206,067	3,019,933	5·00
Special (2' 6" and 2' 0") Gauges.								
State lines worked by companies	270·21	699,183	†	†	21,186	14,206	6,980	
State lines worked by the State	30·26	60,415	162,864	9,421	4,899	5,095	—196	
Assisted companies' lines	300·34	1,819,503	2,665,954	220,205	160,470	66,286	73,182	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies.	339·81	612,313	890,281	97,442	35,167	23,143	12,024	
Lines owned by Native States and worked by State railway agency.	33·60	98,221	169,800	91,100	9,600	3,800	5,700	
Lines owned and worked by Native States.	94·36	162,921	294,485	22,921	23,467	10,952	12,515	
TOTAL FOR 1904 ‡	1,068·57	3,442,556	4,173,394	451,089	263,659	153,454	110,205	3·30
TOTAL FOR 1903* and ‡	1,015·88	3,364,267	4,017,700	442,000	216,400	146,983	69,467	2·06
TOTAL OF ALL RAILWAYS FOR 1904 §	27,680·61	230,462,980	229,774,501	64,323,667	26,072,761	12,391,242	13,676,519	5·94
TOTAL OF ALL RAILWAYS FOR 1903*, ‡ and §	26,851·29	222,976,600	210,230,600	47,684,000	24,006,487	11,407,267	12,598,200	5·65

It will be observed that, with an increase of 709·22 miles or 2·64 per cent. in the open mileage, as compared with 1903, the gross earnings and working expenses increased by £2,067,294 or 8·61 per cent., and £386,975 or 8·65 per cent., respectively, resulting in a gain of £1,080,319 or 8·58 per cent. in the net earnings.

There was an increase of 19,543,991 in the number of passengers and of 6,641,067 tons in the weight of goods carried as compared with the previous year.

* As corrected from later information.

† Included with State lines worked by the State, 3' 3½" gauge. The figures shown in the subsequent columns represent the transactions of the Brahmaputra-Sutanpur Branch railway, which was purchased by the State on the 1st April 1904.

‡ Included with the 6' 6" gauge.

§ Excluding the Thaton-Duyinzak Light Railway.

¶ Excluding the Damchura-Lumding section, 96·70 miles.

¶ The difference between this figure and the total length shown as opened during 1904 in paragraph 4 is due to the exclusion of the Damchura-Lumding section, 96·70 miles, from the figures of 1903, and to the abandonment of 5·24 miles of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and to minor corrections in the mileage of open lines in the year under review.

3. The transactions of the original guaranteed lines are shown in the following table, in which the rupee is converted into sterling at contract rates :—

RAILWAYS.
Guaranteed
railway
transactions.

RAILWAYS.	Total Capital Outlay.	Net Revenue.	Guaranteed Interest.	Interest in Excess of Revenue.	Net Revenue in Excess of Interest.	Surplus Profits.
HALF-YEAR ENDED THE 30TH JUNE 1904.	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India.	10,950,697	354,833	245,729	—	109,104	109,197*
Madras - - - -	12,306,641	294,052	286,511	—	7,541	3,794†
Total - - - -	23,257,338	648,885	532,240	—	116,645	112,991
HALF-YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER 1904.						
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India.	10,970,587	241,741	246,015	4,274	—	—
Madras - - - -	12,369,561	278,273	288,962	10,689	—	—
Total - - - -	23,340,148	520,014	534,977	14,963	—	—
Total for the year 1904.	23,340,148	1,168,899	1,067,217	—	101,682	112,991
Total for the year 1903.	23,195,074	1,079,833	1,052,092	—	27,741	135,085‡

4. The total railway mileage on each gauge opened during the year and the sections opened were as follows :—

	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
5' 6" Gauge—			
Bengal Central—			
Dum Dum to Pattipooker - - - -	—	2·68†	
Bengal Nagpur—			
Fort Gloster branch - - - -	3·00		
Aldih branch - - - -	2·55		
Jamadhoba loop - - - -	5·23§		
Southern half of the Malkera - Katrasgarh cross connection.	0·71	11·49	
Agra-Delhi Chord—			
Raja Kir Mandi (Agra) to Delhi Sadr - - - -	—	120·10	
Madras—			
Cannanore to Azhikal - - - -	—	4·10	
North Western State—			
Hyderabad to Badin - - - -	—	61·84	
Oudh and Rohilkhand State—			
Fyzabad to Sultanpur - - - -	35·50		
Siwait to Phaphamau - - - -	3·27		
Hapur to Meerut - - - -	18·09		
		56·86	
3' 3½" Gauge—			257·07
Bengal and North-Western (Company's section)—			
Kopaganj to Dohrighat - - - -	21·70		
Aunrihar to Jaunpur - - - -	36·14	57·84	
Rajputana-Malwa (Rewari-Phulera Chord)—			
Rewari to Narnaul - - - -	—	32·63	
Burma—			
Suburban lines at Bassein - - - -	—	3·18	
Tinnevely-Quilon (Travancore) (British section)—			
Portion of the British section near the Frontier of the Travancore State and near Shencottah - - - -	—	0·91	
Tinnevely-Quilon (Travancore) (Native State section)—			
Quilon to the British Frontier near Shencottah - - - -	—	57·62	
		152·18	
Carried over - - - -			409·25

* The excess of "Surplus profits" over "Net revenue in excess of Interest" is due to the exclusion of expenditure on the Viramgam-Wadhwan section from the surplus profits account.

† Passed provisionally.

‡ Previously treated as a siding.

§ Includes 1·33 miles opened in 1903.

|| Opened in 1903.

RAILWAYS.

	Brought forward	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
2' 6" Gauge—				409·25
Bengal-Nagpur—				
Nainpur to Chhindwara		87·54		
Nainpur to Burgi		51·00		
			138·54	
Gaekwar's Dabhoi—				
Mhoba to Masor Road (Kanjal)			6·49	
Tarakeshwar-Magra—				
Magra to Tribeni			2·15	
				147·18
2' 0" Gauge—				
Gwalior—				
Gwalior to Sabalgarh			57·19	
Howrah-Amra—				
Jagatballubpur to Autpur			8·50	
				65·69
	TOTAL			622·12

Mileage sanctioned.

5. The additional lengths sanctioned for construction were:—

	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
5' 6" Gauge—			
Bengal Central—			
Dum Dum to Pattipooker		2·68*	
Petlad-Cambay (Tarapur-Cambay section)—			
Cambay to Cambay Bandar		1·39	
East Indian—			
Hariharpur to Dhanbaid†	21·43‡		
Nagri to Kusunda	1·59‡		
Khurja to Hapur	39·49		
			62·51
Great Indian Peninsula—			
Warora, <i>via</i> Chanda to Bellarpur		37·59	
Indian Midland—			
Cawnpore Collectorgunge branch	0·63‡		
Balinganj branch	4·34‡		
			4·97
Nagda-Muttra—			
Nagda to the crossing of the Chambal river		141·52	
North-Western State—			
Shahdara to Sangla		55·17	
			305·83
3' 3½" Gauge—			
Bengal and North-Western (Company's section)—			
Savan to Thawe	17·00		
Dharonda to Maharajganj	3·90		
			20·90
Burma—			
Heuzada to Kyangiu		65·66	
Eastern Bengal State—			
Katihar to Godagari		105·00	
Jodhpur-Bikaner (Jodhpur section)—			
Merta Road to Merta City		8·95	
South Indian—			
Mandapam to Rameswaram temple	10·12		
Tangachimadam to Port Amphill	1·71		
			11·83
			212·34
2' 6" Gauge—			
Bengal-Nagpur—			
Gondia to Chanda	158·00		
Pauni (Brahmapuri) to Nagpur	63·75		
Pench Valley Extensions—			
Chhindwara to Burcooie	21·36		
Khursadeyi to Sirgora	7·76		
			250·87
			250·87
	Carried over		769·04

* Previously treated as a siding.

† Sanction includes the provision of a second track, 25·09 miles, between Dhanbaid and Barakar.

‡ Sanctioned prior to 1st January 1904.

	Brought forward	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	RAILWAYS.
2' 0" Gauge—		—	—	769·04	
Gwalior—					
Sabalgar to Shiupur - - - - -		—	68·60		
Matheran—					
Neral to Matheran - - - - -		—	12·00		
				<u>80·60</u>	
TOTAL - - - - -				<u>849·64</u>	

6. The total mileage under construction or sanctioned for construction at the close of the year, i.e., on the 31st December 1904, was as follows:—

	Miles.	Miles.	Mileage under construction.
5' 6" Gauge—			
State lines worked by companies - - - - -	468·69		
State lines worked by the State - - - - -	553·42		
Assisted companies' lines - - - - -	154·00		
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies - - - - -	1·39		
		<u>1,177·50</u>	
3' 3½" Gauge—			
State lines worked by companies - - - - -	635·40		
State lines worked by the State - - - - -	300·87		
District Boards' lines - - - - -	5·53		
Assisted companies' lines - - - - -	295·94		
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies - - - - -	72·85		
Lines owned and worked by Native States - - - - -	8·95		
		<u>1,319·54</u>	
Special (2' 6" and 2' 0") Gauges—			
State lines worked by companies - - - - -	334·29		
State lines worked by the State - - - - -	6·80		
Assisted companies' lines - - - - -	345·37		
Lines owned by Native States and worked by companies - - - - -	100·70		
Lines owned by Native States and worked by State railway agency - - - - -	22·02		
Lines owned and worked by Native States - - - - -	11·86		
		<u>821·04</u>	
TOTAL - - - - -		<u>3,318·08</u>	

7. The following gives a brief abstract of the important works completed and in progress during the year 1904:—

Bengal-Nagpur Railway System.—The work of doubling the main line between Bauria and Khargpur, 57·72 miles, was continued during the year. It is expected that the second line between Bauria and Ulubaria, 5 miles, will be opened shortly for traffic. The construction of the Bhojudih-Hariharpur Chord, 26·96 miles, is in progress. Arrangements for renewing the girders, six spans of 170 feet, of the Kanhan bridge near Kamptee are in hand.

Of the Jubbulpore-Gondia 2' 6" gauge extensions, the sections from Nainpur to Seoni, 47 miles, Seoni to Chaurai, 19·25 miles, Chaurai to Chhindwara, 21·29 miles, and Nainpur to Burgi, 51 miles, were opened for traffic on the 12th February, 28th July, 1st September, and 5th July 1904, respectively. Good progress has been made with the Nerbudda bridge, 11 spans of 100 feet, on the Burgi-Jubbulpore section. The re-survey of the Nainpur-Mandla branch, 22·67 miles, has been completed.

The construction of the 2' 6" gauge extensions from Chhindwara to Burcooie, 21·36 miles, and Khursadeyi to Sirgora, 7·76 miles, in the Pench Valley, is in hand.

The re-survey of the Gondia-Chanda extension, including the Pauni (Brahmapuri)-Nagpur branch, 221·75 miles, has been commenced.

It is expected that the 2' 6" gauge light railway from Baripada Road station on the Northern section of the East Coast State Railway, to Baripada, 32·10 miles, which is under construction by the Native State of Moharbhunj, will be opened for traffic in January 1905. Arrangements have been made for the working of the line by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company.

Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway System.—The remaining section of the Gaekwar's Dabhoi Railway from Mobha to Masor Road (Kanjat), 6·49 miles, was opened for traffic on the 1st November 1904.

RAILWAYS.

The first section of the Rewari-Phulera Chord from Rewari to Narnaul, 32·63 miles, was opened for traffic on the 11th December 1904. It is expected that the Narnaul-Phulera section, 100·69 miles, will be opened by May 1905.

The Jaipur Durbar has arranged to provide funds during the next three years for the completion of the Jaipur-Siwai Madhopur Railway, 72·85 miles, the construction of which had been deferred temporarily. Work will be resumed shortly on the first 43 miles of the railway.

Eastern Bengal State Railway System.—In connection with the scheme for quadrupling the line between Ballygunge and Naihati, 27·35 miles, the Kankurgachi-Dum Dum junction section, 3·25 miles, is expected to be opened for traffic by March 1905.

The construction of the Kankurgachi-Gobra junction double line chord, 2·25 miles, was proceeded with. One line is expected to be laid through by June 1905, and the second line by June 1906.

The remodelling of the station yard at and approaches to Parbatipur junction, on the Northern section of the railway, is expected to be completed in 1905.

It is expected that the Kaunia-Bonarpara extension, 44·25 miles, will be opened for traffic in April 1905.

Work is in progress on the Golokganj-Dhubri extension, 151·62 miles. It is expected that the first section from Golokganj to Salmara Road, 55 miles, will be opened for traffic by the end of 1905.

On the Murshidabad branch, Ranaghat to Lalgola, 97·50 miles, rails were linked in from Ranaghat to Jeaganj, 81 miles, on the 27th October 1904. The brickwork of the bridges over the Churni river (3 spans of 120 feet) and Jellinghee river (3 spans of 120 feet and 1 span of 250 feet with 35 feet headway) has been completed and girder erection is in progress. It is expected that the branch will be opened for traffic by December 1905.

Preliminary arrangements have been made for the acquisition of land for the Katihar-Malda section, 52·84 miles, of the Katihar-Godagari railway.

East Indian Railway.—In connection with the Gya-Barakar project, work is in progress on the railway from Manpur (Gya) to Dhanbaid including the Nagri-Kusunda connection, 123·08 miles, and on the second line between Dhanbaid and Barakar, 25·09 miles. Work on the Khurja-Hapur branch, 39·49 miles, the Ondal-Sainthia Chord, 44·93 miles, is also in progress. The Shikohabad-Furrakhabad branch, 65·82 miles, is approaching completion.

At Howrah, the new station building, the riverside goods warehouse, and the new locomotive yard are in hand; and at Allahabad, good progress has been made with the works in connection with the entrance of the Allahabad-Fyzabad Railway, and the remodelling of the station.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway System.—On the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, works in connection with the strengthening and renewal of bridge girders were continued. Considerable progress has been made with the construction of the second line between Khandwa and Itarsi, 110·42 miles, and it is expected that the up road will be available for traffic by April 1905, though single line working will be necessary over two or three large bridges for some time. A commencement has been made with the construction of the Warora-Bellarapur extension, 37·59 miles.

On the Indian Midland Railway, the new goods depôt at Cawnpore has been completed practically, and work on the goods depôt, at Balinganj, Agra, is well in hand.

The first section of the Agra-Delhi Chord Railway, from Delhi Sadr to Kosi, 62·62 miles, was opened for traffic on the 15th November 1904, and the section from Kosi to Raja Kir Mandi (Agra), 57·48 miles, on the 3rd of December 1904.

The Gwalior-Jora Alapur section, 31·34 miles, and the Jora Alapur-Sabalgarh section, 25·85 miles, of the Gwalior Light Railway were opened for traffic on the 1st January and 1st December 1904, respectively.

Madras Railway System.—The remaining section of the Calicut-Azhikal extension of the South-West line of the Madras Railway from Cannanore to

Azikhāl, 4·10 miles, was opened for traffic on the 15th March 1904. On the State line from Azikhāl to Mangalore, 77·27 miles, which is being built by the agency of Madras Railway Company, about three-fourths of the earthwork has been completed, the heading of the tunnel at Chandragiri has been commenced, and the work of sinking the wells of major bridges is in progress.

Of the two famine protective branch railways, nearly three-fourths of the earthwork of the Morappur-Dharmapuri line, 18·36 miles, has been completed and a commencement made with the bridgework. On the Tirupattur-Krishnagiri line, 25·43 miles, rails have been laid to Krishnagiri. Sidings remain to be put in.

The work of re-constructing certain bridges on the North-East line (Southern section, East Coast State Railway) which were damaged by floods, and that of providing additional waterway, has been practically completed. Good progress has been made with the earthwork and station buildings of the link from Korukkupettai to Basin Road, which will connect the North-East line (Southern section, East Coast State Railway) and the South-West line of the Madras Railway.

Construction is in progress on the first mile of the extension of the Nilgiri Railway from Coonoor to Ootacamund, 11·50 miles.

North-Western State Railway System.—The work of doubling the line between Mooltan Cantonment and Mooltan City stations, 1·25 miles, has been completed. Of the second track between Samasata and Rohri, 208·50 miles, construction is in progress on the Samasata-Reti section, 138·50 miles, and arrangements have been made to start work on the second track between Lahore and Amritsar, 32·30 miles.

The line from Hyderabad to Badin, 61·84 miles, which will probably form part of a through route between Sind and Bombay, was opened for traffic on the 15th August 1904.

Good progress has been made on the Quetta-Nushki branch, 82·50 miles, and on the southern section of the Jech-Doab branch between Sargoda and Jhang, 69 miles. It is expected that rails will be laid through on the former branch by the second quarter of 1905.

Arrangements have been made to start work on the Shahdara-Sangla Chord line, 55·17 miles.

The Conversion of the 2' 6" gauge line between Khushalgarh and Kohat, 29·70 miles, to the 5' 6" gauge, and the construction of the approaches of the permanent bridge over the Indus river at Khushalgarh are in hand.

Good progress has been made with the construction of the Ludhiana-MacLeod Ganj Road extension, 154 miles, of the Southern Punjab Railway. It is expected that the extension will be opened for traffic in April 1905.

Oudh and Rohilkhand State Railway.—The sections of the Allahabad-Fyzabad branch from Siwait to Phaphamau, 3·27 miles, and from Fyzabad to Sultanpur, 35·50 miles, were opened for traffic on the 20th January and 1st February 1904, respectively. The remaining section from Phaphamau to Allahabad, 7·98 miles, is expected to be opened for traffic in January 1905. The entrance into Allahabad will be obtained by means of a temporary bridge over the river Ganges. It is expected that the permanent bridge will be completed by the middle of 1905.

The branch from Hapur to Meerut, 18·09 miles, was opened for traffic on the 24th October 1904, and work has been commenced on the Phaphamau-Zafarabad branch, 57·50 miles.

Assam-Bengal Railway.—The hill section of this railway from Damchara to Lumding, 96·70 miles, which was opened for traffic on the 1st December 1903, was damaged seriously by exceptionally heavy rainfall in April 1904 and closed to traffic. Damages were repaired, and the line re-opened for all descriptions of traffic on the 1st November 1904.

The work on the second jetty at Chittagong was completed sufficiently to enable its being brought into use.

Bengal and North-Western Railway System.—Of the lines under construction on the Company's section, the extensions of the Ganges-Gogra Doab lines from Aunrihar to Jaunpur, 36·14 miles, and from Kopaganj to Dohrightat, 21·70 miles, were opened for traffic on the 21st March 1904.

RAILWAYS. Good progress has been made on the Uska Bazar-Tulsipur extension, 53·54 miles, of which the section from Uskabazar to Bahadurganj, 31 miles, has been inspected prior to its being opened for traffic. Arrangements are in progress to start work on the extensions from Gorakhpur to Bagaha, 60·94 miles, Savan to Thawe, 17 miles, and Daronda to Maharajganj, 3·90 miles.

The works necessary for the protection of the Kosi bridge (15 spans of 200 feet) on the Tirhoot section, were proceeded with. It is expected that the doubling of the existing line between Barauni and Bachhwara, 10·25 miles, will be completed by the close of 1905. The Sakri-Jaynagar extension, 30·47 miles, has been inspected prior to its being opened for traffic. The construction of the lines from Mansi to Bapthiahi with branch from Sihursa to Murliganj, 78·98 miles, Bairagnia to Biknathori, 79·55 miles, and Bettiah to Bagaha, 49·35 miles, is in hand.

Bengal Doocars Railway.—The Chalsa-Madarihat section, 38·60 miles, which had been damaged considerably by floods in 1903, and re-opened for traffic during that year, was again breached on the 30th May 1904. Traffic was resumed from Chalsa to Chengmari on the 6th June, Chengmari to Binnagauri on the 20th September, and Binnagauri to Madarihat on the 1st October 1904. The work of repairing flood damages and the provision of extra waterway is in progress. The bridge of 3 spans of 100 feet at mile 104 has been completed practically and a new bridge of 3 spans of 40 feet at mile 125 on a realignment is in course of erection.

Burma Railways.—The second tracks between Pazundaung and Thingangyun, 3·25 miles, and Insein and Hlawga, 8·25 miles, have been completed. Work on the Pegu-Martaban extension, 121·27 miles, and the Henzada-Kyangin extension, 65·66 miles, is in progress.

Jodhpur Railway.—It is expected that the branch from Merta Road to Merta City, 8·95 miles, which is being made will be opened shortly for traffic.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway System.—The earthwork of the Company's line from Bareilly to Soron, 56 miles, is well forward, and well sinking for the Ganges and other major bridges has been started. The existing section of the Rajputana-Malwa Railway between Kasganj and Soron, 9 miles, which will be purchased by the Company, has been re-laid with 50-lb. rails.

A commencement has been made with the extensions from Moradabad to Ramnagar, 47 miles, and Lalkua to Kashipur, 45 miles.

South Indian Railway System.—The new junction station at Maniyachi has been completed practically, and work on the locomotive shed and yard in connection with the scheme for re-arranging the Egmore station is in hand.

The remaining sections of the Tinnevely-Quilon (Travancore) Railway, from Quilon to Punalur, 28·28 miles, and from Punalur to the British frontier near Shencottah, 30·25 miles, were opened for traffic on the 1st June and 26th November 1904, respectively. The most important work on this branch is the Aryankavu tunnel, 2,924 feet long, which was completed to full section in July 1904.

The Arantangi quarry branch of the Tanjore District Board Railway, 3·90 miles, has been nearly completed.

Southern Mahratta Railway System.—Of the famine feeder lines under construction by the Southern Mahratta Railway Company on behalf of the State, it is expected that the Hospet-Kottur branch, 44·10 miles, will be opened for traffic during the first half of 1905, and the Bellary-Rayadrug branch, 33 miles, by the close of that year.

Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway.—This line from Baraset on the Bengal-Central Railway to Basirhat, 26 miles, is likely to be opened for traffic early in 1905.

Barsi Light Railway.—On the two extensions from Barsi town to Tadwala, 26·70 miles, and Barsi Road on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, to Pandharpur, 30·67 miles, the earthwork of which was thrown up by Government famine labour, construction was commenced on the former in September 1904, and the extension will probably be opened for traffic in April 1906. The latter extension will be taken in hand on the necessary capital being subscribed.

Cutch Railway.—This railway from Tuna to Anjar, 11·86 miles, is under construction by His Highness the Rao of Cutch. RAILWAYS.

Dwara-Therria Light Railway.—Work on the Dwara-Maolong section, 13·50 miles, has been suspended since June 1904 for want of funds.

Kalka-Simla Railway.—A large portion of the unfinished works on this railway has been completed.

Madura District Light Railway.—Messrs. Wilson & Co. of Madras, the promoters, were granted originally a concession for the construction under the Indian Tramways Act, of 2' 6" gauge lines from Ammayanayakkanur to Kotagudi, Perriyakulam to Krishna-Manaik's Tope and Theni to Karuvanath, a total length of 93 miles, but as there was no provision under the Tramways Act for payment of interest out of capital during construction, they submitted an amended application for a scheme for light railways to be constructed under the provisions of the Indian Railways Act. The promoters were informed that subject to their acceptance of certain conditions, they might proceed to raise the necessary capital for the line. They accepted the conditions in July 1902 and came to an agreement with the Madura District Board, which though signed, has not yet been registered pending the result of negotiations regarding capital in London.

Morvi Railway.—The conversion of the existing 2' 6" gauge line from Wadhwan to Rajkot, 77·61 miles, to the 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " gauge is in progress and is expected to be completed in March 1905. The scheme provides for 30 miles of new line on a separate alignment between Wadhwan and Than Road.

Tarakeshwar-Magra Light Railway.—The extension from Magra to Tribeni, 2·15 miles, was opened for traffic on the 14th April 1904.

Howrah-Amta Light Railway.—The extension from Jagatbullabpur to Autpur, 8·50 miles, was opened for traffic on the 1st June 1904.

Jorhat State Railway.—The breach which was caused by floods on the Gosnigaon-Patiagaon section of this railway in September 1904, was repaired and through communication between Jorhat and the River Terminus stations restored in December of the same year.

8. The following were the principal events in 1904. :—

General.—Notice has been given to the Bengal Central Railway Company of termination, with effect from the 1st July 1905, of the Company's contract made with the Secretary of State for India on the 5th January 1887. The Bengal Central Railway will, on purchase by the State, be merged in the Eastern Bengal State Railway system.

The 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " gauge line from Santahar (Sultanpur) on the Northern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway to Fulchhari, 59·37 miles, and the 2' 6" gauge line from Aistala Ghat, on the right bank of the Churni river near Ranaghat, to Krishnagar, 20·25 miles, were purchased by Government from the Brahmaputra-Sultanpur Branch Railway Company and the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Light Railway Company with effect from the 1st April and 1st July 1904 respectively, and incorporated with the Eastern Bengal State railway system.

The 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " gauge line from Debiganj to Anchara Ghat on the Behar section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway system, 5·24 miles, which was damaged seriously by floods from the Kosi river in 1903, has been abandoned.

The 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " gauge line from Sagauli to Raxaul, 18·09 miles, was purchased by Government from the Sagauli-Raxaul Branch Railway Company with effect from the 11th April 1904, and incorporated with the Tirhoot State Railway.

On the 15th June 1904, a separate Operating Department was started on the East Indian Railway to supervise specially the working of trains. The department consisted of a senior officer, three assistants and five inspectors. It continued its operations until the end of the year, when it was finally closed on the inauguration of a new system of working, under which Commercial was separated from Transportation work.

With effect from the 1st August 1904, through booking of passengers and their luggage by the Ellerman line of steamers was established between the principal North Western State Railway stations and the United Kingdom.

RAILWAYS.

Rate for Conversion of Sterling.—With effect from the 1st January 1903 the undermentioned Railway Companies have agreed to adopt the fixed rate of Rs. 15 = £1 in lieu of the varying half-yearly rates, prescribed in certain clauses of their contracts, for the purposes of converting sterling payments in England into Indian currency and also for the rates at which Capital raised in England should be converted into rupees in the Indian accounts :

Assam-Bengal, Bengal Central, Bengal-Nagpur, Burma, Indian Midland, Southern Mahratta, Rohilkund and Kumaon (for working the Lucknow-Bareilly Railway), Bengal and North-Western (for working the Tirhoot Railway), East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula, South Indian, Bombay, Baroda and Central India, Madras (for extension), Delhi-Umballa-Kalka, Southern Punjab, South Behar, Bengal-Dooars, Barsi Light, and Noakhali (Bengal) Railway Companies.

Contracts executed for the Construction and Working of Railways.—On the $\frac{9\text{th}}{16\text{th}}$ December 1903, an agreement was entered into between the East Indian Railway Company and the Administration of the Oudh and Rohilkhand State Railway for running powers to the East Indian Railway over the Moghal Sarai-Benares Cantonment section of the Oudh and Rohilkhand State Railway for through passenger trains with effect from the 1st July 1902.

On the 30th December 1903, an Indenture was executed with the Madras Railway Company for the construction and working of the Azhikal-Mangalore State Railway.

On the 18th April 1904, an "Order" was made by the Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh for the construction and working by Messrs. Martin and Company of a tramway, on the 2' 6" gauge, from Shahdara to Saharanpur, with a branch from Baraut to Meerut.

On the 15th July 1904, an Indenture was executed with the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company for the construction and working of the (i) Bareilly-Soron, (ii) Moradabad-Ramnagar, and (iii) Lalkua-Kashipur extensions of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.

On the 4th October 1904, an Indenture was executed with the Madras Railway Company for the construction and working on behalf of the State of the Morappur-Dharmapuri and Tirupattur-Krishnagiri famine feeder Railways.

Constitution of a Railway Board.—As the outcome of a proposal made by Mr. Thomas Robertson, C.V.O., in his report on the working of Indian railways, His Majesty's Secretary of State for India sanctioned the formation of a Board, consisting of a Chairman and two Members—with the necessary clerical establishment—to whom is now entrusted the general control and administration of the railways in India, functions hitherto exercised by the Government of India in the Railway Branch of the Public Works Department.

