

EAST INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).

STATEMENT

EXHIBITING THE

MORAL AND MATERIAL PROGRESS AND CONDITION

OF

INDIA

DURING THE YEAR 1885-86.

TWENTY-SECOND NUMBER.

(PRESENTED PURSUANT TO ACT OF PARLIAMENT.)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
20 June 1887.*

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HENRY HANSARD AND SON;

AND

Published by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding-street, London, E.C.,
and 32, Abingdon-street, Westminster, S.W.;
ADAM and CHARLES BLACK, North Bridge, Edinburgh;
and HODGES, FIGGIS, and Co., 104, Grafton-street, Dublin.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
I. ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATION :		X. POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS :	
Administration - - - - -	3	Post Office - - - - -	56
Legislation - - - - -	4	Telegraphs - - - - -	58
II. JUSTICE, CRIME, POLICE, AND PRISONS :		XI. PUBLIC WORKS :	
Receipts and Charges - - - - -	6	Railways - - - - -	59
Civil Justice - - - - -	6	Irrigation - - - - -	62
Criminal Justice and Crime - - - - -	9	Buildings and Roads - - - - -	66
Police - - - - -	13	Capital Outlay and Total Expendi- ture on Public Works - - - - -	69
Prisons - - - - -	16		
III. REGISTRATION - - - - -	19	XII. TRADE :	
IV. FINANCE - - - - -	22	Foreign Seaborne Trade - - - - -	70
V. SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS :		Trans-Frontier Land Trade - - - - -	79
Survey of India - - - - -	26	Coasting Trade - - - - -	79
Cadastral Survey and Settlement - - - - -	26		
VI. LAND REVENUE (INCLUDING FISHERIES, CAPITATION TAX, &c.) AND GOVERN- MENT AND WARDS' ESTATES :		XIII. MINES AND MANUFACTORIES :	
Land Revenue - - - - -	29	Mineral Resources - - - - -	81
Government and Wards' Estates - - - - -	35	Manufactories - - - - -	81
VII. PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND :		XIV. EDUCATION AND LITERATURE AND THE PRESS :	
Opium - - - - -	37	State of Education - - - - -	83
Salt - - - - -	38	Literature and the Press - - - - -	89
Stamps - - - - -	41		
Excise - - - - -	42	XV. MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL SELF- GOVERNMENT - - - - -	91
Customs - - - - -	43		
Provincial Rates - - - - -	44	XVI. EMIGRATION AND MIGRATION :	
Assessed Taxes - - - - -	44	Emigration - - - - -	98
VIII. FORESTS - - - - -	45	Migration - - - - -	99
IX. AGRICULTURE :		XVII. NATIVE STATES, FRONTIER RELATIONS, AND MILITARY OPERATIONS :	
The Agricultural Departments - - - - -	50	(1.)—Native States - - - - -	100
Chinchona - - - - -	53	Frontier Relations - - - - -	105
Tea - - - - -	54	Persian Gulf - - - - -	105
Coffee - - - - -	54	Army - - - - -	106
Cotton - - - - -	54	(2.)—Affairs in Upper Burma - - - - -	106
Wheat - - - - -	56		

N.B.—Information relating to Public Health and Sanitation, and to the Health of the Army, will be found in the Report on the Sanitary Measures in India in 1885–86, also presented to Parliament.

India Office, }
21st October 1887. }

J. A. GODLEY,
Under Secretary of State for India.

STATEMENT

EXHIBITING THE

MORAL AND MATERIAL PROGRESS AND CONDITION OF INDIA

DURING THE YEAR 1885-86.

I.

ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATION.

IN the home administration there were considerable changes in the year 1885-86. In June 1885 the Earl of Kimberley, Secretary of State, and Mr. J. K. Cross, M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, gave place, respectively, to Lord Randolph Churchill, M.P., and Lord Harris, who, at the next change of Ministry, were replaced, in February 1886, by the Earl of Kimberley, K.G., and Sir Ughtred J. Kay-Shuttleworth, Bart., M.P. The changes in the Council of India were caused by the retirement of Sir Barrow H. Ellis, K.C.S.I., and Sir William Muir, K.C.S.I., and the appointments of Sir John Strachey, G.C.S.I., C.I.E., and General Sir Donald Martin Stewart, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., C.I.E. ADMINISTRATION.
Home.

As it will be constantly necessary throughout this Report to treat the subjects discussed under the heads of the various administrations in India, it is proposed to adopt one order throughout. The provinces under the immediate authority of the Supreme Government, viz., Ajmere, Berar, and Coorg with Bangalore, will, when they are mentioned at all, be spoken of first; next will be taken the provinces of the Bengal Presidency, in the following order, Bengal, Assam, the North West Provinces with Oudh, the Punjab, the Central Provinces, and Lower Burma; then Madras, and Bombay with Sind; and, lastly, Aden, which is in connection with the Bombay Administration. At the end of the chapter on Native States, &c., some remarks are added relative to the North West Frontier, the Persian Gulf, and Muscat Agencies, and the administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Order of treat-
ment.

A separate article has been added to the chapter on Native States, &c. (page 106) dealing with the affairs of Upper Burma, which was annexed on the 1st of January 1886, and incorporated with British India on the 1st March following. The extent of the country thus annexed is about 100,000 square miles, exclusive of the Shan States, subordinate to Burma and covering about an equal area which, by the annexation, have also passed under the suzerainty of the Government of India. Upper Burma.

The Earl of Dufferin, K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., who took his seat as Viceroy and Governor General of India in December 1884, continued in that office throughout the year under review. In the commander-in-chiefship, however, there was a change, General Sir Donald Martin Stewart, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., C.I.E., giving place to Sir Frederick Sleigh Roberts, Bart., G.C.B., C.I.E., V.C., R.A., who took his seat in the Executive Council on 28th November 1885. There were no other changes in the Executive Council. India.

ADMINISTRATION.
Ajmere-Merwara. Colonel Sir E. R. C. Bradford, K.C.S.I., remained throughout 1885-86 as Chief Commissioner of Ajmere and Merwara. The Commissionership of Ajmere changed hands more than once, being successively held by Colonel W. Tweedie, C.S.I., Mr. L. S. Saunders, Mr. J. C. Plowden, and Lieutenant Colonel G. H. Trevor.

Berar. The Hyderabad Assigned Districts are under the responsibility of the Resident at Hyderabad, an office which was held during the year, with the exception of 35 days' absence on duty at Simla, by Mr. J. G. Cordery. In the interval Mr. J. R. Fitzgerald acted as Resident. The Commissionership remained without change in the hands of Mr. L. S. Saunders.

Coorg and Bangalore. At the beginning of the year Mr. J. B. Lyall, Resident of Mysore, was also Chief Commissioner of Coorg, and in charge of the station of Bangalore. On taking furlough towards the end of May 1885, he was succeeded in these combined appointments by Mr. C. E. R. Girdlestone. No other change occurred.

Bengal. Excepting a month's leave, during which the Honourable H. A. Cockerell, C.S.I., held charge, the administration of Bengal remained in the hands of the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Augustus Rivers Thompson, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. The experiment of forming an agricultural department has been found of so much use that its permanent establishment has been recommended.

Assam. In the absence of the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Charles Alfred Elliott, C.S.I., Mr. W. E. Ward carried on the duties of the administration in Assam for the whole 12 months.

N. W. Provinces and Oudh. The year under review was the fourth year of the administration of Sir Alfred Comyns Lyall, K.C.B., as Lieutenant Governor of the North West Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh. He retained the office throughout the year. On the 10th of March 1885 the town and fort of Jhansi became a part of British territory, upon their cession by the Gwalior Durbar in exchange for the Gwalior Fort, and now form an integral part of the Lieutenant Governor's charge.

Punjab. The Punjab remained during the whole year under the administration of Sir Charles Umpherston Aitchison, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., LL.D.

Central Provinces. Mr. C. H. T. Crosthwaite held charge of the Chief Commissionership of the Central Provinces till December 1885, when he went on leave and handed over his duties to Mr. D. Fitzpatrick.

Burma. Mr. C. E. Bernard, C.S.I., continued to be Chief Commissioner of British Burma, and when the title of the province was changed, on the incorporation of King Theebaw's dominions, he became Chief Commissioner of the whole of Burma, including the Upper Province. It was from the 1st of March 1886 that Upper Burma was constituted a scheduled district under the Act for the Better Government of India. The events which led to this consummation are described in the separate article above referred to.

Madras. There was no alteration in the governorship of Madras, which was held by the Right Honourable Mountstuart Grant Duff, C.I.E. The commander in chiefship of the Madras Army was, however, vacated in August 1880, by Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Roberts, Bart., V.C., G.C.B., C.I.E. He was succeeded in March 1886 by Lieutenant General Sir Herbert Taylor Macpherson, V.C., K.C.B., K.C.S.I. In the interval, the command of the army devolved on Major General Hugh Rowlands, V.C., C.B. There was no other change in the Council.

Bombay. Lord Reay, who had taken his seat as Governor of the Bombay Presidency on the 30th March 1885, held that post continuously through the year 1885-86. The only change in the Bombay Council was caused by the retirement of Lieutenant General the Honourable Arthur Hardinge, C.B., from the command of the Bombay Army. He was succeeded by Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir Charles George Arbuthnot, K.C.B., who took his seat in the Bombay Council on the 16th February 1886.

**LEGISLATION OF
 THE COUNCIL OF
 THE GOVERNOR
 GENERAL OF
 INDIA.
 General.**

The legislation of the Government of India for the year consists of 26 Acts that received the assent of the Governor General in 1885-86. Of these, 13 were general in their application, and the rest local. The most important Act of the year was No. II. of 1886, which imposed a tax on incomes derived from sources other than agriculture. Certain Acts regulating the customs tariff and excise were amended by Act IX. of 1885. There were two Acts, Nos. XIX. of 1885 and XIII. of 1886, relating to Government securities, the former amending the law

law, and the latter not only amending but also consolidating the law on the subject. The Local Authorities Loan Act, 1879, was amended by the addition of a small clause by Act XV. of 1885. Civil procedure was affected by a short Act (No. IV. of 1886) which amended Section 265 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872. The statutes relating to criminal procedure were in many points altered and added to by Act No. X. of 1886. Registration was dealt with by two Acts, Nos. VI. and VII. of 1886, the former providing and establishing offices for the voluntary registration of births, deaths, and marriages; the latter relating to the registration of title, and amending the Indian Registration Act of 1877. Act No. XVIII. of 1885 provided for cases in which mines or minerals are situate under land to be acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, 1870. In the first instance the new law was applied only to Bengal and Madras, but it might be extended to other administrations by a notification in the Gazette. The law concerning telegraphs in India was amended by Act XIII. of 1885, which repealed the previously existing Act of 1876. The promotion of tramways in India led to an Act (No. XI. of 1886) to facilitate their construction and regulate their working. This Act, though not in the first instance applicable to Madras and Bombay, could be extended to these Presidencies by an official notification. The growth of the petroleum trade, with its attendant dangers, likewise demanded a law (Act No. XII. of 1886) to regulate the importation, possession, and transport of petroleum, and other fluids of a like nature. The only other general Act was No. XII. of 1885 called the Indian Sea Passengers Act, 1885, which was designed to amend the law relating to the conveyance of Indian emigrants to foreign colonies. Of the 12 Acts of the Government of India which were of local application, three concerned Bengal only, and two of these Acts, XX. of 1885, and VIII. of 1886, had to do with the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885. The former postponed for a limited time the operation of certain of its provisions; the latter slightly amended certain of its sections. Act No. IX. of 1886, the third of the Acts limited to Bengal, applied, with some alterations, to the Deo Estate the provisions of the Chutia Nagpore Encumbered Estates Act of 1876. One Act (No. V. of 1886) was passed in behalf of the North West Provinces; it was entitled the Mirzapur Stone Mahal Act, 1886, and was intended to regulate the working of the stone quarries in the Mirzapur district. Oudh was affected by Act No. X. of 1885, which amended in certain particulars the Oudh Estates Act of 1869. For the Punjab there was one Act (No. I. of 1886), which authorised the making and regulated the working of tramways in Lahore. The Northern India Ferries Act, 1878, was, moreover, amended by Act III. of 1886. Burma claimed the passage of two Acts, Nos. XI. and XIV. of 1885, the one to correct an error in the Burma Municipal Act of 1884, the other to amend the law relating to the civil courts in Burma, for the sake, mainly, of relieving the Recorder of Rangoon of a portion of his too heavy duties. In the Central Provinces, too, the law relating to the civil courts was amended and formulated in Act No. XVI of 1885; Act XVII of 1885 also related to the Central Provinces, and made provision for the superintendence of Government wards in that part of India. The Madras Civil Courts Act of 1873, which likewise required alteration in a few particulars, was amended by Act XXI. of 1885.

LEGISLATION OF
THE COUNCIL OF
THE GOVERNOR
GENERAL OF
INDIA.

Bengal.

N. W. Provinces.

Oudh.

Punjab.

Northern India.

Burma.

Central Provinces.

Madras.

The Council of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal passed four Bills during 1885-86. But two only of these received the assent of the Governor General during the year. The first (Act I. (B.C.) of 1886) amended the Village Chaukidari Act of 1870; the other (Act. II. (B.C.) of 1885) introduced some changes in the Calcutta Police Acts. The two Bills that were passed, but did not receive final sanction within the year, were amendments to Acts relating to vaccination and to the inspection of steam boilers and prime movers in the presidency town.

LEGISLATION BY
THE COUNCIL OF
THE LIEUTENANT-
GOVERNOR OF
BENGAL.

The Madras Government passed three Acts in 1885-86. The Abkari law of the Presidency was amended and consolidated by Act I. of 1886, which was intended to improve the preventive arrangements for the protection of the revenue, to regulate the liquor traffic, and to tax trees tapped for the supply of toddy. A board of trustees for the management of the Madras Harbour was constituted by Act II. of 1886; and the improvement of other ports and harbours of the Presidency was made easier by an Act (No. III. of 1885)

LEGISLATION BY
THE COUNCIL OF
THE GOVERNOR
OF MADRAS.

making provision for the levy of landing and shipping fees. There were eight other Bills proposed or pending in the Madras Legislature.

LEGISLATION BY
THE COUNCIL OF
THE GOVERNOR
OF BOMBAY.

Legislation was not very active in Bombay. Three comparatively unimportant Acts were passed, and five Bills were pending at the close of the year. The first of the three Acts, No. III. of 1885, provided for the occasional appointment of a deputy municipal commissioner for the city of Bombay. No. IV. of 1885 amended the Bombay Local Boards Act of 1884, and the Bombay District Municipal Act Amendment Act of 1884. And Act No. I. of 1886 removed certain doubts in the construction of the Bombay Municipal Acts of 1872 and 1878.

II.

JUSTICE, CRIME, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Receipts and
charges.