Mr. F. R. Upcott, C.S.I., Government Director of Indian Railway Companies, has been appointed to the Chairmanship of the Board, and the two members are Mr. W. H. Wood, General Manager of the Hull and Barnsley Railway, England, and Mr. T. R. Wynne, C.I.E., Agent and Chief Engineer, Bengal-Nagpur Railway. These gentlemen assumed office in February 1905.

Indian Railway Conference Association.—A meeting of the Association was held at Calcutta in February 1904 to consider the collective replies or instructions which had been received from the Boards of Directors of the several Railway Companies in England in regard to the proposals, made by the Association in October 1903, for certain modifications in its "fundamental rules" with a view to extending its functions. As it was found that those proposals did not meet with the approval of the Boards, the Association proceeded to conduct its business under the fundamental rules as they originally stood, and decided, *inter alia*, that the President should appoint the Secretary for the time being and fix the headquarters of the office till matters further matured. Shortly after this meeting, work in connection with the Railway Conference which had hitherto been carried on in the Railway Branch of the Public Works Department of the Government of India, was transferred to the Secretary together with all records.

In October of the same year the Conference held seven sittings, at which the more important subjects discussed were the—(i) proposal to fix a time limit in connection with the recovery of undercharges, (ii) modification of the rules for warehousing or retaining goods at railway stations, (iii) appointment of a committee of railway officers, with the assistance of a Government expert, to settle the question of uniformity in classification and rules for the transport of explosives, (iv) revision of the existing Risk Note Forms, and (v) the establishment of a tribunal of arbitration, the object of which is to determine, and settle disputes and differences connected with certain matters—(a) between railways belonging to the association, (b) between railways belonging to the association and parties who have agreed with the railway or railways concerned to submit such disputes or differences to the tribunal.

Standardization of Locomotives.—The Government of India have issued instructions to adopt so far as may be practicable, the standard types of locomotives designed by the English Engineering Standards Committee on all Indian railways of 5' 6" and 3' 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " gauges in preference to their existing types whenever they indent for new locomotives, whether for renewals or additions.

Visit of Mr. Grant Burls, C.S.I., to India.—Mr. Grant Burls, C.S.I., Director-General of Stores at the India Office, who was deputed to India in September 1903, visited *inter alia* the headquarters of the several State railways, and on the 7th January 1904 held a conference at Calcutta with the Store-keepers of the State railways. At this conference it was resolved that indents for all classes of stores should reach the India Office in February and March of each year, and that the number of indents sent home annually should be kept as low as was consistent with efficiency. The question of the standardization of metals, tools, &c., for use on State lines was also discussed at the conference, and it was decided to prepare for guidance in future a standard list of such stores in consultation with the Managers of State lines.

In order to facilitate supply of stores indented for from England, permission has been given to the Director of Railway Construction and to Managers of State Railways to communicate direct by telegram with the Director-General of Stores at the India Office on the subject.

Coal Loading Depôt at Luff Point, Bengal-Nagpur Railway.—In November 1903 a Commission was appointed, and met at Calcutta, to inquire whether it was practicable and, if so, whether it was desirable, to establish a depôt for the export of coal in the neighbourhood of Luff Point just below the James and Mary shoal on the river Hooghly.

The conclusions arrived at by the Commission were—

- (a) that they considered that there was no physical impossibility in providing facilities at Luff Point for the accommodation and shipment of coal—that they considered, however, that it would not be prudent to incur any large expenditure without first ascertaining, by means of careful observations of the currents and eddies throughout the year, whether vessels could at all times make use of jetties or other facilities—that they were of opinion that the expenditure required to maintain any works at, or in the neighbourhood of Luff Point, would be considerable on account of the erosive action to which the right bank of the Hooghly in that locality is subject ;
- (b) that they were of opinion that it was not, under existing conditions, desirable to establish a coal depôt at or near Luff Point, as that would be of little, if any, use to the coal industry as a whole ; and
- (c) that they were of opinion that if, at some future time, it should be found necessary or desirable to establish such a depôt, or an auxiliary port in any form at Luff Point, or at any other place on the Hooghly, such depôt or port should be established and controlled by Government through the Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in commenting on the report of the Commission agreed that the need for such a depôt had not been

RAILWAYS.

established. His Honour was further of opinion, that the proposed jetties would be of no great assistance towards relieving the general trade of the Port of Calcutta, and that he was satisfied that, should it be found necessary in the future, to provide an auxiliary port on the Hooghly (which appeared more than probable), nothing short of a dock equipped with all the latest modern appliances would suffice. He also accepted the Committee's conclusion that if an auxiliary port were required, it should be established and controlled by Government through the Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta.

The Government of India, in passing orders on the report of the Commission, agreed generally with the views expressed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, but were of opinion that if a coal depôt or jetties were required by any private firm or Company, the Port Commissioners should be given the first opportunity of providing the accommodation, and in the event of their declining to make such provision, the Government of India would be prepared to consider proposals from a substantial company for the construction of the coal depôt, &c., together with the connecting railway.

Projects for New Lines.—The concession which was granted for the construction by private enterprise, on the 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " gauge, of the Kurnool Road (Dhone)-Kurnool Railway (Madras), 32 miles, the Bezwada-Masulipatam Railway (Madras), 50 miles, the Guntur-Repalle line (Madras), 38 miles, and the Phirangipuram-Gurzala line (Madras), 50 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, lapsed on the 30th April 1904, as the promoters failed to form a company and raise the requisite capital.

The Kistna District Board has since submitted proposals through the Local Government for financing the Bezwada-Masulipatam Railway with the help of a special cess levied under the provisions of section 57 (ii) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1884, supplemented by a loan from the Government of Madras under the Local Authorities Loan Act (XI. of 1879). The proposals have been approved by the Government of India.

The scheme for the construction, on the 2' 6" gauge, of the Raichur-Wondalli railway (Hyderabad), 43 miles, the concession for which was granted to the Wondalli (Deccan) Gold Mines Company and the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company in June 1900, has not advanced any further.

A concession has been granted for the construction, on the 5' 6" gauge, by a company which is about to be formed, of the Amritsar-Patti Railway (Punjab), about 27 miles, and the necessary preliminary agreement and contract will be executed shortly.

Negotiations which were stated in previous reports to have been proceeding for the construction, on the 2' 6" gauge, of the Kangra Valley railway (Punjab), 87 miles, have been terminated owing to the inability of the promoter to form a company.

The promoter of the Rawalpindi-Murree Railway (Punjab), 48 miles, has been offered a concession for its construction on the 2' 6" gauge.

The consideration of the proposal, which was received in 1903, for the construction, on the 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " gauge, of a light electric tramway from Sarai Kala, *viâ* Abbottabad, to the Kashmir frontier (North-West Frontier Province and Kashmir), 80 miles, still awaits a decision on the Kashmir Railway scheme.

Fresh proposals for the construction by private enterprise of the following extensions, referred to in the last report, of the Dacca State Railway :—

	Gauge.	Miles.
(a) Mymensingh <i>viâ</i> Netrokona to Bara Ari with a branch to Gauripur	3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ "	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
(b) Singhjani <i>viâ</i> Sherpur to Nalitbari	2' 6"	25

are being considered.

The following proposals, which were also received during 1904, are under consideration :—

- (i) For constructing a steam tramway on the 2' 0" gauge from Cawnpore to the left bank of the Jumna, opposite Hamirpur (United Provinces), 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles;
- (ii) For constructing a 5' 6" gauge branch from Panchkura, on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, to Luff Point (Puppy's Parlour) on

the right bank of the Hooghly river (Bengal), 30 miles, and for making terminal and loading arrangements for ships or steamers at the latter place; RAILWAYS.

- (iii) For extending the Ahmedabad-Dholka Railway from Dholka to Dhandhuka (Bombay), 40 miles;
- (iv) For constructing a steam tramway from Dhandhuka to Ranpur (Bombay), 18 miles.

Proposals alternative to (iii) and (iv) have been put forward by the Bhavnagar-Gondal-Junagad-Porbandar Railway administration for extending their 3' 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " gauge railway from Ranpur to Dhandhuka, and thence to Dholka.

The following proposals were awaiting completion on 31st December 1904:—

- (a) For the construction of a tramway or light railway on the 2' 0" or 2' 6" gauge from Kamptee to Deolapar with a branch from Munsar to Ramteck (Central Provinces), 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles;
- (b) For the construction, on the 2' 6" gauge, of a light railway from Sirajganj to Ullapara (Bengal), 18 miles.

Extension of the South Indian Railway to Rameswaram and Scheme for a Canal and Harbour in that Island.—The proposed extension of the South Indian Railway to Rameswaram, and of the scheme for a canal and harbour in that island, was submitted to the Secretary of State, and the extension to Rameswaram and the establishment of jetties to deal effectively with the pilgrim traffic and the ferry traffic to Ceylon were recommended. The proposed railway has been approved generally by the Secretary of State, but the question of the larger scheme is still under consideration.

Branch or Feeder Line Terms.—The question of the general revision of the terms for the construction, outside the Government of India "Programme," of branch or feeder lines of railway by private enterprise is in abeyance pending the consideration by the Indian Railway Board, which has recently been sanctioned, of the recommendations made by Mr. Thomas Robertson, C.V.O., in his report on the administration and working of Indian railways.

Construction of Feeder Lines by Local Boards.—Local Boards are permitted to devote surplus funds to the promotion of railways or other public works within their districts. To meet the wants of Boards, whose revenue and expenditure balance, the Madras Government, with the concurrence of the Government of India, have authorised Boards to levy a special cess of three pies in the rupee on the assessment of all occupied lands, provided the money so obtained is expended on the construction of railways or tramways. To further assist Local Boards in Madras in such enterprise, the Government of India offered in 1903 to advance a limited amount through the Provincial Loan Account in cases where the Boards are unable to raise all the money required, the loan being secured by a lien on the entire resources of the Board concerned. This offer has now been extended to all District Boards in India which levy a special cess for the construction of railways.

IRRIGATION.

IRRIGATION.

The nature of the climate and the inequalities of the rainfall will account for the great antiquity of the practice of irrigation in India. Many of the irrigation systems now administered by the officers of the Public Works Department are founded on the lines of old native works which have been restored and extended or re-modelled.

The class of works dealt with by the Public Works Department under the head of irrigation may be roughly divided into canals and tanks, though these two kinds of works are frequently used in combination.

The storage of water in tanks for the purpose of irrigation is very common in Southern India. In the Madras Presidency alone there are some 60,000 tanks. The works are for the most part of native origin; but much has been done under the British Government in repairing and improving old tanks, and in constructing new works in Madras, the Bombay Deccan, and in Ajmere-Merwara.

IRRIGATION. In size the tanks vary from the small works formed by earthen embankments thrown across local drainages, often of only two or three square miles in area, to the costly reservoirs constructed by the Imperial Government, such as the Periyar and Rushikulya Works, the reservoirs of which have surface areas of 6,395 acres and 7,900 acres respectively.

Canal irrigation, in which the water is drawn directly from a river, has been practised on the largest scale and with the most successful results in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, the Punjab, and the deltas of the large rivers in the Madras Presidency. Irrigation canals are of two descriptions, viz., "perennial" and "inundation." The former are furnished with permanent headworks and weirs, and are capable of irrigating large tracts of country throughout the year, independently of the local rainfall. The magnitude of some of the works of this class, which are almost entirely due to British enterprise and skill, may be judged by a few instances. The Upper Ganges Canal, which has been in operation since 1854, and has cost £2,027,755, comprises 459 miles of main canal and 4,476 miles of distributaries, and in the year 1902-03 supplied water to 871,862 acres. The Sirhind Canal in the Punjab, which was completed in 1887, has cost £1,643,482, and consists of 319 miles of main channels and 2,721 miles of distributaries, while the Chenab Canal in the same province, which was completed in 1900, has cost £1,767,731, and consists of 429 miles of main and branch channels, and about 2,004 miles of distributaries, with an estimated irrigable area of 2,100,000 acres. In Madras the great deltaic irrigation systems of the Godaveri, Kistna, and Cauvery have respective lengths of main channel of 503, 379, and 844 miles, and together irrigate upwards of 2,400,000 acres. The inundation canals, which are peculiar to the Punjab and Sind, are of a much simpler and less costly description than the perennial canals. They are for the most part simply earthen channels, made without the expensive machinery of masonry dams and sluices, and are supplied with water by the annual rise in May of the Indus and its affluents. They constitute a very useful class of irrigation works, and in some cases have produced most successful financial results. The irrigation from them is, however, to some extent precarious. If the annual flood from the melting of the snows of the Himalayas does not sufficiently raise the level of the water in the river, it is impossible to pass the necessary volume of water on to the fields or even to give any water at all to many of them.

The works to which the preceding paragraph applies, in most cases, take off from the larger rivers, which, drawing their water from lofty mountain ranges, can, even in times of drought, be depended upon for an unfailing supply. In tank irrigation, on the other hand, the supply of water is more or less dependent on the local rainfall, either directly or through the medium of the smaller rivers, which dry up in hot seasons. This is the common system of irrigation in the Bombay Presidency, where irrigation is largely dependent on storage works.

In parts of Baluchistan, where the rainfall is scanty and very capricious, a method is practised of drawing the water from underground springs by means of tunnels driven into the hill sides. There remains the method of irrigation more extensively used in India than any other, viz., that by wells, which, however, does not come directly within the scope of operations of the Public Works Department.

Financially considered, the irrigation works are classed as "major" or "minor." The former class includes all the works which have been undertaken from loan funds, in the expectation that they would be sufficiently productive to cover the interest charges on the sums spent on their construction. It also includes the works classed as famine protective, which are constructed not from borrowed funds, but out of the annual grant from revenue for famine relief and insurance. The cost of constructing the "minor" works, as well as the sums annually required for their working and maintenance, are met from the ordinary revenues, and for the greater part of this class of works distinct capital and revenue accounts are not kept.

The distinction implied in the words "major" and "minor" is not in complete correspondence with the facts, as there are some minor works which are of more importance than some major works. But, speaking

generally, the "major" class includes the works of the greatest engineering importance, which have been constructed, or, as in a few cases of old native works, almost entirely reconstructed, by British officers.

The following statement gives a general view of the results obtained from working the canals, for which full accounts are kept, for 1903-04, and the two previous years:—

	Capital Outlay (Direct and Indirect) to End of Year.	Gross Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Net Receipts	Percentage of Net Receipts on Capital Outlay.	Area Irrigated.
Major Works - - -	£ 26,513,075	£ 2,789,979	£ 893,881	£ 1,896,098	£ 7.15	Acres. 13,007,677
Minor Works - - -	3,901,891	340,641	129,077	211,564	5.42	2,187,292
Total for 1903-04 -	30,414,966	3,130,620	1,022,958	2,107,662	6.93	15,194,969
Total for 1902-03 -	29,648,303	3,002,126	972,360	2,029,766	6.85	14,088,188
Total for 1901-02 -	28,907,836	2,780,923	936,835	1,844,088	6.38	14,076,999

There are great differences in the financial success of the irrigation works in the various provinces. These are due to the various physical conditions of the country in regard to surface, soil, climate, and the absence or presence of large rivers with a permanent supply of water, as well as to the differences in the character and habits of the people in different districts. There are also considerable differences in the manner in which the irrigation revenue is assessed and collected, which have an important bearing on the financial success of the works. In Madras the bulk of the irrigation revenue is collected with, and on most of the works is consolidated with, the land revenue. In Bengal and Bombay the receipts of the Irrigation Department consist to a great extent of "occupiers' " rates, and are not supplemented by "owners' " rates, as in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, nor, with a few exceptions, by a share of the land revenue. In Sind the revenue of the canals consists almost entirely of the share of the land revenue allotted to irrigation. Cultivation is dependent on the artificial supply of water, and the consolidated revenue from the irrigated lands is divided in the proportion of 90 per cent. to irrigation and 10 per cent. to land. In the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and in the Punjab, the direct water rates are assessed partly on the occupier and partly on the owner of the land, the bulk of the rates falling on the former, and the irrigation receipts are further increased by a not unimportant contribution from the land revenue. The contribution from the land revenue is the amount considered due to irrigation when an enhancement of land revenue is levied at the periodical revision of the land settlement. Like the owner's rate, which is directly levied, it falls upon the owner of the land.

The immense systems of large artificial water channels with which some parts of India are covered would appear at first sight to offer unrivalled opportunities for water carriage. But though efforts have been made to organise navigation services on the larger irrigation canals, it cannot be said that, on the whole, they have met with a large measure of success. In many cases the receipts from the traffic have failed to cover the working expenses. It is, indeed, obvious that the canals, being designed primarily for irrigation purposes, must often be unsuitable from their alignment and level for navigation.

The Irrigation Commission, which was appointed in 1901 to inquire into the state and extent of irrigation in India, and its value in affording protection against famine, issued their report on the 11th April 1903. This report has since been published separately as a Parliamentary Paper (Cd. 1854). The recommendations of the Commission have been referred to the various Local Governments concerned, and much has been done towards investigating the numerous schemes proposed, though the report as a whole has not yet been considered by the Government of India.

IRRIGATION. The following more detailed account of the irrigation operations of the year is given under the heads of the different provinces in which the works are situated.

Bengal. The Major Irrigation works in Bengal are divided into two classes :—

- (i) Productive Works.
- (ii) Protective Works.

The productive works comprise the Orissa, Midnapore, Hijili Tidal, and Sone Canals. The Hijili Tidal Canal is for navigation only, while the others are both for irrigation and navigation. The total area irrigated by these canals during the year under review was 809,331 acres, or 13,302 acres more than in the previous year. The increase was chiefly due to an extension of the area irrigated from the Sone Canals.

The receipts during the year from irrigation, navigation, and miscellaneous sources in connection with the productive works were £134,310, or £6,647 less than the figures for the previous year. This considerable decline was due for the most part to smaller receipts during 1903-04, on account of areas irrigated from the Sone Canals in 1902-03.

The protective works are the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals. Considerable progress was made with the construction of the former, while the Dhaka Canal was practically completed during the year. The Madaripore Bhil route, in connection with the Calcutta and Eastern Navigation Canals, was widened and deepened during the year.

Embankments to the extent of 2,147 miles were maintained during 1903-04, affording protection to an area of 8,681,063 acres. The total expenditure incurred on embankments and drainage works was £28,929, of which £25,816 was spent on work connected with embankments.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

In the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, taking the revenue actually realised, the general results of the irrigation operations during 1903-04 are compared with those of the five previous years in the following statement :—

YEAR.	Capital Outlay to End of Year.	Net Revenue.	Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital.	Area Irrigated during the Year.
1898-99	£ 5,806,936	£ 391,626	6.59	Acres. 2,253,802
1899-1900	6,026,379	431,137	7.15	2,829,794
1900-01	6,047,532	434,976	7.19	2,000,926
1901-02	6,088,391	326,564	5.36	2,616,105
1902-03	6,153,026	420,739	6.84	2,442,211
1903-04	6,303,049	420,459	6.67	2,649,150

The most notable feature of the year's working was the record return earned by the Betwa Canal in Bundelkhand. This canal is the only "protective" work in these provinces, and by improvements in the storage capacity was able to realise a profit (amounting to £1,705) for the first time since the drought of 1897-98. When the works now in progress have been completed, it is expected that the canal will show an annual surplus instead of the deficits which have hitherto marked its history. The extension of irrigation from the work justifies the anticipation that equally good results will be obtained from the projected Ken and Dassan Canals.

The capital outlay on all canals during the year rose from £64,635 to £150,023, and altogether 391 miles of new channels were opened, bringing up the total length of open channels to 13,395 miles. The Mat Branch of the Ganges Canal was vigorously pushed on, and although work was started only at the end of 1902, the extension was practically completed and opened for irrigation for the rabi season. The work has effected a great improvement in the condition of the dry tract in Aligarh and Muttra. The construction of

the Ken Canal was begun, and projects were drawn up for canals from the Sarda and Dassan rivers. IRRIGATION.

The gross receipts, both direct and indirect, from all canals were £652,134, as compared with £661,670 in the previous year, the decrease being due to a smaller area under sugarcane and rice. The working expenses were nearly £10,000 less than in the previous year, and the net revenue was £280 less. The interest charges for the year amounted to £223,972, and the net profit, after meeting these, was £196,487. The revenue earned by productive works (£412,006) represented a return of 7·2 per cent. on the total capital outlay, the percentages varying from 3·1 on the Fatehpur branch to 23·2 on the Eastern Jumna. The minor works yielded a net revenue of £6,748, or nearly 3 per cent. on their capital cost.

The total area irrigated in 1903-04 was 2,649,150 acres, or including the Tarai and Bhabar Canals (which are under the Commissioner of Kumaon), 2,764,800 acres. The former area is an advance of 200,000 over the figures of the preceding year, and the third highest on record. Both the kharif and rabi areas were in excess of the average, the area under cotton reached 230,352 acres, against a 12 years' average of 105,757 acres, while the area under wheat (1,067,851 acres) was the highest on record and nearly 300,000 acres above the normal. The value of the crops irrigated, excluding those under the Tarai and Bhabar Canals, is estimated at over £5,666,660.

In the Punjab the Indus Inundation Canal system, which was formerly classed as a Minor work, has been transferred to the head of Major works. There are now eight canal systems classed as Productive Major Works, viz., the Western Jumna, the Bari Doab, the Sirhind, the Chenab, the Jhelum, the Upper Sutlej, the Sidhnai, and the Indus. Expenditure on capital account was incurred on all these canals except the Sidhnai; but the only important extensions at present in progress are on the Jhelum Canal, on which £120,000 were expended during the year, and the Chenab Canal, on which the capital outlay was increased by £30,733. Punjab.

All the perennial canals, with the exception of the Sirhind, exhibit an increase in the irrigated area compared with the average of the previous three years. The inundation canals also experienced a very favourable season, owing to the late and well-sustained monsoon, and gave good results. The total area irrigated by all the Punjab canals (Imperial, Provincial, and Native States) amounted to 6,390,334 acres. About one-fourth of the crops in the Punjab are matured with the assistance of canal irrigation. The Chenab Canal now irrigates 2,000,000 acres, which is more than the area irrigated by the Bari Doab and the Sirhind taken together. The head-works of the Jhelum Canal were completed during the year, and the main lines of the canal were also completed, while considerable progress was made towards the completion of the major and minor Distributary System.

The capital outlay on the canals classed as Major Productive Works amounted to £7,127,196, on which interest at 12 per cent. was earned as the net result of the year's working, after deducting expenditure from income. The best paying canal is the Chenab, which gave a revenue of 23½ per cent. The inundation canals show good results, owing to the favourable and late monsoon. All the canals earned over 7 per cent., except the Jhelum, which is not yet in full working order.

In Lower Burma there are no large irrigation works. The expenditure recorded under the head of "Irrigation and Navigation" has reference to the river embankment and drainage works, and navigation canals. Burma.

In Upper Burma there are three large irrigation canals, the Mandalay, the Shwebo, and the Môn. Of these, the Mandalay Canal is nearly completed and was opened for irrigation in June 1903. The length of the canal and its distributaries in operation at the end of the year was 225 miles and the total capital outlay amounted to £335,870, of which £22,752 was expended in 1903-04. The opening of this canal was opportune, as the early rains failed and the smaller works which the canal replaces would not have given a sufficient supply of water. The year's working resulted in a loss of £165; 30,000 acres, mainly rice, were irrigated.

Construction work on the Shwebo Canal progressed satisfactorily. The capital outlay during the year amounted to £67,368, bringing the total to

IRRIGATION. £201,207. The work is estimated to cost £320,273, and is designed to irrigate an area of 150,000 acres annually. Work on the Môn canals was started, and £3,113 expended. Surveys for a new scheme, the Ye-u Canal Project, which is expected to irrigate 100 square miles annually, were also undertaken.

The minor works show a profit on the year's working of £2,790. The area irrigated increased, owing to the abundant rainfall in the latter part of the season, from 239,474 to 274,934 acres.

The total irrigated area in Burma during the year increased from 649,062 acres in 1902-03 to 686,588 acres.

Central
Provinces
and Berar.

The great bulk of irrigation in the Central Provinces and Berar is still the outcome of purely private local enterprise, being carried on by means of small tanks built entirely at the expense of the local proprietors. A new scheme for State irrigation, however, was started about two years ago with the construction of major and minor works, partly as aided projects and partly under the direct control of Government; and this important enterprise was energetically continued during 1903, some £63,330, being expended on protective and other irrigation works.

The results achieved include protective major works, consisting of six tanks under construction at Khairbanda, Asola Mendha, Dorli, Rimal, Likni, and Saighala; relief works represented by five important tanks at Marowda, Khapri-Aranda, Khola, Kusrangi, and Khaira-Datan; and minor works, consisting of embankments, in Saugor, Damoh, and Hoshangabad, besides tanks in the Balaghat District, South Wainganga Division, and Raipur. In addition, 22 tanks were under construction during the year under the grant-in-aid system.

The total area irrigated throughout the whole province during 1903-04 decreased from 549,000 acres in 1902-03 to 317,651 acres. This was due to the abundant rainfall throughout the year.

Madras.

From an irrigation point of view the Madras Presidency is distinguished by the variety and extent of its works, ranging from the great deltaic systems of the Godaverri, Kistna, and Cauvery, to the small tanks and channels maintained by the Revenue Department.

The number of tanks directly or indirectly dependent on the local rainfall is very large, and, speaking generally, the success of the irrigation operations is more affected by local climatic conditions than in Northern India, where the irrigation works draw their supply from large rivers fed by the melting of the snows on distant mountain ranges.

In the year under review the season was unfavourable.

There are at present 9 major works and 33 minor works, for which capital and revenue accounts are kept, and numerous other irrigation and agricultural works, individually small, for which such accounts are not kept. Of the 33 minor works for which full accounts are kept, 29 are irrigation systems, and four are tidal canals intended for purely navigation purposes.

Of the works for which full accounts are kept the length of completed main canal was 3,773 miles, and of distributary channels 7,666 miles. The area irrigated during the year by these works was 3,498,472 acres, the crops grown being valued at £5,607,881.

Taking all the works for which full accounts are kept, the general results of the year's working compared with those of the four previous years will be seen from the following statement:—

YEAR.	Capital Outlay.	Area Irrigated.	Net Actual Revenue.	Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital.
	£	Acres.	£	
1899-1900	6,057,431	2,928,463	398,531	6.58
1900-01	6,136,629	3,426,374	444,521	7.24
1901-02	6,207,041	3,550,036	485,945	7.83
1902-03	6,299,896	3,525,031	480,595	7.63
1903-04	6,401,661	3,498,472	451,026	7.04

The net revenue recorded in the foregoing statement is that which has resulted from the outlay of Government capital. If the net revenue due to

old irrigation be added, the total amount will be £757,730. The decrease of revenue during the year was due chiefly to larger remissions made on account of damages caused by heavy floods, and to timely and abundant rains in certain districts. IRRIGATION

The results of the year's working for the major works in operation are shown by the following figures:—

WORK.	Area Irrigated.	Capital Outlay.	Net Revenue.	Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital.
	Acres.	£	£	
Godaveri Delta	802,858	900,460	158,589	17.61
Kistna Delta	617,042	990,578	128,356	12.96
Pennér Anicut	162,134	424,456	19,822	4.67
Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal	46,306	1,450,821	6,762	0.46
Barur Tank	5,561	28,751	—	—
Cauvery Delta	976,174	210,696	57,670	27.37
Sri vaikuntham Anicut	43,978	102,925	5,407	5.25
Periyar Project	152,614	612,908	23,663	3.86
Rushikulya (Protective Work)	92,115	329,558	2,339	0.71
Total	2,898,732	5,051,153	402,541	7.97

The minor works for which full accounts are kept irrigated an area of 599,690 acres, and earned a net revenue of £48,485, equivalent to a percentage of 3.59 on the capital expended on them. The purely navigation works were in each case worked at a loss.

Besides the works referred to in the foregoing paragraphs there is a large class of small works in Madras, partly maintained by the Public Works Department and partly by the Revenue Department, for which distinct capital and revenue accounts are not kept. The total irrigation revenue derived from these works in 1903-04 was £641,150, the net revenue being some £407,444, and the area irrigated by them was 3,594,696 acres. A plan for the systematic repair of some of these works has now been in progress for some years under the title of the "Tank Restoration Scheme," and is about two-fifths completed. Up to the end of the year an expenditure of £524,097 had been incurred under this scheme, and approximately 53,836 square miles had been investigated.

Numerous important projects, including the Periyár extension scheme, the Kistna reservoir project, and the Tungabhadra project, were under investigation during the year, though progress was somewhat retarded by the heavy rains towards the end of the season.

The capital expenditure for the year on the major works amounted to £69,580. This expenditure was incurred chiefly on the Kistna, Periyár, Godaveri, and Penner works.

In the Bombay Presidency, excluding Sind, the water system does not admit of the construction of large irrigation works. The rivers or streams are small, and more or less dependent on the rainfall, and a constant supply cannot be obtained from them without the aid of large reservoirs or "tanks." In Sind the success of the irrigation operations is dependent on the regular rise of the river Indus. Bombay, including Sind.

During the year, the total expenditure on irrigation in the Bombay presidency and Sind amounted to about £346,670 or £53,330 less than in the previous year. The decrease was confined to Sind, the expenditure in the Presidency proper showing an increase.

Of the works in Bombay, the Nira, Mutha, and Gokák canals are the most important. A capital outlay of £18,333 was incurred on the Mutha Canals, but this was with the object of improving the existing service and not of extending the system. There was a slight improvement in the percentage of net revenue to expenditure on both the Nira and Mutha systems. In all divisions a satisfactory amount of work was done in connection with the construction and maintenance of small tanks. The need for irrigation was less felt, and the area irrigated showed a slight decrease. There was, however, a considerable increase in direct receipts on account of Imperial

IRRIGATION. irrigation works of all kinds. Operations in connection with the Nira, Gokâk, Krishna, Godaveri, and Ghat Tank surveys were carried on during the year with results which were on the whole favourable. The total area irrigated from the Gujerat and Deccan works, for which capital and revenue accounts are kept, was 87,819 acres against 99,290 acres in the previous year. The gross revenue rose from £51,563 in 1902-03 to £51,976.

In Sind the inundation was distinctly good, the water being above the fair irrigating level at the Bukkur Gauge for 54 days in all. The newly re-modelled Desert Canal and the almost complete Mahiwah system worked well, and the earnings of the latter were remarkable. Extensive masonry work was done on the Nasrat Canal, and considerable allotments were made to cultivators of lands irrigated by it and the Jamrao Canal. The high level of the river caused some trouble by silting up the canal mouths and causing breaches in the bunds.

The area irrigated by all classes of works in Sind was 3,151,807 acres against 2,625,671 acres in the previous year. The gross assessed revenue amounted to £488,914, of which £33,389 were on account of direct and £455,525 on account of indirect receipts, the corresponding figures for 1902-03 being £31,177 and £348,662 respectively.

In Sind the existence of cultivation depends upon irrigation, and there is a constant demand for water from the canals. This fact and the comparatively inexpensive nature of inundation canals, account for the favourable results obtained from the working of irrigation canals in the province.

**North-West
Frontier
Province.**

The canals under provincial management continue to give good financial results, as do the water-courses in Peshawar owned by the District Board or under district management. In all the rivers, except the Bara and the Tochi, the supply of water during the year was fairly abundant.

The only "major" work is the Swat River Canal, a protective scheme with a length of 22 miles in the main and branch channels and 186 miles in distributaries. The capital expenditure on this work to the end of 1903-04 amounted to £277,951, and the net revenue for the year was £30,489 or nearly 11 per cent. on the capital cost. The area irrigated was 176,346 acres and exceeded that of 1902-03, the previous best on record by 2,574 acres.

The "minor" works in operation include the Kabul River Canal with a capital expenditure of £33,415, and the Bara River Irrigation Works. The net revenue for the Kabul River Canal was only £3,676 or £3,648 less than in 1902-03, the decrease being attributed to heavy expenditure on maintenance and repairs, and to a remission of £670 granted to villages affected by a breach in an aqueduct over the Zindai Nullah. The area irrigated by the canal was 29,427 acres.

Baluchistan.

Irrigation in Baluchistan is represented by two "minor" works now in operation, viz., the Shebo Canal, which has cost £45,148, and the Khushdil Khan Reservoir with a total capital outlay of £67,126. Another scheme, the Anambar Flood Channel, costing £3,108, is now in working order, but so far nothing has been done in the way of irrigation owing to the Hazarah Colonists failing to come forward and take up land.

In the year under review the net revenue from the Shebo Canal amounted to £916 or 2.03 per cent. on the capital outlay, while the Khushdil Khan Reservoir showed net receipts of £466 or 0.69 per cent on the capital cost as against a loss of £675 recorded in the previous year.

The area irrigated by the Shebo Canal was 2,691 acres as compared with 2,939 acres in 1902-03. The Khushdil Khan Reservoir irrigated an area of 1,995 acres; in the previous year no water was available for cultivation. The total value of the crops raised was £8,112.

Coorg.

The total outlay on Irrigation in Coorg during 1903-04 amounted to £837, and was devoted chiefly to the improvement of the Chikle Holé and Ranga-samudra channels, and to the completion of the Devanur anicut which, however, was afterwards so seriously damaged by floods that its reconstruction has become necessary. The feasibility of extending the irrigation facilities of the Province formed the subject of special investigation during the year, and important developments may result.

**Ajmer-
Merwara.**

During the year 1903-04 the rainfall in Ajmer-Merwara was distinctly favourable; the tanks received a better supply of water and irrigated a larger

area than usual, viz., 32,957 acres. The estimated value of the crops raised was £51,560 as against £30,770 in 1902-03. IRRIGATION.

The total capital outlay at the end of the year amounted to £200,422, on which a return of 2·3 per cent. was earned in the period under review. Apart from the adjustment of the value (£9,434) of tools and plant purchased in previous famine years, working expenses were normal. The financial result of the year's working was satisfactory on the whole.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS (CIVIL).

The Buildings and Roads branch of the Public Works Department embraces all the operations of the Department which are not classed under the special heads of Railways and Irrigation. It includes the extension and maintenance of the road system, the construction and repair of all the buildings required for the proper discharge of the functions of government in all its branches, and a large miscellaneous class of works of public improvement, including lighthouses, harbours, embankments, boat bridges, and ferries, and the water supply and sanitation of towns. BUILDINGS
AND ROADS
(CIVIL).

The operations of this branch of the Department are classed primarily under two divisions, viz., Military and Civil Works. The military works are executed entirely from Imperial funds. The expenditure on Civil Works is chiefly met from provincial and local resources. The classification of the expenditure for 1903-04 under the heads referred to is shown in the following table:—

	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total in India.	Expendi- ture in England.	Grand Total.
Military works	£ 981,680	—	—	£ 981,680	£ 52,974	£ 1,034,654
Civil Works	576,573	2,668,735	1,264,920	4,510,228	92,026	4,602,254
Total, 1903-04	1,558,253	2,668,735	1,264,920	5,491,908	145,000	5,636,908
Total, 1902-03	1,514,132	2,347,103	1,211,044	5,072,279	170,169	5,242,448
Total, 1901-02	1,372,692	2,012,835	1,107,219	4,492,846	139,788	4,632,634

This statement does not include the outlay from Imperial revenues recorded under the head of Special Defence Works, which amounted to £27,054 in 1903-04. In 1901-02 and 1902-03 no expenditure occurred under this head.

The greater part of the expenditure from local funds is absorbed by the maintenance and extension of roads. A portion of this expenditure is under the direct control of the Public Works Department, but the larger part of the local funds outlay under the head of Buildings and Roads, as well as a small portion of the provincial outlay, is under the management of the Civil Department, and is not controlled by the Public Works officers.

The extension of local government in India has thrown a large portion of the smaller class of public works into the hands of the local boards. Speaking generally, the boards maintain their own establishments, but in the case of any works of unusual difficulty have recourse to the professional skill of the Public Works officers.

The following detailed account of Civil Works for the year under review is given under the heads of the different provinces in which the expenditure was incurred.

In Bengal the expenditure for the year on Civil Works was as follows:— Bengal.

	£
Imperial	99,372
Provincial	507,017
Local	338,379
Total	<u>944,768</u>

BUILDINGS
AND ROADS
(CIVIL).

The want of accommodation for the bonding of salt at the Sulkea Salt golas was to some extent relieved by sub-dividing several of the golas. More room was provided in the opium godowns, Calcutta, for storing the large out-turn of the season; and a commencement was made in establishing weighment and settlement centres in the opium districts. The check station at Barrackpore in connection with the Magnetic Survey of India was finished; while the new Foreign and Military Secretariat building in Calcutta was almost completed.

Under Provincial Works, additional accommodation was provided for several of the Civil and Criminal Courts in the Province. The increasing requirements of the Calcutta High Court necessitated the purchase of adjoining premises. The construction of quarters for munsifs continued. The want of suitable circuit-houses at some of the important stations for the use of the Lieut.-Governor and other high officials was recognised; and steps were taken, where necessary, to provide such buildings. Of the various jail works, the most important was the commencement of the new Presidency jail at Alipore. The construction of quarters for Inspectors of Police was taken in hand. Educational works included projects for a new College and School of Engineering at Dacca; and much progress was made throughout the province in the erection of hostels or boarding-houses for students. Several houses were purchased or built for the residence of Government officials in stations where it is difficult to obtain house accommodation.

The opening out of road communications to meet the needs of the Tibet Mission was vigorously pushed forward. Roads to serve as feeders to railways in the districts of Midnapore, Nadia, Murshidabad, Rangpur, and Monghyr were under construction.

United
Provinces of
Agra and
Oudh.

In the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh the outlay under the different heads of service was as follows:—

	£
Imperial - - - - -	36,006
Provincial - - - - -	334,435
Local - - - - -	<u>213,216</u>
Total - - - - -	<u>583,657</u>

The chief buildings under construction during the year included the new Kotwālis at Lucknow and Moradabad, the Judges' Court House at Aligarh, the Court and Circuit houses at Jhansi, the Collegiate School at Benares and the Normal School at Gorakhpur. At Dehra considerable progress was made with the buildings for the Imperial Cadet Corps. As regards roads, the pilgrim routes in Garhwal were much improved and the work is being rapidly pressed on. Good progress was made with the large schemes for developing communications in Bundelkhand and Gorakhpur. Altogether 124 miles of new metalled roads were constructed, and the total length of roads metalled and unmetalled maintained by the Public Works Department and by local authorities during the year was over 30,700 miles.

Punjab.

In the Punjab the expenditure for the year on Civil Works was as follows:—

	£
Imperial - - - - -	81,619
Provincial - - - - -	292,314
Local - - - - -	<u>60,276</u>
Total - - - - -	<u>434,209</u>

During the year under review, the new General Post Office at Lahore was practically completed, and part of the establishment was moved in. Considerable progress was made with the new Imperial Civil Secretariat at Simla on which the year's outlay amounted to £16,867, bringing up the total expenditure on the work to £61,000. The "Kennedy House" estate at Simla was bought for £8,000 as a site for new offices, and the property known as "Windcliffe" as a residence for a Member of the Governor-General's Council. Combined post and telegraph offices at Sargoda and Mianwali, additions to the telegraph office at Umballa, and alterations to the Foreign Office at Simla were also carried out.

Under the head of Provincial Civil Works, the Treasury Building and the Court House and Police Office at Mianwali were completed, new offices were built for the Inspectors of Schools at Jullundur and Mooltan, a new record room at Jullundur, new Court Houses at Ferozepore and Chunian, and a Female Lunatic Asylum at Lahore. The restoration of the Moti Masjid and of the Bhadon and Sawan buildings in the Delhi Fort was completed, and other interesting antiquities were put in order with a view to their maintenance as archæological monuments. Among the buildings in course of construction were new Normal Schools at Lahore and Delhi, District Jails at Mianwali and Lyallpur, and buildings for the new Civil station at Campbellpur.

BUILDINGS
AND ROADS
(CIVIL).

A Contribution Work of some importance, viz., the Jubilee Hospital at Amritsar, costing £10,000, was nearly finished at the end of the year.

The construction of extensive new metalled roads was in progress in the Chenab and Jhelum Canal Colonies, though considerable difficulty was experienced owing to the scarcity of good stone. The improvement of the Hindustan-Tibet road was commenced and repairs to the feeder roads on the Southern Punjab and Ludhiana-Jakhal railways were completed. Boat bridges were maintained on all important through lines of communication, and the usual steam-ferry was worked over the Indus at Dera Ghazi Khan under the management of the North-Western Railway.

In addition to the above, the Public Works Department undertook important local works connected with the improvement of Simla, most of which are being carried out on a programme approved by the Government of India, the necessary funds being obtained partly from an Imperial and Provincial Grant, and partly from a Municipal loan.

The comparative expenditure on civil buildings and communications was as follows:—

	Original Works.	Repairs.	Total.
	£	£	£
Civil Buildings - - - -	169,336	37,200	206,536
Communications - - - -	33,337	82,226	115,563

Including station roads, the total road mileage at the end of the year was 22,928 miles, viz., 2,054 miles metalled and 20,874 unmetalled.

There was no necessity to undertake any Famine Relief Works during the year, but a good deal of work was done on famine projects.

In Burma the total expenditure on Civil Works for the year was:—

Burma.

	£
Provincial - - - -	641,413
Local - - - -	84,990
Total - - - -	<u>726,403</u>

An important road, 37 miles long, connecting Moulmein with the Siamese State of Raheng was practically completed during the year. A metalled road, 25 miles long, from Bhamo towards the Chinese frontier on the north-east was nearly completed and a mule-track for the remaining 21 miles was improved. Several other roads were also in progress.

At the end of the year there were 1,603 miles of metalled and 7,766 miles of unmetalled roads in the province outside municipal limits.

No important buildings were constructed during the year.

The amount of the expenditure for the year was:—

Central
Provinces
and Berar.

	£
Imperial - - - -	45,781
Provincial - - - -	186,684
Local - - - -	28,144
Total - - - -	<u>260,609</u>

No Imperial works of any importance were undertaken beyond the construction of a few post offices. Of the expenditure on Provincial roads

**BUILDINGS
AND ROADS
(Civil)**

and buildings, about £83,333 was spent on original works, including the construction of Government offices and of residences for Government officials. Considerable sums were also allotted for additions to jails, police buildings and public asylums, and to the improvement of schools. Ample provision was made for the extension of roads, and their construction was in progress in all parts of the province, but more especially in the Hoshangabad, Nagpur and Eastern Divisions. The Victoria Technical Institute in Nagpur, begun in 1902 as a Contribution Work, was steadily proceeded with, the expenditure at the end of the year reaching £6,733.

The output in the Warora Colliery during the year amounted to 116,900 tons, or a decrease of 33,439 tons as compared with the preceding year. The net profit was £11,385, equal to a return of 11.58 per cent. on the capital expenditure, which may be considered very satisfactory.

Assam.

The total expenditure in Assam for the year was as follows :—

	£
Imperial - - - - -	2,464
Provincial - - - - -	165,685
Local - - - - -	40,762
Total - - - - -	<u>208,911</u>

The most important buildings in hand were the new Government House, Shillong, which was completed, and the residence for the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts. Considerable expenditure was incurred on Educational buildings, amongst which may be mentioned the completion of a school building at Shillong and the commencement of a High School and a Vernacular school building at Nowgong. The restoration of the old Assamese protective bunds or embankments in the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts was vigorously prosecuted, over £8,900 having been expended on the work during the year. Under communications, works of importance were the restoration of the Shillong-Cherra cart road, the improvement of the Gauhati-Shillong road to adapt it for motor traffic, and the metalling of the Dimapur-Manipur road. Four roads feeding the Assam Valley section of the Assam-Bengal Railway were taken up. Progress has been made in replacing temporary bridges by permanent structures.

Madras.

In Madras the expenditure for the year on Civil Works was as follows :—

	£
Imperial - - - - -	4,415
Provincial - - - - -	217,575
Local - - - - -	335,464
Total - - - - -	<u>557,454</u>

There were no Imperial works of importance in progress, and the year's expenditure came almost entirely under the heads of Provincial and Local Civil Works.

The principal buildings under construction were a Collector's office at Cocanada, a weaving shed in the Central Jail at Coimbatore estimated to cost about £5,300, a building to house the Photospectro Heliograph at Kodaikanal and a Bacteriological Laboratory at Guindy. Increased attention was given to the protection and preservation of important archaeological remains, including the Asoka rock inscriptions and the rock cut caves at Guntupalli in the Godavari district.

Under the head of Communications, a few important roads are in the hands of the Provincial Public Works Department, and the Koraput-Jeypore road in the Vizagapatam Agency was taken over during the year. Extensive improvements were in progress on the Tellicherry-Coorg road involving a total expenditure during the year of £6,697. Repairs to the Anamalaighat road and to the Calicut-Mysore frontier road were completed, and a commencement was made on the feeder roads on the Shevaroy's to connect the planting districts with the ghat road to Salem. The greater portion of the road system in Madras is, however, in the hands of the local boards, whose expenditure is not under the control of the Public Works Department.

They maintain their own engineering establishments, though in some cases they employ the agency of the Public Works Department for particular works. In the year under review 23,773 miles of road were maintained by public authorities, apart from roads and streets within municipal limits.

BUILDINGS
AND ROADS
(CIVIL).

A scheme was prepared during the year for providing a water supply for the town of Salem by building an aicut across the Periyar stream and a bund across the Varatta to form a reservoir. The Tuticorin water supply works were also in progress, and the Tiger Hill reservoir at Ootacamund was completed and handed over to the municipality.

In connection with the scheme for the better illumination of the coasts and the dangerous rocks and shoals in their vicinity, 16 lighthouses were completed in the year under review, and the lighthouse division was closed as a separate charge, construction operations having been suspended.

The expenditure on Civil Works in the Buildings and Roads branch in Bombay, the Bombay Presidency for 1903-04 was as follows:—

	£
Imperial - - - - -	40,560
Provincial - - - - -	323,611
Local - - - - -	154,178
Total - - - - -	<u>518,349</u>

The total outlay on public works during the year showed a further decline, occurring wholly under the head of Imperial works and due to the cessation of Famine relief works. The figures of Provincial and Local Funds expenditure were both considerably in excess of those of the preceding year.

The principal buildings in course of construction were the new Observatory at Alibág, combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Thana and Ahmednagar and Signallers' quarters at Bhusawal, a Branch Custom House at Prince's Dock and the extension of the Paper Currency Building at Bombay, a Collector's Office with Treasury and Accounts Offices at Lárkhána, Excise warehouses at Ahmednagar and Vita, Male and Female Training Colleges at Poona, a new High School at Ahmedabad, a Civil Hospital at Dhulia and extensions of St. George's Hospital, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Hospital and Grant Medical College, Bombay, besides numerous new land revenue and police buildings throughout the Presidency. Considerable sums were also expended on the repair and maintenance of archaeological remains.

The Provincial lines of communication on which expenditure was incurred during 1903-04 included a number of new metalled and unmetalled roads in all divisions. The work of reconstructing the Koney bridge at Karwar and the bridge on the Poona-Bangalore road in the Belgaum district was commenced, and new ferry boats were built at Mahuli and at Umbraj.

The Local Fund works consisted of roads, school buildings, and miscellaneous water-supply works carried out through the agency of the Public Works Department.

The expenditure on Civil Works in Coorg was as follows:—

Coorg.

	£
Imperial - - - - -	13,575
Local - - - - -	2,385
Total - - - - -	<u>15,960</u>

The expenditure on civil buildings amounted to £1,800 and consisted chiefly of charges for ordinary annual repairs, and outlay on the construction or extension of police lines, quarters for revenue subordinates, and structural alterations in the headquarter offices at Mercara. A sum of £9,290 was spent on communications. Considerable progress was made with the construction of the new road connecting South Coorg with the Malabar-Wynaad, but with the exception of an inspection bungalow at Napoklu, no new work of importance was taken up, the major portion of the outlay being devoted to the maintenance of existing communications.

BUILDINGS
AND ROADS
(CIVIL).

In addition to the outlay relating to Imperial Works, the Public Works Department incurred an expenditure of some £2,200 on communications, buildings and other works under the control of the Coorg District Board.

N.W.
Frontier
Province.

In the North-West Frontier Province, the expenditure for the year on Civil Works was as follows :—

	£
Imperial	140,732
Local	4,376
	<hr/>
Total	145,108

Of this total sum £87,668 was spent on communications and £32,961 on civil buildings. The new buildings necessitated by the creation of the Province have been practically completed, and little remains to be done. The official residences in Peshawar were occupied during the winter. The continuation of the policy of the withdrawal of troops has necessitated the building of new posts and the alteration of others in Northern and Southern Waziristan. The bridges over the Kharmana in Kurram and the Dore in Abbotabad were completed. The metalling is being steadily carried on of the road from Abbotabad to the Kashmir border near Domel. The camel road to Landi Kotal through the Mullagori country was completed and the work of widening it into a cart road is well advanced. Work on the road between Dera Ismail Khan and Zhob through the Chuhar Khal Dhana was interrupted by the necessity of a realignment between Dera Ismail Khan and Draband.

Baluchistan.

In Baluchistan a sum of £28,525 was expended from Imperial funds on Civil Works during the year.

Ajmer-
Merwara.

In Ajmer-Merwara the total expenditure on Public Works (other than irrigation and railways) during 1903-04 amounted to £7,625 as against £6,538 in 1902-03. The chief items of expenditure were buildings for "Law and Justice," £1,593; buildings for the Revenue Department, £70; buildings for the Educational Department, £799; roads, £3,091; and establishment, tools and plant, £1,473. The restoration of Shah Jehan's marble Baradaris on the Anasagar embankment and of the Arhai-din-ka-Jhonpra was entirely completed during the year.

CHAPTER XII.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

POST OFFICE.

THE receipts and charges of the Post Office for the last three years, as shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts, are given in the following statement:—

POST
OFFICE.

YEAR.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£
1901-02	1,383,709	1,280,624	103,085
1902-03	1,429,985	1,346,778	83,157
1903-04	1,507,810	1,403,870	103,940

The above figures include the charge on account of district post establishments, which is entirely met by grants from district post funds (only a very small portion of which is credited to the Post Office in the Finance and Revenue Accounts), and they exclude certain indirect charges in respect of the rent of Government buildings, cost of pensions, &c. If the figures for the year were recast on this basis, the surplus for 1903-04 would be £140,180.

The extent of the operations of the Post Office, and their develop-

ment during the last three years, are shown in the tables in the margin. These include the figures for the district post, of which the Post Offices number 1,886; the letter-boxes 5,208, and the village postmen 2,824.

Of the total length of postal lines, 35,802 miles belonged to the district post and 1,342 miles were political lines administered by the Imperial Post Office. The increase was greatest in the Punjab and North West Frontier Province.

The general correspondence returns, of which a summary is given in the margin, show an increase of 42 millions of articles (excluding money orders)

YEAR.	Post Offices.	Letter Boxes.	Village Postmen.	Length* of Postal Lines.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1901-02	13,845	28,902	7,944	136,964
1902-03	14,736	31,071	8,135	139,914
1903-04	15,403	34,005	8,242	146,027
Increase in 1903-4 over 1902-1903	667	2,934	107	6,213

* Including the Bombay-Aden line.

YEAR.	Letters (including Postcards).	Newspapers.	Book and Pattern Packets.	Parcels.	TOTAL.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1901-02	495,692,331	31,550,062	29,712,460	2,991,304	559,945,817
1902-03	520,553,125	32,568,182	32,708,771	3,472,338	589,297,416
1903-04	550,348,600	34,982,888	34,351,819	3,941,809	623,624,116
Increase in 1903-04 over 1902-1903	38,787,536	3,347,704	469,471	42,664,710	

carried by post in 1903-04, as compared with the figures for 1902-1903. Of the additional articles over 18 millions were postcards, the total number of which exceeded that of paid letters.

During the year under review the maximum size permitted for private postcards was raised, and the weight of registered newspaper that may be sent for $\frac{1}{2}$ anna was increased.

The total number of articles received for delivery, including money orders, was over 648 millions, of which 95.22 per cent. were delivered against 97.84 in the preceding year.

POST
OFFICE.

The net receipts of postal articles (other than money orders) at the dead letter offices for disposal were 4,680,403; of this number 1,132,936 articles were disposed of by being re-directed, and then delivered to the persons to whom they were addressed, while 2,534,420 were returned to the senders, and 1,321,002 could not be disposed of. This last figure is under 0·2 per cent. of the total number of articles given out for delivery, and a large proportion of the articles not disposed of were from their nature not capable of delivery.

The letters and postcards despatched from India to the United Kingdom in 1903-04 are estimated at 5,145,517, against 4,504,674 in 1902-03, or an increase of 14·23 per cent. Those received in India from the United Kingdom are estimated at 5,909,780, against 5,446,218 in the previous year, or an increase of 8·51 per cent. These figures show a considerable increase, though not so rapid as during previous years since the introduction of the penny postage in 1898. As in previous years, the increase is attributed largely to the growing use of pictorial postcards.

The newspapers, book packets, and samples despatched home from India showed an increase of 4 per cent., and the number of such articles received in India from the United Kingdom showed an increase of 2½ per cent.

The number of parcels exchanged with the United Kingdom rose from 231,097 in 1902-03 to 260,950—an increase of 12 per cent. This formed over 61 per cent. of the whole foreign parcel traffic. They were mostly sent *via* Gibraltar, but about a ninth were sent by the quicker Brindisi route. In the exchange of parcels with other countries there was again a satisfactory development of the traffic in both directions, an addition of 12·7 per cent. having been made to the number of parcels. The increase in the number of parcels sent to non-European countries is again to be attributed in great measure to the steady growth of the parcel post with Ceylon, to which inland rates apply, and with Egypt. On 1st January 1904 India adopted the "Triple Scale" rates of the cheap Imperial Parcels Post scheme for the interchange of parcels with Great Britain. The same rates have since been adopted by her as regards several other parts of the British Empire. It is anticipated that the cheapness and simplicity of the "Triple Scale" rates will greatly stimulate the parcels traffic where it is adopted.

The receipts from the insurance of letters and parcels were £18,285, as compared with £16,930 in the preceding year. There was an increase of 8·32 per cent. in the number of articles insured and of 7·61 per cent. in their value.

The average value for which each article was insured was, in the case of letters, Rs. 223, as compared with Rs. 232 in the previous year, and in that of parcels, Rs. 255, against Rs. 254 in 1902-03.

The number of claims for compensation preferred in respect of insured articles was 23, as compared with 45 in the preceding year. Seventeen claims were admitted, the loss being due in each case to fraud or negligence on the part of the servants of the Post Office. This involved the payment of £170 or 93 per cent. of the total amount realised from insurance fees, against a percentage of 3·88 in the preceding year. Of the six claims not admitted, two were definitely rejected, and four were pending at the close of the year.

The business of the value-payable post continues to show considerable progress. The number of articles sent was 3,886,297, and the amount declared for recovery by the Post Office from the addressees was over £3,000,000, the commission on which was £42,651. There was an increase of 16·39 per cent. in the number of articles, of 11½ per cent. in the value specified for recovery, and of 7·61 per cent. in the commission realised. Calcutta was responsible for nearly one-third of the entire business. The number of value-payable articles posted at the Calcutta General Post Office and its town sub-offices was over 1,200,000; and this department collected on the delivery of these articles a sum of over £900,000.

The value-payable system has not been introduced between India and any country other than Ceylon. During the year under review 50,913 value-payable articles were despatched from India to Ceylon, as compared with 47,948 articles in the preceding year.

The average value of each article, taking all classes of articles together, was Rs. 11. 11. 0, as compared with Rs. 12. 3. 3 in 1902-03.