THE whole expenditure entered in the Finance and Revenue Accounts for 1885-86 under the head of Law and Justice slightly exceeded Rs. 33,500,000, against which were receipts amounting to over Rs. 5,750,000. The net charge under this head was therefore about Rs. 27,750,000. But as the receipts from court fee stamps, credited under "Stamps," amounted to about Rs. 25,000,000, it would appear that the final cost to the Government of India of dispensing civil and criminal justice, and maintaining its jails and convict stations, was only Rs. 2,250,000. But, seeing that the net expenditure on the criminal courts, and on jails and convict stations, was about Rs. 13,500,000, it follows that civil suitors must have been called upon to pay about 11½ million rupees more than it cost the Government of India to maintain all the courts and establishments necessary for supplying them with the justice that they claimed. The net charge for the maintenance of the police in India was about Rs. 25,000,000.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Broadly speaking, there are two systems of civil justice administration in India, one obtaining in regulation, and the other in non-regulation, provinces. In both, the lower classes of judges are graduated according to the pecuniary amount of their jurisdiction. The first system is substantially the same in Bengal, the North West Provinces, Madras, and Bombay. There are four High Courts, at Calcutta, Allahabad, Madras, and Bombay, with an ultimate appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England. In Bengal, to trace the system from the High Courts downwards, the district judge hears appeals from the subordinate judge and munsiff, except in cases exceeding Rs. 5,000, when the appeal lies direct to the High Court, and he also exercises a general control over all the courts in his district. Below him comes the subordinate judge, whose jurisdiction is unlimited in extent, while the munsiff, whose jurisdiction does not exceed Rs. 5,000, ranks lowest. In Madras the munsiff's jurisdiction is Rs. 2,500, and in Bombay his place is taken by subordinate judges of the second class, with a jurisdiction of Rs. 5,000, while there is also an intermediate grade of assistant judge. As regards the other provinces, the High Court is represented by a chief court with three judges for the Punjab; in the Central Provinces and Oudh a Judicial Commissioner is the highest authority, and in Assam and Burma the Chief Commissioner. Indian law is composed of such statutes of the British Parliament as apply to that country, of the enactments of the Indian Legislative Council, and of Hindu and Mahomedan laws affecting inheritance and domestic matters. To these must be added certain customary laws affecting particular castes and races. Comparative statistics of civil justice for the calendar years 1884 and 1885 are exhibited in the following statements:—

STATISTICS

STATISTICS OF CIVIL AND REVENUE COURTS OF ORIGINAL JURISDICTION, for the Calendar Years 1884 and 1885.

	Number of Suits.	Number of Suits disposed of, excluding Transfers.						TOTAL Value of Suits Instituted.
		Without Trial.	Without Contest.	With Contest.		Referred to Arbitration.	Pending at Close of Year.	
				Judgment for Plaintiff.	Judgment for Defendant.			
Ajmere	1884 9,787	1,470	4,341	2,658	329	213	776	Rs. 456,896
	1885 11,245	1,908	5,062	2,878	319	253	825	570,680
Berar	1884 26,000	2,113	15,235	4,967	1,419	33	2,248	2,423,016
	1885 25,452	1,811	14,310	5,178	1,114	47	2,992	2,585,292
Coorg	1884 3,012	391	1,895	469	93	-	164	471,182
	1885 2,803	392	1,591	422	157	2	239	2,451,265
Bangalore	1884 1,361	290	642	214	68	-	147	246,626
	1885 1,966	293	1,132	314	66	2	157	385,730
Bengal	1884 555,586	71,851	293,873	84,365	27,548	2,277	75,672	53,385,641
	1885 571,725	76,109	300,181	87,052	26,949	2,188	76,256	53,478,685
Assam	1884 30,492	5,383	14,479	4,861	2,542	124	3,103	2,373,149
	1885 29,349	5,399	13,782	5,131	2,716	102	2,419	2,188,292
North-West Provinces and Oudh	1884 269,250	37,633	123,481	58,696	26,352	2,103	21,013	43,235,551
	1885 282,868	38,761	129,238	63,215	27,467	2,435	21,752	35,533,865
Punjab	1884 293,290	50,458	131,958	62,756	25,562	2,945	19,611	16,525,765
	1885 301,089	53,936	137,430	63,330	25,709	2,648	18,036	16,662,109
Central Provinces	1884 108,429	20,650	50,071	20,985	7,746	157	8,840	8,842,876
	1885 113,884	21,823	51,911	23,294	8,848	139	7,867	7,380,637
Lower Burma	1884 36,698	8,292	14,165	8,725	3,991	56	1,469	3,766,408
	1885 35,533	7,332	14,271	8,424	3,840	71	1,595	4,825,499
Madras	1884 297,160	38,495	155,465	45,107	16,490	803	40,500	27,261,408
	1885 310,848	38,515	163,538	49,227	17,955	683	40,930	29,770,846
Bombay	1884 176,458	14,987	93,020	29,510	7,165	557	30,949	22,038,116
	1885 160,517*	15,522	95,176	30,193	7,862	879	30,865	21,559,491
TOTAL	1884 1,807,592	251,093	898,625	323,313	119,303	9,570	204,786	183,048,564
	1885 1,870,479*	261,805	933,822	338,658	122,992	9,149	203,953	177,396,301

* This is exclusive of 5,060 suits disposed of by village officers under the Dekkhan Agriculturists Relief Act.

STATISTICS OF CIVIL AND REVENUE APPELLATE COURTS, exclusive of the Miscellaneous Cases, for the Calendar Years 1884 and 1885.

	Number of Appeals.	Rejected, Withdrawn, Dismissed for Default.	Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Remanded.	Pending at Close of Year.
Ajmere	1884 276	8	182	18	40	2	26
	1885 332	5	156	23	53	33	62
Berar	1884 871	39	451	57	151	44	130
	1885 797	27	429	63	133	55	90
Coorg	1884 170	4	58	25	37	25	21
	1885 177	9	88	23	25	10	22
Bangalore	1884 28	-	15	2	4	2	5
	1885 22	-	10	3	1	-	8
Bengal	1884 39,590	1,841	13,254	2,212	3,865	1,255	17,163
	1885 41,999	2,071	17,078	2,551	4,578	1,667	13,554
Assam	1884 1,674	43	719	114	202	74	322
	1885 1,542	39	844	118	215	79	247
North-West Provinces and Oudh	1884 50,816	1,158	15,157	2,324	4,063	1,809	8,111
	1885 33,330	1,505	15,366	2,579	4,338	2,133	7,418
Punjab	1884 30,393	6,382	8,354	1,657	3,949	2,840	7,013
	1885 28,434	907	12,175	1,302	3,238	2,102	8,744
Central Provinces	1884 6,559	991	2,646	614	1,051	376	881
	1885 7,601	1,331	3,023	725	1,123	448	1,154
Lower Burma	1884 1,651	22	944	126	401	32	426
	1885 1,690	66	914	115	373	43	179
Madras	1884 11,645	617	4,593	1,083	1,350	822	3,150
	1885 12,626	539	4,841	1,022	1,369	684	4,161
Bombay	1884 9,266	265	2,773	632	775	281	4,540
	1885 9,927	310	2,641	620	653	229	5,474
TOTAL	1884 132,941	11,369	47,540	8,864	15,868	7,562	41,718
	1885 136,684	6,809	57,565	9,435	16,099	7,693	41,083

CIVIL JUSTICE. Ajmere-Merwara.	Every year more and more suits are instituted in Ajmere-Merwara, and though the duration of contested and uncontested suits has been reduced, the work is too heavy for the establishment, relief of which is necessary.
Berar.	In the Hyderabad Assigned Districts there was a decrease in the number, value, and average duration of the suits instituted during the year. The character of litigation was of the usual type. There were 39 courts open for civil work at the close of 1885-86, or one more than in the previous year.
Coorg.	The civil suits in Coorg are noticeable for their large value; their number declined in 1885. The town Subedars' Courts at Mercara and Virajendrapet were replaced during the year by Courts of Munsiffs, with original jurisdiction, from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the Courts of the Taluk Subedars was, at the same time, reduced from Rs. 300 to Rs. 100. Other changes were also effected. The newly-appointed Munsiffs are stated to have worked well.
Bangalore.	The rather remarkable increase in the number of suits instituted in Bangalore is attributed to the impecuniosity of a number of the townspeople, who are believed to have been overtrading during the late years of high prices.
Bengal.	Litigation steadily increases in Bengal. In the Courts in the interior more than 453,000 suits were instituted, of which 238,000 were for money, and nearly 178,003 under the rent law. Out of 467,000 cases disposed of in the 12 months, the Munsiffs cleared off 377,000. The High Court was able to clear off a portion of its arrears, which were reduced from 844 to 453 on the Original side, and from 4,983 to 3,267 on the Appellate side. The work of the Calcutta Small Cause Court slightly decreased, but in the Small Cause Courts of the Mofussil 2,000 more suits, or 56,214 in all, were instituted.
Assam.	There was a decrease in the number and value of civil suits instituted in Assam in 1885. There was a great improvement in the disposal of contested cases. The proportion of cases contested rose from 25.9 to 29.4 per cent. It is curious that this proportion varies greatly in different parts of the province. In the Surma Valley the per-centage of contested cases was only 23.8; in Nowgong it was 51.1; in the Assam Valley Districts 35.5. The arrears of appeal cases were satisfactorily reduced.
N. W. Provinces and Oudh.	In Oudh there was scarcely any change in the number of civil suits instituted; but generally throughout the North-West Provinces there was a moderate increase, accounted for partly by the prosperity of the people following on a run of good seasons, and partly by the undecided disputes left by recent revisions of the records of rights. The average value of suits in the North-West Provinces is now Rs. 271, as compared with an average value of Rs. 170 for the suits in Oudh, where litigation is much more frequent relatively to population. The business of the year was satisfactorily disposed of, the pending arrears not amounting to more than a month's work. The heavy arrears in the Chief Court of Oudh were cleared off by the help of an additional Commissioner.
Punjab.	The breakdown of the Divisional Courts established on the Bench system by the Punjab Courts Act was described in last year's Report. By the close of the year 1885-86, the arrears had, thanks to the appointment of six additional judges, been reduced to a normal figure. For the future, however, experience seems to show that the mass of the civil work in the Punjab will require 14 Divisional Judges to prevent the accumulation of arrears. The Chief Court, notwithstanding the appointment of a fourth judge in the year under review, is unable to cope with the vastly increased work thrown upon it, and requires to be further strengthened. Of the whole civil work of the Province the Munsiffs disposed of an increasing proportion. Their share in 1885 was 68 per cent. of the whole.
Central Provinces.	The Central Provinces Civil Courts Act, passed in October 1885, tended still further to separate the administration of civil justice from other work, by establishing new Civil Courts in places where the work is sufficient to occupy a separate judge. Thus in the year under review, 12 such courts presided over by Munsiffs were opened at the head-quarters of Tahsils, and justified their existence by disposing of 5,000 cases. The relief they afforded to overworked Tahsildars was very substantial. At the same time, the relief of Deputy Commissioners of districts in which work was heavy has been effected by the appointment of additional Civil Judges of a lower rank with appellate powers. The new system may be regarded with satisfaction, and the improvement in both judicial and revenue work has been cheaply purchased. The business of the Civil Courts is ever on the increase, for the growth of litigation in 1885, as shown

shown in the foregoing statements is regarded as normal. It is noticeable, however, that the proportion of contested suits, now over 30 per cent., also steadily increases. This, of course, means heavier work for the courts. Most of the suits are of a petty kind, and more than one-half are disposed of by the lowest courts, which have been mainly affected by the new scheme. CIVIL JUSTICE.

The statistics of Civil Justice for Lower Burma are vitiated to some extent by the fact that no returns were forthcoming from four courts in the Shwegyin district, as the records were destroyed by rebels in December 1885. But even allowing for this omission, of probably about 1,000 suits, there would appear to have been a decline in litigation; though the value of suits rose from Rs. 3,766,100 to Rs. 4,825,500. In Rangoon itself, however, there has been a considerable increase in the number of cases. The work of the Recorder's Court was very heavy, and even after the passing of an Act which allowed the transfer of insolvency jurisdiction in Moulmein, Akyab, and Bassein, to the district judges of those places, and the devolution of other cases to the court of the Judicial Commissioner, it was found necessary to appoint an additional Recorder. The duration of cases in the Rangoon courts was 62 days if contested, and 29 if uncontested; elsewhere contested cases lasted on the average only 24 days and uncontested 14. A bill for creating a Chief Court in Lower Burma was under consideration. Lower Burma.

It was observed in last year's Report that since the extension of their jurisdiction, the Village Munsiffs disposed of about one-third of the litigation of the Presidency. In 1885 the number of suits before the Village Munsiff's Courts increased still further to 92,065. Of these only 16 per cent. were contested. From the observation of the District Judges, which is the only evidence forthcoming in the absence of the right of appeal, it appears that the work done by these courts is not generally satisfactory, the amount of litigation in the Presidency is shown by the total of 267,293 suits instituted in 1885, which gives a proportion of one to every 116 of the population. In the Presidency town the proportion is 1 to every 15 inhabitants, and in North Malabar, the most litigious country district, one to every 37. The average duration of original cases increased in almost all the courts. It is longest in the District Courts, with an average of 223 days for uncontested, and 245 for contested cases, as compared with 164 and 214, respectively, in 1884. Appeals before certain district courts are likewise falling heavily into arrear. The duration of original cases in subordinate Judges Courts, 106 days for uncontested, and 248 days for contested suits, is also unsatisfactory. As there was a marked reduction of arrears pending before the regular Mofussil Courts and as 60 per cent., as compared with 57½ per cent. in 1884, of the decisions appealed against were confirmed, it would appear that these courts are fully competent to deal with the growing litigation. The High Court is now disposing of its business at a normal rate. Madras.

The number of suits instituted in the Bombay Presidency was 152,969, while 154,692 cases were disposed of. The increase in litigation is normal, and is accompanied with a reduction in the duration of suits. In the above totals are included 21,162 cases arising under the Dekhkan Agriculturists Relief Act. In these there has been a constant increase during the last six years, which proves the village money lenders to be shaking off their reluctance to avail themselves of the Act. In the districts to which it applies, the Act has had the effect, comparing the present totals with those of 1872-73, of trebling the proportion of contested suits, of doubling that of admitted cases, and quadrupling that of compromises. Thus judicial investigation has been secured on a scale otherwise impossible. The conciliators under this Act have not the power to compel parties to attend, and this weakness has led to failure in nearly half the suits in which application was made to the conciliators. Where they were able to dispose of suits, they abated the claims before them in the proportion of 32½ per cent. The conciliation system is open to criticism; and as an alternative the method of remitting half the court fees if the suit is amicably settled at the first hearing has been successfully tried in certain districts. The number of appeals increased in 1885, but the business got through was rather less, and the arrears pending at the close of the year were thus considerable. Bombay.

The constitution of the Criminal Courts is uniform throughout India, and is regulated by the Criminal Procedure Code of 1872, amended in 1882. The various courts in operation are, (1) The High Courts; (2) Courts of Session; CRIME.

CRIME.