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The reduction in 1902 in the commission on money orders not exceeding Rs. 5, while causing a great increase in the money order business, resulted in a diminution during 1902-03 of the receipts realised. During 1903-04, however, the commission realised reached the highest point recorded, namely, £226,140, as against £219,811 in 1902-03 and £225,797 in 1901-02. At the same time the number and value of inland money orders issued in India, including telegraphic money orders but excluding transactions with Native States, increased from 15,311,955 and £18,547,845 respectively to 16,470,115 and £19,623,942. The average value of an inland money order was Rs. 17. 14., against Rs. 18. 2. in the previous year. This continual fall in the average price of money orders and value-payable articles is considered satisfactory, as showing that both systems are becoming popular among a poorer class. The circles of Bengal, the United Provinces, and Madras are responsible for about half of the total money order business.

The above figures include the special classes of money order for payment of revenue, rent, and miscellaneous Government dues. These show an increase in most of the provinces where they are issued.

Revenue orders are issued in Bengal, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, the Punjab and the North-Western Frontier Province. The amount issued under this head rose from £638,000 in 1902-03 to £712,500 in 1903-04.

Rent money orders are issued in Bengal, the United Provinces, and Central Provinces: the issues under this head rose from £158,000 to £173,000.

Orders for miscellaneous Government dues are issued in Bengal, the United Provinces, the Punjab, the North-Western Frontier Province, Madras, and Burma: the amount issued fell from £240,000 to £208,000.

The number and value of money orders paid in Native States were respectively 67,593 and £113,214, against 63,504 and £106,571 in the previous year; and the number and value of issues in the States were 109,771 and £159,620, as compared with 105,554 and £157,770 in 1902-03. The excess of the issues by the States over the payments is again mainly due to the large issues of the Gwalior State.

The number of telegraphic money orders issued in 1903-04 was 191,100 for £1,330,523, as compared with 181,016 orders for £1,293,881 in the preceding year. The average value of a telegraphic money order was Rs. 104. 6. 11., against Rs. 107. 3. 5. in 1902-03.

The foreign money orders for and from the United Kingdom, most of the British colonies and possessions, foreign European countries and most of their colonies and possessions, and Egypt, are issued in sterling. The rates of commission on such orders were reduced during the year under consideration. The number of these orders issued by India rose from 98,896 in 1902-03 to 108,475 in 1903-04, and the value increased from £330,330 to £335,992, while the orders paid in India increased in number from 79,581 to 93,447, and in amount from £519,297 to £617,958, of which nearly £400,000 was remitted from South Africa. Of the total sterling money order transactions, all except about £50,000 was with the United Kingdom and British colonies and possessions.

The average value of a sterling money order issued by India was £3 1s. 11d. as compared with £3 6s. 10d. in 1902-03, and that of a sterling money order paid in India was £6 12s. 3d., as compared with £6 10s. 6d.

The money order transactions between India and China, Japan, Ceylon, and some British and foreign colonies in Africa and the East, are advised in Indian currency. The amount of such orders issued by India rose from £63,029 in 1902-03 to £68,058 in 1903-04, and the orders paid by India rose from £476,982 to £490,125—in spite of the great falling-off of remittances from East Africa, due to the return of Indian labourers on the completion of the work on the Uganda Railway.

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Office.

Including inland and foreign money orders, both ordinary and telegraphic, the total of the money orders issued by the India Post Office in 1903-04 amounted to £20,141,206, against £19,047,775 in 1902-03, and the total of payments to £20,895,046, against £19,673,430 in the preceding year.

At the close of the year there were 7,372 offices performing savings bank business, against 7,075 in the preceding year. The number of accounts in the Post Office savings banks rose from 922,353 to 987,635, the deposits, exclusive of transfers from one post office to another, from £2,897,317 to

Class of Depositors.	Average Number of Deposits.		
	1902-03.	1903-04.	Increase.
I. Professional -	308,262	321,583	16,321
II. Domestic -	161,346	175,602	14,256
III. Commercial -	34,123	37,930	3,807
IV. Agricultural -	15,065	16,131	1,066
V. Industrial -	30,928	32,602	1,674
VI. Indefinite -	372,629	400,487	27,858
Total -	922,353	987,635	65,282

£3,108,685, and the withdrawals from £2,621,097 to £2,733,656; and the interest rose from £216,704 to £233,050. The balance at the credit of depositors at the close of 1903-04 stood at £8,222,448 against £7,614,370 at the close of 1902-1903. The average balance at the credit of each depositor was Rs. 124.88, as compared with Rs. 123.83 in the previous year. The table in the margin shows the number of depositors in different classes for the years 1902-03 and 1903-04.

During 1903-04 the total amount invested in Government securities by savings bank depositors through the agency of the Post Office was £25,700, against £25,500 in the preceding year; and the balance of securities held by the Comptroller-General on behalf of depositors at the close of the year was £83,100, compared with £78,000 on the 31st March 1903.

The arrangements for the sale of quinine through the agency of the Post Office are now in force throughout India, and in the aggregate the sales show an increase of about 9,900 packets over the previous year.

The total number of Native army pensioners whose pensions were paid through the Post Office in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province during the year was 29,959, as compared with 29,328 in 1902-03.

During the year under review 1,568 new policies of the aggregate value of £140,338 were granted by the Postal Insurance Fund, and of these 1,313 were Endowment Assurance Policies, of the total value of £114,835. Ninety-eight claims, amounting in all to £9,946, were paid on the death of insured persons. At the close of 1903-04 there were 8,414 active policies in existence (3,175 held by Post Office servants and 5,239 by servants of other Departments), and the aggregate sum insured was £864,202. Nine life annuities were purchased by local funds for their servants under Article 807 of the Civil Service Regulations.

During the year under review there were 18 cases in which the mails were plundered by highway robbers, of which 15 were in British territory, and 3 in Native States. The figures for the preceding year were 32 and 24 respectively.

The number of cases in which the servants of the Post Office were found guilty of offences punishable by the law was 437, of which 211 were dealt with departmentally, while legal convictions were obtained in the remaining 226 cases. The defalcations and losses amounted to £1,681, as compared with £2,310 in 1902-03. A sum of £906 was recovered from the offenders or their sureties; £279 was charged against the Post Office Guarantee Fund; and £446 remained unadjusted at the close of the year. The subscriptions to the Guarantee Fund realised from Post Office and District Post Officials during the year amounted to £2,090, and the balance at the credit of the fund at the close of the year was £63,900.

The number of complaints made by the public was 31,329, against 28,284 in the previous year. In 34.55 per cent. of the whole number the complaints were ascertained to be well founded; 39.98 per cent. were entirely groundless; and in the remaining cases, either the investigation of the complaints had not been completed at the end of the year, or no definite conclusion had been arrived at.

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Special postal arrangements were made in December 1903 for the Tibet Mission, which entailed much hard work and responsibility on the staff by which they were carried out; and Field Service postal establishments were maintained in Somaliland and Northern China during the year under review.

The Postal arrangements of the Native state of Bikanir in Rajputana were amalgamated with the Imperial Post in the course of the year.

The Parcels Post has been extended to the Somaliland Protectorate, the British Agency at Chefsoo, North West Rhodesia, Timor, the German Offices at Kiaochau, Nankin, and Hschang, and certain places in Portuguese East Africa. The Imperial Penny Postage scheme has also been extended to the first two of the above places.

A new fast mail steamer service has been introduced between Karachi and the principal ports of the Persian Gulf, and direct mail communication has been established between Burma and Yunnan *via* Bhamo.

The shortest time occupied in transit by the mail from London to Bombay was 13 days 7 hours and 53 minutes, while the average time for the year was 13 days 23 hours and 43 minutes. The quickest transit from Bombay to London was 13 days 1 hour and 5 minutes, while the average time for the year was 14 days 2 hours and 21 minutes.

TELEGRAPHS.

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The following statement refers to the whole of the telegraph system under the direct control of the Government of India, but excludes the Indo-European Department, extending from Karachi to Teheran and Fao, for which, as usual, a separate account is given. The system now consists of 59,692 miles of line, 212,330 miles of wire, and 292 miles of cable.

The gross receipts, which in the previous year aggregated £749,392, fell to £741,866 in 1903-04, owing to a considerable decrease in the message and miscellaneous revenue. The decrease in the value of telegrams was not, however, associated with a corresponding decrease in their number, for while the value decreased by 1·87 per cent., their number increased by 8·38 per cent. Working expenses rose by £9,290, due mainly to an increase in the signalling establishment, and to an improvement in the pay and allowances of that class. The net revenue for the year showed a decrease of £16,816, as compared with that for 1902-03.

A reduction of the rates for inland telegrams was brought into force on 1st January 1904, and resulted in a large increase in private and press traffic. There was, however, a decrease in State traffic, attributed to the inflation of last year's traffic owing to the Delhi Coronation Durbar.

A reduction in the rates between Australia and countries in the East and Far East—including India, Burma and Ceylon—also came into operation on 1st June 1903, and a reduction in the Europe-China rates from 15th July of the same year.

During the year under review £244,629 was added to the capital expenditure, of which £216,388 was in respect of additions to the system comprising 2,862 miles of line and 11,797 miles of wire (including cable). Of the balance, £13,701 was on account of buildings and £9,288 on account of apparatus and plant. The total capital outlay at the close of the year stood at £5,549,210.

The number of telegraph offices open to the public at the end of the year, including railway and canal offices, was 6,091, of which 4,790 were maintained by the Department. The net addition to the number of offices during the year was 439.

In connection with the movements of the Sikkim-Tibet Mission, field telegraphs aggregating 284 miles of line carrying 376 miles of wire were erected during the year, and at its close they comprised 223 miles of line, 315 miles of wire, and 15 offices.

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The following statement shows, for a period of five years, the progress that has been made in extending public telegraphic communication :—

	Capital Expenditure.	Miles of Line.	Miles of Wire.	Miles of Cable.	Offices open to the Public.		
					Departmental, Ordinary and Postal combin.	Railway and Canal.	Total.
Up to beginning of 1899-1900	£ 4,347,705	51,769	160,650	275	1,719	2,980	4,699
During 1899-1900	*163,234	1,140	10,116	8	132	117	249
" 1900-1901	217,289	2,146	11,117	13	38	142	230
" 1901-02	247,741	772	8,721	-13	67	47	114
" 1902-03	328,612	1,003	9,663	-16	45	315	360
" 1903-04	244,629	2,862	11,771	25	76	363	439
To end of 1903-04	5,549,210	59,692	212,938	292	2,127	3,964	6,091

* Excludes £6,861 cost of cable lines transferred to Military Works Department on the 1st April 1899.

A general view of the operations of the Department in 1903-1904, in comparison with the results of the four previous years' working, will be gained from the following statement :—

Year.	Number of Messages during Year.	Gross Receipts, including State but excluding <i>pro forma</i> Revenue.	Charges.	Net Receipts.	Percentage of Net to Gross Receipts.	Return on Capital.
		£	£	£		
1899-1900	6,237,301	681,942	447,758	234,184	34.34	5.19
1900-1901	6,449,372	753,764	472,262	281,502	37.34	5.95
1901-02	6,475,545	730,395	503,338	227,057	31.08	4.56
1902-03	6,742,094	737,211	528,982	208,229	28.24	3.92
1903-04	7,307,087	730,994	538,272	192,722	26.37	3.47

The whole of the annual expenses connected with the telegraphs in India, whether incurred on capital account for the construction of new lines, or on revenue account for the maintenance and working of the system, are defrayed from the revenues of the Government of India.

The total number of paid telegrams sent in 1903-04 amounted to 7,307,087, as compared with 6,742,094 in 1902-03, showing an increase of 564,993 or 8.38 per cent. There was, however, mainly owing to a reduction of rates, a decrease in the value of these messages amounting to £9,708 or 1.69 per cent.

The following figures show, for the last two years, the division of the traffic between State and Private, and between Inland and Foreign, messages respectively :—

Class of Telegram.	1902-03.		1903-04.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
Inland State	858,864	£ 143,574	812,490	£ 120,997
Foreign State	16,544	7,348	16,296	7,707*
Total State	875,408	150,922	828,786	128,704
Inland Private	4,981,794	291,339	5,581,297	303,705
Foreign Private	884,892	132,722	897,004	132,867*
Total Private	5,866,686	424,061	6,478,301	436,572
Total State and Private	6,742,094	574,983	7,307,087	565,276

* These figures were affected by the opening of the American Pacific cable from San Francisco to Manila on 25th July 1903, the reduction of rates between India and Australia from 1st June 1903, and the reduction of Europe-China rates from 15th July 1903.

In Inland private traffic there has been an increase of 599,503 or 12·03 per cent. in number, and £12,366 or 4·24 per cent. in value. The figures for the year are the highest ever recorded. The increase in value is proportionately less than that in number, on account of the cheaper inland tariff introduced from 1st January 1904.

The following statement shows the development of the revenue from inland private traffic for the last 10 years :—

	£
1894-95	- 214,398
1895-96	- 231,657
1896-97	- 249,228
1897-98	- 263,573
1898-99	- 244,915
1899-1900	- 294,485
1900-1901	- 294,071
1901-02	- 278,106
1902-03	- 291,339
1903-04	- 303,705

Inland State telegrams show a decrease of 46,374 or 5·39 per cent. in number and £22,577 or 15·72 per cent. in value, due principally to the previous year having been an exceptional one for State traffic.

In Foreign Private telegrams, which include press and all foreign transit traffic, there has been an increase of 12,112 or 1·36 per cent. in number, and £145 or ·10 per cent. in the Indian share of their value. An analysis of this traffic for 1902-03 and 1903-04 discloses the fact that whereas the volume of "sent" and "received" traffic has increased by 591,587 words and its value by £9,834, the amount of "transit" traffic has decreased by 540,479 words and its value by £9,491. This decrease is due to the opening of alternative routes.

During the eight months of the year under review in which the new San Francisco-Manila cable has been in use, there has been a decrease, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, of 335,687 words in the traffic between America and the Far East passing through India, representing a loss of about £4,700. On the other hand, the through rate between Europe and China was reduced with effect from 15th July 1903, and this, together with the Russo-Japanese war, has resulted in an increase of 302,361 words, representing an Indian transit share of about £4,233 in the Anglo-Chinese traffic passing over the Indian lines.

Foreign State telegrams show a decrease of 248 or 1·43 per cent. in number, but an increase of £359 or 4·88 per cent. in value.

The total number of press telegrams was 45,653, and their value £11,479, namely, 39,089 inland valued at £9,582, and 6,564 foreign, of which the Indian share of the value was £1,897. Comparing the figures of the year with those of its predecessor, press inland traffic shows a decrease of 3,578 or 8·39 per cent. in number, and £2,048 or 17·60 per cent. in value; and press foreign traffic shows an increase of 394 or 6·38 per cent. in number, but a decrease of £169 or 8·27 per cent. in the Indian share of its value. The large decrease in the number and value of press inland messages is attributable mainly to the revised inland tariff, and to the largely extended use of the multiple telegram since the introduction of the revised rates, under which a copying fee only of four annas ($\frac{1}{4}$ l.) per 100 words is levied for each address after the first, even when the offices of the several newspapers to which the multiple telegram is addressed are located in different towns. The figures under the head "foreign" represent the number of press telegrams to and from India, and the Indian share of their value, transit traffic to and from countries to the east and west of India being excluded.

The gross receipts of the Telephone Companies during the year 1903 amounted to £34,299, an increase of £2,468 as compared with the previous year. Their average annual earnings during the past five years amount to £30,695.

The subscriptions to the Telegraph Department for telephone and similar services rendered during the same calendar year amounted to £13,046, being

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£1,656 more than the amount of the previous year. The average annual subscriptions for the past five years amount to £11,251.

Communication with Europe *viâ* Suez was maintained uninterruptedly during the year. The Teheran route was interrupted for 207 hours in all as compared with 222 hours in the previous year, while the Turkish route was interrupted for 429 hours, as against 870 hours in 1902-03.

The proportion of international traffic to and from India, exclusive of transit traffic, over the several routes to Europe for the year 1903-04 was as follows :—

	Per cent.	
	No.	Words.
Indo-European :—		
<i>Viâ</i> Teheran	47.35	50.48
<i>Viâ</i> Turkey	1.65	1.27
Persian Gulf, <i>viâ</i> Karachi	1.58	2.10
Red Sea :—		
<i>Viâ</i> Suez	49.42	46.15
Total	100.00	100.00

The bulk of the transit traffic was, as usual, carried *viâ* Suez.

Telegraphic communication with the Cape by the cables along the East Coast of Africa was maintained without interruption throughout the year.

As regards the East, communication with the Straits Settlements was maintained uninterruptedly during the year by the cables of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company.

The land route to China *viâ* Bhamo was interrupted beyond the Indian frontier for 48 days in the aggregate, against 59 days in the previous year. There were no interruptions within the Indian frontier.

Communication with Siam over the Moulmein-Bangkok line *viâ* Kanburi was interrupted for 47 days, as against 31 days in the previous year. The line from Moulmein to Raheng *viâ* Myawaddy was interrupted for 11 days, as compared with 12 days in the previous year. There were three interruptions, lasting 3 days, within Indian limits.

Events of interest during the year were the meeting of the International Telegraph Convention in London in 1903, the reduction of rates between Australia and certain countries in the East and Far East (including India, Burma and Ceylon) from 1st June 1903, the revision of the inland tariff in India on 1st January 1904, the opening of an alternative route for tariff transiting India, viz., the Commercial Pacific cable between San Francisco and Manila, on 25th July 1903, and the reduction of the rates between Europe and China from 15th July 1903.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

INDO-
EUROPEAN
TELEGRAPH
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MENT.

The system of telegraph lines and cables connecting the terminus of the Indo-European Company's telegraphs at Teheran with the Indian telegraph system at Karachi is controlled by the Indo-European Government Telegraph Department, and consists of two sections. One, designated the Persian Gulf Section, extends by cable from Karachi to Bushire, Jask to Muscat, and Bushire to Fao, where a connection is made with the Ottoman Government line, and by land lies along the Mekran Coast from Jask to Gwadar, and thence to Karachi; while the other, called the Persian Section, consists of land lines, running from Bushire to Teheran. The system comprises 1,938 knots of cable, 1,391 miles of line and 3,472 miles of wire, exclusive of the Persian Government line from Teheran to Meshed, 568 miles, which is maintained by the Department.

The construction of a line, known as the Central Persia line, from Kashan to the Eastern frontier of Persia, under the terms of a Convention with Persia dated 16th August 1901, which was commenced on 2nd December 1902, and of which 141·25 miles had been completed by 31st March 1903, was continued during 1903-4 through Yezd, Anar, Kerman and Bam to a point 25 miles beyond Bam, and 596 miles distant from Kashan. Beyond this a single wire line was constructed to form a connection with the Indian line from Quetta to Robat, and 48·5 miles of this light line had been completed on the 31st March 1904.

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MENT.

The administration of the Indo-European Department, which in 1888 was amalgamated with the general telegraph system of India, was re-transferred to London in 1893, and placed under the direct orders of the Secretary of State. It has been found convenient to maintain separate accounts for this Department, partly for the sake of comparison with previous years, and partly because the conditions under which the Indo-European lines are worked and the influences affecting the traffic are completely different from those prevailing on the Indian telegraph system generally.

The financial results of working the Department, as compared with the four preceding years, were as follows:—

YEAR.	Total Capital Outlay.	Gross Receipts.*	Expenditure.	Net Receipts.	Percentage of	
					Net Receipts to Capital.	Expenditure to Gross Receipts.
1899-1900 - -	£ 766,736	£ 102,541	£ 56,234	£ 46,307	6·02	54·84
1900 01 - -	771,680	116,825	56,244	60,581	7·85	48·14
1901-02 - -	818,747	121,936	57,310	64,626	7·89	47·00
1902-03 - -	872,730	99,158	59,853	39,305	4·50	60·36
1903-04 - -	913,320	107,173	61,749	45,424	4·97	57·61

* This represents the revenue of the Departments after adjustments made in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Purse arrangement.

During the year under review the Capital Account was increased by a net amount of £40,590. A net expenditure of £43,462 was incurred on the construction of the new Central Persia line, but as a partial set off against this, there occurred certain credits in connection with the laying of the Jask-Muscat cable in 1901-02.

The gross earnings of the Department show an increase of £8,015 as compared with 1902-03; the figures are, however, still much below those for the years 1900-01 and 1901-02. This is due principally to the reduction of the rates between Europe and India, and to the opening of the new Pacific cables, which have diverted to themselves a good deal of traffic which formerly would have had to cross India.

The expenditure shows an increase of £1,896, due almost entirely to heavy repairs to cables during the year, and to the increased cost of establishment and maintenance in the Persian Section in consequence of the opening during the year of two more sub-sections and six new offices of the Central Persia line.

The net result is a profit of £45,424, or 4·97 per cent. on the total capital expenditure, as compared with 4·50 per cent. realised last year. The capital outlay on the Central Persia line is as yet wholly unproductive.

The number of messages forwarded during the year amounted to 189,706, being an increase of 11,456 or 6·43 per cent. over that for 1902-03.

Under the Joint Purse Agreement, the share of the Department was £5,919 more than last year, being £116,963 as against £111,044 in 1902-03. The amount paid into the Joint Purse for the year under review was £71,151.

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MENT.

The Departmental receipts from the Australasian Message Fund for 1903-04 amounted to £5,268, being £1,021 less than in 1902-03, and a decrease of £967 as compared with those for 1889, on which the original Australasian Message Fund was based.

The results of the year's working may be considered generally satisfactory. Delays and errors were not serious, except on the Turkish route between Constantinople and Fao, which continued to be worked unsatisfactorily. The Department was liable to the Joint Purse for 23 days interruptions between Constantinople and Bushire. Acts of wilful damage continue to increase, aggregating 713 and involving a sum of Krans 14,560 of which Krans. 9,100 were recovered locally and the balance claimed from the Persian Government.

CHAPTER XIII.

EDUCATION, LITERATURE, AND THE PRESS.

EDUCATION.

EDUCATION.

Educational institutions in India are of two classes :—

- (1.) Those in which the course of study conforms to the standards prescribed by the Department of Public Instruction or by the University, and which either undergo inspection by the Department, or else regularly present pupils at the public examinations held by the Department or by the University. These institutions are called "public," but may be under either public or private management. To the latter class, for example, belong those "aided schools," receiving grants from Government or from local or municipal boards, which occupy so important a place in the system of Madras, Bengal, and other provinces.
- (2.) Those which do not fulfil the above conditions, and are called "private."

The system of education operates, generally speaking, through three grades of institutions, viz. :—

- (1.) Primary schools, which aim at the teaching of reading, writing, and such elementary knowledge as will enable a peasant to look after his own interests.
- (2.) Secondary schools, which are divided into English and Vernacular. Those in which English forms part of the regular course of study of all the scholars, or at least of all the scholars in the higher classes, are counted as English schools; if English is not taught, or is an optional subject only, they are reckoned as Vernacular.
- (3.) Colleges, the students in which, having passed the matriculation examination of a University, are reading for the further examinations required for a degree.

In addition to these there are various institutions of a special character, such as technical schools teaching arts and industries, engineering, and other branches of applied science; law schools; medical schools and colleges; and normal schools for the training of teachers.

The year 1903-04 was a notable one in the history of education in India. After careful investigation by a Commission, a Bill to amend the constitution of the Universities of the country was prepared and passed into law. In March 1904, the Government of India, in a comprehensive resolution, reviewed the whole history of education in the past, and declared the policy of the Government for the future. These two important events call for some special notice.

The main purpose of the Universities Act is to confer upon the five Universities of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Allahabad and the Punjab, a working constitution, and to invest them with the general powers which are required to enable them to control and supervise higher education in accordance with the principles and policy approved by the Government of India. That policy is, in brief, to substitute for a system which provides merely for examining students in those subjects to which their aptitudes direct them, a system which compels them also to study those subjects systematically under efficient instruction and supervision. The constitution and method of selection of the controlling authorities of the Universities are carefully revised and defined by the Act, and detailed rules are laid down in regard to the important function, which the reformed Universities will have to discharge, of making recommendations to the Government for the affiliation or disaffiliation of colleges. Only those students who have completed a course of instruction in an affiliated college can offer themselves as candidates at a University examination, and only those colleges are eligible for affiliation

Universities
Act, 1904.

EDUCATION. which comply with certain conditions laid down in regard to (*inter alia*) their governing bodies, the qualifications of their teaching staff, their financial condition, their buildings and accommodation, the possession of a library facilities for practical instruction in science, and due supervision of students. Provision is also made for the periodical inspection of affiliated colleges. Wide power is given to the Senates, with the sanction of the Government to make regulations to provide for matters relating to the promotion of advanced study and to the residence and conduct of students generally.

The Resolu-
tion on
Education.

The following is a brief summary of some of the more important points of the Government of India's Resolution:—Measures will be taken to counteract the abuse of examinations. In future there will be only two examinations preceding the University course—the primary examination, which will mark the completion of the lowest stage of instruction, and the secondary, which will take place at the end of the secondary course. The system of assessing grants to aided schools upon the results shown by examination will be replaced by more equitable tests of general efficiency. The multiplication of competitive tests for Government service is discouraged. The scheme of primary education, the development of which is to be fostered by increased financial assistance, is set forth in detail. It may be noted that it is definitely declared that English should have no place therein; as a general rule it is considered that a child should not be allowed to learn English as a language until he has received a thorough grounding in his mother tongue. As regards secondary education, the evils of the purely literary course are pointed out, and it is declared to be essential to promote diversified types of secondary education, corresponding with the varying needs of practical life. The ethics of education are discussed, and the settled policy is announced of abstention from interference with the religious instruction given in aided schools, while in Government institutions instruction must continue to be exclusively secular. Moral teaching is to be sought from a high standard of discipline, the proper selection of text-books, and the general association of teachers with pupils in daily life. It is hoped to make progress against the peculiar difficulties involved in female education by the establishment of model primary girls' schools at important centres, by an increase in the number of training schools and the staff of inspectresses, and by the encouragement by grants-in-aid of missionary effort, especially zenana teaching. The future of University education is dealt with in the preceding paragraph; it may be added that the Government of India promise a liberal increase of expenditure from public funds. Provision will be made for the further development of the education of Europeans and Eurasians, and of the system of Chiefs' Colleges, where the sons of ruling Chiefs are prepared for the duties that await them. Assistance is to be given to technical education in the form of scholarships to selected students to enable them to pursue a course of technical education in Europe or America. Schools of art and commercial education receive attention. An attempt will be made to remedy the admitted defects of industrial schools, and the courses of study will be so ordered as not to lend themselves to the manufacture of clerks, but to bear exclusively upon carefully selected industries. Agricultural education—an important subject—is to be reorganised and expanded. Great importance is attached by the Government of India to the provision of hostels, or boarding houses, under proper supervision, in connection with colleges and secondary schools. Lastly, it is proposed substantially to increase the educational staff, and measures will be taken with a view to securing that most essential condition of the reform of secondary education—the training of teachers in the art of teaching.

Bengal.

The total number of institutions in Bengal at the end of the year was 66,100, with 1,892,874 pupils, as compared with 63,629 institutions and 1,754,655 pupils in the previous year. The increase was again confined to public institutions, private institutions having decreased by 613. Of the total number of pupils, 1,777,265 were in public and 115,609 in private institutions. A comparison with the figures of 1894-95 shows that during the past ten years there was a loss of 3,611 institutions, but a gain of 251,355 pupils. These figures may be accepted as indicating solid and satisfactory progress, as they probably mean that many small and inefficient schools have closed their doors and their pupils have transferred themselves to more

efficient institutions. The proportion of scholars to the estimated population of school-going age increased during the year under review from 28·2 per cent. to 30 per cent. in the case of boys, and from 2·2 per cent. to 2·8 per cent. in the case of girls. The total expenditure on education from all sources was £924,360 as against £903,119 in 1902-03. This amount was contributed in the following proportions:—Provincial revenues, 23·3 per cent.; district funds, 12·6 per cent.; municipal funds, ·8 per cent.; fees, 43·1 per cent.; all other sources, 20·2 per cent. Primary schools for Indian boys showed a further increase of 1,677 institutions and 105,584 pupils—a satisfactory feature, following as it does the large increase in 1902-03. The figures for secondary education show little variation from those of the previous year, but it may be noted that the results of the entrance examination were rather unsatisfactory, the number of candidates having increased, while the number who were successful decreased. As regards University education, the number of Arts colleges increased by one to 46, and the total number of students remained practically the same. The results of the University examinations were somewhat disappointing—partly, no doubt, owing to the fact that the tests, which had been generally recognised as rather low, were raised by the examiners. There was a substantial increase during the year in the number of institutions for the education of Indian females, and in the number of pupils attending them. Two measures of importance in connection with female education were carried out during the year, the one being the opening of training classes for Hindu and Muhammadan widows, and the other the extension of the system of zenana teachers. A further increase of 11 per cent. in the number of Muhammadan pupils under instruction took place, and important results are anticipated from a scheme for developing the indigenous Muhammadan schools which exist throughout the province. The number of training schools for teachers in primary schools showed a considerable increase, but many more are urgently required.

There were in the United Provinces at the end of the year 14,709 institutions with 502,882 scholars. The total number of schools cannot well be compared with that in the previous year, owing to the reversion to the old plan of reckoning the primary and secondary classes of one school as one school instead of two, in accordance with the orders of the Government of India. The figures show general progress, the total increase of scholars being 9,751. There was an increase of 3,708 Brāhman scholars, and altogether of 8,159 Hindus. The increase among Muhammadans was 1,228, while Native Christians were returned as 84 less than in the previous year. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age was, for the first time in the history of the province, more than 7. For boys it was 12·91, and for girls ·75, instead of 12·76 and ·63 respectively in 1902-03. The total expenditure on education from all sources was £347,651, an increase of £8,555 on the previous year. In spite of the widespread prevalence of plague, the number of scholars receiving primary instruction showed a further increase of nearly 7,000 during the year, the total number of boys in primary schools being 378,277. The improvement occurred mainly in State schools. There was, however, a remarkable falling off in the number of candidates at primary examinations, which it is difficult to explain. Secondary schools for boys increased by 5 to 508, and their attendance rose to 23,856. The number of candidates appearing for the entrance examination of the Allahabad University showed an increase on last year's figure, and the general results of the University examinations during the year were exceptionally favourable. The question of placing the finances of the University on a satisfactory footing was postponed until the new conditions of working under the Universities Act should be determined. Female education showed a considerable advance, there being 800 institutions for girls with 26,048 scholars, as against 658 schools with 21,887 scholars in 1902-03. But the high castes show no readiness to send their daughters to school, though there is some demand for peripatetic governesses. Among the educational measures of the year, mention may be made of the revision of the curriculum of English schools, and of the grant-in-aid rules applicable to them. The two great objects on which attention is now being concentrated are the improving of the teaching staff, and the introduction of a new and more efficient system of inspection.

EDUCATION. The total number of public institutions in the Punjab (including Native States) rose from 3,230 to 3,246, and their attendance from 193,529 to 194,915. The number of private institutions fell from 4,825 to 4,701, while their attendance increased from 76,010 to 76,315. The total expenditure on education in British territory was £261,204, an increase of £22,440 as compared with that of the previous year. To this expenditure Imperial revenues contributed 3·5 per cent., provincial revenues 32·2 per cent., district and municipal funds 23·4 per cent., fees 24 per cent., and other sources 14·1 per cent. In Native States £13,241 was spent, of which 85 per cent. came from State revenues. There were 14 colleges in British territory and 4 in Native States, and a considerable increase took place in the number of students. The number of secondary schools in British territory fell from 332 to 326, and the number of pupils from 59,961 to 59,654. The decrease was confined to boys' schools; girls' schools showed a slight increase. In Native States secondary schools increased from 51 to 53, and pupils from 7,604 to 7,855. Primary schools showed a total increase of 17, and the number of pupils rose by 1,217 to 123,048. The attendance at schools for special instruction increased from 2,356 to 2,490. The number of candidates appearing for the various Arts examinations of the Punjab University was 825 as against 885 in the previous year, but the percentage of passes was slightly higher. The decrease in the number of students taking Law examinations, and the increase in the number studying medicine continued. Female education showed an advance from 15,546 to 16,668 in the number of girls attending public schools, and the total number of girls under instruction was 29,376. The number of Muhammadans receiving instruction rose from 111,616 to 112,855, but it is noticeable that the increase occurs in private and not in public schools. The numbers of Hindus and Sikhs under instruction also increased to 105,052 and 22,795 respectively. The educational results of the year were, on the whole, eminently satisfactory, and the best guarantee for further progress is the remarkable and steady increase in the number of qualified teachers, both male and female. The policy of the Government to have a Government model school at the headquarters of each district, which was being inaugurated at the end of the year, will, it is hoped, result in affording a useful example to other schools in each district. An important event of the year was the holding of an educational exhibition for the first time at Lahore, which appears to have largely stimulated interest in education.

Burma. In Burma, the statistics on the whole indicate further progress. The total number of institutions, public and private, rose from 18,931 to 19,716, and the attendance from 331,525 to 347,135. More than half the pupils were in public institutions. The total expenditure increased from £151,600 to £159,382. The portion of this expenditure borne by provincial funds shows an increase of £6,122; that borne by fees an increase of £4,307, and that borne by local funds an increase of £1,163, while the amounts attributable to municipal funds and to "other sources" decreased by £100 and £3,719 respectively. The Rangoon College had an attendance of 166 as against 160 in 1902-03, and of its candidates 7 out of 20 were successful in the B.A., and 16 out of 75 in the F.A. examination. From the Baptist College, which had 28 students, 7 went up for the F.A. examination, and 2 passed. There were in all 392 secondary schools with 37,773 pupils, and 4,925 primary schools with 146,763 pupils. These figures show in every case a considerable advance on those of the previous year, and the large increase in the number of pupils undergoing primary education is specially satisfactory. Steps have been taken towards the encouragement of Vernacular primary education by improving the terms offered to the managers who open schools in parts where schools have not been opened, by raising the status of itinerant teachers, and by the framing of a new Vernacular curriculum. Female education made very good progress. While an increase of 5 per cent. in the number of girls in public institutions was shown by the returns of 1902-03, a further increase of 12 per cent. took place during the year under review; the total number being 43,017. In private institutions there were 4,449 girls as against 4,125 in the previous year. Muhammadan education showed some advance, the number of Muhammadans under instruction rising from 9,733 to 10,475. The school for the sons of *Sauwbas* at Taunggyi in

the Southern Shan States continued to be popular, and contained at the end of year 82 pupils. The appointment of a fifth inspector of schools, who is to have charge of European education and training schools was sanctioned during the year. Progress was made in giving effect to the educational policy of the Government of India, first by the revision of indigenous schools with the object of providing instruction of a more practical character and more suited to the needs of agriculturists, and secondly by steps being taken in the direction of substituting for result grants a system of grants framed on the lines approved by the Simla Conference. EDUCATION.

The statistics of Berar were for the first time amalgamated with those of the Central Provinces in accordance with the orders of the Local Government. Educational progress received a considerable check from plague and from the local scarcity which existed early in the year in portions of the Central Provinces; but, in spite of these obstacles, the results of the year show a considerable advance on the previous year. In the Central Provinces there was a nominal decrease in the number of schools, owing to a difference in the system of classification; actually the number of schools increased, and the number of pupils rose from 141,067 to 145,929. In Berar there was an actual decrease, both in schools and in pupils, owing to the prevalence of plague, while in the Feudatory States, where there was no plague, there was an increase of 4,000 in the number of pupils. The total number of schools in the Central Provinces and Berar, including Feudatory States, was 3,585, and the total attendance 219,931, the latter figure showing an increase of over 7,000 on the previous year. The percentage of scholars to children of school-going age was 10 as against 9·7 in the year 1902-03. In British territory the percentage was 18·7 for boys and 1·3 for girls in the Central Provinces, and 23·8 for boys and 1·3 for girls in Berar. The total expenditure in British territory was £116,876 as compared with £115,777 in the previous year. Of this 35·9 per cent. was met from provincial funds, 37·5 per cent. from district funds, 6·2 per cent. from municipal funds, 9·4 per cent. from fees, and 10·9 per cent. from other sources. Different classes of education shared as follows:—Collegiate education, 3·5 per cent.; secondary education, 22·3 per cent.; primary education, 42·8 per cent.; technical education, 5 per cent. The average number enrolled in colleges fell from 277 to 266, owing to the poor success of the schools at the entrance examination, a circumstance which was attributed to the interruption of school work caused by plague. The total number of public secondary schools was 449, with an attendance of 40,691. There were in British territory in the Central Provinces 1,772 primary schools, an increase of 22 on the previous year, and the attendance also increased. In Berar there was an actual decrease of 85 primary schools and 7,079 scholars, a fact which is mainly attributable to plague. To turn to female education, there was an actual increase of 15 girls' schools in British territory in the Central Provinces, and the number on the rolls increased from 8,464 to 8,885. In Berar the number of girls' schools fell by 3, and the attendance decreased from 1,520 to 1,292. The principal feature of the year's educational work was, of course, the addition of Berar to the Central Provinces, and steps were taken to assimilate the Berar system to that of the Central Provinces. The most important changes introduced in Berar were the abolition of the result-grant system, the conversion of rural schools into board schools, and the provincialization of girls' schools. Central Provinces and Berar.

The number of public institutions in Assam was 3,005, and the number of pupils 100,274, as against 3,101 institutions with 101,097 pupils in 1902-03. The decrease was mainly due to the closure of certain schools owing to their proximity to other schools, and also to the disappearance of certain unaided schools which could not be assisted owing to their unsatisfactory condition. The number of private schools decreased from 3,395 to 3,232, and their attendance from 107,889 to 106,280. The percentage of pupils to population of school-going age was 20·8 in the case of boys and 1·45 in the case of girls. It is noteworthy that pupils have increased in number in each of the stages in which English is taught, but have fallen off in purely Vernacular courses. This is significant as indicating increased Assam.

EDUCATION: appreciation of the practical value of a knowledge of English on the part of the middle classes of the people. The total expenditure during the year was £64,358 as against £53,415 in the previous year. Of this, £20,561 was borne by provincial revenues, £22,453 by local and municipal funds, £11,574 by fees, and £9,602 by private sources. Primary schools for boys numbered 2,682 with 80,757 pupils, as compared with 2,722 schools with 81,191 pupils in 1902-03, but for the most part this decline is nominal only, the result of a closer scrutiny of the returns. Secondary schools decreased from 148 to 143, but their attendance rose from 14,567 to 14,765; the increase taking place in the number of pupils at high schools. The Murarichand College in Sylhet and the Gauhati State Cotton College—the two second-grade colleges in Assam—sent up 25 and 52 students respectively for the First Arts examination, of whom 14 and 10 respectively were successful. Girls' schools fell in number from 171 to 140, and the number of girls under instruction decreased to 6,263, but this decline also is attributed partly to a more careful scrutiny of the returns.

Coorg.

Coorg had at the end of the year 88 public schools, with 4,020 pupils in attendance, the latter total being somewhat smaller than that for the previous year—a decrease which is attributable partly, if not wholly, to the effect of plague at Virajendrapet and Sirangela. With three exceptions, one normal and two secondary, all were primary schools. Private institutions numbered 33, and their attendance was reported to be 579, both figures showing an increase on the year 1902-03. The percentage of scholars among the population of school-going age was 15·7 for boys and 4·5 for girls. The total expenditure was £2,649, or £136 less than in the previous year. The educational system of the province underwent no material change during the period under review, but the working of the department was simplified by the promulgation of rules for the management and inspection of local fund and municipal schools, defining the exact functions of the local bodies and Government officers concerned.

North-West Frontier Province.

The number of public institutions in the North-West Frontier Province rose from 199 to 206, and of pupils from 13,468 to 13,975. The number of private schools also showed an increase, rising during the year from 727 to 744, and their attendance from 12,378 to 12,464. The increase was confined to private schools which aim at more than the teaching of religious books by rote. The total number under instruction constituted 7·9 per cent. of the population of school-going age. The total expenditure was £12,726; an increase of £1,882. The increase was confined to the head "Indirect Expenditure," and was mainly due to the appointment of an Inspector-General of Education, to larger outlay on buildings, and to an increased number of Scholarships. The Edwardes Church Mission College at Peshawar had 17 students, as against 20 at the end of 1902-03. Secondary schools fell from 26 to 25, and their attendance showed a nominal decrease from 5,174 to 5,078. Primary schools for boys number 172, or eight more than in the previous year, with an increased attendance of 8,302. The number of girls under instruction rose from 2,104 to 2,225. Of these only 578 were being educated in public schools.

Madras.

The total number of educational institutions, public and private, of all grades in Madras, rose from 26,334 to 26,771, and the average number on the rolls, counting all classes of institutions, increased from 847,525 to 875,051. Of the total population of school-going age, 27·8 per cent. of the boys and 4·8 per cent. of the girls were under instruction. The percentage of scholars to population of school-going age rose slightly in the Northern Circars and Central and Southern Districts and fell in the rest, the total percentage being 16·1 as against 15·4 in the previous year. The proportion of scholars in the lower primary stage was 83·7 of the total number. The expenditure on public instruction from all sources rose from £565,430 to £594,086, of which £168,521 was provided by Government, £62,506 by district boards, £17,231 by municipal councils, £191,599 from fees, and £154,228 from endowments and miscellaneous receipts. Over 57 per cent. of the total expenditure related, as in the previous year, to secondary and primary education. First grade and second grade colleges numbered respectively 11 and 29, as in 1902-03; the strength of the former increased,

but that of the latter declined slightly. The three colleges specially intended for women had 14 students, while 23 women attended the men's colleges. The number of candidates admitted to degrees in the several faculties of the Madras University was 656, as against 676 in the previous year, the decrease occurring chiefly among those taking the degree of Bachelor of Laws. For the M.A. examination 12 candidates out of 38 were successful. Upper secondary schools for boys increased by 9, and their strength from 48,067 to 49,887. In the lower secondary stage there were, in all classes of institutions, 42,524 scholars, an increase of nearly 3,000 during the year. There were 25 upper and 170 lower secondary schools for girls. The former figure is the same as in 1902-03, and the attendance slightly declined; the latter figure shows an increase of 4, and the attendance rose considerably. The total number of girls in the secondary stage of instruction at the close of the year was 4,447 as against 4,213 in the previous year. The number of public primary schools advanced from 18,637 to 19,246 in the case of boys' schools, and from 769 to 811 in the case of girls' schools, and the attendance in each instance showed a marked improvement. The total numbers of boys and girls in the primary stage of instruction were, respectively, 630,878 and 121,090 as against 595,098 and 114,752 in 1902-03. The system of paying fixed and result grants at the sanctioned rate, which began in the previous year, was continued in the year under review, and the very considerable increase in the number of pupils in primary schools may be attributed to this cause. Technical, industrial and art schools increased in number, and there was a corresponding increase in their strength. At the Government technical examinations there was a further and very marked increase in the number of subject candidates, while the number that passed rose from 2,271 to 2,326, but fell in percentage from 40 to 38. There was a further decline from 2,070 to 2,024 in the total number of institutions for Muhammadans, but this did not affect their strength, which rose from 79,065 to 80,054.

The ravages of plague again severely affected the educational record of the Bombay Presidency. In spite of this, the year is considered to have been remarkable for educational activity and progress, and for the shaping of schemes and inauguration of expenditure, which are full of promise for the future. The statistics of the year are of little value as a guide to the spread of education, owing to the constant closing of institutions on account of plague. The total number of educational institutions in Bombay and Sind was 12,460, with an attendance of 578,360, the figures of the previous year being 12,218 and 599,708 respectively. Of these, 9,887 institutions, with 513,479 pupils, were public. The total expenditure from all sources rose from £547,785 to £571,296. There were 10 Arts colleges, and 5 professional colleges, as in the year 1902-03, with a considerably increased total attendance of 3,454 students, of whom 677, including 45 women, were at the Grant Medical College. Technical schools and colleges generally showed an increased number of students. The number of night schools, which had been decreasing during the years immediately preceding that under review, increased from 100 to 140. Secondary schools for boys rose by 2 to 424, while primary schools for boys increased from 8,260 to 8,452; the attendances in the two classes of schools being 40,924 and 410,400 respectively. The large decrease in the number of pupils is attributed to the enormous havoc and dislocation caused by plague in the districts attacked by it. The total expenditure on secondary education for boys was £114,878, and on primary education £213,325. To these sums provincial revenues contributed £23,891 and £63,615 respectively. The total number of girls under instruction during the year was 75,647, of whom 70,612 were in primary schools, and 34,003 in the lowest stage. In Arts colleges and other special schools there were 361 female students, 239 of whom were in training schools. The total expenditure on female education rose from £51,726 to £61,627, the contribution from provincial revenues being £13,933. The number of Muhammadans under instruction was 127,551 as against 129,711 in the previous year, but the number in colleges and training schools showed a marked increase, so that there was a distinct improvement where it is most desired. The Yeravda Reformatory School contained 137 boys at the end of the year. Special features of the educational work of the year which may be mentioned were the revision of the Vernacular reading series by a committee

EDUCATION. of experts, the provision of a secondary training college in Bombay, and the enlargement of the Vernacular training colleges, including the erection of a new building for the college at Poona. The grant-in-aid code was carefully revised during the year, in conformity with the principles laid down at the Simla Conference, and the system of payment by results was finally abolished.

LITERATURE.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

	English.	Bi-lingual (English and another Language).	Sanskrit.	Arabic.	Persian.	Urdu.	Hindi.	Bengal.	Punjab.	Marathi.	Gujarathi.	Tamil.	Telugu.	Burmese.	Kanarese.	Assamese.	Uriya.	Bi-lingual (Oriental) in a Classical and Vernacular Language.	
Madras	459	—	94	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	817	399	—	39	—	33		
Bombay	66	69	2	5	—	34	42	—	1	137	234	—	—	—	8	—	—	56, mostly Sanskrit and Hindi or Gujarathi.	
Bengal	370	176	102	1	1	86	176	1,356	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	185	178, mostly Bengali and Sanskrit.	
United Provinces.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- Figures not available -									—	(Total number of publications, 1,409.)
Punjab	130	18	19	32	28	601	108	—	307	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	95, including 27 Arabic-Urdu.	
Burma	5	5	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	69	—	—	—	43 (Pali and Burmese).	
Central Provinces.	2	4	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
Assam	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 (Latin and Khadi).	
Mysore	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Note.—The figures for Madras include 353 periodicals, and those for the Punjab 129 periodicals; in other Provinces books alone are shown.

The above table gives concisely the number of publications registered throughout India in European, Eastern classical and the principal Indian Vernacular languages. The number of bi-lingual and polyglot works, however, makes classification difficult. In Madras, the total number of works in more than one language was 143, but how this number was made up does not appear. Other languages in which books were published were Malayalam (39), Tulu and Sourashtra (in Madras); Gurmukhi, Jari and Marwadi (in Bombay); Ho, Mundari, Musalmani-Bengali, Oraon, Santali, Ao-Naga, Garo, Manipuri, Mikir and Tangkhul-Naga (in Bengal and Assam); Balti, Gorkhali, Kashmiri, Pashto and Tibetan (in the Punjab); Sgau-Karen, Shan and Kachin (in Burma); Konkani (in Madras and Bombay); Khasi (in Bengal and Assam); Pali (in Bengal and Burma); and Sindhi (in Bombay and the Punjab).

Bengal.

The number of publications received in the Bengal library during 1903 was 2,887 against 3,366 in 1902. The decrease was due to the fact that cases of evasion of book registration were no longer reported to the Inspector-General of Registration. Of the total number of publications received, 2,117 were books and 770 periodicals. Of the books, 1,832 were original publications, and 285 republications and translations. As regards language, Bengali claims a large majority of publications, English coming next. The output in Uriya and Hindi was also considerable. As in the previous year, religion was the most popular subject, being represented by 395 original publications, and 702 republications and translations. Language, poetry, fiction and mathematical science followed next in order, and history and drama were also fairly represented with 50 and 57 original publications respectively. There appears to be considerable room for improvement in the character and scope of the Bengali drama, especially the popular "social farces." Some productions of superior merit are, however, noted, especially the '*Pratapaditya*,' a historical drama, by Babu Ksbirod Prasad Vidyavinod, and a tragedy entitled '*Tarabai*,' by Babu Dvijendra Lal Ray. In this latter play, which is written in a highly moral and chivalrous key, the influence of Shakespeare is distinctly visible. Bengali fiction continues at a low general level, but Rai Haran Chandra Rakshit Saheb's '*Rani Bhavani*,' which aims at teaching religion and morality through the medium of fiction, indicates a new departure. In some other novels a welcome tendency appears towards spontaneous development of plot, instead of the

employment of the usual supernatural agency. Among translations, versions of "She" and the "Vicar of Wakefield" may be mentioned. In the latter, in which the vicar appears as a village zamindar, the attempt to give a native air to the story is not very convincing. Some of the lyric poetry published during the year was said to be excellent. LITERATURE.

The total number of publications in the United Provinces was 1,409, of which 1,072 were original works. The subjects most in favour were poetry (328), religion (290), language (127), and fiction (74). There is a growing tendency among Hindi writers to adopt a simpler style instead of the highly artificial and pedantic one formerly in vogue. Poetical works published during the year, the majority of which were translations from Sanskrit, included a translation of Macaulay's "Horatius." Original Hindi poems were mostly religious rhapsodies or exotic effusions of no particular merit. Hindi fiction was insignificant, but Urdu authors, on the other hand, mainly devoted themselves to novel writing. Many of their productions are written with a special purpose, depicting social evils, or expressing the author's views on such vexed subjects as the neglect of female education, or the favourite theme of the introduction of courtship. Next in popularity to novel writing comes history, but in this domain Muhammadan writers are to be found almost alone. Under the head of drama a translation of the "Midsummer Night's Dream" is included. Among Urdu biographies, Lives of Queen Victoria, Edward VII., and Napoleon's mother may be mentioned. Most of the religious publications in Urdu and Hindi are depressing reading, harping as they do on the theme of a lost golden age. Of English publications the only piece of literature in the proper sense was the "Humorous Sketches" of the Indian Juvenal, Mr. S. Bose. United Provinces.

The total number of books and periodicals catalogued in the Punjab during the year was 1,478, as against 1,233 in 1902. As usual, Urdu and Punjabi works largely predominated. Poetry continued to have the largest number of books, 425; religion, with 409, came next. Very fair increase was noted in biographies and in fiction. The novel rises steadily in popularity, and the year was remarkable for the appearance of an excellent work in English by a Hindu lady, Mrs. Susila Tahl Ram, in which the story is used as a vehicle to convey the writer's views on the great social problems of the day. There was, however, little to recommend in the annually increasing volume of verse. Urdu poetry is in a state of transition, and has not yet entirely succeeded in shaking itself free from the shackles of past conventionalism. The subject of religion has a peculiar charm for authors, and a number of books showing considerable industry and erudition may be found amongst the mass of literature published on this subject. There is a decided improvement in the style of some of the biographies (which include a translation of the Life of Lord Roberts), but authors have not yet learned to detach themselves from personal likes and dislikes. Of the 129 periodicals, 56 were legal. As compared with the preceding year, the number of journals was more than doubled. Punjab.

The total number of publications registered in Madras was 1,217, an increase of 55 on 1902. The increase is confined to "Original Works," and occurs chiefly in publications in English and other European languages. As regards subjects, drama, language, medicine and religion showed a decrease, while other subjects showed more or less an advance, the largest increase being in poetry. Among other publications may be mentioned "The Coronation Ballad of the Boer War," written by M. Dinakar in celebration of the prowess of the British Army. There were several works of fiction of considerable merit, of which the best was 'Padmini,' by Mr. P. Ramakrishna, author of "Life in an Indian Village." The evils prevalent in Hindu society were the theme of several novels; the title of one of these, "The Mother-in-Law in Council," suggests the line which they adopt. Of dramatic works few had any pretensions to originality, and the majority of those were of doubtful moral tone. Taken as a whole, the publications of the year can hardly be said to show any marked progress of thought or originality, but there were sufficient indications of the effect of the civilisation, the science, and the social ideals of the West on Indian thought and feeling. To judge from the fairly successful attempts at English verse by Native Madras.

LITERATURE. writers, it would appear that educated Indians are gradually acquiring a better appreciation of poetic form and sentiment. More noticeable is the advance of thought and feeling in regard to social life, as is evidenced by the more frequent and strenuous advocacy of the emancipation of women and the condemnation of the evils prevalent in Hindu society. At the same time it must be admitted that there were signs in some of the works of the year of a reactionary spirit against reform on Western lines, and a tendency to glorify the past and revert to ancient national ideals.

Bombay. The literary output of the year in Bombay was, on the whole, of mediocre merit and small interest. The total number of publications registered was 1,273 as against 1,334 in 1902. The number of books was 692. Of these, 66 were written in English, 254 in Gujarathi and 127 in Marathi. Poetry and religion were the most popular subjects. Fiction increased from 35 to 48. A book which attracted considerable attention was the "Arctic Home in the Vale," by Mr. B. G. Tilak, who undertakes to prove by explanations of certain passages in the *Rigveda* that the ancient Aryans lived near the North Pole. Among Sanskrit books an edition of the 'Ekauli,' by Mr. K. P. Trivedi, was said to display conspicuous ability. Gujarathi and Marathi publications did not, on the whole, rise to a very high level, but Mr. N. S. Pavgi produced a scholarly treatise of high literary merit on the history and development of Hindu Drama. The dramatic works of the year include a very fair translation of "King Lear," but the original dramas are not of a high order. They are usually based on ancient myths and supported by miraculous incidents, some of which—as, for instance, when a Brahmin saint induces a stone bull to eat grass—must entail considerable difficulties in stage representation. In fiction, as well as in drama, there was little tendency towards new ideas and the development of the imagination; most of the novels are borrowed from English sources. In the field of poetry, an excellent volume of Gujarathi poems by Nanalal Dalpatram Kavi should be mentioned, and, in particular, commendation is given to the "Jubilee Ode to the late Queen-Empress" and the "Coronation Ode to the King-Emperor."

Other Provinces. In Burma 146 publications were registered, of which religion claimed 61 and drama 32. As regards language, Burmese with 68 and Pali-Burmese with 43 books were predominant. Assam produced altogether 6 books as against 37 in the previous year. The publications in other provinces call for no comment; in Coorg none was registered.

CHAPTER XIV.

EMIGRATION AND MIGRATION.

EMIGRA-
TION.

EMIGRATION.

Emigration from India, so far as it is brought under the cognisance of Government, is mainly regulated by Act XXI. of 1883 and the Rules issued under its provisions. Emigration to Ceylon, to the Straits Settlements, and for employment under Government in East and Central Africa, is, however, excepted from the restrictions of the Act. By Section 8 of this Act, natives of India are permitted to emigrate, under contract to labour for hire, only to such countries as have satisfied the Government of India that sufficient provision is made for the protection of Indian immigrants. A similar protection was extended by Act X. of 1902 to natives of India engaged to emigrate, individually or in small parties, to work as artisans, for the purposes of an entertainment or exhibition, or for service in restaurants or other places of public resort. The Local Government is now empowered, before permitting such emigration, to impose such terms and conditions as it considers necessary in each case. Emigration otherwise than under contract to labour or work in one of the above capacities is not controlled by legislation.

The most important administrative measure undertaken during the year in connection with emigration from Calcutta was the framing of rules under Act X. of 1902, referred to above, regulating the engagement of persons for the purposes specified in the Act. These rules were finally sanctioned by the Governor-General in Council on the 9th March 1904.