(3) Courts of Presidency Magistrates; and of Magistrates of the First Class; (4) Courts of Magistrates of the Second Class; (5) Courts of Magistrates of the Third Class. Inverting the order, the Magisterial Courts are graduated according to the maximum sentences of fine, imprisonment, and whipping, which they are empowered to inflict. Magistrates of the highest class further commit prisoners on graver charges to the Sessions Court or High Court. The Sessions Judge may pass any sentence authorised by law, but sentence of death must receive the confirmation either of the High Court, which is supreme, or in provinces where there is no High Court, of the Chief Court or Judicial Commissioner in its place. The Sessions Judge also holds trials as a rule with the assistance of three assessors, but trial by jury has been extended to certain districts and certain classes of crime. Trial before the High Court is always by jury.

STATISTICS of CRIMINAL TRIALS, according to Provinces, for the Calendar Years 1884 and 1885.

	Criminal Trials.				Appeals and Revisions in Criminal Cases.			Persons Sentenced to				
	Persons brought to Trial.	Persons Acquitted or Discharged.	Number Convicted.	Otherwise Disposed of and Pending.	Number of Appeals, &c. before the Courts.	Number of Appeals Rejected.	Number of Sentences Confirmed.	Death.	Transportation.	Imprisonment.	Fine.	Whipping.
Ajmere - - -	{ 1884 9,050	4,935	3,894	221	250	5	183	-	-	758	3,314	111
	{ 1885 9,870	5,808	3,813	254	216	7	130	1	-	573	3,988	89
Berar - - -	{ 1884 21,279	11,678	9,167	454	729	201	215	6	18	1,710	7,584	324
	{ 1885 23,202	11,832	10,850	513	883	334	183	5	18	2,083	8,485	417
Coorg - - -	{ 1884 2,570	1,316	1,059	224	218	-	91	-	9	304	578	11
	{ 1885 3,135	1,930	1,002	203	150	4	67	5	-	277	668	8
Bangalore - - -	{ 1884 3,714	1,193	2,456	75	20	-	15	-	-	176	2,172	107
	{ 1885 5,073	1,363	3,650	54	32	3	15	1	1	328	3,267	60
Bengal - - -	{ 1884 240,188	72,855	157,530	9,809	20,210	5,654	7,315	38	134	29,700	118,610	1,846
	{ 1885 225,284	70,992	144,298	9,991	20,322	6,370	8,206	31	205	29,189	107,587	2,000
Assam - - -	{ 1884 17,958	6,269	10,959	730	1,981	544	780	5	50	3,422	7,679	289
	{ 1885 16,623	6,116	9,881	626	1,516	729	653	4	23	3,154	6,810	226
North - West Provinces and Oudh -	{ 1884 240,525	116,003	117,314	6,608	24,716	7,757	10,062	164	308	31,696	61,071	4,704
	{ 1885 241,231	120,780	113,361	7,000	23,169	5,075	10,350	102	296	30,519	78,190	4,810
Punjab - - -	{ 1884 177,799	105,280	68,075	4,444	16,589	6,900	4,098	756	218	15,010	54,129	1,570
	{ 1885 181,928	107,408	70,117	4,403	17,355	7,215	5,136	84	118	13,870	55,833	1,312
Central Provinces -	{ 1884 38,407	16,307	21,048	1,052	3,850	662	1,831	19	58	6,669	13,112	1,335
	{ 1885 41,164	17,112	22,795	1,237	3,854	865	1,540	21	49	6,900	14,840	1,397
Lower Burma - -	{ 1884 53,765	20,691	30,782	2,202	5,352	1,600	2,045	75	162	10,283	21,492	1,352
	{ 1885 68,188	26,481	38,947	2,805	9,030	1,779	4,285	62	153	14,520	26,395	1,764
Madras - - -	{ 1884 333,527	167,948	155,971	9,608	15,368	1,924	6,341	58	164	32,797	123,928	1,551
	{ 1885 371,594	202,547	168,167	10,880	16,690	2,906	6,450	35	165	34,540	124,048	1,725
Bombay - - -	{ 1884 123,145	70,122	42,990	4,024	6,639	1,251	2,944	47	182	12,763	31,760	707
	{ 1885 136,156	88,003	44,208	3,945	7,169	1,457	3,186	31	154	12,306	33,208	703
TOTAL - - -	{ 1884 1,252,886	596,252	617,340	39,204	95,087	26,493	35,737	1,108	1,296	144,530	462,115	13,796
	{ 1885 1,323,443	600,324	621,095	42,024	100,395	26,744	42,410	1,022	1,189	148,325	462,719	14,511

Ajmere-Merwara.

With fairly good harvests in Ajmere-Merwara, ordinary crime shows some diminution in 1885-86. The diminution of heinous offences was specially marked. The honorary magistrates disposed of a large proportion of cases. Their judgments, however, especially in cases relating to municipal bye-laws, were somewhat faulty, owing to their want of legal training. But their energy and good intentions were very creditable.

Berar.

A formidable increase was noticed last year in the number of offences of a serious nature in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts. It is satisfactory to find an improvement in this respect in 1885, murders having fallen from 43 to 27, dacoities from 22 to 12, and robberies from 40 to 31. These dacoities were the work of the outlaw Tantia Bhil. It is the large increase in the number of petty nuisance cases, minor offences against property and other small offences during 1885 that has caused the expansion of the figures for Berar in the previous statement. The tahsildars and special magistrates cleared off 85 per cent. of the criminal cases of the province.

The

The offences reported in Coorg during the year 1885 were much more numerous, but a larger proportion than usual were false charges. Convictions were actually fewer. A reorganisation of judicial business has led to a reduction of the number of the courts from 25 to 23.

CRIME.
Coorg.

It is an increase from 1,482 to 2,505 offences, under special and local laws, which accounts for the great rise in the criminal statistics of Bangalore for the year 1885. The magisterial work of the station is good.

Bangal.

The population of Bengal shows a smaller proportion of criminals than that of any other province of India. In the year under review there was a considerable decrease of crime, especially of the kinds cognizable by the police. Of the offences reported, 6 per cent. were declared false; but this percentage does not by any means represent the real proportion of false charges. Nor is there much hope of checking the crime of false incrimination so long as the moral sense of the mass of the people is not on the side of the law. Serious offences were not quite so frequent as in the previous year. Dacoities, however, exceeded by one the high total of 1884. Matters, however, improved with the passing away of the agricultural distress which prevailed in the spring. No change was made in the administration of criminal justice.

Bengal.

The work of the Criminal Courts in Assam was lighter in 1885 than in 1884, as there was a decrease of about 4 per cent. in the number of offences reported, mainly in those under the Penal Code. A very large proportion, viz., over 33 per cent., of the offences reported were rejected as false. Kamrup, however, which is still the worst district in this respect, shows a considerable improvement since last year. Even after this large rejection of false charges, convictions of accused persons were secured in only 61 out of every 100 cases. There was greater despatch in the procedure of the Criminal Courts. It is noticeable that crime in Assam is much the most prevalent in those districts where there is a large immigrant population.

Assam.

The proportion of criminals to the whole population of the North-West Provinces and Oudh is satisfactorily low. The excellent harvests, cheap prices, and good wages, prevalent in the year 1885-86, told favourably on the records of thefts and robberies. Serious offences against the person were, however, somewhat more numerous, and the total mass of reported crime showed a small augmentation. There is not yet sufficient success in bringing home to the offenders crime of a serious nature. In trials for murder, the proportion of convictions is and has for some time been about 62 per cent. But, relatively to the number of murders actually committed, there has been a gradual decline in the proportion of convictions from 48 per cent. in 1883 to 42 per cent. in 1885. This is not as it should be. The provinces may be congratulated on a steady decrease of professional crime. The two most obnoxious bands of dacoits in late years have been broken up and the leaders duly punished; and now there is no dacoity of a serious kind. Professional poisoning has been dealt with successfully, and is much less frequent than it used to be. Cattle theft, though diminished in frequency, is still prevalent, and, unfortunately, in two cases out of every three escapes detection. The crime is practiced after a professional method. In the most settled and highly cultivated districts especially, a regular system has been organised for stealing cattle and harbouring them when stolen. It is hard to break up this organisation.

N. W. Provinces
and Oudh.

The most important feature in the working of the Criminal Courts of these provinces is the extent to which unpaid agency is employed. About 22,000 cases in the North West Provinces and 7,000 in Oudh, or nearly a fourth of the whole number before the courts, were thus disposed of by unpaid magistrates, sitting as benches in the towns, and singly in the rural districts. The quality of their work is good. That it is of assistance to the administration and fully appreciated, is shown by the fact that measures are being taken for increasing the powers and strengthening the establishments of these honorary magistrates. Other modes in which unpaid agencies are employed in the criminal procedure of these provinces are the systems of assessors in trials by sessions judges, and of trial by jury. The introduction, as a tentative measure, of trial by jury was referred to in last year's report. So far the experiment promises success; but further experience is necessary before deciding on its extension beyond the three sessions courts of Allahabad, Lucknow, and Benares into which it has at present been introduced.

An increase of 2½ per cent. is shown by the number of offences committed in the Punjab. As regards murder, matters have gone from bad to worse. The cases returned as true were 434, or 24 per cent. more than in the previous year;

Punjab.

CRIME.

of these the Peshawar District is responsible for 100 as compared with 77 in 1884. So the improvement anticipated last year has not been realized; but some consolation may be found in the fact that the per-centage of convictions in this district increased from 19 to 31. The criminal administration of this part of the frontier was, in the course of the year 1885, thoroughly examined, and the frontier regulations amended. The principal change made was an extension of the system of trial by a council of elders. This did not alter the procedure of already existing judicial tribunals; but where these had been found in operation, they were supplemented by the new procedure. The reason that law has hitherto failed so far to secure life in these regions is that the uncivilised people of the frontier reck little of bloodshed, and have false views of honour that make them screen criminals,

Central Provinces.

After six years of decrease, crime has again risen in the Central Provinces. The Sambalpur district, however, which last year was exceptional for a marked increase of crimes, is this year exceptional for a marked decrease. It is in offences of a serious nature that the development of crime is most conspicuous; and the failure to obtain convictions in 17 out of the 19 dacoities committed in 1885, is most unsatisfactory. The heavier work of the year fell on a reduced staff of magistrates; and the chief burden had to be borne by the tahsildars. The way they disposed of their business may be considered satisfactory.

Lower Burma.

It is in Burma, of all the administrations in India, that cases of crime bear far the largest proportion to the total number of the population. Consequent mainly on the war in Upper Burma, crime of a serious character was more rife in the year under review in all the chief districts of the Lower Province except Rangoon town, Pegu, and Henzada. Murder, dacoity, robbery, housebreaking, and violent crimes generally were more prevalent to the extent of 10 per cent.; and towards the end of December large gangs of marauders collected in the Schwegyin and Pegu districts, and committed many outrages, burning and looting peaceable villages; then raising the Peacock standard, as though a contingent of Theebaw's army, they created considerable panic. The contagion spread to other districts, and military operations were necessary to quiet the country. The history of these operations belongs to 1886. In Rangoon town a decrease of violent crime by 50 per cent. is attributed to efficient police administration, and to the aid given by the town elders. Apart from serious crime, there was a large increase in the number of offences, mainly of a petty kind, or under the preventive law. A much larger number of persons, 4,194 as compared with 2,176 in 1884, were called upon to give security for good behaviour. On the other hand the detection of crime improved, and criminal work was despatched with reasonable celerity. Out of 67,000 persons brought to trial, 47,000 came before the subordinate stipendiary magistracy, and 16,000 before the benches of honorary magistrates. The procedure before the honorary magistrates was simplified, their powers of summary jurisdiction extended, and the Burmese language adopted as the language of their courts. In consequence the work they disposed of more than doubled.

Madras.

The number of offences returned as true in Madras was 190,730, or 11,119 more than in the previous year. Of this excess, 6,636 represented offences under the penal code, mainly petty assaults and theft. The remaining 4,483 were due to greater vigour in working special and local laws. Murders and attempts to murder decreased from 261 to 144, and other grave crimes also diminished. In some districts, however, an increase of dacoities was caused by bad seasons and distress. A satisfactory feature of the returns is the decrease in false reports of crime. This has been due to magistrates who have prevented proceedings more frequently by distrusting complaints at the outset, and have awarded more compensation for vexatious or frivolous complaints. There was some increase in the average duration of cases decided by the several classes of magistrates. The number of appeals to the high court was 620, a higher total than in any year except 1880. In the other courts, too, appeals were more numerous.

Bombay.

In Bombay 4,000 more offences were committed in 1885 than in 1884. Hurt, mischief and intimidation were more prevalent. Imprisonment appears to be each year less frequently resorted to; and fine takes its place as a punishment. The reason alleged is that the more serious offences for which imprisonment is a proper punishment are on the whole steadily decreasing with the maintenance of peace and the spread of education, but that offences of a slighter nature, especially those under special and local laws, for which the punishment is by fine alone, have a tendency to increase. One crime deserving special notice was

was the murder at Broach of a police superintendent by a mob of Talavias, a low caste community dwelling in the neighbourhood. Efforts had been for some years made to reclaim these people, and to induce them to settle down as cultivators, but without success. With grievances of an imaginary kind, a number of them encamped near Broach, but without raising apprehensions of trouble. But on the 22nd of November a band of 75 of them went in search of the collector of the district; failing to find him, and meeting the police superintendent they attacked the latter and killed him with their sticks and billhooks. They marched through the town, threatening the bank on the way; and then met a small body of police, by whom they were attacked and finally dispersed after two volleys of ball cartridge. Five were killed and five wounded, and a number afterwards taken prisoners. Three of the ringleaders were sentenced to death, and fifty-one of the rioters to transportation for life.

There may be said to be two systems of police throughout India. The stipendiary police, a British institution, are organised as a separate department in every province; the men are disciplined and drilled with some regard to military considerations, and in order to secure harmonious relations with the civil administration, the police superintendents are under the general control of the magistrate. In addition, the indigenous system of village police or watchmen survives more or less in every part of the country. It is most perfect in the North-West Provinces where special attention has been paid to the efficiency of the chaukidars, who are paid out of a rate levied together with the Government land-revenue. Elsewhere they are remunerated by a share in the crop, by fees, by a quit-rent, or by other analogous means.