There were six emigration agencies at work during the year, all representing British Colonies, the agency for the Dutch Colony of Surinam having suspended operations. The total number of labourers requisitioned fell from 10,455 in 1902 to 9,893 in 1903, the most marked decrease being in the number required for Natal, which showed a return to the normal after the abnormally high figure of 1902. Mauritius, on the other hand, showed a greatly increased demand of 1,030, as against 570 in the previous year, but no emigrants were shipped to that colony, as it was found impossible to comply with the instructions of the Mauritius Government that all emigrants should arrive not later than the 30th November. The total number of labourers sent from Calcutta during the year was 8,794. The number of recruiting licences granted was 1,370, as compared with 1,415 in 1902, and of these only 30, or 2·1 per cent. of the whole, were subsequently cancelled. The recruiters, who conducted their operations in the same places as in the preceding year, collected altogether 12,403 emigrants during the year. This number was contributed by the different provinces in the following proportions;—United Provinces, 61·7 per cent.; Central Provinces 16 per cent.; Punjab 7·8 per cent.; Bengal, 5·8 per cent.; Bihar, 5·5 per cent.; Ajmere, 2 per cent.

The number of emigrants admitted to the Calcutta depôts was 10,787. Of the remainder, 625 were rejected subsequently to registration as unfit to emigrate, while 359 were discharged as surplus. The percentage of deaths in the depôts (·26) was much smaller than in the preceding year. The percentage of rejections, on the other hand, was 8·01, as against 7·41 in 1902. This increase is chiefly attributable to stricter medical examination of emigrants in the depôts before embarkation, but it may also point to the fact that the medical examination of emigrants at the sub-depôts was not performed with sufficient care. After deducting casualties of all kinds, there remained 9,141 emigrants available for despatch to the colonies, of whom 9,084 were shipped during the year, as against 10,882 in the previous year. They were distributed as follows: Demerara, 2,937; Trinidad, 2,419; Jamaica, 663; Natal, 1,801; Fiji, 1,234. The total number shipped included 2,509 women and 378 returned emigrants who re-emigrated. The death rate

EMIGRATION. on the ships carrying emigrants was 65 per cent., 18 out of the 39 deaths which occurred being due to cerebro-spinal fever.

The number of emigrants who returned from the several colonies was 4,686, and their ascertained aggregate savings amounted to upwards of £52,109. The average savings per head varied from £20 10s. in Fiji, to £1 5s. in Mauritius. But 1,050 adults—22·4 per cent of the total number of returned emigrants—brought back no savings.

The amounts remitted to India by emigrants resident in the colonies again indicated a high degree of prosperity among the Indian population in Natal, although the average remittance per emigrant (£1 6s.) was not quite so high as in the year 1902. Fiji was the only other colony where the average remittance per emigrant (Re. 1.11.3, or about 2s. 3d.) exceeded one rupee.

Madras. The numbers of emigrants embarking from Madras for Natal and Mauritius respectively were 2,544 and 510, as compared with 4,094 and 1,785 in 1902-03, while 598 were shipped for Fiji. As in the previous year, the large decrease in the number of emigrants for Natal and Mauritius was due to the favourable character of the season. The bulk of the emigrants came from the North Arcot and Madras districts. There was no emigration to the French colonies during the year. One thousand three hundred and twenty-nine emigrants returned from Natal with savings amounting to £23,931, and 201 returned from Mauritius. The savings of the latter only amounted to £288, many of them being paupers.

As regards non-regulated emigration, the number of emigrants to the Straits Settlements increased from 19,622 to 22,960, most of whom started from ports in the Tanjore district. There was a large increase in the number of passengers to Burma and Ceylon, but it was impossible to distinguish emigrants from ordinary passengers.

Bombay. The number of registered emigrants who left the port of Bombay during the year was 62; of these three went as artisans to Chinde, and 59 went for exhibition purposes to the St. Louis Exhibition. From the port of Karachi only 25 artisans embarked for Mombasa during the year, the demand for coolie labour having ceased with the completion of the Uganda railway. The figures for both ports show that there was practically no real emigration during the year.

MIGRATION.

MIGRATION.

Assam.

Assam imports from the other provinces of India the greater part of the labour force employed on tea-gardens, in the oil refinery at Digboi, in coal-mines, and in a few saw-mills in Upper Assam. The total labour population directly dependent on these industries numbered 657,106 at the end of June 1904, the year for which labour statistics are tabulated now ending at this date. The number of labourers engaged under Act VI. of 1901 was 84,306, while 572,800 were classed as "non-Act" labourers. Of the total labour force in the province 60 per cent., including almost all of the "Act" labourers, were employed in the Assam valley, and the remainder in the Surma valley. The general rate of immigration continued to decline, and the total number of labourers and dependants imported during the year was 22,162, as against 26,684 in 1902-03. The districts which showed the largest falling-off in recruitment were the Central Provinces and Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas. Recruitment from the other districts was either about the same as in the previous year or showed a slight increase. The diminution in the supply of labour was attributed mainly to good harvests in the recruiting districts and to the competition of the coal industry. The tea industry is gradually recovering from the recent depression, and complaints of the shortness of labour supply were universal. The tendency to abandon Act VI. of 1901 as a basis of labour contracts in favour of agreements enforceable under Act XIII. of 1859 was maintained.

Of the 11,126 adults imported during the year under the Act, 5,031 were recruited by sardars and 6,095 by contractors. It is hoped to give a stimulus to the former system of recruitment by freeing the journey to Assam from

conditions which involve loss of caste, and consequently render it impossible to employ true sardars—men of some position—as a recruiting agency. MIGRATION.

The mortality among coolies during the journey to Assam was happily insignificant. The number of deaths was only 16, of which 10 were due to cholera.

The railway routes *viâ* Dhubri and *viâ* Chandpur and Tinsukia were opened as alternative routes for all emigrants to the Brahmaputra valley. Of the coolies imported into Sylhet and Cachar, the great majority were conveyed by the Assam-Bengal railway; very few by steamer. There were no deaths among coolies in transit by train or steamer to the Surma valley, and none died in the depôts of the Sylhet or Cachar districts.

The number of complaints of fraud and irregularity in recruitment rose from 48 to 64. The increase occurred in the Lakhimpur district, and is ascribed to the recruiting of wandering coolies at Raniganj and Calcutta.

The registered rate of mortality rose from 25·4 to 26·32 per mille. The death rate among coolies from the Central Provinces (37·8) is still very high.

Seven hundred and ninety-two complaints were preferred during the year by coolies against their managers, the increase in the number probably being due to the filing of a greater number of applications for discharge certificates. The number of cases returned of ill-treatment by managers was 127, of which 70 arose out of a single incident in the Cachar district. There was a decrease of serious crime in cases of violence on the part of coolies, and there was a fall in the number of desertions—a natural result of the reduced importation of labour, as it is new coolies who most frequently abscond.

The number of inland emigrants recruited in the Central Provinces fell in a marked manner. Of the 3,367 emigrant labourers, 1,894 were males and 1,473 females, and they were accompanied by 1,026 dependants. In the previous year 6,709 emigrants were recruited as labourers, and they took with them no fewer than 8,580 dependants. The decrease is probably almost entirely due to the favourable conditions prevalent among the labouring classes in the recruiting districts. Central Provinces.

The only statistics available for Burma are of persons arriving and leaving by steamer at the ports of Rangoon and Akyab. At Rangoon 165,555 arrived and 115,770 left; at Akyab 14,670 arrived and 24,029 left. Burma.

The number of passengers arriving at the several ports of the Madras Presidency during the year was 250,287, of whom 126,700 came from Ceylon and 81,265 from Burma. Madras.

There was practically no movement of people into the Bombay Presidency beyond the ordinary influx of temporary labourers for the yearly harvests, which is most marked in Sind. In the Presidency proper there was the usual immigration during the fair season of cartmen and mill-hands from the ghats and sea-coast districts near Bombay into that city, and the Gadag Gold Mines in Dharwar caused a small influx of labourers from the Madras Presidency. Bombay.

CHAPTER XV.

TRADE

TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.

(Detailed information regarding the Trade of British India being annually furnished in a separate Parliamentary Paper, a brief Review only is given in the present Chapter.)

TRADE.

The total trade of British India with other countries by sea and land during the five years ending on the 31st March 1904, was valued as follows:—

—	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
By SEA.					
Private Imports :					
Merchandise -	£ 47,141,242	£ 50,851,923	£ 54,345,966	£ 52,525,272	£ 56,548,862
Treasure -	13,972,342	10,975,739	13,098,920	16,837,152	21,295,508
	61,113,584	61,827,662	67,444,906	69,362,424	77,844,370
Private Exports :					
Foreign Merchandise re-exported -	2,194,994	2,139,021	2,173,211	1,957,075	2,217,006
Indian Merchandise -	70,455,797	69,440,332	80,803,375	83,919,834	99,756,049
Treasure -	5,300,028	4,982,970	5,044,711	5,873,341	5,432,915
	77,950,819	76,562,323	88,618,297	91,750,250	107,405,970
Government Transactions :					
Imports { Stores -	3,061,745	3,077,803	4,841,047	4,687,504	5,179,320
Treasure -	10,115	5,408,769	635,304	82,085	4,389,563
Exports { Stores -	51,423	238,024	296,941	387,490	371,718
Treasure -	4,231	4,561,960	2,005,529	565,084	4,596,339
	8,147,514	13,221,556	7,768,821	5,681,805	14,535,940
Total Trade by Sea -	142,211,917	151,611,541	163,832,024	166,894,837	199,786,280
By LAND.					
Imports -	4,692,714	4,732,864	5,167,462	4,580,733	5,211,093
Exports -	3,720,555	4,380,463	4,405,609	3,899,044	3,966,385
Total Trade by Land	8,413,269	9,113,327	9,573,071	8,479,777	9,177,428
Excess imports of treasure by sea -	8,678,198	6,899,578	6,086,984	10,480,812	15,654,817
Net excess of exports over imports of merchandise and treasure by sea, private and Government -	13,841,029	10,983,073	17,989,510	18,570,811	24,961,774
India Council Bills paid in India -	18,703,761	12,824,491	18,535,842	18,724,021	23,874,459

* As in previous years, the amount actually paid during the year in India is given in pounds, at Rs. 15 to the pound. The figures for the three last years include sums of £1,939,093, £263,000, and £2,200,000, respectively drawn against the Gold Reserve Fund. The Bills drawn and the Telegraphic Transfers granted by the Secretary of State on India during the year 1903-04 yielded £23,859,303, the average rate being 1s. 4-0/9d. per rupee.

Foreign sea-
borne trade.

This summary shows an increase in the total seaborne trade amounting to about £33,000,000, or nearly 20 per cent., as compared with the trade of the previous year 1902-03; but putting aside the Government transactions,

the private trade in merchandise and treasure amounted to £185,250,000, which is 15 per cent. above the 1902-3 figure. The total of imports and exports of merchandise on private account shows an increase of £20,120,000 as compared with the preceding year; a result which is due to a considerable increase in exports, accompanied by a smaller rise in imports. Owing to the very large growth in exports, the excess of exports over imports, taking merchandise and treasure together, was nearly £25,000,000; or, if treasure be omitted, the value of exports of merchandise was more than £40,000,000 in excess of that of the imports, an altogether unprecedented figure. It will be seen that the remarkable rise in the price of raw cotton affords some explanation of this result; but most other important export staples show a notable increase. There was no financial stringency, and the Bank rate never rose above 7 per cent., at which level it remained for less than two months in all; while the exchange rate showed practically no fluctuation.

TRADE.

The statistics of imports during recent years, given below under the more important headings, show that there was an increase in almost every case. The exceptions are cotton yarns, the trade in which was disturbed by the high prices of raw cotton; mineral oils, a fall due to the rapid development of the Indian oil fields; and railway materials, the decrease in which was more than counter-balanced by the large growth in the imports for use on State lines, which are classed as Government imports, and therefore not included in these figures. Under the other heads, with the exception of the cotton goods trade, the figures furnish striking evidence of industrial development and general prosperity. Records were established for sugar, provisions, hardware, metals, railway material (including imports for State lines), chemical dyes, precious stones, silk fabrics, woollen fabrics, apparel, glassware, and several articles of minor importance. The increase under metals is specially satisfactory. The chief feature of the cotton goods trade was a heavy decline in the imports of grey (unbleached) goods, the direct result of the abnormal conditions affecting the cotton industry, which reduced production and sold principally on heavy goods. This decline was compensated by improvements in white and coloured cloth. The only other point which can be noticed in this brief review is the substitution of cane for beet sugar. The imports of the latter, chiefly from Mauritius, rose to 5,300,000 cwts., while imports of beet sugar fell from 1½ million cwts. in 1902-03 to about one-third of that quantity in 1903-04.

Imports.

Imports.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£	£	£	£
Cotton woven goods	18,001,000	18,281,000	20,165,000	18,766,000	19,246,000
Cotton yarns	1,633,000	1,659,000	1,765,000	1,532,000	1,428,000
Silk, raw and manufactured	1,137,000	1,788,000	1,530,000	1,456,000	1,618,000
Woollen goods	1,172,000	1,408,000	1,313,000	937,000	1,440,000
Metals	3,121,000	4,288,000	4,599,000	5,331,000	6,197,000
Hardware and cutlery	1,060,000	1,228,000	1,138,000	1,333,000	1,552,000
Machinery and millwork	1,695,000	1,505,000	2,004,000	1,869,000	2,235,000
Railway material	1,851,000	894,000	1,024,000	1,074,000	935,000
Liquors	1,065,000	1,078,000	1,110,000	1,180,000	1,218,000
Provisions	1,125,000	1,317,000	1,323,000	1,227,000	1,352,000
Sugar	2,251,000	3,770,000	3,901,000	3,303,000	3,957,000
Mineral oils	2,120,000	2,306,000	2,558,000	2,310,000	2,255,000
Chemicals, medicines, dyes	1,065,000	1,230,000	1,306,000	1,333,000	1,503,000
Apparel	976,000	1,026,000	1,129,000	1,188,000	1,331,000

TRADE.
Exports of
Indian
Merchandise.

The progress of the exports was scarcely less uniform than that of the imports. The export of raw cotton was exceptionally large, both in quantity and in value, owing to the high price prevailing. There was also a phenomenal trade in grain, the quantity of rice and wheat exported having in each case only once been surpassed, and the favourable character of the season was also apparent in the increased yield of other agricultural products, such as oilseeds, coconuts, jute, opium, tea and indigo. But in the case of oilseeds and indigo, as well as coffee, the value of the exports was restricted by the falling prices. The export of opium was larger than in the previous year, and the inflated prices caused a very considerable increase in its value. The position of the two important textile industries working in cotton and jute, cannot be wholly gauged by the state of the export trade, for each of them has a large Indian market, but while the jute mills disposed of a rapidly-growing production with uninterrupted profit, the cotton mills, whose profits during the earlier part of the year were considerable, suffered towards its close from the high price of the raw material.

Exports.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£	£	£	£
Raw cotton - - -	6,617,000	6,752,000	9,617,000	9,838,000	16,251,000
Cotton yarns - - -	4,601,000	2,780,000	6,211,000	5,693,000	5,894,000
Cotton piece goods - - -	915,000	1,022,000	1,032,000	978,000	1,087,000
Raw jute - - -	5,381,000	7,245,000	7,865,000	7,418,000	7,812,000
Jute manufactures - - -	4,176,000	5,243,000	5,807,000	6,013,000	6,313,000
Wool, raw - - -	904,000	602,000	529,000	777,000	918,000
Rice and rice flour - - -	8,731,000	8,813,000	9,280,000	12,597,000	12,723,000
Wheat and wheat flour - - -	2,863,000	259,000	2,418,000	3,321,000	7,746,000
Oilseeds - - -	6,733,000	6,009,000	11,186,000	9,922,000	9,677,000
Tea - - -	6,061,000	6,367,000	5,433,000	4,908,000	5,705,000
Coffee - - -	990,000	819,000	833,000	881,000	912,000
Opium - - -	5,469,000	6,304,000	5,682,000	5,345,000	6,980,000
Indigo - - -	1,795,000	1,424,000	1,235,000	804,000	717,000
Hides and skins - - -	6,975,000	7,655,000	5,487,000	5,623,000	5,957,000

Trade by
countries.

The proportion of the total trade in merchandise on private account which was carried on directly with European countries was 66·1 per cent., which is 2·9 more than in 1902-03, an equivalent decrease occurring in trade with Africa, owing to exports to Egypt being now classified, not under Egypt as before, but under the countries to which the goods are ultimately consigned. While, however, this source of error has been eliminated, there still remain the distributing centres at Hong Kong, Singapore, Colombo, and Aden, which tend to obscure the real course of trade. The trade with the United Kingdom was 61·2 per cent. of the whole private merchandise trade with Europe, including 78·5 per cent. of the imports from Europe; and it constituted 40·5 per cent. of the total trade in merchandise on private account. The proportion of the trade which is assignable to the British Empire cannot be stated except in a misleading form, since the figures for the ports mentioned above as distributing centres, especially Hong Kong, are very important items, and most of this trade is reshipped to foreign countries. It may, however, be remarked that of the larger British Colonies, Australia took by far the largest amount of Indian produce (value £1,000,000), and that Australian imports into India (value £405,000) are also much larger than those of any other large colony, Mauritius being in the latter case excepted.

The value of India's trade in private merchandise with some of the chief countries, imports and exports combined, has fluctuated as follows in the last six years :—

TRADE.

—	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	53,257,000	53,645,000	53,806,000	55,705,000	56,442,000	61,201,000
France - - -	5,905,000	5,127,000	4,750,000	6,848,000	7,047,000	7,650,000
China - - -	9,697,000	10,541,000	9,597,000	12,986,000	12,128,000	13,360,000
Germany - - -	6,655,000	6,144,000	7,882,000	8,810,000	8,225,000	11,827,000
Straits Settlements.	5,320,000	5,157,000	6,273,000	5,997,000	6,731,000	6,581,000
United States - -	4,500,000	5,907,000	5,655,000	6,379,000	6,499,000	6,890,000
Russia - - -	1,455,000	1,683,000	2,059,000	2,266,000	2,064,000	2,191,000
Austria-Hungary	3,017,000	2,733,000	3,904,000	4,216,000	3,847,000	4,692,000
Belgium - - -	4,620,000	3,514,000	3,994,000	5,161,000	5,371,000	7,317,000
Italy - - -	2,585,000	2,336,000	2,630,000	2,610,000	2,836,000	3,959,000
Ceylon - - -	3,341,000	3,273,000	3,799,000	3,663,000	3,489,000	3,608,000
Japan - - -	3,855,000	4,571,000	1,958,000	5,118,000	4,446,000	6,494,000

A notable feature of this table is the increase of the German figures, but this is to a very large extent due to the rearrangement noted above, by which goods exported to Egypt but having Germany as their ultimate destination are now classed under Germany. It may still be noted that much of the trade attributed to Belgium belongs to Germany.

The following figures show the proportionate share of each province and of the five chief ports in the private trade with foreign countries in merchandise only :—

Provinces and Ports.

—	Imports (percentages).			Exports (percentages).		
	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
PROVINCES:						
Bengal - - - -	40.3	41.7	39.7	44.5	41.8	39.2
Bombay and Sind - -	42.6	41.6	41.7	37.5	36.0	40.5
Madras - - - -	9.5	9.1	8.9	9.5	10.2	9.9
Burma - - - -	7.6	7.6	9.7	8.5	12.0	10.4
	100	100	100	100	100	100
CHIEF PORTS:						
Calcutta - - - -	40.1	41.5	39.5	43.1	40.4	37.4
Bombay - - - -	34.7	35.0	35.3	30.4	29.8	31.9
Karachi - - - -	5.2	6.6	6.5	7.1	6.2	8.7
Madras - - - -	7.4	7.7	7.2	3.6	3.7	3.3
Rangoon - - - -	7.5	7.4	9.5	6.5	9.0	8.3

In none of the provinces or ports mentioned in this table was there an actual decrease, either in imports or exports, as compared with 1903-04, but the table shows which of them made the greatest advance during the year. The foreign export trade of the port of Bombay has in recent years made a considerable recovery, after great depression during the famine and the disorganisation of the mill industry. In the year 1898-99 no less than

TRADE. 34·4 per cent. of the total exports went from that port. Calcutta was still, however, considerably ahead of the port of Bombay, the former possessing £60,496,500 in 1903-04 and the latter £52,454,800 as the total value of their export and import trade in merchandise.

Treasure. Rather more than half the trade in treasure passed through the port of Bombay. The net imports of treasure were £15,654,800, or £5,174,000 more than those of the previous year. The balance of trade, or excess of seaborne foreign exports over imports of merchandise and treasure, both on Government and private account, was, as above stated, £24,961,774, or more than 34 per cent. above the figure of 1902-03.

Land trade. In the year 1902-03 the land frontier trade had received a severe check, owing to the presence of famine in parts of Afghanistan and Persia, and the plague in the Punjab. In the year under report, however, there was a satisfactory recovery along most of the trade routes. Trade in merchandise with Dir, Swat, and Bajaur continued to decline owing to bad seasons, but there are evidences of steady growth under most of the other headings, although in some cases the exceptional figures of the trade of 1901-02 were not attained. The gross totals of imports and exports together, including treasure, for the last five years are given in the margin.

	£
1899-1900	- 8,413,000
1900-1901	- 9,113,000
1901-1902	- 9,575,000
1902-1903	- 8,480,000
1903-1904	- 9,177,000

Trade along the Nushki-Seistan route remained at a low figure, owing partly to the drought in Persia and the consequent difficulties of transport. The most important item is the trade with Nepal, the value of which is given as £2,635,000 in 1903-04. This does not show any pronounced increase, but the character of the trade, including a considerable share of oil-seeds, which were depreciated in price during the year, accounts to some extent for the slow growth in the value of the trade. As has been observed in previous numbers of this Statement, the figures given under this heading include trade with tracts like Kashmir and the Shan States, much of which cannot properly be called trans-frontier trade. Taking the frontier trade as a whole, the chief items were, among imports, food grains (value £998,500) and timber (value £915,700), and, among exports, cotton goods (value £1,424,000).

Coasting trade. The combined import and export trade in merchandise and treasure carried on by coasting vessels is said to have represented a value of £46,730,000 during 1903-04, which is rather more than the trade of 1902-03. It is to be observed that in this calculation each transaction is counted twice, and the value of the merchandise and treasure concerned stands at about half the above figure, or rather more than 23 millions sterling. The only remarkable improvements were in the exports of mineral oils from Burma and in the transport of raw cotton and Bengal coal, chiefly to Bombay. The conditions of the trade generally were satisfactory. A large increase of the coasting trade indicates, as a rule, more or less serious failure of the crops, giving rise to a great local demand for food grains which would otherwise be exported to foreign countries. In 1903-04 the amount of grain carried by the coasting trade was small.

MANUFACTURES.
General.

MANUFACTURES.

An Exhibition of Indian Art was opened at Delhi on the 30th December 1902 in connection with the Coronation Durbar. As its name implies, it was not intended to have an economic or industrial character; but the art manufactures of India have a very important place among her industries, and the exhibition must be mentioned here as being intended for their promotion and encouragement. An official catalogue, the value of which is attested by the name of its author, Sir George Watt, C.I.E., has since been published under the name "Indian Art at Delhi," and contains much information of permanent interest regarding Indian arts and industries.

Cotton mills. There were at the end of the year 1903-04 in British India and Native States 204 cotton mills containing 46,421 looms and 5,213,344 spindles, and giving employment on an average to 186,271 persons every day. Of these, 113 were exclusively spinning mills, five were exclusively weaving mills, and in the rest both spinning and weaving were carried on. The capital invested, so far as this information is given, was £10,564,000 (paid-up capital and

debenture loans); but there is no statement of the capital of 12 mills worked by private proprietors. The total of money actually invested might be estimated at about 11 millions sterling. The industry dates from 1851, when the first mill was started. It is located, as regards 69 per cent. of the mills, in the Bombay Presidency, while there are 19 mills in the territory of Native States and in French possessions in India.

The out-turn of yarn in recent years has been as follows in British India, excluding the mills in Native States or foreign territory:—

	Counts above 20s.	Lower Counts.	Total.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1899-1900	62,093,277	439,591,918	501,294,539
1900-01	70,005,109	272,772,438	342,777,547
1901-02	84,396,318	475,608,532	560,004,848
1902-03	95,779,659	463,032,381	558,812,040
1903-04	100,185,763	456,005,029	556,190,792

The great decline in the low-count yarns in 1900-01 was due partly to the famine in India, which impaired the purchasing power of the people at the same time that it raised the price of raw material, and partly to the collapse of the Chinese market, which in turn was caused by over-supply from India and Japan, and by the political and military events in China. In 1901-02, with the passing away of these causes of depression, and a reduction in the prices of raw cotton following on larger crops, the mills resumed operations with great activity, but the high price of the yarn in the year 1903-04 made profitable business difficult, so that several mills either closed or worked short time. The mills of the Bombay Presidency produced 75 per cent. of the yarn, Bengal 8 per cent., Madras 5 per cent., the United Provinces about 5 per cent., and the Central Provinces 4 per cent. The production of yarns of counts above 20s. continued to increase, and the Bombay mills spun an appreciable quantity (21 per cent. of their output in 1903-04) of these higher counts. The out-turn of finer yarns, 31s. to 40s., in Indian mills increased from 11 millions of pounds in 1900-01 to about 12½ millions in each of the two later years, and to 16½ millions in 1903-04. The Bombay mills also spun an appreciable quantity of yarns of No. 40 and upwards, using Egyptian or other imported cotton.

The weaving mills were less affected than the spinning mills by the high price of cotton, since there was a considerable advance in the price of cloth, and both the home and the foreign demand was good. The production of woven goods by cotton mills in British India rose from 117¼ to 131½ millions of pounds, of which 86 per cent. came from the Bombay Presidency. There is hardly any weaving done by factories in Bengal; Madras and the Central Provinces contributed 4 and 6 per cent. respectively of the woven goods. These goods are mainly unbleached grey fabrics; only in Madras did any very large proportion of the weaving consist of finer goods, and there these fabrics constituted 64 per cent. of the production. It is to be observed, however, that there is a very decided tendency to increase the output of the finer classes of goods, which stood at 26½ millions of pounds in 1903-04, or more than 14 per cent. in advance of the previous year's figures, this class of goods having increased in a greater proportion than grey goods. The out-turn of mills in the Native States is given as follows:—1902-03, yarn 16,882,200 lbs., woven goods 5,291,300 lbs.; 1903-04, yarn 22,568,300 lbs., woven goods 6,167,900 lbs.; a noteworthy increase, in view of the fact that the figures for the earlier year include the production in Berar mills, which is now included in the British India figures.

The number of jute mills in 1903-04 was 38, containing 18,406 looms and 376,700 spindles, and employing a daily average of about 124,000 persons. All the mills, with the exception of one at Cawnpore and one in the Madras Presidency, are in the province of Bengal, and most of them are in the

MANUFACTURES.

Jute mills.

MANUFACTURES. vicinity of Calcutta. The capital employed by these mills, excluding two which had not reported their capital, was about £4,800,000, of which rather more than one half was sterling capital. The producing capacity of the mills and the capital employed have nearly doubled in the last decade. The sterling capital has increased by 89 per cent. and the rupee capital by 63 per cent. The reports do not include statements of the out-turn of the mills, but the statistics given above in the Trade section of this chapter show a steadily increasing export trade in jute manufactures.

Woollen mills. There were six woollen mills at work at the end of 1903, containing 668 looms, and 25,216 spindles, employing 3,041 persons, and producing goods valued at £195,000 in the year. The fabrics consist chiefly of blankets, serges, and cloths worn by the Army and the police, and an admixture of Australian wool is used. There is not much demand in India for woollen goods except for descriptions which could hardly be made profitably in India in competition with European mills, and any large expansion of the industry can hardly be expected. There are in various places factories for the weaving of carpets and rugs, but though these industries are in the aggregate extensive they are individually small, and the weaving is done in hand-loom.