The total strength and cost of the stipendiary Police throughout India, in the calendar years 1884 and 1885, are shewn in the following Statement:—

	Strength of District, Town, or Municipal and Water Police, paid for, wholly or in part, from Imperial Revenues.		Total Police of all kinds (excluding Village Watchmen).	Total Cost.	Payable from Imperial or Provincial Revenue.	Payable from other Sources.
	Officers of all Grades.	Men.				
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ajmere - - - - -	{ 1884 102	525	627	100,606	70,610	
	{ 1885 102	580	682	102,156	81,608	
Berar - - - - -	{ 1884 512	2,192	2,704	521,882	505,691	16,191
	{ 1885 513	2,196	2,709	525,556	478,994	16,065
Coorg - - - - -	{ 1884 29	161	190	24,354	24,354	—
	{ 1885 27	161	188	23,282	23,282	—
Bangalore - - - -	{ 1884 72	248	320	63,623	63,623	—
	{ 1885 72	248	320	59,197	59,197	—
Bengal - - - - -	{ 1884 3,623	20,381	24,004	4,204,087	4,204,087	—
	{ 1885 3,685	20,415	24,100	4,227,808	4,227,808	—
Assam - - - - -	{ 1884 327	1,087	2,014	454,571	450,566	4,005
	{ 1885 324	1,852	2,022	430,728	426,530	4,198
North-West Provinces and Oudh - - - -	{ 1884 5,165	27,875	33,040	4,325,359	3,600,100	685,259
	{ 1885 5,176	27,411	*32,587	4,456,204	3,914,752	631,542
Punjab - - - - -	{ 1884 660	20,002	20,662	3,166,269	2,593,566	567,703
	{ 1885 689	19,275	19,958	3,018,874	2,458,521	560,353
Central Provinces - -	{ 1884 1,336	7,352	8,688	1,372,765	1,344,038	28,727
	{ 1885 1,351	7,411	8,770	1,365,193	1,342,622	22,571
Lower Burma - - - -	{ 1884 690	6,597	7,287	1,811,063	1,799,975	11,088
	{ 1885 710	6,525	7,281	1,789,626	1,778,538	11,088
Madras - - - - -	{ 1884 597	21,598	22,195	3,815,204	3,815,204	—
	{ 1885 531	21,550	22,249	3,752,243	3,752,243	—
Bombay - - - - -	{ 1884 3,416	18,194	21,610	3,890,841	3,747,808	142,033
	{ 1885 3,392	17,985	21,853	3,916,086	3,759,733	156,353
TOTAL - - - - -	{ 1884 16,529	126,812	143,341	23,759,714	22,323,622	1,436,092
	{ 1885 16,568	125,359	142,669	23,687,043	22,303,895	1,422,651

* Of these, 634 officers and 8,727 men not paid from imperial or provincial revenue.

POLICE.
Ajmere-
Merwara.

The conduct of the police of Ajmere and Merwara is not as it should be, to judge from a large increase in the number of its members coming under punishment in the year 1885-86. The condition of the rural police, whose pay is largely in arrears, is also far from satisfactory. A reform in their organisation will probably be required.

Berar.

The temporary addition of 60 to the police force in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts required to protect the Melghat tracts from the ravages of the notorious dacoit Tantia Bhil, was continued during the year. His depredations were thus curtailed, though he himself escaped capture. On the other hand, 61 vacancies in the regular force remained unfilled. This was owing to the difficulty of obtaining recruits except from among the Mahomedan community; and it was considered necessary to restrict the enlistment from this class in accordance with the principle that no one class should predominate in the force in a much larger proportion than it bears to the whole population.

Coorg.
Bangalore.

In Coorg the conduct and working of the police made some improvement.

There was some saving in the administration of the Bangalore police, who continued to work with, on the whole, satisfactory results.

Bengal.

It was stated in last year's report that complaints were being made of the irregular payment of the village police under the Chaukidari Act. In the year under review it was decided to retain the village police system, but to try and do away with the irregularities complained of. An Act for the purpose was accordingly passed, though not till after the close of the year. The regular police service is said to be no longer so popular as it was, and difficulties are felt in recruitment. The conduct of the forces improved. There were, however, four cases of torture proved against the police. Punitive police were required in only three places of Bakarganj. The efforts to reclaim the Maghiya Doms by settling them in Saran and Champaran are said to be prospering; but considerable difficulty is still met with in Saran. The police force in the Chittagong Hill tracts, which is separately organised and is recruited entirely from the Goorkhas, performed its civil and semi-military duties satisfactorily.

Assam.

The frontier police force of Assam is not included in the figures of the foregoing statement; this force, numbering about 2,500, is composed largely of Goorkhas and other warlike races. Their organization and training, as well as their conduct, improved in the course of the year. Outpost duty on the frontier against the recalcitrant Abors and Mishmis fell largely to the share of the Lakhimpur battalion, while the corps in the Naga Hills had to carry out the three most important expeditions. The chief of these was the march of a body of 100 men for seven weeks with the Deputy Commissioner through the Ao country. The civil police, though they had less crime to deal with, were even less successful than in 1884, especially in Sylhet and Cachar. The rural police, numbering about 7,000 and excluded from the previous statement, are stated to be becoming better disciplined and more efficient every year.

N. W. Provinces
and Oudh.

The police strength of the North-West Provinces and Oudh, was reduced by nearly 400 men, but the cost of the force was higher by 2½ lakhs of rupees. Of this, however, 1½ lakhs, were the result of a transfer of municipal police charges from municipal to provincial revenues; the rest of the increase has mainly gone towards improving the pay and prospects of the men. It is hoped that this improvement in their condition may in time favourably influence the standard of intelligence and education in the corps, and may lead to a greater measure of success in dealing with crime, and may check the steady, though slow decline of late years in the proportion of cases in which convictions are procured. Care is also required to make the police more efficient in dealing with serious riots. Improvement to this end should take the form of better weapons and more drill.

INFANTICIDE.

In the North West Provinces 28 districts were still under the operations of the Act of 1870. The number of proclaimed villages was, however, reduced from 1,708 to 1,573. It is believed that in families under surveillance infanticide is now successfully prevented, and that elsewhere among the Rajputs the practice is dying out. It was stated in last year's report that an enquiry was being made as to the extent to which infanticide prevailed in Oudh. The enquiry is not yet concluded; but investigation so far indicates that in that province the practice is rare, and no longer receives support from tribal sentiment, though it does appear to survive in particular villages.

CRIMINAL TRIBES.

The work of reclamation among the Sanauriats of Lalitpur, goes on steadily and well. Out of 140 families in the tribe 99, as compared with 91 in the previous

previous year, occupy settled holdings of land, and it is hoped have given up their thieving propensities. But it is not satisfactory to find that more than a fifth of the persons registered managed to be away without passes at the end of the year. Efforts are to be made to put a stop to this prevailing absenteeism. In Etah it appeared on enquiry that though the Aheriabs were and had for some time been proclaimed, the special laws and rules were not being properly enforced. Strict measures have therefore been ordered to be taken to coerce the refractory members of this criminal tribe, and to watch with more care the movements of the proclaimed families. It is too early yet to expect much result from the measures taken with the Barwars of Gonda in Oudh, who were proclaimed in October 1884. The progress of the work is nevertheless said to be encouraging. There is still a question how to deal with certain castes and classes of vagrants in the Meerut division, who live wholly by theft, often characterised by great daring and violence. They are at present under systematic surveillance, and their crimes, when detected, are severely punished. But if the experiments now in progress for reforming and civilizing the Doms and Bhatuis in Ghorakpur and Moradabad succeed, similar efforts to settle these criminal classes in some fixed locality will probably be undertaken.

The number of mounted police was still further reduced in the Punjab, so that more Deputy Inspectors might be appointed and the emoluments of the lower grade of constables raised. The conduct of the force is rapidly improving judging from a decrease in the number of punishments in the force to 1,951, as compared with 2,431 in 1884 and 3,148 in 1883.

The work of reclaiming the criminal tribes of the Punjab goes on steadily, especially among the Minas. In the year 1884-85, 32 leases were granted to members of this tribe; others were employed in a matting manufactory, newly established at Gurgaon; others used in service as village watchmen; and a number of the children were also put to school at Shah-jahanpur. The Minas are still much addicted to infanticide; though they deny the charge. Not so much has been effected with the other criminal tribes, viz., the Taguis, Biluchis, Harnis, and Bauriabs. The last named are low caste Hindus in Ludhiana and Ferozepore. Those of Ludhiana are undoubtedly reforming, and many are now hereditary zamindars; but, as their fellow tribesmen in the Ferozepore district show little improvement, they can not yet be exempted from the operation of the Act of 1871.

The working of the Police Department in the Central Provinces has not been very satisfactory. But little success has been met with in dealing with serious crime. To ensure better success in future, it will be necessary that the superior officers should exercise a closer supervision over the work of their subordinates and guide them in the work of detecting and convicting criminals.

The police in Lower Burma, though their general conduct was good, did not achieve much success in dealing with crime; and they failed generally to cope with widespread disturbances, such as followed the war in Upper Burma. A re-organisation of the force was accordingly found necessary, and carried out, though not till after the close of the year under review. By this scheme a large portion of the force is to consist of men recruited among the fighting races of Upper India, who will be employed on all duties in which courage and discipline are indispensable; while the Burman portion of the police will be used principally for detective purposes.

At the close of 1885 the Police in the Madras Presidency, including the Madras City Police, Salt preventive establishment, land customs and jail guards, numbered 23,788, or 245 below the sanctioned strength. In the Malabar District a punitive police force of 110 men had to be imposed during the year in consequence of Mapilla outrages. An experiment is being tried in North Arcot to settle the wandering bands of Koravers upon waste land. Two settlements have accordingly been made, the success of which is anticipated. A larger number of departmental punishments, by which nearly 20 per cent. of the force were affected, is not quite satisfactory. The education of the police improves, 72.5 per cent. being now able to read and write.

The reorganisation of the police in the Kathiawar and Mahi Kantha Agencies made recruiting in the Northern Division of the Bombay Presidency rather brisk. Under these circumstances much difficulty was found in obtaining suitable recruits on the existing scale of remuneration. Half the force are Mohammedans. Education is very backward, except in Ratnagiri. In Sind it is such

POLICE.

that only 455 out of a force of 4,241 men can read and write. The behaviour of the men was better than in the previous year. On the occasion of the Broach riot already described the men behaved very well. Good progress was made in drill and musketry practice.

PRISONS.

In the whole of India there were, in 1885, 32 central jails, 212 district, and 510 subsidiary jails. A reduction of 24 in the total number since the previous year has been effected by the amalgamation where possible of magistrate's lock-ups with district jails. The number of prisoners confined in the year under review was larger than in the two preceding years and exceeded 350,000, of whom less than 20,000 were females. The daily average, however, declined steadily in each of the past five years, from 91,000 in 1881 to 74,000 in 1885. The gross jail expenditure, excluding the cost of buildings and repairs, was slightly larger than in 1884, but as the earnings of prisoners rose from Rs. 1,033,943 to Rs. 1,292,318, the net cost declined to Rs. 3,349,756, or Rs. 45.3.7. a head as compared with a rate of Rs. 48.13. a head in the previous year. A comparison of the various provinces shows that Burma provides a far larger contingent relatively to its population than any other part of India. The number of convicts sent to Lower Burma jails in 1885 bore the proportion of 33.37 to every 10,000 of the population; in the two previous years the proportion was 27.11 and 29.28. These figures contrast most unfavourably with the proportion of admissions into jail in the rest of India, which in 1885 was 7.24 out of every 10,000, and in the two previous years 7.25 and 7.19. In Bengal the proportion is lowest, amounting to only 2.06 persons sent to jail in the year out of every 10,000 of the population. As regards jail punishments it is satisfactory to find that whipping is far less frequently resorted to than it used to be. In 1885 it was found necessary in only 3,075 cases, whereas, in 1881, 8,923 prisoners were whipped. The subjects of jail administration which are attracting most attention in India are the establishment of reformatories and the introduction of the Reformatory Act, the systematic classification of habitual criminals for purposes of jail discipline, the adoption of a more uniform system of jail punishments throughout the different parts of the Empire, the more effectual observance of the regulations for the extramural and intramural labour of convicts, and the working of the new rules for remissions.

JAIL STATISTICS, according to Provinces, for the Calendar Year 1885.

	Ajmere.	Berar.	Coorg.	Bengal.	Assam.	North West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces.	Lower Burma.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL, excluding Ajmere.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Daily average number of prisoners:												
Convicts - - -	648	1,015	89	15,757	1,276	18,289	9,707	3,210	6,653	7,208	6,611	68,513
Under trial - - -	21	26	17	1,169	87	1,242	795	128	182	517	442	4,026
Civil - - -	2	4	-	251	15	242	124	57	61	228	203	1,167
TOTAL - - -	571	1,045	106	16,177	1,378	19,773	10,716	3,375	6,896	8,313	7,255	74,006
Death-rate per 100 of average strength:												
Convicts - - -	1.58	1.6	9.5	0.09	0.0	2.19	2.8	7.7	3.4	1.8	1.50	3.35
Under trial - - -		7.5	-	4.01	8.1	2.40	1.7	5.5	4.4	3.3	1.40	
Civil - - -		-	-	.79	0.0	.41	-	-	-	-	3.1	
TOTAL Cost - - -	Rs. 23,075	Rs. 63,535	Rs. 9,868	Rs. 1,030,592	Rs. 125,063	Rs. 880,526	Rs. 613,027	Rs. 194,339	Rs. 418,672	Rs. 727,212	Rs. 537,541	Rs. 4,042,075
Cost per head of average strength.	Rs. a. p. 40 6 1	Rs. a. p. 60 12 5	Rs. a. p. 93 6 11	Rs. a. p. 67 14 5	Rs. a. p. 91 4 11	Rs. a. p. 44 8 6	Rs. a. p. 60 1 5	Rs. a. p. 57 9 4	Rs. a. p. 60 11 5	Rs. a. p. 88 4 11	Rs. a. p. 74 1 6	Rs. a. p. 62 10 9

Ajmere-Merwara.

Notwithstanding a diminution of the number of persons in jail in the Ajmere-Merwara districts in 1885-86, from 2,254 to 2,093, the jails continued to be rather overcrowded; the health of the prisoners does not seem to have been injuriously affected.

The number of prisoners sent to the jails in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts was 4,248, or 417 more than in the previous year, a higher figure than in any of the previous four years. But the daily average is not more than usual, being only 15 above the low figure for 1884. The chief change with regard to sentences of convicts was the greater frequency of rigorous imprisonment with solitary confinement. The conduct of the convicts improved, or at any rate fewer punishments were required. The question of remunerative employments for the prisoners creates difficulty. The year was unhealthy.

Prisons.
Berar.

The accommodation for prisoners in Coorg was increased so as to contain 134; separate and district wards are now provided for under trial, civil, and female prisoners; a great want is thus met. The health of the prisoners deteriorated.

Coorg.

There were almost the same number of prisoners admitted into the Bengal jails in 1885 as in the previous year, but the number in prison at the close of the year declined from 15,354 to 15,076. The general health of the prisoners was worse than in 1884. In seven jails, situate in unhealthy districts or exposed to outbreaks of cholera, the death-rate exceeded 10 per cent. This excessive mortality is not attributed in any way to the character of the jail buildings, but is thought to be mainly due to the bad health of the prisoners on admission. Emphasis has however again been laid by government on the necessity for unremitting watchfulness and care on the part of jail officials in carrying out the various arrangements for the well-being of the prisoners. The larger expenditure on jails was caused partly by a rise in the price of provisions and partly by a greater outlay on clothing. The earnings of prisoners increased.

Bengal.

The number of prisoners in Assam has steadily declined each year since 1882. It was noticed in last year's Report that notwithstanding a large immigration the proportion of coolie prisoners had declined. This improvement did not continue through 1885, the proportion of prisoners of this class having increased from 22.4 to 26.4 per cent. of the total. The health of the prisoners was even worse than in the previous year, and that without any general unhealthiness of the district or special outbreaks of cholera. The expenditure on prisons in the province was considerably reduced.

Assam.

Since the famine year of 1878, the prisoners in the jails of the North-West Provinces and Oudh have diminished steadily in number from 143,129 to 73,788 in the year under review. Never since the mutiny have the numbers been so few. It was found possible to abolish 10 of the lock-ups for under-trial prisoners, finding space for their inmates in the ordinary jails, an improvement in every way, and one that may be extended. The central jail at Meerut, condemned for its unhealthiness, was also abandoned. The system of remissions of sentence by marks for good conduct and industry allowed the early release of the large total of 2,063 prisoners. The system is well reported of. The earnings of the prisoners contributed Rs. 191,397 as compared with Rs. 137,324 in the previous year; and the result was the reduction in the net charge to the State of each convict to Rs. 28.

N. W. Provinces
and Oudh.

The yearly decrease in the daily average of prisoners in the Punjab has been continuous since 1867. But a small increase in the number of prisoners sent to jail in 1885 indicates that a contrary fluctuation is not unlikely to occur in the future. The health of the prisoners was good, better indeed than in any year since 1868. The employment of convicts is a source of great difficulty; 2,000 prisoners have for some time been successfully employed on the Chenab Canal works; but now that these are approaching completion, some new scope for extramural labour is required, but has not yet been found.

Punjab.

Notwithstanding a larger number of convicts sent to prison in the Central Provinces, the daily average number of prisoners was less than in 1884. Mortality among the prisoners was very heavy, owing to a cholera outbreak in one jail, and dysentery and diarrhoea in all the jails. The system of employing selected convicts as prison officers has been carried on with care and discretion, and, so far, has answered well. The remission of sentences under the new good conduct rules has been satisfactory.

Central Provinces.

The daily average number of prisoners in the Lower Burma jails in 1885 was not 200 more than in 1884, although the number of prisoners in confinement during the year really exceeded the number in the previous year by 3,000, or 18 per cent. The jails of this province were over-crowded, having at one time contained 7,467 prisoners, although the accommodation was only

Lower Burma.

PRISONS.

suited for 6,896. The surplus population was generally housed in worksheds or jail hospitals. To this over-crowding might be attributed the larger number of deaths, if it were not that in the jails where the nominal accommodation was exceeded, the health of the prisoners was comparatively good. An explanation of the mortality is found in the much larger proportion of convicts who were sentenced to short imprisonment; six months or less. It is in this class that mortality is greatest, amounting in 1885 to over 8 per cent. There were several outbreaks of cholera in the Bassein and Toungoo jails, which, be it noted, were not among those that were over crowded. Thirty-two deaths occurred in the former, 12 in the latter. The removal of the remaining prisoners into camp checked the disease. The mark system among the prisoners works well; fewer prisoners were punished by forfeiture of marks, and more earned by this means their release before the expiry of their sentence. "Habitual" convicts, who were admitted in large numbers, were carefully kept apart and employed on the hardest kinds of labour. The cheapness of food accounts for the decrease in the cost of the jails from an average of Rs. 66 to Rs. 60.

Madras.

The number of admissions into the Madras jails was over 54,000, or nearly 7,000 in excess of the total in the previous year. An analysis of the race and religion of the prisoners admitted show that one in 274 of the European, and one in 509 of the Eurasian population were sent to prison, as compared with one in 799 among native Christians, one in 856 among Muhammedans, one in 1,361 among Hindoos, and one in 3,787 among Buddhists. The rules for the earning of remissions of sentences by means of marks for good conduct and industry were revised. The cost of maintaining the prisoners increased.

Bombay.

The jail administration in the Bombay Presidency was satisfactory. Again the number of prisoners fell off; breaches of prison rules were fewer; whipping was necessary on only 61 occasions, as compared with 73 and 129 in the two previous years; and a larger number of convicts were released under the mark system. Average jail expenditure was, however, higher, and the earnings of prisoners less. The number of jails was reduced by the transfer of the prisoners in the Poona District Jail to the Yerrowda Central Jail.

III.

REGISTRATION.

THE first general Act providing for the registration of assurances in India was passed in 1864. It was codified and amended by Act III. of 1877, which is now the existing law, and applies to the whole of British India. Registrations are divided into two classes, compulsory and optional. The first consists of (1) deeds of gift and other non-testamentary documents (including receipts) affecting immoveable property of the value of 100 rupees or upwards; (2) leases of immoveable property for any term exceeding one year. Optional registrations consist of (1) deeds of gift of immoveable property and other non-testamentary documents (including receipts) affecting immoveable property of the value of less than 100 rupees; (2) leases of immoveable property for a term of less than one year; (3) documents affecting moveable property; (4) wills; (5) all other documents of which registration is not compulsory. In each Province registration forms a separate department under the supervision of an Inspector General. The mode of payment is by *ad valorem* fees and copying fees, and the receipts form part of the provincial revenues. In four districts of Bombay, viz., Ahmadnagar, Poona, Satara, and Sholapur, a special system of registration was introduced by the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act of 1879, under which all documents executed by an agriculturist relating to money, mortgages, sales, and leases have to be signed and written before village registrars appointed for that purpose. The fees for registration are a considerable source of revenue to the government. The amount credited under this head in the Finance and Revenue Accounts for the year 1885-86 is Rs. 3,069,990, against which there are charges amounting to Rs. 1,854,060 and leaving a surplus of Rs. 1,215,930.

STATISTICS of REGISTRATION for the Official Years 1884-85 and 1885-86.

	Number of Registration Offices.	Number of Registrations.				Value of Property Transferred.			Net Receipts.	
		Immoveable Property.		Moveable Property, and all other Registration.	TOTAL.	Immoveable.	Moveable.	TOTAL.		
		Compulsory Registration.	Optional Registration.							
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Ajmere	{ 1884-85 1885-86	7	971	80	-	1,255 1,253	85,404 366,226	-	-	1,911 1,820
Benar	{ 1884-85 1885-86	60 58	16,800 17,717	6,007 6,698	2,242 2,217	25,049 20,032	5,309,210 5,650,410	356,073 293,232	5,665,883 5,943,642	21,390 23,040
Coorg	{ 1884-85 1885-86	10 9	495 410	47 60	104 124	646 594	941,918 1,032,588	353,500 340,017	1,295,487 1,302,605	1,949 1,979
Bangalore	{ 1884-85 1885-86	2 2	988 1,010	279 335	90 73	1,366 1,418	856,251 089,809	80,400 46,907	936,660 796,816	3,323 2,580
Bengal	{ 1884-85 1885-86	290 292	374,730 380,032	193,811 211,384	119,839 126,485	688,380 723,901	116,083,180 109,910,877	20,395,060 19,408,003	136,478,249 129,378,880	520,401 510,812
Assam	{ 1884-85 1885-86	22 22	10,111 11,023	5,487 7,027	2,550 2,563	18,148 21,213	3,411,315 3,756,811	802,059 720,400	4,213,074 4,477,301	11,177 13,205
North West Provinces and Oudh	{ 1884-85 1885-86	346 346	92,199 94,570	45,458 48,048	40,023 44,474	173,220 187,002	63,510,504 63,022,910	9,056,792 9,871,352	73,179,296 72,894,282	141,140 155,412
Punjab	{ 1884-85 1885-86	230 230	44,086 45,500	11,305 10,37	10,903 10,553	67,294 66,450	23,642,940 24,048,755	2,168,955 1,895,427	25,211,901 26,944,182	74,417 70,822
Central Provinces	{ 1884-85 1885-86	75 76	14,038 15,230	4,202 5,032	4,049 4,343	22,289 24,605	7,619,794 8,017,379	466,997 640,781	8,086,791 8,667,160	32,289 30,005
Lower Burma	{ 1884-85 1885-86	86 113	7,759 7,038	519 644	1,220 1,237	9,498 8,919	13,128,281 12,972,844	2,059,935 3,679,436	16,088,216 16,652,280	11,617 11,200
Madras	{ 1884-85 1885-86	320 338	245,478 271,944	228,311 269,822	35,600 42,458	609,389 584,224	105,352,270 110,808,337	11,035,281 10,665,145	116,987,551 121,473,532	46,368 178,605
Bombay and Sind	{ 1884-85 1885-86	242 249	80,549 81,230	21,360 21,833	5,067 5,285	106,970 108,354	60,644,270 51,947,100	2,771,300 2,851,477	63,415,660 57,798,577	69,938 73,606
TOTAL (Excluding Ajmere)	{ 1884-85 1885-86	1,685 1,737	887,233 931,770	516,786 581,220	222,296 239,812	1,626,316 1,753,402	309,915,939 304,877,950	51,547,729 50,481,327	451,593,668 445,359,277	307,018 1,067,225

- REGISTRATION.** The work of the Registration Department throughout India increased satisfactorily in 1885-86; and the increase was general, except in the Punjab, Coorg, and Lower Burma. In the last only was there any appreciable decline, and there the cause may be found in the disturbed condition of the province.
- Berar.** The number of registrations in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts in 1885-86 exceeded the total for 1884-85, till then the highest on record, by 1,583. In the case of moveable property, with respect to which the registration of documents affords less advantage, there is a noticeable decline in registration.
- Coorg.** In Coorg registrations were less numerous. The decline is traceable to the failure and abandonment of coffee gardens. Still a larger amount of property was affected than in 1884-85.
- Bangalore.** In Bangalore, on the other hand, the number increased and the value decreased.
- Bengal.** The most satisfactory feature of the year's operations in Bengal was the large increase of optional registrations, amounting to almost half the total increase of the year. The grant of perpetual leases, of which 87,236 were registered in 1885, is almost confined to Bengal. Of other leases there were only 46,612 registered, although the counterparts registered numbered 140,274. The small, and, it may be added, decreasing, proportion of leases to counterparts is attributed to the fact that the rayats have to pay for both documents, and that the zamindars are unwilling to bind themselves in writing or to attend at the registration offices, and are not anxious to put into the hands of the rayat a valuable security on which he may raise money. The registration of deeds of sale of petty holdings and leases of agricultural land increased from 115,540 to 120,381. It is held that the increase does not arise from pressing necessity or agricultural depression, but from a greater appreciation of the benefits of registration, and that there is no evidence that the money lenders are getting possession of the soil as is sometimes alleged. Money bonds show an unexplained increase from 85,459 to 89,501. It is curious to find that 30,533 of these were registered in Jessore alone.
- Assam.** The number of registrations in Assam has multiplied $2\frac{1}{2}$ times in the past 10 years. More than six out of every seven documents registered came from the Surma Valley, and a yet larger proportion consisted of documents relating to moveable property. Some of the increase of the year is due to the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, of which the provisions are gradually becoming known. The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886, will probably lead to a further expansion of registration business.
- N. W. Provinces and Oudh.** The most marked increase in the number of registrations in this administration occurred in the optional registrations of both kinds of property in the North West Provinces. This is satisfactory, as the last few years had shown a continued decline under these heads. The registration offices appear to be recovering in public esteem. The transfers of immovable property in Oudh, though constantly growing more frequent, are less than half the number proportionately to the population than they are in the North West Provinces; yet optionally registered mortgages are quite as numerous in Oudh as in the North West Provinces. But inquiry has shewn that in Oudh mortgages but seldom result in sale or the transfer of immovable property. A large increase in the number of sales and mortgages in the family domains of the Maharajah of Benares is noticeable.
- Punjab.** The decrease in optional registration in the Punjab continued in 1885-86, but was more than counterbalanced by an increase in the documents compulsorily registered.
- Central Provinces.** The reform referred to in last year's report, of transferring the registration duties, in places where these were heavy, from the hands of tahsildars to those of special sub-registrars, was carried out further in the year under review. This led to an increase of expenditure. In consequence, the surplus of the department fell, notwithstanding a satisfactory development of the work.
- Lower Burma.** The disturbance of trade, resulting from political complications, depressed registration business. In consequence, notwithstanding a large addition to the number of offices, the documents registered fell off in numbers. Their aggregate value, however, was somewhat higher.
- Madras.** The increase of nearly 11 and 18 per cent. respectively in the number of compulsory and optional registrations in Madras is larger than has occurred in any previous

previous year. The surplus of the department largely improved. A great convenience has been effected by allowing parties registering documents relating to landed property to apply to the registration officer to have the transfer of the land noted at the same time in the registry which is kept for revenue purposes. REGISTRATION

That the year was favourable to Hindu marriages, to meet the ceremonial expenses of which borrowing is so often required, is considered to be one reason for the increase which appears in the registrations in Bombay. The system of registration by a peripatetic agency, and of larger registration circles, has been introduced, and has worked successfully. It will be likely to reduce the expenditure of the department. Under the Dekkhan Agriculturists Relief Act, the number of registrations very largely exceeded the total of the previous year. Mortgages, with possession and long-term leases, were registered on an unusually large scale. Money bonds too were more numerous. These facts point to the conclusion that the credit of the agricultural classes is improving, and that they have been obtaining loans more freely. Bombay.

Out of 1,604 companies registered in India under the Companies Acts up to the end of 1885-86 only 805, or barely half, were working at the close of that year. The companies at work had a nominal capital of about Rs. 285,000,000, and a paid-up capital of about Rs. 210,000,000. As compared with 1883-84 there was an increase of about 24 per cent. in the number and 12 per cent. in the paid-up capital of the companies in India. An examination of the returns shows 287 of the 805 as banking companies, but most of these so-called banks are small native money-lending concerns in Madras and Mysore, with a score or so of shareholders, and capital varying between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 30,000. Of the other companies 180 were mills and presses, 121 trading companies, 142 planting companies concerned mainly in tea and coffee, and 26 companies engaged in mining and quarrying. JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

In Bengal 14 new companies were registered, of which 10 were concerned in the tea industry, one was an insurance, and two were trading companies. Eight companies were finally dissolved and 15 commenced winding up their affairs during the year. Bengal.

In Madras there was a remarkable state of things. The year 1885-86 began with 208 companies in existence, and ended with 564. In the 12 months as many as 375 new companies were registered, with a nominal capital of Rs. 9,088,287; 16 of the old, however, and three of the new companies failed in the course of the year. Of the new companies 268 were started under guarantee, and 103 with limited liability; 98 were banking or loan companies, and most of the rest benefit or provident societies of various kinds. The receipts from the registration of these companies amounted to Rs. 87,574, more than half as much again as the aggregate receipts from the same source during the last 10 years. Madras.

The number of registered companies existing in Bombay at the end of 1885-86 was 188, of which 25 had been started within the year. In the same period nine companies went into liquidation and one was finally dissolved. Bombay.

IV.

FINANCE.

[Throughout this Chapter £. 1 is recorded for every Rs. 10, in respect of all transactions in India, including Exchange. Transactions in England are recorded in Sterling.]

FINANCE.

THE system of Indian Accounts has undergone no important alteration since the issue of last year's Report. The comparison, therefore, of the revenue and expenditure of the years 1884-85 and 1885-86, as shown in the following statements, is on the same basis as before. The result of 1885-86 was a deficit of 2,801,726 l. The income increased, without additional taxation, by more than 3½ millions, chiefly under Land Revenue and Railway receipts. On the expenditure side, however, the total increased by more than six millions, half of the excess appearing under Military Charges and a further quarter in the working expenses of the railways. Exchange threw an additional burden of nearly one million on the year under review.