Paper mills. There were nine paper mills at work in India, employing a daily average of 4,523 hands, and producing in 1903 about 43½ million lbs. of paper, valued at £384,300. Most of the foolscap, blotting paper, notepaper, and envelopes used in Government offices is now obtained from the Indian mills; but there has been a depression in the paper-making industry in Bengal in recent years, owing to the importation in large quantities of cheap paper made from wood pulp, which is of more attractive appearance, if less durable, than paper made from grass, gunnies, and rags in the Bengal mills. Small paper works, making common paper without machinery, exist in several provinces, but for these petty industries no statistics are available.

Breweries. In 1903 there were 27 breweries at work, which produced during the year six million gallons of beer and porter. The Commissariat Department bought nearly half of this malt liquor for the use of European soldiers. The largest brewery is at Murree in the Punjab Himalayas, and the output of that concern was over a million gallons. The quantity of beer, porter, and cider imported into India was 4,068,000 gallons in 1903-04, or about two-thirds of the quantity produced in the country.

Other industries. There are a large number of cotton spinning factories or presses, indigo factories of all sizes and kinds, iron and brass foundries, &c. scattered throughout the country, which are enumerated more or less roughly in the annual returns. But nothing illustrates better the present state of industrial development in India than the fact that, after the cotton and jute industries, and apart from the indigenous industries, there was only one of the manufacturing industries, strictly so called, namely, the iron and brass foundries, in which as many as 20,000 persons are returned as having been employed during the year. In the preparation of agricultural staples for the market, employment is found for larger numbers; indigo factories, for instance, employed over 81,000 workers; cotton ginning, cleaning, and pressing mills over 75,000; jute presses 21,000. But of other manufacturing industries the most important, after cotton and jute mills, are the iron and brass foundries (22,300 workers), silk filatures (9,158), tanneries (7,900), and others of still less importance. It must not, however, be forgotten that the returns upon which these figures are based are in most cases of very doubtful value. Omitting these untrustworthy returns of the minor industries, the following table gives some particulars

as to employment in the industries separately noticed above, and in coal mines:—

MANUFACTURES.

	Average daily Number of Employés.			
	Men.	Women.	Children and young Persons.	Total.
Cotton mills (figures for 1903-04) -	118,640	36,737	30,894	186,271
Jute mills (" ") -	81,706	21,141	21,022	123,869
Woollen mills (" ") -	—	—	—	3,041
Paper mills (" ") -	—	—	—	4,523
Coal mines (" 1903) -	60,067	25,090	3,373	88,530

The average number of men, women, and children shown in a table below to have been employed in 1903 in the factories coming under the Factories Act is 571,639. If to these be added the figures given in the report of the Chief Inspector of Mines, relating to all mines coming under the Mines Act, namely, 102,195, a total of 673,834 results. The total number of workers in large industries given in the report on the census of 1901 was 688,352.

The progress of the agricultural industries, such as the tea industry and the indigo industry, and also that of the coal industry, has been noticed in the chapter on agriculture and mineral resources, as is the usual practice in these annual Statements.

FACTORIES ACT.

FACTORIES ACT.

The law respecting factories in India is Act XV. of 1881, as amended by Act XI. of 1891. The changes introduced by the latter into the previous law were, briefly:—

The law could be applied to establishments employing 20 hands or over, instead of only to those with 50 hands or over, factories of the latter description being brought in all cases under the Act;

The minimum age for child labourers was raised from seven to nine years, and the maximum age from 12 to 14 years;

The maximum hours for child labour in any one day were reduced from nine hours to seven hours, and their employment at night-time was forbidden;

The hours of labour for women workers, which were unrestricted under the Indian Factory Act of 1881, were limited by the Act of 1891 to 11 hours a day, with intervals amounting to 1½ hours;

Hours of rest during work were prescribed for all labourers.

FACTORY
ACT.

The reports of factory inspectors show the number of factories inspected, and the results of the inspections, to have been as follows :—

STATISTICS OF FACTORIES IN INDIA, INSPECTED UNDER THE FACTORY ACT
DURING THE YEAR 1903.

PROVINCE.	Number of Factories working, and liable to be inspected.	Average Number of Hands employed daily.				Number of Factories.			Number of Persons convicted of breach of Act.	Number of Accidents Reported.			
		Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	With Sunday Holiday.	With other Weekly Holiday.	Exempted from Sunday Stoppage.		Fatal.	Serious.	Minor.	Total.
Bengal	358	168,860	35,813	18,841	218,014	100	13	85	2	31	350	362	652
United Provinces	122	83,476	3,849	1,843	88,068	93	25	4	4	11	65	46	123
Punjab	186	19,095	3,995	1,037	23,129	113	62	2	2	9	23	194	166
North West Frontier Province.	2	40	24	—	64	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burma	188	81,327	861	187	82,345	184	2	4	1	9	78	78	163
Central Provinces and Berar.	391	25,905	14,957	1,919	42,781	190	300	1	10	10	44	59	113
Madras	81	30,358	2,342	2,007	35,302	70	7	—	—	3	19	228	248
Bombay	416	136,995	33,752	7,163	182,910	237	127	2	9	17	77	1,429	1,523
Assam	13	1,597	488	138	2,223	12	—	—	—	1	5	—	6
Ajmere	2	669	220	17	1,006	2	—	—	—	—	—	8	6
Total, 1903	1,661	447,817	90,700	33,122	571,639	1,114	436	108	37	91	668	2,330	2,989
Total, 1902	1,511	424,376	85,582	31,377	541,634	1,022	367	117	24	95	495	2,517	3,107

The increase in the number of factories occurred chiefly in cotton ginning mills in Berar and elsewhere. The increase in the number of operatives was most noticeable in Bengal, the Punjab, and the Central Provinces. There were a few factories which were not inspected during the year, but these were for the most part those which were established and started late in the year. The cases in which the provisions of the Act relating to the working hours and employment of women and children were contravened were few, and have been adequately dealt with. A satisfactory account is also given of the health and general condition of the operatives, although in Cawnpore they continued to suffer from the plague. The inspecting officers gave careful supervision to the sanitation of factories, and the septic tank system was being gradually introduced. There was no noteworthy change in respect of the number of accidents. In the majority of cases the fatal accidents were due to the carelessness of operatives. Detailed statistics as to the wages of mill operatives are now collected, with a view to publication in the yearly volume "Prices and Wages," published by the Government of India. The wages compare favourably with those of agricultural labourers in all provinces.

CHAPTER XVI.

FRONTIERS AND NATIVE STATES.

The general health of the Baluchistan Agency during the year under review was bad, owing to the prevalence of typhus fever and cholera. The season was on the whole favourable to agriculture; but in Zhob severe cold caused heavy losses in the flocks.

The year was marked by the introduction of a new Police scheme, the chief features of which are the substitution of local district levies for the regular police in the rural districts and outlying *thanas*, the increase in the number of Deputy Inspectors, and the bettering of the pay and prospects of the police force generally. Two companies were added to the Zhob Levy Corps at an annual estimated cost of £3,000, which will fall on Provincial revenues.

The working of the six Niabats of the Kalat State under the control of the Political Adviser to the Khan, resulted during the year under report in an increase of His Highness's revenue amounting to £12,500. The Niabat of Nasirabad and the lower portion of the Manjuti lands were leased by His Highness to the British Government at an annual quit rent of £7,800, with effect from the 1st April 1903. Steps were taken in conjunction with His Highness to ensure the better control of the Jhallawan tribes. Various improvements were made at Pasni, which is the most suitable outlet along the Mekran coast for the trade of the country. His Excellency the Viceroy visited the port in December 1903, and held a Durbar there. An experiment in Sericulture, which there is every reason to hope will be successful, was made at Mastung. The revenues of the Las Bela State were injuriously affected by damage done to the crops by locusts, and by the interruption of traffic between Las Bela and Karachi owing to the prevalence of plague at the latter place.

Relations with the tribes on the Persian border continued to be satisfactory throughout the year.

Railway construction between Galungur and Nushki was commenced during the year, and the work was being pushed on rapidly. The Quetta-Nushki telegraph line was extended as far as Robat (Koh-i-Malik Siah) and offices were opened at Nushki, Padag, Dalbandin, Merui, Mashki Chah, Saindak, and Robat along the trade route. The figures in regard to trade on the Nushki route show a small increase for the year, and the outlook is reported to be not altogether unfavourable in spite of some adverse factors. There was some raiding and cattle lifting on the Afghan border; but good relations with the tribes were generally maintained.

The year was not marked by any events of grave political importance.

The conduct of the trans-border tribes on the North-West Frontier was generally satisfactory, and no necessity arose for the employment of armed force against any tribe or section. In the settled districts the condition of the people generally was better than that of the preceding year, and the harvests being plentiful, easy prices ruled. Across the administrative border the crops were poor; and, for the first time for many years, there was a large import of grain into these regions. The decrease in their crop out-turn, however, scarcely affected the trans-border tribesmen, who were enabled to take employment on the various works in progress throughout the Province and elsewhere, and who have always open to them service both in the Regular Army and in the Frontier Militia and Border Military Police Corps.

FRONTIERS
AND
FRONTIER
STATES.
Baluchistan
and the
Persian
Frontier.

North-West
Frontier
Province.

FRONTIERS
AND
FRONTIER
STATES.

The policy of withdrawing military garrisons from trans-frontier agencies was further carried into effect. At the close of the year under review, Kajuri Kach and Nili Kach in Wana, and Miranshah in Tochi, were the only posts held by military garrisons. The four Militia Corps and the Samana Rifles were rearmed during the year with Martini-Henry rifles Mark II.

The Nawab of Dir was afflicted with a paralytic stroke towards the close of the year. He recovered for a time, in some measure; but died on the 7th December 1904, and his son, Badshah Khan, was recognised by the Government of India as his successor. The exactions of the late Nawab's revenue collectors, internal dissensions, and friction with neighbouring chiefs have for some time past threatened the continuancy of the Nawab's rule, but up to the close of the period under review the danger had been averted.

In Chitral the Mehtar continued to show himself an able and loyal ruler. A Corps of Scouts has been successfully raised in the State, owing largely to the co-operation of the Mehtar, who has been appointed Honorary Commandant. With the assistance of the Government of India, vaccination operations were carried out with good results.

In the Khyber the Afridis continued to intrigue with Afghan authorities. The Afridis and Orakzais of Tirah were busy all the summer in the prosecution of intertribal religious war. A telegraph line up to Landi Kotal was successfully completed, and considerable progress was made in the widening of the Mullagori road. Preparations were made for the despatch of a Commission from Peshawur to demarcate the boundary between India and Afghanistan in the Khyber and Mohmand country. The arrival of the hot weather, however, before the completion of arrangements with Afghanistan, compelled the postponement of the Commission.

Interference by the Afghan Sartip of Dakka at Smatzai and Shimpokh on the Shilmani border in April 1903 threatened at one time to have serious consequences. These villages were promptly occupied by a party of the Khyber Rifles to check the interference of the Sartip. When matters settled down the Khyber Rifles were replaced by levies.

In the Kurram the Mastu Khel, a section of the Gar Massuzai Orakzai tribe, were the only disturbing element. This section considers itself aggrieved, both in the matter of the settlement made with it after the expedition of 1897 and in the distribution of the Massuzai allowances. It has so far maintained a recalcitrant attitude and signified its resentment by raids and kidnappings in the Kurram. In the Peshawur district affairs were quiet, and the cantonment continued to enjoy a practically complete immunity from outrages and violent crime; but the Kohat district suffered from the depredations of a gang of outlaws who found a refuge in Khost, in Afghan territory. In Waziristan the satisfactory state of affairs, due to the punitive measures noted in last year's report, was maintained, and the re-settlement of the Daur Valley in the Tochi Agency was successfully effected. A re-distribution and re-arrangement of the allowances granted to the Mahsuds in 1902 allayed the friction which at one time seemed likely to arise between the old headmen and the ordinary members of the tribe. The British Afghan Joint Commission, referred to in last year's Statement, was occupied during the greater portion of the year in deciding cases arising from the raids and counter-raids committed upon each other by British and Afghan subjects. The area of the jurisdiction of the Commission extended from the Kurram to the Wana Agency, and though its findings resulted practically in a balancing of accounts, there can be no doubt that this proof of Afghan acquiescence in the boundaries demarcated in 1894 and of the friendly relations existing between the two Powers, made a great impression on the tribesmen.

Kashmir.

No events of political importance occurred in Kashmir in 1903-04.

Nipal.

Friendly relations were maintained with the Nipal State during the year under report. The Durbar continued to give the same facilities as in the past for the recruitment of Gurkhas for the Indian Army.

Information as to the trade of Nipal is given in Chapter XV., p. 174.

In Sikkim the season was favourable and the public health was good. During the year under review the Tibet Mission passed through Sikkim to Tibet; and, in consequence of the presence of troops and the large amount of transport required for them, the ordinary business of the State was greatly disorganised. These conditions resulted in short collections of revenue under certain main heads, and in a falling-off in trade returns. The finances were, however, generally satisfactory.

FRONTIERS
AND
FRONTIER
STATES.
Sikkim and
Bhutan.

Friendly relations were maintained with Bhutan, of which State the Tongsa Penlop continued to act as Deb Raja. No matters of special interest were reported during the year.

In the Manipur State the season was favourable to agriculturists, but the general health of the people was indifferent owing to the prevalence of malarial fever. Vaccination operations were successfully carried on. The behaviour of the hill tribes was generally satisfactory throughout the year under review. The revenue realised amounted to £26,000 as compared with £23,000 in the previous year; there was a closing balance of about £16,000. £9,800 was spent on Public Works during the year, as against an outlay of £5,400 in 1902-03.

Manipur
State.

The Assam frontier tribes were generally well behaved; but, raids and robberies committed by sections of the Daffas, Abors and Nagas having caused some trouble, measures were taken to punish the offenders and restore order. The following political changes were effected in the Naga Hills: In the north, the Sakari country north of the Tirap river was annexed; in the south, the Sema and Angami territory was incorporated in the Naga Hills district. The people in the Angami district were eager for British protection, and the annexation was carried into effect in March 1904 without any opposition.

Assam
Frontier.

The Siem of Mawsyram, his brother, and some of his adherents were tried and convicted on two charges of murder. The Siem and some of his adherents were sentenced to death, and others to transportation for life. On appeal all the sentences were commuted by the Chief Commissioner to transportation for life.

Khasi and
Jaintia
Hills.

An election for the Siemship of the Khyrim State was held in January 1904. The majority of votes was obtained by U Dakhor Singh, who was accordingly proclaimed Siem under the Order of the Chief Commissioner on the 28th March last.

In Cherra, although quiet had not been fully restored, matters were reported to be settling down, and hope was entertained that by degrees the new Siem, Roba Singh, would be able to establish his influence throughout the State.

In the Chin Hills the year under review was one of peace and progress. The tribes were generally well-behaved. In the unadministered territories beyond the British borders raids and quarrels among the tribes continued, but as a rule they respected the frontier. In the Pakokku Chin Hills the old-standing quarrel with the people of Khrum across the frontier was brought to a satisfactory conclusion. Good progress was made in disarming the tribesmen. Considerable expenditure was incurred during the year in constructing mule tracks and roads from Midat-sakan to Khrum and Kanpetlet in the Pakokku Chin Hills, and from Falan to Tyao river in the Chin Hills proper.

The Chin
Hills.

There were no serious disturbances on the North-Eastern frontier during the year, but the number of minor border cases increased. Relations with the Chinese frontier officers continued to be satisfactory. Officials of both Governments met near Nambkan in January 1904, and were able to settle amicably most of the pending claims against Chinese subjects. A noteworthy event of the year was the extension, with the consent of the Chinese authorities, of the mule road from Bhamo as far as the Manwaing plain beyond the Chinese frontier. Progress was also made in the work of improving internal communications in the Bhamo district and in the hill tracks of Myitkyina. The settlement of forest reserves in the Bhamo district, which had been postponed in the previous year, was successfully carried out, and was made the occasion of an attempt to encourage the Kachins to abandon shifting cultivation

The North-
Eastern
Frontier :
Kachin
Hills.

FRONTIERS
AND
FRONTIER
STATES.

and cultivate irrigable land. Four reserves were settled in the Myitkyina district during the year. In this latter district there was a large and satisfactory increase in the revenue from indiarubber. There were some indications of improvement in trans-frontier trade, and measures were taken to facilitate its development. There was a decrease in the number of violent crimes. Measures taken for the registration of firearms were much more effectual than in previous years.

The Shan
States.

In the Southern Shan States the year was one of good crops and of improved trade. The public health was good, and the civil hospital at Taunggyi continued to advance in popularity.

The new scale of tribute was introduced for the first time during the year under review. As it proved in some cases more onerous than was anticipated, the question of its modification was under consideration. The Local Government, with a view to encouraging road-making and opening up communications, intimated their readiness to grant remissions for expenditure on public works. Many States made satisfactory progress in improving communications.

A Durbar was held at Taunggyi on the 9th May 1903, which was largely attended by chiefs and people. The functions, which lasted for a week, included an agricultural show and an arts and crafts exhibition. These were held in the Southern Shan States for the first time, and proved very successful. A conference of all the chiefs to discuss matters relating to the administration of their States was held, and they were encouraged to speak freely, and in many cases did so. They also unanimously resolved to memorialise Government on the question of a railway to the Southern Shan States. This was subsequently done, and the question is under consideration.

The school at Taunggyi for the sons of Shan chiefs, referred to in last year's Statement, made very satisfactory progress during the year under review. There was no important variation in the amount of crime, which is said to be fairly well reported. Friendly relations were maintained with both the French and Siamese officials across the border, and the peace of the frontier was undisturbed. Within the border the conduct of affairs in two States, Yawnghwe and Wanyin, called for interference on the part of Government, but with these exceptions there were no very serious instances of maladministration, though many of the chiefs still needed constant guidance and supervision.

The Northern Shan States enjoyed a very prosperous year. There was a decrease of violent crime, and the statistics of detection were satisfactory. In the Hsipaw State the revenue administration was good, and the income of State was considerably increased. The treasury of this important State has been in charge of an officer appointed by the Local Government since July 1902. As regards the other States the Local Government report that "the fiscal methods of the chiefs are still very primitive, though they are gradually improving under the advice and guidance of the Superintendent and his officers." The most noticeable feature in the trade of the year was a steady movement of traffic from the roads to the railway.

Though there was much trouble on the Chinese side of the border, order prevailed on the frontier, and there was no important disturbance within the States themselves. The steps taken to effect the capture of a notorious Chinese dacoit in North Hsenwi unfortunately led to the death in January 1904 of Captain Wyllie, the Assistant Commandant of the Military Police Battalion. Captain Wyllie was a capable and energetic officer, and his loss is much regretted. The annual settlement of border cases with the officials on the Chinese side of the border produced very satisfactory results.

NATIVE STATES.

NATIVE
STATES.
Thagi and
Dakaiti.

The conditions under which the work of the three Agencies of the Thagi and Dakaiti Department in Rajputana, Central India, and Hyderabad was carried out remained unchanged during 1903-04. A scheme for the reorganisation of the Department was, however, under consideration. The return showing the number of cases of dakaiti in the three divisions for 1903-04 has not yet been furnished, but it may be noted that there was a general decrease of crime, including dakaiti, in both Rajputana and Central India during this period.

Details as to the administration of the Hyderabad State are not available, as the Nizam's Government does not publish an Annual Report. Hyderabad.

In connection with the reorganisation of the Thagi and Dakaiti Department above referred to, negotiations were entered into for the transfer of the Hyderabad establishment of the Department to the control of the Nizam's Government subject to certain specified conditions.

The seasons throughout the Mysore State were generally favourable and good. The rainfall was above the average. The supply of drinking water and fodder for cattle was sufficient, and retail prices of food grains were lower than in the preceding year. The State continued to be afflicted by plague. The total number of cases and deaths was 26,893 and 20,014, respectively, as against 36,088 and 26,573, respectively, in 1902-03. The total expenditure incurred during the year under review in connection with plague preventive measures amounted, approximately, to £7,000, as against £7,356 in the preceding year. Mysore.

There was a decrease in the number of criminal offences, and no cases of dacoity were reported during the year.

A meeting of the Representative Assembly was held on the 5th October and the four following days. The attendance was small, owing mainly to the plague, which was very severe in the autumn of 1903.

The following regulations were passed during the year :—

- (1) A Regulation to provide for the recovery of loans made to Agricultural Banks by Government;
- (2) The City of Mysore Improvement Regulation, 1903;
- (3) A Regulation to further amend the Mysore Chief Court Regulation;
- (4) The Mysore Whipping Regulation, 1903;
- (5) A Regulation to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860, as it is in force in Mysore;
- (6) The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1904;
- (7) The Societies Registration Regulation, 1904;
- (8) A Regulation to amend the City of Mysore Improvement Regulation, 1903.

The sanctioned expenditure for the year from Public Funds on account of Education amounted to £74,552, of which £52,800 was derived from State Funds, £18,224 from the Village School Fund, and £3,528 from the Local Funds General. There were 2,219 public institutions with 87,833 pupils—71,820 boys and 16,013 girls—under instruction, besides some 1,646 private institutions with about 19,000 pupils. Much attention was paid to technical and industrial education. Besides the usual Medical and Engineering Scholarships, 20 scholarships of Rs. 20 a month each were established to enable Mysore young men to receive technical and industrial education in the Victoria Jubilee Institute of Bombay, and in the Schools of Art and Veterinary Colleges at Madras and Bombay. Six village school teachers were trained in sericulture in Mr. Tata's Experimental Silk Farm at Bangalore. A school for the revival of decaying local industries was established, and two weaving schools and an industrial school to teach carpentry and blacksmith's work were also opened.

NATIVE
STATES.

The following are the principal figures in connection with the Revenue and Expenditure of the State:—

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
Land Revenue - - -	£654,716	Land Revenue - - -	£115,460
Mining Royalty and leases	122,253	General Administration - - -	50,000
Forests - - - - -	105,340	Palace - - - - -	106,666
Excise - - - - -	246,740	Law and Justice - - -	60,760
Railways - - - - -	41,340	Police - - - - -	66,366
Cauvery Falls Scheme - -	98,080	Education - - - - -	52,800
		Allowances, &c. (including Tribute) - - -	255,000
Total (including other charges) - - - - -	£1,421,106	Military - - - - -	87,666
		Public Works - - - - -	251,400
		Plague charges - - - - -	7,356
		Railways - - - - -	53,333
		Cauvery Falls Scheme - -	78,420
		Total (including other charges) - - - - -	£1,446,140

Compared with the preceding year the receipts showed an increase of £43,000, mainly under the heads Mining Royalty, Railways, and the Cauvery Falls Electric Scheme. Under expenditure there was an increase of £102,000, chiefly on account of Palace, Education, Public Works, and Interest on Savings Bank accounts. The total approximate expenditure from all sources on Public Works amounted to £376,700, as against £238,000 in the previous year. In November 1903 sanction was accorded for the expenditure of £87,359 on a 2nd Installation of the Cauvery Falls Scheme. The approximate outlay on this work, inclusive of English expenditure during the year, was £42,012. The revenue derived during this, the second year's working from the 1st Installation, was about £81,000, and the cost of maintenance and working amounted to £14,700.

During the year under report, no lines of railway were undertaken by the State. The length of open lines remained the same as in preceding year, viz., 401 miles metre gauge, 10 miles standard gauge.

Some account of the gold production of the Mysore gold mines is given above, on page 117.

Baroda.

In Baroda the most important feature of the year was the complete disappearance of the conditions of famine and scarcity which prevailed during the three previous years throughout the territory of His Highness the Gaekwar. The year would have been one of great agricultural prosperity but for the ravages of locusts in some portions of the State. The favourable season made its influence felt in every direction, and all classes benefited, but it is estimated that only an unbroken succession of good years can entirely obliterate all trace of the late droughts, and enable the cultivators to pay the arrears of assessment.

The plague was prevalent in Baroda city and some of the divisions of the State to a greater extent than in the preceding year. The following are the figures:—

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.
1903-04 - - -	16,317 - - -	12,090
1902-03 - - -	12,746 - - -	9,121

Measures were taken by the Durbar to prevent the spread of the disease. There was no important change in the policy adopted in the previous year. Apart from the plague, public health throughout Baroda territory was on the whole satisfactory.

The following lines of railway were opened for traffic during the year under review:—Baroda-Godhra Chord Railway, Railway from Padra to Mobha, and Baroda State Railway from Kalol to Kadi. Other railway schemes were under consideration.

Throughout Rajputana the rainfall of the year, though late, and in some places irregular, was generally sufficient, and there was no scarcity in any part of the Province. In Marwar and Jaisalmer much damage was done by locusts, and to a less extent in parts of Bikanir, Jaipur, and Alwar. Prices were low, and the movement of food-grains by rail showed signs of returning prosperity. The return of normal conditions had the usual effect of causing a large decrease in crime. Cases of dacoity were less frequent in the Province than in the preceding year.

NATIVE
STATES.
Rajputana.

Several parts of the Province were afflicted by plague during the latter part of the year. The total number of cases and deaths were, respectively, 11,012 and 9,016, as compared with 1,385 and 1,307 in the preceding year. In other respects the public health was satisfactory.

In the Jaipur State the returns show 661 schools and 21,078 scholars as compared with 482 schools and 15,388 scholars in 1902-03. A re-organisation of the Mayo College was effected during the year under report. Amongst other changes the teaching staff, both European and Native, was considerably strengthened, and the curriculum was entirely revised. The total number of pupils borne on the rolls of the College at the end of the year was 88, as against 49 in the preceding year.

The total outlay on Public Works in the Rajputana States amounted to £229,800, as compared with £240,100 in the preceding year. Marked progress was made during the year in investigations connected with protective irrigation works.

His Excellency the Viceroy visited the Alwar State in December 1903, and invested His Highness the Maharaja with ruling powers. The States of Banswara and Tonk were brought under the close supervision of the Political Authorities with a view to the introduction of administrative reforms. A loan of £15,200 was granted by the Government of India to the Jaisalmer Durbar to extricate the State from its financial embarrassment. The outstanding debts of the Dholpur State were paid off in full during the year under review.

Throughout the Central India Agency the rainfall was considerably above the average except in Baghelkhand, where, though somewhat deficient in quantity, it was timely and well distributed. The *khari* crop promised well, and was on the whole good, though damaged to some extent by heavy and continuous rain in July and August 1903. In the Bhopawar Agency some injury was caused by locusts. The heavy rain raised the general water level, which had fallen during the previous years of drought, and led to larger *rabi* sowings than usual. The spring crops, however, suffered in places from untimely rain and hail during February and March 1904; and in the Malwa Agency from the ravages of small insects, from which the opium crop suffered most. In spite of these drawbacks, the year, from an agricultural point of view, was very prosperous. Grain and water were plentiful; the entire revenue was, speaking generally, realised in all States; and the prices of food grains fell considerably.

Central
India
Agency.

Apart from the mortality caused by the plague and an outbreak of cholera at Rewa, the public health of the Agency was generally good. The total number of deaths from plague reported during the year was 44,127. In April 1904 the disease had disappeared from the Capital towns and Cantonments, but it lingered in the outlying districts till June. As reported in last year's Statement, plague appeared in October 1902. It practically died out in the hot weather of 1903, but re-appeared in the rainy season in a most virulent form in the Indore City and Residency, where it decimated the population, and in the Cantonment of Mhow, where over one-fifth of the civil population perished. Refugees from Indore and Mhow carried the disease to Sehore, Bhopal, and Nimach, and by December the outlying districts of Indore and Bhopal States, and the whole of the Malwa Agency were affected. The disease also broke out in the southern districts (Shahjapur and Bhilsa) of the Gwalior State and in the town of Lashkar. The Bhopawar Agency, where the plague first appeared in 1902, and the Bundelkhand Agency were singularly free both from plague and other epidemics during the year under report.

NATIVE STATES.

There was a satisfactory diminution of serious crime in Gwalior, Indore and Bhopal.

In the Indore State various administrative changes were effected by the Council of Regency. The provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, were formally adopted subject to certain alterations in detail to suit local requirements. On the 30th September 1903, when the financial year closed, the balance to the credit of the Indore State amounted approximately to £2,333,000, exclusive of the railway loan of £666,000 to the Government of India. The income of the year was £385,500, against an expenditure of £378,800.

Her Highness the Begam of Bhopal proceeded on a pilgrimage to Mecca accompanied by her two sons. Her Highness embarked at Bombay on the 30th October 1903 and returned on the 25th March 1904.

The Rana of Ali Rajpur was invested with ruling powers in January 1904, subject to certain restrictions as to the administration of the financial affairs of his State.

The total outlay on Imperial Public Works in Central India amounted to £24,700, of which £9,800 was spent on communications; £7,200 on establishments; £5,700 on Civil buildings; and £1,200 on Military works. The total expenditure on Public Works in the Native States of the Agency was £162,400, as against £214,300 in 1902-03.

The amounts expended under this head by the principal States were as follows:—

State.	Amount expended on Public Works.	
	1902-03.	1903-04.
Gwalior - - - - -	£ 122,900	£ 82,350
Indore - - - - -	32,200	15,960
Bhopal - - - - -	9,460	8,640

Bengal.

In the Native States of Bengal no event of political importance occurred during the year under review.

In the Hill Tippera State the year was a prosperous one; excellent crops were reaped, and the public health was good. The total gross revenue receipts amounted to £114,000 and the expenditure to £103,000 as against £107,000 and £116,000 respectively in the previous year.

In Cooch Behar there was a slow and healthy expansion of revenue. The State is reported to have recovered from the immediate effects of the disastrous earthquake of 1897. The health of the people was good and their general condition prosperous.

In Chota Nagpur the following States were in charge of their respective chiefs—Changbhakhar, Jaspur, Korea, Seraikela and Sirgija. The administration of the remaining States of Udaipur, Bonai, and Kharsawan, owing to the minority of their Chiefs, continued to be carried on under the Commissioner's supervision by managers appointed by Government for the purpose. The rainfall throughout the States was generally sufficient, and the crops were good. The health of the people was satisfactory excepting in Udaipur, where fever was rife throughout the year. Settlement operations were initiated in the Seraikela and Kharsawan States under the supervision of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal. Part of the expense of these operations will be borne by Government. Quiet had been restored in Seraikela, where, as reported in last year's statement, serious disturbances occurred in 1902-03 in connection with the resettlement which had been made by the Raja.

Public health in the Tributary Mahals of Orissa was not good during the year under report. Cholera in an epidemic or sporadic form appeared in all the States except Talcher, which, however, suffered from small-pox. Cholera wrought the greatest havoc in Hindol, Narsingpur, Nayagarh, and Baramba, and the loss of life amounted to 1,150, 436, 814, and 802 respectively. The

rainfall was seasonable and well distributed, whilst the prices of food-grains ruled easy, and there was a decrease of crime, attributed to more general prosperity.

The affairs of Sikkim and Bluntan have been mentioned in the account of the Frontier States, *see page*

In the Native States of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh there were no administrative changes during the year under review. The financial position of the Rampur State was sound. The total revenue amounted to £233,000 and the expenditure to £213,000. The State is reported to have benefited by the gradual extension of irrigation works, which have brought in a direct return in receipts for water supplied, and have rendered the cultivation more stable. The collections of the current revenue were better by £6,000 than in the previous year, and the unrealised balance for 1903-04 was only £1,000. The State was free from plague; but there was a serious outbreak of small-pox, and the mortality amongst non-inoculated children was high. Vaccination unfortunately appears to be unpopular with the people.

NATIVE STATES.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

The revenue of the Tehri State, which is largely derived from forests, showed a steady increase and amounted to about £28,000, whilst the expenditure did not exceed £20,000. The out-turn of both *rabi* and *kharif* crops was good, and there was little cattle disease. The public health, however, was unsatisfactory and epidemics of cholera and small-pox broke out during the year, cholera claiming 1,029 victims. The dispensaries continued to do good work, and the number of out-door patients increased by 3,385.

In the Native States in the Punjab agricultural conditions were favourable, except in the Chamba State, where the harvests were poor and cattle disease was prevalent.

Plague was rife during the year. It affected a wider area than in 1902-03, and was particularly severe in the States of Patiala, Jind, Nabha, Kapurthala, and Maler Kotla. In Jind and Nabha the people were prompt to evacuate their houses on the first appearance of the disease, and in Patiala they regarded with less suspicion than formerly the efforts of the authorities to assist them.

In November 1903 the Nawab of Bahawalpur was invested by His Excellency the Viceroy with the full powers of a ruling Chief. The Bahawalpur State was thereafter included in the Phulkian Agency. The financial condition of the State was sound, there being a reserve of nearly £200,000 in the treasury.

The improvement in the condition of the Patiala State which was effected in 1902-03, was continued during the year under review. The debts of the late Maharaja were settled; all outstanding claims were adjusted, and the reserve in the treasury amounted to about £133,000. Good progress was also made in the Settlement operations under the control of the British Settlement Commissioner; and the disputes between landlords and tenants referred to in last year's Statement were to a large extent settled.

The Raja of Mandi whose succession was recorded in last year's Statement was formally installed on the *gadi* of his State. The Raja is being instructed in the duties of government under the guidance of a British Officer who has been appointed Superintendent of the State for a period of two years.

The Chief of the Chamba State, Raja Sham Singh, abdicated voluntarily during the year under review, in favour of his brother Mian Bhure Singh, C.I.E.

There was some improvement in the agricultural and financial conditions of the States of Patandi, Loharu, and Dujana, which suffered severely in recent years of scarcity and famine.

Owing to the continued misconduct of the Raja of Bilaspur—one of the Simla Hill States—it was found necessary to deprive him of his authority as a ruling Chief and to place the State under management. During the year under report the administration was satisfactorily conducted by a Native Officer specially selected for the purpose.

On the Punjab border peace was fully maintained during the year under review.

NATIVE
STATES.
Central
Provinces.

The Feudatory States of the Central Provinces enjoyed a prosperous season. The monsoon, though not well established till July, proved to be one of the most favourable that have been experienced for many years past, and the out-turn of the autumn crops, upon which so many of the States entirely depend, was most satisfactory. Prior to the monsoon the condition of two of the States, Nandgaon and Khairagarh, gave ground for some alarm, but the distress was merely local and temporary, and all trace of it vanished in the autumn. In the other States the condition of the people, even in the early part of the year, was vastly better than that of their neighbours in the adjoining British districts, where the season of 1902 had been an adverse one, and they were therefore all the better equipped to take full advantage of the excellent harvest in the later months. The trade of the year was quite up to normal, while prices were fairly low throughout. The year ended amid unusual plenty, which caused the general outlook to be one of considerable promise. Almost every department of administration in the States profited directly or indirectly by the general prosperity. Finances improved, education made a remarkable advance, especially among the lower classes, and crime decreased. The welfare of the community at large was reflected in the increased birth-rate, in the rise of the revenue from excise receipts, and in the almost total absence of emigration.

The death of three of the Chhattisgarh Feudatory Chiefs occurred during the year under review, viz., Raja Sir Sudhal Deo, K.C.I.E., of Bamra; Digbijai Jugul Kishore Dass, minor Chief of Chhuikhadan; and Maharaja Dhiraj Narhari Deo of Kanker. The last-named was succeeded by his nephew, in whose case certain temporary conditions have been attached to his investiture with ruling powers. The death of the minor Chief of Chhuikhadan, who is succeeded by his younger brother, leaves that State still under the direct management of Government. In Bamra no changes of importance have been necessitated by the accession of Raja Sir Sudhal Deo's eldest son, as the latter has for some years past undertaken an increasing share in the management of the State.

Madras.

The Native States under the political control of the Government of Madras enjoyed a favourable season. The rainfall was generally plentiful and the out-turn of crops was satisfactory, whilst the public health was fairly good.

In Travancore the exports amounted to £1,247,000 and the imports to £677,000, as against £1,057,000 and £837,000 respectively in 1902-03. Products of the coconut formed more than half the entire exports. The total expenditure on Public Works was £178,000, of which sum £60,000 was expended on communications, £29,000 on buildings, and £27,000 on irrigation—the latter expenditure being almost entirely devoted to the Kotayar project, on which the total outlay had amounted to nearly £160,000. The total revenue, excluding debt heads, amounted to £680,000, being the highest on record, and the expenditure to £708,000, which included certain items of extra expenditure, including the outlay on the Kotayar project, which was met from current revenue. Settlement operations were still in progress, but were proceeding slowly. The number of reported police cases fell by 600, but among the grave crimes there was an increase in murder, culpable homicide, dakaiti, and robbery, the number of dakaiti cases rising from 49 to 71.

There was a decline in the registration of vital statistics and a very serious fall in the number of vaccination operations. These decreased by more than 100,000, and, although this was in part due to the disbanding of a special staff employed in the previous year, the average number of operations performed by the vaccinators maintained fell by more than 800.

The total number of schools in the State increased by 11, and of pupils by 6,750. Among boys of school age 39·9 per cent. were under instruction, and among girls 12·7 per cent. The total expenditure on education amounted to £36,800, or £3,600 more than in the preceding year.

In the Cochin State the current demand of land revenue amounted to £50,000, of which 99·5 per cent. was collected; but a large amount of disputed arrears was held in abeyance. Survey operations were conducted more economically, and it was hoped that they will be completed in four

years. The total revenue was £161,000 and the expenditure £174,000, leaving a deficit of £13,000. The expenditure on Public Works amounted to £17,700, as against £18,000 in the preceding year. The total expenditure on education amounted to £6,500. There was an increase both in the number of schools and scholars; 55 per cent. of the male population of school age and 22 per cent. of the female population were under instruction, more than half the pupils being in unaided schools. As in Travancore there was a very serious decline in vaccination operations.

NATIVE
STATES.

The financial condition of the Pudukkottai State was satisfactory. There was a closing balance of £78,000. The total number of educational institutions increased from 271 to 277, of which 146 were aided and 35 were maintained by the State. The total expenditure on education was £2,600.

In the Banganapalle State, survey and demarcation work was completed, and settlement was commenced. There was a slight increase in the revenue collections, and the total revenue of the State was £14,000, the expenditure being about £11,000. The work of the police was very poor, only 17 per cent. of the cases reported being charged; of six dakaiti and robbery cases, five were treated as impossible to detect.

In the Sandur State there was an increase both in holdings and cultivation. The final records of the survey of State villages were received, and the boundary of the jagir villages was completed. The total revenue of the State was £3,600 and the expenditure amounted to about £3,000.

In the Native States under the political supervision of the Government of Bombay, the season under review was not an especially favourable one to agriculturists. The rainfall, though sufficient in quantity, was in many places unseasonable, whilst in some of the States considerable damage was done to the crops by swarms of locusts. Fair harvests, however, were on the whole, reaped; the cotton crop was good in all districts and commanded a high price; the prices of grain fell slightly, and there was nothing that approached real scarcity.

In Kathiawar some progress was made in bringing into cultivation land that had long been untilled. In the Native States of Bombay, as in the British districts of the Province, the mortality from plague was heavier than in the preceding year. Two States only, Bhor and Savantvadi, were altogether free from the disease.

Owing to the prevalence of plague there was a considerable falling-off in the number of pupils attending schools. There was a general decrease in crime throughout the States.

The aggregate gross revenue of the Native States amounted to about £3,080,000, an improvement of nearly £460,000 on the figures recorded in last year's statement. All the important States shared in this improvement. The trade of Kathiawar and Cutch showed a decrease in imports but a satisfactory increase in exports. In the case of Kathiawar, this increase amounted to over 100 per cent.

The outlay on Public Works in the various States did not differ materially from that in 1902-03. The principal variations in expenditure under this head were as follows: Cutch £11,800 as against £21,200 in the preceding year; and Kolhapur £21,600, as against £19,600 in 1902-03.

The only administrative changes of importance during the year under review were the installation of the young Chief of Sangli on the *gadi* of his State, and the investiture of the Chiefs of Jamkhandi and Mudhol with full ruling powers.

CHAPTER XVII.

ARMY.

ARMY

The sanctioned establishment for 1903-04 was as follows:—

British Troops	74,224
Miscellaneous Officers	1,087
Native Troops (including European Officers)	148,205
Total	223,516

Corresponding Total for 1902-1903 - - - 221,161

The late Hyderabad contingent, which was incorporated in the Indian Army early in 1903-04, is not included in the above numbers. Its establishment, as incorporated, was 6,981.

The actual strength and distribution of the Army in India on the 1st April 1904 were as follows:—

	Number of Officers and Men.		Number of Officers and Men.
PUNJAB COMMAND.		BOMBAY COMMAND.	
<i>British.</i>		<i>British.</i>	
Cavalry (3 regiments)	2,158	Cavalry (1 regiment)	688
Artillery (22½ batteries and companies)	3,483	Artillery (27 batteries and companies)	4,314
Engineers	10	Engineers	68
Infantry (14 battalions)	13,841	Infantry (11½ battalions)	11,432
	19,492		16,502
<i>Native.</i>		<i>Native.</i>	
Cavalry (15 regiments)	9,367	Cavalry (8½ regiments)	5,316
Artillery (8½ batteries, and Native drivers of British batteries).	3,739	Artillery (Native drivers of British batteries).	1,067
Sappers and Miners (5 companies)	611	Sappers and Miners (7 companies)	1,087
Infantry (36 battalions)	33,994	Infantry (30 battalions)	24,442
	47,711		31,912
	67,203		48,414
BENGAL COMMAND.		BURMA DISTRICT.	
<i>British.</i>		<i>British.</i>	
Cavalry (3 regiments)	1,939	Artillery (2 companies)	309
Artillery (28 batteries and companies)	4,744	Engineers	31
Engineers	59	Infantry (4 battalions)	3,676
Infantry (17 battalions)	17,573		4,016
	24,315	<i>Native.</i>	
<i>Native.</i>		Artillery (2 batteries)	635
Cavalry (11 regiments)	7,094	Sappers and Miners (1 company)	183
Artillery (Native drivers of British batteries).	756	Infantry (8 battalions)	6,760
Sappers and Miners (5 companies)	955		7,578
Infantry (29½ battalions)	27,825		11,594
	36,630	SIKKIM-TIBET MISSION.	
	60,945	<i>British.</i>	
MADRAS COMMAND.		Artillery (½ battery)	42
<i>British.</i>		Engineers	4
Cavalry (2 regiments)	1,350	Infantry (detachment)	18
Artillery (12 batteries and companies)	2,147		64
Engineers	30	<i>Native.</i>	
Infantry (6 battalions)	6,318	Artillery (Native drivers of British battery).	53
	9,845	Sappers and Miners (2 companies)	392
<i>Native.</i>		Infantry (3 battalions)	2,426
Cavalry (5 regiments)	2,987		2,871
Artillery (Native drivers of British batteries).	270		2,935
Sappers and Miners (6 companies)	942		
Infantry (20½ battalions)	16,652		
	20,851		
	30,696		

ARMY.

	Number of Officers and Men.		Number of Officers and Men.
CORPS NOT UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA.		GRAND TOTAL—cont.	
<i>Native.</i>		<i>Native.</i>	
Bodyguards (Governor General's and Governors').	268	Cavalry (39½ regiments)	25,032
Resident's escort, Nepal	95	Artillery (10½ batteries, and Native drivers of British batteries).	6,520
	363	Sappers and Miners (27 companies).	4,170
		Infantry (127 battalions)	112,194
GRAND TOTAL.			147,916
<i>British.</i>		Officers on the staff -	
Cavalry (9 regiments)	6,135		638
Artillery (92 batteries and companies)	15,039		222,788
Engineers	202		
Infantry (52½ battalions)	52,858		
	74,234		

The establishment* was short by three battalions of Native Infantry in China, and by the following Native troops in Somaliland:—

- One-third battery of Artillery.
- Two companies of Sappers and Miners.
- Four battalions of Infantry.

There was an excess of British Infantry owing to a battalion, which would otherwise have been relieved, having been specially detained at Aden. Three companies of this battalion were employed in Somaliland.

The total of the Native Army Reserve in India on 1st April 1904 was 20,769.

The net expenditure on the Army in 1903-04 was £16,775,780. The total in 1902-03 was £16,221,402.

The number of Volunteers in the whole of India on 1st April 1904 was as under:—

Command.	Enrolled Strength.	Efficient.
Punjab	2,217	2,120
Bengal	14,265	13,916
Madras	7,518	7,337
Bombay	6,082	5,804
Burma	2,862	2,789
	32,944	31,966

On the 1st April 1903 the number of enrolled Volunteers was 32,496, of whom 30,980 were efficient. The number of Volunteers enrolled in the Reserve at the end of 1903-04 was 928.

* The five battalions of Native Infantry regularly employed in the Colonies are not reckoned as part of the establishment.

ARMY.

The following changes in army organisation, &c. came into effect in 1903-04:—

The separation of the Burma district from the Madras command, which had been sanctioned during the preceding year, was carried out.

The district styled "The Punjab Frontier Force and Frontier District" was abolished, and its territorial limits divided into three distinct districts. The Chitral garrison, previously an independent command, was subsequently included in one of these, the Peshawar district.

Revisions of establishment or redistribution took place in several departments of the Staff, viz.:—Military Accounts, Ordnance, Judge Advocate General's, Cantonment Magistrates', and Army Remount. The pay of officers of the Ordnance Department was increased. The control of operations connected with horse, mule, and donkey breeding in certain selected districts was transferred from the Civil Veterinary Department to the Army Remount Department.

The absorption of the Hyderabad contingent into the Indian Army was completed. The artillery was disbanded, and one regiment of cavalry was broken up, each of its three squadrons being added to one of the other regiments. The cavalry was then incorporated in the Bombay command, and the infantry in the Madras command.

Some changes were made in the organisation of the Royal Garrison Artillery in India. Horses were substituted for bullocks for the guns and first line of ammunition waggons of the four existing heavy batteries, and two more companies of Garrison Artillery were converted into heavy batteries, provided with bullock draught.

The establishment of the three corps of sappers and miners was revised, and a mounted detachment was formed. The terms of service and pay of the Indian Submarine Mining Corps were revised.

Alterations were made in the class composition, linking, &c. of various Native regiments—Cavalry and Infantry. An increase was sanctioned to the establishment of British Officers of Native regiments, so as to give to each regiment of the Punjab command an establishment of 13 officers, and to each regiment of the other commands (with a few exceptions) an establishment of 12 officers.

A revised system of numbering the regiments and batteries of the Native Army was adopted, the existing system (containing as it did so many series of numbers) having been found inconvenient and detrimental to efficiency. The renumbering was accompanied by considerable changes in nomenclature. Honorary Colonels were appointed to Native regiments under similar conditions to those obtaining in the British Service.

The conditions of service in India of officers of Royal Engineers were revised, and the system of requiring election for continuous service in India as a qualification for the benefits of Indian rates of pension, Indian furlough rules, &c. was abandoned.

The rates of pay and pension of the Indian Medical Service were increased. Increased pay was also granted to the officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps on the Indian establishment.

The regulations for the Indian Army Reserve of Officers were revised, and regulations for the calling out of Volunteers for actual military service were issued.

His Majesty was pleased to approve of a new medal, to be designated the "India General Service Medal," being struck to commemorate military operations in or on the frontier of India. This medal was granted with a clasp, "Waziristan, 1901-02," to the troops engaged in the Mahsud-Waziri Blockade and connected operations.

MILITARY OPERATIONS.

ADEN.
Hinterland.

It was found necessary to employ a military force for the protection of the Aden Boundary Commission. From before the commencement of the year 1903-04 until after its conclusion, troops (averaging about 2,000

Combatants) were on field service in the Hinterland under exceptionally trying conditions, due to the inhospitable nature of the country and its torrid climate. Although there was not a great amount of fighting, the troops were on several occasions engaged with the tribesmen. The casualties (excluding those among followers) amounted to 10 killed and 21 wounded. There were also 34 deaths in the field hospitals, and several at Aden, the result of illness contracted in the field. A large number of men were also invalided.

ARMY.

The Thibet Mission was accompanied by an escort of troops of the strength detailed at page 190. Unfortunately, the Mission was not allowed to proceed in peace. The details of the campaign which resulted belong to the year 1904-5, but active hostilities were actually commenced by the Thibetans on the 31st March 1903, *i.e.*, the last day of the year under review.

MILITARY WORKS.

The total expenditure on military works amounted to £989,571 in 1903-04 against £1,058,368 in 1902-03. The expenditure in 1903-04 includes an outlay of £539,606 on new works and £253,582 on repairs. Under the head of new works additions to the barrack and hospital accommodation for British and Native troops accounted for over £200,000.

MARINE.

The net expenditure on marine services amounted to £335,386 in 1903-04 as against £342,807 in 1902-03. In this amount are included the cost of the Royal Indian Marine, the contribution towards the expenses of His Majesty's ships employed in the Indian seas, and charges for pilot establishments and vessels, coast lights, and other smaller items.

On the 1st April 1904 the Royal Indian Marine consisted of ten sea-going vessels, six inland and harbour vessels, three torpedo boats, a submarine mining flotilla, and a number of small steamers, launches, &c. There was an establishment of 90 executive officers, 71 engineer officers, and 60 warrant officers; and the Native crews of the vessels (seamen, artificers, and others) numbered in all 1,747.

APPENDIX.

TABLE showing the NET REVENUE and EXPENDITURE in the several PROVINCES of INDIA and in ENGLAND.

	Bengal.		United Provinces.		Punjab.		Burma.		Central Provinces.		Assam.	
	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land revenue	2,712,066	2,715,688	4,162,690	4,196,688	1,427,409	1,547,303	2,220,003	2,341,005	524,945	556,395	427,991	354,181
Forest	83,730	70,799	134,672	151,550	105,656	114,195	448,843	550,973	100,950	92,593	38,590	44,986
Tributes	-2,648	-2,317	-1,682	-1,731	19,447	18,895	23,076	26,995	18,087	11,576	2,160	2,284
Opium	2,076,375	2,511,934	86,740	86,424	4,874	4,918	29,467	89,972	16,034	17,424	28,878	30,245
Salt	1,776,221	1,440,915	-	-	-	-	120,416	102,568	-	-	-	-
Stamps	1,294,043	1,310,018	530,186	543,442	260,111	266,473	173,270	193,360	96,356	95,685	67,889	65,369
Excise	1,051,772	1,085,628	553,947	628,827	177,622	184,413	383,434	496,515	149,658	169,590	194,405	201,300
Provincial rates	671,580	685,961	703,511	698,207	270,373	293,229	111,969	117,098	77,580	75,373	45,521	49,880
Customs	1,174,040	1,108,310	4,066	5,097	-1,144	-1,273	850,533	860,391	8,005	8,740	-	-
Assessed taxes	394,352	334,156	174,987	136,923	106,101	86,139	82,538	80,795	24,454	20,219	21,211	16,971
Registration	112,308	110,803	29,793	30,350	14,203	14,599	9,264	11,857	5,807	5,722	4,719	4,634
Post office	-23,372	-23,277	-12,539	-12,765	-9,477	-9,852	-18,380	-19,080	-3,012	-4,210	-3,357	-3,415
Telegraph	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Railways	711,276	794,427	765,240	726,071	1,145,637	1,703,099	317,968	332,590	335,595	368,238	11,934	29,389
Irrigation	-155,508	-160,273	193,322	190,725	758,603	853,224	-94,010	-97,037	-6,592	-18,313	-	-
Other heads	52,261	63,578	4,691	8,002	6,762	30,490	13,495	2,975	13,075	76,374	3,680	4,756
Total	11,927,996	12,040,338	7,275,242	7,337,820	4,272,653	5,053,042	4,644,446	5,034,527	1,360,943	1,317,658	836,261	786,068
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest	-102,512	-100,314	46,693	46,776	10,757	5,935	-577	-1,305	-278	-4,500	-50	-61
Collection of revenue	635,510	663,046	626,753	642,500	845,212	377,286	638,007	691,431	206,119	206,661	94,560	104,350
General administration	185,059	167,415	129,031	124,335	90,423	84,615	104,914	94,066	45,798	51,164	27,327	26,195
Law and justice	681,754	677,203	492,110	405,426	256,173	267,485	202,524	212,658	79,579	90,501	45,286	49,200
Police	874,076	392,291	530,615	528,593	204,802	203,393	604,219	614,154	94,682	95,813	102,574	88,591
Marine	-13,991	-16,408	-	-	-	-	27,302	33,190	-	-	4,667	5,645
Education	271,528	298,110	153,138	162,179	94,468	104,332	71,675	74,338	53,630	55,794	27,207	35,000
Ecclesiastical	13,520	13,388	16,263	16,417	12,545	13,611	6,159	6,722	3,003	4,292	1,323	1,263
Medical	143,060	151,113	105,000	93,917	113,814	94,272	59,963	65,544	27,857	32,535	27,638	20,220
Political	4,683	3,119	8,064	7,665	46,805	50,913	23,719	26,766	2,870	2,977	11,406	10,711
Scientific and minor	27,370	34,071	17,363	19,086	15,157	17,657	15,583	14,886	6,989	10,118	2,853	2,750
Miscellaneous civil charges	489,330	439,523	249,765	247,981	116,334	116,213	109,019	77,261	47,559	52,955	15,035	15,032
Civil works	704,103	850,034	484,221	519,092	338,504	384,588	35,755	683,026	157,703	153,854	168,402	194,750
Army	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Military works	5,484	4,611	1,350	1,807	6,893	3,700	56,781	36,772	1,310	841	4,080	5,526
Other heads	95,393	615,203	16,670	271,615	78,486	56,961	-217,304	-127,724	26,679	-2,555	77,614	76,586
Total	3,514,364	4,190,405	2,787,045	3,087,879	1,730,873	1,769,961	2,294,630	2,501,785	783,497	790,403	610,322	644,763

TABLE showing the NET REVENUE and EXPENDITURE in the several PROVINCES of INDIA and in ENGLAND—continued.

	Madras.		Bombay.		Berar.		North-West Frontier Province.		India, General.		England.	
	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.
REVENUE.												
Land revenue	3,548,294	3,508,661	2,015,652	2,552,136	466,662	521,452	109,577	116,198	79,317	85,033	—	—
Forest	172,869	175,528	154,809	183,052	11,146	40,437	6,735	6,787	36,989	46,494	—	—
Tributes	299,197	299,221	83,525	83,831	—	—	—	—	111,130	139,145	—	—
Opium	—	—	659,293	869,960	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salt	823,140	1,267,295	1,596,626	1,236,960	—	—	—	—	1,115,530	934,025	—	—
Stamps	542,064	557,177	392,790	403,013	29,363	55,640	25,577	25,321	22,752	22,745	—	—
Excise	1,099,741	1,179,102	686,801	761,237	60,920	132,910	12,819	13,601	73,062	79,376	—	—
Provincial rates	601,134	601,990	188,608	226,146	37,541	43,076	22,969	24,005	10,663	11,003	—	—
Customs	316,275	344,348	1,476,636	1,511,472	697	1,132	—	—	869	849	—	—
Assessed taxes	208,000	170,740	272,088	252,804	8,057	9,621	7,606	6,635	133,218	91,633	—	—
Registration	95,668	102,353	35,003	36,581	2,680	6,462	2,047	2,007	1,167	1,065	—	—
Post office	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telegraph	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Railways	557,896	601,327	1,523,369	1,614,302	—	—	—	—	224,021	177,874	—	—
Irrigation	141,334	113,653	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,381,157	1,278,376	—	—
Other heads	20,373	7,666	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8,858,496	8,927,399	8,847,236	9,698,567	515,344	650,381	232,907	231,614	2,832,289	2,630,821	—	—
EXPENDITURE.												
Interest	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Collection of revenue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General administration	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Law and justice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Education	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ecclesiastical	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Political	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scientific and minor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous civil charges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Civil works	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Army	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Military works	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other heads	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5,092,846	5,732,593	5,349,021	6,409,376	157,422	311,031	454,619	494,552	8,087,607	8,320,852	10,756,462	10,458,824

PROGRESS AND CONDITION OF INDIA, 1903-04.