REVENUE.

	1884-85.				1885-86.				Increase.	Decrease.
	India.	England.	Exchange.	TOTAL.	India.	England.	Exchange.	TOTAL.		
PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUE:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Land Revenue	21,832,211	-	-	21,832,211	22,522,371	-	-	22,522,371	760,160	-
Opium	8,816,469	-	-	8,816,469	8,942,515	-	-	8,942,515	126,046	-
Salt	6,507,226	-	-	6,507,226	6,345,128	-	-	6,345,128	-	162,108
Stamps	3,606,622	-	-	3,606,622	3,663,174	-	-	3,663,174	56,552	-
Excise	4,011,867	-	-	4,011,867	4,152,136	-	-	4,152,136	140,269	-
Provincial Rates	2,791,461	-	-	2,791,461	2,960,315	-	-	2,960,315	168,854	-
Customs	1,029,043	-	-	1,029,043	1,199,976	-	-	1,199,976	170,933	-
Assessed Taxes	511,628	-	-	511,628	503,034	-	-	503,034	-	8,594
Dorest	984,786	1,768	430	986,984	1,064,906	632	202	1,065,740	99,108	-
Registration	286,784	-	-	286,784	305,006	-	-	305,006	21,222	-
Tributes from Native States	609,017	-	-	609,017	689,578	-	-	689,578	-	8,430
TOTAL	51,075,224	1,768	430	51,080,422	52,441,231	832	26	52,442,325	1,301,903	-
INTEREST	607,616	34,012	8,483	711,011	686,970	9,136	2,876	698,982	-	12,029
POST OFFICE, TELEGRAPH, AND MINT	1,768,698	23,450	5,698	1,797,846	1,919,107	35,560	11,103	1,965,800	168,014	-
CIVIL DEPARTMENTS	1,369,323	8,074	747	1,378,144	1,423,890	2,674	642	1,427,206	54,202	-
MISCELLANEOUS	590,779	107,985	26,021	723,985	904,750	131,627	41,483	1,077,850	353,924	-
RAILWAYS	11,697,227	727	177	11,698,131	13,683,782	220	72	13,684,094	1,785,953	-
IRRIGATION	1,675,975	-	-	1,675,975	1,583,278	-	-	1,583,278	-	87,697
BUILDINGS AND ROADS	592,451	18,219	4,427	615,097	569,613	10,751	9,317	615,581	484	-
MILITARY DEPARTMENTS	720,096	67,719	16,165	813,980	885,953	59,264	19,653	903,872	143,702	-
TOTAL REVENUES	70,371,280	256,034	62,438	70,690,681	74,123,574	259,074	81,549	74,464,197	3,773,516	-

EXPENDITURE

EXPENDITURE.

	1884-85.				1885-86.				Increase.	Decrease.
	India.	England, including Stores for India.	Exchange.	TOTAL.	India.	England, including Stores for India.	Exchange.	TOTAL.		
DIRECT DEMANDS ON THE REVENUES :	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Refunds and Drawbacks - - - -	200,836	-	-	200,836	200,174	-	-	200,174	5,338	-
Assignments and Compensations - - -	1,275,442	-	-	1,275,442	1,306,537	-	-	1,306,537	121,995	-
Charges in respect of Collection (including cost of production of Opium and Salt) -	8,018,399	58,241	12,037	8,082,777	8,124,800	50,143	18,618	8,201,567	118,700	-
TOTAL - - - £.	9,492,877	58,241	12,037	9,550,055	9,727,517	50,143	18,618	9,803,278	246,223	-
INTEREST :										
On Ordinary Debt (excluding that charged to Railways and Irrigation Works) - -	898,245	2,609,087	634,139	4,187,065	668,050	2,428,948	764,563	3,857,161	-	270,904
On other Obligations - - - - -	478,086	2,970	722	482,878	478,312	205	98	473,708	-	9,678
TOTAL - - - £.	1,371,931	2,612,057	634,855	4,619,443	1,186,962	2,429,243	764,636	4,330,861	-	288,582
POST OFFICE, TELEGRAPH, AND MINT -	1,763,409	307,122	74,628	2,145,249	1,772,282	305,262	124,417	2,202,061	147,712	-
CIVIL DEPARTMENTS - - - - -	11,107,367	447,147	106,653	11,743,167	11,681,158	465,864	146,647	12,243,089	600,522	-
MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL CHARGES - - -	2,069,328	1,807,414	439,187	4,315,929	2,228,279	1,820,219	576,100	4,624,598	818,009	-
FAMINE RELIEF AND INSURANCE - - -	1,548,357	-	-	1,548,357	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000	-	48,357
CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAYS (charged against Revenue in addition to that under Famine Insurance) - - - - -	263,501	-	-	263,501	632,055	-	-	632,055	368,554	-
RAILWAY REVENUE ACCOUNT - - - - -	6,048,709	4,827,348	1,173,064	12,049,000	7,754,104	5,000,807	1,594,886	14,416,797	1,460,491	-
IRRIGATION - - - - -	2,246,903	65	16	2,248,084	2,303,157	449	141	2,303,747	54,763	-
BUILDINGS AND ROADS - - - - -	4,920,604	71,371	17,342	5,009,377	4,882,269	78,346	24,661	4,886,276	-	624,001
ARMY (including Preparations on the North-West Frontier and Operations in Upper Burma) - - - - -	12,023,629	2,774,422	963,752	16,001,803	13,247,088	3,089,388	1,161,311	20,097,770	2,133,976	-
TOTAL Expenditure, Imperial and Provincial - - - - - } £.	32,338,665	14,100,982	3,426,423	71,306,071	38,316,871	14,014,733	4,411,427	76,742,041	5,375,970	-
PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENTS - - - - -	-291,804	-	-	-291,804	523,882	-	-	623,892	815,686	-
TOTAL Expenditure chargeable against Revenue - - - - - } £.	33,546,861	14,100,982	3,426,423	71,074,267	38,839,753	14,014,733	4,411,427	77,265,923	6,191,656	-
EXPENDITURE NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE:										
Capital Outlay on Public Works :										
State Railways - - - - -	2,186,573	1,077,765	261,674	3,526,152	2,365,102	1,767,175	502,551	4,712,828	1,186,076	-
Irrigation Works - - - - -	604,920	4,458	1,083	709,461	552,866	6,594	2,076	562,536	-	187,925
TOTAL - - -	2,881,493	1,082,163	262,757	4,226,618	2,916,968	1,798,769	564,627	5,275,364	1,946,751	-
Capital Charge involved in redemption of Liabilities - - - - -	-	1,314,746	-	1,314,746	-	1,086,045	-	1,086,045	-	228,701

24 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

Exchange.

The rate of exchange for the year under review was 1 s. 6.254 d., which was the average rate for which the Secretary of State's bills were sold. The total amount of the bills drawn by the Secretary of State on India was Rs. 13,53,25,369, and the amount realised was 10,292,692 l. The difference on account of exchange was thus 3,239,845 l.

DEBT.

The charge for interest on debt is distributed in the above Statement under the following heads:—

	1884-85.				1885-86.			
	India.	England.	Exchange.	TOTAL.	India.	England.	Exchange.	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Interest on Debt (other than that charged to Railways and Irrigation Works).	893,245	2,609,087	634,133	4,137,065	663,650	2,428,948	704,503	3,857,101
Under Railway Revenue Account -	1,957,935	353,326	85,855	2,397,116	2,181,875	366,155	115,255	2,663,285
Under Irrigation - - - -	932,004	-	-	932,004	964,847	-	-	964,847
TOTAL - - - £.	3,783,184	2,963,013	719,988	7,466,185	3,810,372	2,795,103	879,818	7,485,293

The debt of the Government of India on which these charges for interest accrued amounted on the 31st of March 1886 to 92,703,982 l. in India (at the rate of 1 l. = Rs. 10), and to 73,806,621 l. (true sterling) in England. This shows a reduction of 480,002 l. of debt in India, and an increase of 4,535,533 l. of debt in England during the year 1885-86. A loan of 3½ millions sterling 3 per cent. stock was contracted in England; and about a million 3½ per cent. stock was also created in England in redemption of annuities of the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Of the whole revenue raised in India, in 1885-86, viz., 74,123,574 l., 53,078,454 l. were absorbed by the Imperial Government, and the remaining 21,045,120 l. were allotted among the Provincial Governments. As, however, the amount expended by the Provincial Governments was only 20,521,238 l., an additional sum of 523,882 l. had to be transferred to the credit of these governments for their future use.

Distributed among the various provinces the Indian portion of the revenue and expenditure of 1885-86 may be divided as follows:—

	India, General.	Bengal.	Assam.	North West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces.	Burma.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Revenue - - -	13,860,963	17,993,894	921,275	9,004,728	5,672,552	1,845,949	2,643,660	10,006,070	12,373,880	74,123,574
Expenditure - -	20,482,202	9,315,786	658,060	4,274,331	3,959,535	1,109,928	1,562,148	6,827,248	8,880,430	58,839,753
SURPLUS - - £.	-6,591,229	8,677,808	263,215	4,730,397	1,713,017	736,021	1,081,512	3,178,822	3,493,450	15,283,821

It must be observed, however, that in this statement the receipts and charges of the Bengal Army, the Northern India Salt Department, the Telegraph, the Calcutta Mint, and other departments under the direct administration of the Governor General in Council, as well as the income and expenditure of the districts of Coorg and Ajmere, and the expenses of the British representatives at the principal Native Courts in India, are all included in the first column. The figures for Madras and Bombay include the cost of the armies of those Presidencies.

The balances in India of the Indian Government which stood at the beginning of the year 1885-86 at 12,540,532 *l.* (at the rate of 1 *l.* = *Rs.* 10) were augmented by the close of the year to 12,754,478 *l.*; during the same period the balance in England rose from 2,249,378 *l.* (true sterling) to 4,726,583 *l.*

BALANCES.

The revenue and expenditure of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts form no part of the regular accounts of the Government of India, as the surplus of the province, after meeting all disbursements is, under treaty, made over to the Nizam. The operations of the year 1885-86 show a revenue of 1,084,664 *l.* and an expenditure of 888,490 *l.*, of which 289,909 *l.* represent military charges on account of the Hyderabad Contingent. The surplus, therefore, was 196,174 *l.*, the highest yet realised in the province since its transfer to British administration. The amount of the previous year's surplus, viz., 182,050 *l.*, was paid over to the Nizam's Treasury, raising the total of payments to the Nizam on account of the Berar surplus, to more than 2,000,000 *l.* In addition to this there remained at the close of the year 1885-86 a balance still due to the Nizam of 459,561 *l.* This cannot but be considered a satisfactory result when it is remembered that in the year 1852-53, previous to the transfer of the administration, there was a deficit on the operations of the year of 84,000 *l.*; and that the first eight years of British administration resulted in a total deficit of 135,000 *l.*

Hyderabad
Assigned
Districts.

V.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

- SURVEY OF INDIA.** There has been for two years past, and especially in 1885-86, a great strain on the staff of the Survey Department. A larger number of officers than usual have been absent on sick leave, and many others have been drawn away from the regular work of the Department by political missions, military expeditions, and other special circumstances. The maps issued by the department numbered 210,288, valued at Rs. 166,749.
- Trigonometrical.** The triangulation of the East Coast from Coconada to Masulipatam was continued by a single party. A direct distance of 145 miles was triangulated, and the positions of nine beacons and seven other points fixed. The trigonometrical measurements for the new province of Upper Burma and for the section between Burma and the Straits of Malacca still remain in abeyance from financial and other difficulties.
- Special operations.** Observations for direct latitudes were suspended, to give place to the use of two transit instruments, which after being repaired had been returned from England. With these, electro-telegraphic observations were made by astronomical parties for determining differential longitudes. Nine arcs were measured between stations of the trigonometrical survey. The systematic record of tidal phenomena went on; three observatories, after their regular five years' work of registration, were closed, one was continued for a sixth year, and four new ones opened.
- Topographical.** The topographical survey of the year extended over 19,162 square miles. In addition, reconnaissance surveys were executed in Baluchistan on the quarter and half-inch scales for an area of 30,000 square miles. The operations in Cutch, Mysore, and the Andaman Islands were completed. The number of parties were reduced at the close of the year from thirteen to eight.
- Riverain and Forest Surveys.** The Riverain survey along the Gogra River was concluded. The work was on the 4-inch scale and extended over 36 square miles. The maps prepared from this survey will be of service in determining boundaries when changes occur in the course of the river. The Forest area surveyed was only 330 square miles; but the reduced outturn is accounted for by the dakoit disturbances and the natural difficulties of the country in the districts of Lower Burma where the work was being carried out.
- Geographical Exploration.** The geographical reconnaissances and explorations effected by the officers on the Afghan Boundary Commission and on the Gilgit mission have supplied correct information and surveys of many extensive districts beyond the north-west frontier of India, the geography of which was previously but little known. In Afghanistan alone 120,000 square miles were surveyed. In Upper Burma, too, something has been done in company with the military expeditions to extend our geographical knowledge. Nepal, also, and Thibet and Bhutan have been to some extent explored by individuals during the year 1885-86, and our knowledge of these countries has been thus increased.
- CADASTRAL SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT.** There were six cadastral survey parties at work during the year, and the area over which their work extended, during the year ended 30th September 1886, was 3,908 square miles. By two of the parties 1,603 square miles were surveyed in the Gorakpur and Basti districts of the North West Provinces. Another party continued its work in the Kamrup district of Assam, and a fourth in the Henzada district of Burma. Another party, which had been at work also in Lower Burma, was transferred to Bengal, and a sixth party was raised for the survey of the Bilaspur district in the Central Provinces. The cost of these various surveys differs considerably. In Gorakpur the survey work, apart from settlement, costs about Rs. 170 per square mile; in Basti, where, however, the fields are smaller, it is Rs. 197. The latter figure is somewhat higher than the whole cost per square mile of the cadastral survey in Assam, which includes the preparation of a register adapted to the ryotwari tenure of the province. The cost of the work in the Central Provinces was still less, being only Rs. 170 for the cadastral survey and the compilation of records. And even this rate it was expected

expected to reduce in the following year. In Burma, on the other hand, where the operations include no register and consist of purely survey work, the rate is Rs. 244. In the previous year it was even more, viz., Rs. 295. In Bengal the total rate was Rs. 269 per square mile, of which only Rs. 140 represented the cost of mere survey, and the remainder the cost of compiling the records; this cost, too, it was expected might in another year be reduced below Rs. 200, seeing that the initial expenses of the survey, which fell into the year 1885-86, would not again have to be incurred, and that a much larger tale of work could be expected than the 413 square miles which were executed in 1885-86 by local establishments previously untrained to the work. The decision to stop the survey in Bengal was under the circumstances a subject for disappointment.

CADASTRAL
SURVEY AND
SETTLEMENT.

As in last year the forest survey was the only one in progress in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts. Berar.

Detached surveys were carried out in Coorg by native surveyors under the Madras Survey Department. A proposal was under consideration for the revenue and survey of the province by the Mysore establishment. Coorg.

The revision of the survey in Midnapore was concluded. But more important was the experimental cadastral survey in Muzaffarpur undertaken under the Bengal Tenancy Act. The area surveyed in Muzaffarpur was 413 square miles, for which a full record of rights and a settlement of rents were prepared, the status of 15,876 tenants was determined, and, on the application of either landlord or tenant, fair rents were settled in 3,546 cases. Less friction and fewer difficulties were met with than had been expected. The landlords did not object to the formal recording of the rights of their tenants, nor did the latter oppose the measurement of their fields, which it was thought they might have associated with the fear of increased rents. On the other hand, they did not seem to recognise the advantage it might be to them to have their rights accurately recorded. After the close of the year orders were received for abandoning this survey. The settlements concluded during the year numbered 611, of which 154 were original. The work, which cost Rs. 73,463, resulted in raising the assessment by Rs. 56,130. In Midnapur litigation was generally avoided by the offer of the reduction mentioned in last year's report. In one pargana, however, the rayats refused the compromise, but their cases had not been decided at the close of the year. Bengal.

The 478 square miles surveyed in 1884-85 were revised during the year under review, and about 460 additional square miles were surveyed. Two of the survey schools established in 1883 were closed, but the remaining five continued to do useful work. Assam.

In the North West Provinces and Oudh settlement operations were formally closed in five districts, and advanced in three others. In the Lalitpur district, where the term of settlement was about to come to an end, and where the existing demand seemed fair, it was decided to extend the existing settlement to 1898, by which time it is hoped the training of the patwari staff will allow settlement operations to be carried out more economically than could be done now. In the Bulandshahr district, where the maps and records are considered accurate, a short and simple settlement on the basis of existing village papers is to be adopted. N. W. Provinces and Oudh

The year's survey in the Punjab extended over 3,770 square miles. The settlement of the Rawalpindi district was brought very near to its conclusion, having cost about seven lakhs and increased the revenue by three lakhs a year. Settlement operations were also carried on in six other districts. All the districts of the Punjab have now been subjected to a regular settlement, and many to a regular re-settlement; and it is considered that the time has now come for doing away with the special settlement agency, and transferring future work to the ordinary district staff. The change of system must, however, be gradual; it must, moreover, be characterised by as much regard for equitable assessment as for the financial requirements of the Government. Punjab.

Surveying made much progress in the Central Provinces; skeleton survey maps were prepared for some 7,000 square miles. The details, too, were systematically plotted in, field by field, over an area of 1,600 square miles, a considerable area in addition was primarily surveyed, or furnished with proper records previous to the preparation of the maps. By the end of the year there were 600 square miles ready for assessment or re-assessment in each of the districts of Sambalpur, Raipur, and Bilaspur. The summary settlement of Central Provinces.

CADASTRAL
SURVEY AND
SETTLEMENT.

Lower Burma.

districts yet unsurveyed in Raipur continued. Progress was made in training patwaris for survey work.

In Lower Burma there was a topographical survey party at work which surveyed 861 square miles of forest land in the Prome and Tharrawaddy districts, and a cadastral survey party which surveyed 661 square miles in the Akyab district. The whole cost of the cadastral operations was Rs. 178,890, of which Rs. 55,910 were for advance survey, Rs. 1,350 for revision, and the remainder for actual cadastral work. The settlement rates were increased during the year on revision by Rs. 33,490. The settlement of the Henzada district was concluded in 1885-86, and that of the Akyab district was advanced nearly to conclusion. In these districts inquiries show the condition of the people to be fairly satisfactory. Debt, however, is very general, especially in Akyab, where more than half the population is involved, but mostly to an inconsiderable extent. Sub-letting, too, is a very common and growing practice. In Henzada nearly 28 per cent. of the agricultural population appear to be tenants, and the total rent paid by them is more than twice the full State revenue demand. Nevertheless, they are not considered to be rack-rented. Indeed, there is too much waste land in the country to make this possible at present. The work of supplementary survey was carried on, on the whole, satisfactorily; there is, however, need for better training among the officials employed.

Madras.

In 14 districts of Madras survey parties were in operation. The cost of the work, Rs. 729,484, was greater than in the previous year, and the outturn, viz., 1,645 square miles of cadastral, and 1,614 square miles of topographical survey, was considerably less. One reason for this heavier charge is that the work is now being carried on in difficult tracts. The expenditure on settlement operations was reduced to Rs. 266,055. In North Arcot the settlement was almost completed, in four other districts it was advanced. The work of the Department since its inception has cost the State Rs. 8,085,322, and has resulted in a net yearly increase of $24\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of this outlay.

Bombay.

In native territory of the Bombay Presidency, as well as in British territory, the work of survey and settlement was actively pushed on. During the year 2,129 square miles were actually surveyed, and 2,385 square miles classed, and 801 Government villages, and 47 alienated villages or villages in Native states, were settled. In the Government villages the land revenue was increased from Rs. 641,592 to Rs. 748,320, or 16.6 per cent. The main reason for this increase was that the districts in which the most important settlements were made had largely benefited by improved communications, and by access to new markets. Prices too had risen. Still, in some of the talukas the Government demand was largely reduced. In the alienated or native villages settled the revenue was increased by 21 per cent. Fluctuating settlements without any fixed term were introduced into Sind. Original and revision measurements, too, were extensively carried on in that region. Apart from the survey for revenue purposes, nearly 10,000 square miles were topographically surveyed in the Presidency.

VI.

LAND REVENUE (INCLUDING FISHERIES, CAPITATION TAX, &c.) AND WARDS' ESTATES.

[N.B.—In this chapter £. 1 is recorded for 10 rupees in respect of all transactions in India.]

The actual receipts and disbursements for land revenue in 1885-86 are shewn by the following figures, which are taken from the Finance and Revenue Accounts. The figures, however, do not correspond with those adopted in the succeeding pages, which are taken from the Provincial Administration Reports, and are based on departmental and local returns.

LAND REVENUE.
Receipts and Charges.

DETAILS of LAND REVENUE and EXPENDITURE.

	India, General (including England).	Bengal.	Assam.	North-West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces.	Burma.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
REVENUE:										
Ordinary land revenue - - - - -	£. 99,559	£. 3,773,773	£. 361,624	£. 3,718,903	£. 2,097,020	£. 602,508	£. 636,834	£. 4,650,006	£. 3,322,001	£. 21,302,618
Sale of proprietary right of Government in land.	84	1,010	-	1,406	204	-	-	860	-	4,330
Rent of Resumed Police Service Lands and Service Commutations.	-	7,46	-	-	16,675	-	-	-	810,027	836,066
Sale of Waste Lands and Redemption of Land Revenue.	152	1,288	2,715	-	652	-	-	2,505	1,580	9,168
Capitation Tax, or House Tax levied in lieu thereof.	1,200	2,280	-	-	-	-	315,520	-	-	319,066
Receipts for the improvement of Government Estates.	-	38,540	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,540
Fisheries and other Receipts classed as Miscellaneous Land Revenue.	12,250	31,300	35,430	51,333	62,931	3,000	78,076	241,468	120,310	636,179
Upper Burma Receipts - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,921	-	-	7,921
TOTAL, Gross Revenue - - - £.	118,235	3,850,173	422,009	5,771,721	2,169,881	603,094	1,038,357	4,901,742	4,254,884	23,154,978
Credited to Productive Public Works - -	-	-	-	87,237	41,041	-	-	380,520	83,809	502,607
TOTAL, in Revenue Accounts - £.	118,235	3,850,173	422,009	5,858,958	2,210,922	603,094	1,038,357	4,521,222	4,338,693	23,657,585
EXPENDITURE:										
Refunds and Drawbacks - - - - -	378	4,301	1,009	1,561	4,692	157	262	12,234	22,504	47,772
General Charges of District Administration -	23,819	269,700	44,816	355,001	172,023	68,515	73,005	340,479	285,780	1,643,913
Upper Burma Charges - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	580	-	-	580
Land Settlement Charges - - - - -	3,200	7,337	4,155	58,436	49,656	9,629	24,437	24,767	27,741	208,614
Revenue Survey - - - - -	11,054	14,005	11,869	31,846	5,804	11,185	34,875	74,304	66,114	208,956
Charges directly connected with the collection of Land Revenue.	9,114	59,740	32,666	306,875	91,830	30,552	71,074	328,057	295,875	1,203,792
Charges in England - - - - -	332	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	332
Exchange on Charges in England - - -	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105
TOTAL Charges - - - - £.	48,906	351,001	93,566	815,158	320,319	120,111	203,961	767,707	687,480	3,414,293
TOTAL Expenditure - - - £.	48,944	355,996	94,575	816,719	325,011	120,268	204,243	779,931	710,388	3,462,064
NET REVENUE - - - - £.	64,311	3,500,183	328,434	4,867,765	1,797,836	482,926	834,114	3,741,291	3,499,687	19,193,307

This is a considerably better result than in 1884-85, when there was a partial failure of crops, and large outstanding arrears at the close of the year. The conditions of the year 1885-86 were much more favourable, and a large proportion of previous arrears was recovered. Some increase of revenue was also caused by advance collections and enhanced rates in Bombay.

30 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

LAND REVENUE.
Ajmere.
Merwara.

Though the season in Ajmere and Merwara was not so propitious to agriculture as it might have been, the revenue was paid up most punctually and without any undue pressure. The land revenue demand for the year rose from 38,565 l. to 42,424 l. The addition of 245 l. of arrears raised the whole demand to 42,669 l., of which 42,460 l. were collected, and 90 l. remitted. The advantage of borrowing from Government in lieu of resorting to ordinary money-lenders is being appreciated, for the amount advanced to cultivators in the year rose from 84 l. to 479 l.

Berar:

In the Hyderabad Assigned Districts the land revenue demand for 1885-86 was 641,936 l., or slightly below the previous year's total; but the amount actually collected within the year, including arrears, reached the large amount of 646,276 l. To obtain this coercion was but little required. Distraint of personal property was resorted to in only 858 cases, and that without leading to sale in any one case; attachment of fields led to only three cases of sale. Two defaulters were imprisoned. Government advances under the Land Improvement Act were not so large as in the previous year.

Coorg.

A diminution of 2,448 l. in the coffee assessments in Coorg has resulted from the remission of half or two-thirds of the assessment granted to owners of certain half-ruined estates to give them a chance of recovery. The balance of coffee assessment uncollected is very large. The diminished sale of waste-lands has also led to a falling off in revenue. Rules have been framed for bringing again under assessment *bane* lands, which have been alienated from the purposes of their original grant and used for coffee cultivation. By these rules a loss of revenue should be prevented.

Bengal.

The position of the land revenue in Bengal is shown in the following statement:—

YEAR.	Number of Estates.	Current Demand.	Arrear Demand.	TOTAL.	Collections.	Remissions.	Balance.
		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1884-85 - - - -	156,087	3,798,769	220,072	4,018,841	3,713,775	12,498	292,568
1885-86 - - - -	157,740	3,803,338	301,394	4,104,732	3,839,142	90,001	245,589

The increase in the first column is normal and mainly occurs as usual under the permanently settled estates. The addition to the current demand is 4,569 l., as compared with 4,778 l., in 1884-85, 7,796 l. in 1883-84, and an average of about 15,000 l. in former years. The greater moderation now shown in advancing rents is attributed to the long discussions of the subject during the deliberations on the Bengal Tenancy Act. Remissions were heavier than usual, and were made mainly on account of failure of crops, floods, and a cyclone in Orissa. The collections do not show a satisfactory proportion to the total demand. The sale laws, however, were worked leniently; 12,445 estates became liable to sale for arrears, but only 1,770 were actually sold. Owing to the introduction of a new rule under which searching and copying fees are realised in stamps instead of in cash, there was a diminution in miscellaneous receipts credited under Land Revenue from 25,183 l., to 19,145 l.

Bengal Tenancy Act.

The new Bengal Tenancy Act was in operation for the last five months of the official year. The most immediate and most striking effects were produced by the clauses relating to receipts for rent, in which it is enacted that these latter shall contain certain particulars, especially as to the period for which the demand was due. Failing these particulars the receipt is to be considered, *prima facie*, an acquittance in full of all demands up to date. This provision was required to prevent the fraudulent action of some landlords who gave receipts for rent without specifying the date for which it was due, and then credited the payment against alleged arrears. As a result it was often impossible to prove whether the arrears were genuine or no. The obligation to specify the date really existed under the old law, and has always been considered necessary in Bengal; what the new law insists upon is therefore merely a necessary form of honesty and

and fair dealing. If its observance in transactions between Bengal zamindars and their tenants causes friction, it is all the more evident that the precaution was necessary to clear up uncertainty or to prevent fraud. The extent of the change, affecting as it did every part of the province, is shown by the fact that about 7½ million specimen receipt forms were sold by Government in addition to those disposed of by private enterprise. The first tendency of the new law was to bring all disputes wherever they existed to a head. An increase of contentions might thus be expected to be one of the first effects of the new law. At first, too, as was natural, trouble and misunderstandings have arisen, some of which have been cleared away. Of the disputes a great number may have finally to be settled in the courts. Another provision which gave early trouble was that which commanded tenants holding at a rent fixed in perpetuity to give notice and pay a fee through the collector to the landlord on transferring their holdings. This clause led to a petition from the zamindars complaining that rayats not holding at fixed rates were adopting this procedure in order to create evidence showing that they occupied this privileged position. It was, however, pointed out to the zamindars that their complaint was unfounded, and that their remedy lay in declining to admit the new tenant or in filing objections at the time. The provisions for the appraisal of produce have worked satisfactorily for both landlord and tenant. Four applications for survey and record of rights were received; the survey operations under the Act in connection with the Muzaffarpur district are referred to in the chapter on Survey. With the exceptions mentioned the provisions of the Act worked smoothly; and none of the expected disturbances of relations between landlords and tenants occurred in these first five months of the enforcement of the Act. But it is still too early to pronounce on the working of many of the most important sections of the law.

The following statement compares the land revenue in Assam for the two Assam last years:—

YEAR.	Number of Estates.		Current Demand.	Arrear Demand.	TOTAL.	Collections.	Remissions.	Balance.
	Permanently Settled.	Temporarily Settled.						
1884-85 -	£. 50,024	£. 528,047	£. 368,108	£. 20,844	£. 388,450	£. 370,574	£. 3,683	£. 14,294
1885-86 -	£. 50,023	£. 569,807	£. 377,908	£. 14,877	£. 392,785	£. 379,427	£. 1,131	£. 12,227

But little of the increase in the number of estates is caused by the extension of cultivation. It is mostly nominal, and due to the partition of estates, and to the operation of a rule requiring in certain cases separate leases to be taken out for scattered holdings previously included in a single lease. In the nature of leases a great and significant change has been in progress, especially in the five upper districts of the Assam Valley. Yearly agreements have been fast giving way to decennial leases; and the cultivators who were formerly but tenants at will have by this process been acquiring a legal right to their holding which they can dispose of in every way like any other property. Nearly 70 per cent. of the occupied agricultural land in the Assam Valley is now held under these terms. In other words, there are now 286,116 of these decennial leases covering an area of 1,029,953 acres, as compared with 221,036 annual leases covering 450,903 acres, and held mainly by shifting cultivators.

The increase of a lakh, or 2.66 per cent., in the revenue demand is satisfactory. That portion of it which accrued in the Assam Valley, amounting to 8,279 l., or over 3 per cent., is especially so because it shows that the land revenue of this division, which in 1882-83 had actually fallen off, and had since remained almost stationary, has now begun to grow freely again. The collection of revenue also was fairly punctual, 96.6 per cent. being obtained before April, and most of the balance collected shortly after the close of the year. The miscellaneous land revenue demand, obtained from elephants, fisheries, &c., rose from 31,768 l. to 33,324 l.

The appropriation of waste lands for tea-cultivation goes on more slowly now than

LAND REVENUE.

than in former years. One reason is that little more than a fifth of the land already held by planters is as yet under cultivation, and more than 760,000 acres remain to be planted without any additional grants or leases. Fifteen fresh leases, however, with an area of 6,285 acres, were made out under the rules of 1876. In addition, 23,338 acres were taken up for tea planting under the ordinary settlement rules. Some difficulty is being occasioned by ignorance of the true boundaries of former grants; but in many parts surveys are being made to ascertain the proper limits, and greater care will henceforth be required for the maintenance of proper boundary marks.

N. W. Provinces
and Oudh.

The season being favourable to the agriculturalists allowed the Government demands on the land in the North-West Provinces and Oudh to be promptly met as is shown in the following statement, in which the years referred to consist of the twelve months ending the 30th of September :—

YEAR.	Land Revenue Demand.	Collections.	Balances (excluding nominal Arrears).
	£.	£.	£.
North-West Provinces :			
1883-84 - - - - -	4,275,270	4,214,815	49,772
1884-85 - - - - -	4,273,104	4,259,747	7,574
Oudh :			
1883-84 - - - - -	1,402,260	1,399,710	3,579
1884-85 - - - - -	1,404,335	1,403,496	440

Including arrears of previous years the balance of land revenue still outstanding in the United Provinces at the close of 1884-85 was 35,217 £., and was owing mainly in the districts of Agra, Mu'tra, and Aligarh, which have suffered from a succession of bad seasons. Applications for loans under the Land Improvement Act were fewer. In the North-West Provinces they declined from 17,136 £. to 9,073 £., and in Oudh from 7,000 £. to 2,700 £. The reason was that the rainfall was abundant, and wells, almost the only class of improvement to which these loans are applied, less urgently required. To the same reason is attributed a decline in the canal revenues from 570,000 £. to 425,877 £. The experiment of allowing payment of land revenue by means of post office orders has succeeded so well in the districts in which it has been tried that the permission has been made general throughout the province.

The year was a specially important one in the administration of land in these Provinces, for after much discussion new principles for the assessment of revenue were determined on. The object of the change was to avoid the costly and inquisitorial proceedings hitherto adopted in revising settlements of land revenue. The course first suggested was to vary the assessments mainly in accordance with the change in the prices of produce; but this method was judged to be impracticable as it failed to correct defects in the original settlement or to adapt the enhancements to the unequal rates of progress in neighbouring tracts. Some method, on the contrary, was necessary which would leave at their present level the assessments of estates in which the demand was already as heavy as they could afford to pay, and would yet allow the state to enhance its demand on these estates, the rentals of which had very largely increased. It was necessary too that the new system should make allowance for the fact that the rents received by the landlord are often regulated not so much by the rise and fall of prices as by custom. Under these circumstances the following principles were finally decided upon, viz., that in tracts where the condition of the people had been backward at the time of the last settlement, and where in its subsequent development inequalities had arisen in the incidence of the rates, a regular assessment should be again resorted to; but that in other localities, after a summary inquiry into the condition and resources of the area under settlement, a general rate of enhancement should be made. But even in those

those cases in which a separate settlement may be required, the process to be adopted in the future will be more summary than hitherto, at any rate wherever the village maps or papers are found to be sufficiently correct. For these a rough standard will be adopted, and the assessment will be arrived at by halving the admitted rental on larger estates, and by applying to lands cultivated by proprietors a rate fixed at 25 per cent. less than the rent paid by ordinary tenants. It has been further decided, with regard to the assessment of improvements, that profits derived from wells or other irrigation works, if carried out since the date of the last assessment, whether they had been constructed by the landlord's private capital or from loans obtained from the State under the Land Improvement Act, should not be assessed for land revenue, and that profits from reclamations effected by either kind of capital should be exempt from assessment for 15 years from the date when the work of reclamation was begun.

A long inquiry into the condition and status of the tenantry in the North West Provinces was brought to an end in the year under review, and has resulted in showing that landlords are not averse to the growth of occupancy rights. This was proved not only by special inquiries, but also by the fact that since the last assessments the area held by tenants with occupancy rights had increased 7 per cent. It was, accordingly, decided that there was no need to amend the rent law in regard to the landlord's right of ejection in these Provinces.

In Oudh the impending change of the law relating to landlord and tenant has had the effect of bringing about a vast increase in the number of ejection notices. The extent of the pressure on the tenantry is learnt from the fact that 57,000 tenants in this one province had their rents raised, or were removed from their fields during the year 1885-86. The new Act, which did not pass till after the close of the year, will in future protect the occupying tenant from enhancement of rent for at least seven years from the date of the last enhancement, and even then will save him from any but a limited enhancement. It is a subject of congratulation that the representatives of the Oudh landlords have received and acquiesced in this important modification of the law in an excellent spirit.

Operations were continued under the Jhansi Encumbered Estates Act, and the amount advanced by Government under it exceeded 30,000 l. In another year it will be possible to estimate fully the results of this special legislation on behalf of the Jhansi landowners.

In the Punjab the land revenue raised in 1885-86 was the highest on record, and compares very favourably with the normal amount raised in the previous year.

YEAR.	Arrears at beginning of Year.	Demand for the Year.	TOTAL.	Collections.	Balance.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1884-85 - - -	89,861	1,926,020	2,015,890	1,910,537	98,860
1885-86 - - -	98,860	1,942,543	2,041,403	1,964,384	68,500

These figures relate only to the fixed land revenue, in addition to which a sum of 197,719 l. was realised in 1885-86 from fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue, as compared with 180,850 l. in the previous year. There are still considerable balances outstanding in several districts that have suffered from a series of bad seasons, but the total was satisfactorily reduced in the year under review. Agricultural advances amounted to 22,538 l., or less than half the amount in 1884-85. The reason of the decrease in the Punjab as in the North-West Provinces was the copious rain-fall which lessened the demand for artificial irrigation, and, therefore, for loans for the construction of new wells.

The land revenue of the Central Provinces, collected as usual without difficulty, amounted to 605,994 l., or nearly the same figure as last year.

Owing mainly to exceptional causes an additional area of 255,939 acres came under

AND REVENUE.

under assessment for the year 1885-86, and the revenue demand increased by more than 30,000 £., as is shown by the following table :—

YEAR.	Current Demand.	Arrear Demand.	TOTAL.	Remissions to 31st March.	Collections to 31st March.	Balance on 31st March.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1884-85 - - - -	707,145	112,150	819,301	4,451	708,914	105,929
1885-86 - - - -	738,106	107,760	845,875	4,109	650,425	185,341

The balances outstanding at the end of the year were rather large, but all except some 14,000 £. of these arrears had been collected before the end of June 1886. This punctuality of payment reflects great credit on the native revenue officials and the loyalty of the people, considering the disturbed state of the country and the prohibition issued by the rebels that no taxes should be paid to the British Government. The fallow area in the province which yet paid the rate of 3 *d.* an acre increased from 261,110 to 276,018 acres. These figures are of value as showing that the cultivators are more disposed to keep a lien on their fields, instead of giving them up in the hope of resuming them again after a few years.

The fishery revenues get less and less, and, owing to the disturbances, the arrears outstanding at the end of the year were particularly heavy. The capitation tax now yielding 319,296 £., steadily grows, and as steadily grows the difficulty, not yet great however, of collecting it. The floating population in the Arakan Division, and particularly the criminals and opium eaters, are especially inclined to avoid payment unless coerced. The alternative of imprisonment has, therefore, to be retained, but undue harshness in using this alternative is discouraged.

adras.

Taking the revenue year, which ends on the 30th of June, the following statement shows the land revenue demand of Madras for the years 1883-84 and 1884-85 :—

	Year ended. 30th June 1884.	Year ended 30th June 1885.
	£.	£.
Permanently-settled Estates - -	508,545	508,153
Quit-rent on Inam Villages - -	66,445	66,471
Ryotwari Holdings - - - -	3,616,870	3,393,135
Miscellaneous - - - -	436,004	414,891
TOTAL - - - - £.	4,627,864	4,382,650

A falling off in cultivation to the extent of 340,000 acres, and an increase in remissions of land revenue from 210,788 £. to 487,842 £., attest the unfavourable character of the season of 1884-85. But, all things considered, the collection of 94.5 per cent. of the demand before the end of the year, and of 99.3 per cent. by 30th June 1886, cannot be considered unsatisfactory. The coercive processes issued in collecting it were unusually numerous, amounting to 3,458,617, but the number of defaulters whose property had to be sold was reduced by half from 130,714 to 63,610, and the extent of land sold by three-fifths from 189,937 acres to 70,990 acres.

The permanently settled estates in Madras, on which the state demand of 508,143 £. was assessed, cover an area of about 19 million acres, and give a rental estimated at 1,500,000 £. The ryotwari settlement, which gives the bulk of the revenue, extended in 1885 over an occupied area of 19,438,274 acres.

This

This extent of occupied area still falls short by nearly 3 per cent. of the area occupied in 1875 before the famine. Out of the occupied area only 16½ million acres, as compared with 16¾ million acres in 1883-84, were actually cultivated. The shrinkage of cultivation and the large remissions of revenue were caused in some districts by the failure of the south-west monsoon rains, and in others by destructive floods during the north-east monsoon. LAND REVENUE.

In the financial year 1885-86, thanks to a far better season, the land revenue was much more satisfactory, amounting to 4,786,264 l., or 40 lakhs more than in 1884-85.

The culturable land held by ryots direct from Government in the Bombay Presidency is divided among about 1½ million occupancies; but the majority of these again are largely subdivided. The cases in which distraint had to be resorted to in collecting the revenue in 1885-86 only numbered 4,269, and in few of these cases was it necessary to sell the defaulter's property. The favourable season, the growing demand for wheat and cotton, and the extension of railways co-operated in producing a remarkable extension of cultivation. The area of Government land cultivated in 1885-86 in the Presidency, exclusive of Sind, rose to 26,745,910 acres, or 234,269 acres more than in the previous year. As the waste lands are mainly of poorer quality than those already occupied, this increase indicates that cultivation under the existing settlements is remunerative even where the soil is poor. The area of culturable waste Government land at the close of the year exceeded three million acres. Bombay.

The collections of land revenue for the 12 months ended 31st July 1886 amounted to 4,070,601 l., or more than 250,000 l. in excess of the collection of 1884-85. The balance left outstanding was of a trifling description.

The amount advanced to cultivators in the course of the year for the purchase of seed and cattle or the permanent improvement of their holdings was 7,112 l.

There were eleven estates with an income exceeding Rs. 150,000 being administered in Ajmere Merwara in 1885-86. Their management was attended with success. GOVERNMENT AND
WARDS' ESTATES.
Ajmere Merwara.

The estates under management in Bengal numbered 3,159, of which 209 were private estates managed by Government, the rest being Government estates. In all 1,315 were under direct management and were liable for a total demand of Rs. 3,867,663, of which only 69·2 per cent. was collected. The results were not so successful as in several previous years. A considerable sum amounting to Rs. 54,753 was spent on the improvement of these estates. Bengal.

Only 97 Wards' estates and 79 attached estates were under management in 1885-86, as compared with 107 and 90 respectively in the previous year. Of the rent demand for the year, about 94 per cent. was collected; the cost of management was about 8 per cent. on the current rent and cess demand. Some of the estates suffered seriously from floods and storms.

In Assam there was but one Ward's estate under management. It has been under management since 1874, and has during that period been very greatly improved. Assam.

The Court of Wards in the North-West Provinces during the year 1885-86 released 12 estates with an income of nearly two lakhs of rupees. Nine of these when given back had been completely freed from debt, and had had their rents enhanced; on the other three the debts had been reduced. Ten estates with an income of only Rs. 20,000 were taken under management, making in all 128 estates with a rental of Rs. 20,800,000 under the control of the Court of Wards. These estates, too, are being fast freed from debt. Their aggregate encumbrances which when they were taken in hand had amounted to 60 lakhs, had been reduced by the end of 1885-86 to only 15 lakhs, and were likely soon to be cleared off. At the same time 10 per cent. of the net income was being spent on improvements. The collections were satisfactory, and the management cost only 7 per cent. of the amount realised. N. W. Provinces
and Oudh.

In Oudh there were, as in 1884-85, 58 estates under management, 18 under the provisions of the Oudh Talúkdar's Relief Act, and 40 by the Court of Wards. The current rental of the estates was Rs. 1,584,161, of which more than 96 per cent. was collected in addition to Rs. 58,802 realized on account of arrears. Progress was made towards clearing off the debts of these estates, and in improving the condition of the cultivators.

GOVERNMENT AND
WARDS' ESTATES.

The inexpediency of imposing on the officers of Government the burden and responsibility of managing private estates that have become encumbered through extravagance, imprudence, or negligence has led to orders being issued in the North West Provinces that all such estates on which the encumbrances are too great to give a prospect of clearing them, or on which they are so light as to require but ordinary care for their discharge, should be speedily released.

Punjab.

In the Punjab there were 46 estates under the direct management of Government. Only one new estate, but that a large one, was brought under the control of the Court of Wards during the year. One was released. The administration was successfully conducted.

Central Provinces.

The management of wards' estates by the Government of the Central Provinces was satisfactory. The number of estates was 110; their area, 4,992 square miles; their gross income, nearly Rs. 1,500,000. The cost of management was only 6 per cent. of this income.

Madras.

The Court of Wards in Madras had under their control 41 estates, or one more than in 1884-85, four being taken over while three were released. Of the three released two had been cleared from debt and much improved in value, but the third was given up as hopelessly involved.

Bombay.

The most important class of estates under management in Bombay consists of those in charge of the Talúkdári settlement officer. As a class the Talúkdars of Gujarat are considered to be singularly improvident and helpless. Many of their estates consequently come under management. Some 15 of these estates were freed from debt in the course of the year, and the affairs of a good many were placed on a sounder basis.

Sind.

Great progress was made in the management of encumbered estates in Sind; 47 estates were cleared of debt and restored, and only 143 retained, as against 194 at the end of the previous year. The salary and establishment of the manager were reduced. The cost of management amounted to 8 per cent. of the total receipts.

VII.

PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUE OTHER THAN LAND.

[N.B.—In this Chapter £. 1 is recorded for every 10 rupees in respect of transactions in India.]

NEXT to land, opium is the most productive of the principal sources of revenue. But, excepting an insignificant portion raised in the form of excise upon local consumption, the whole of the opium revenue is paid eventually by the foreign consumer. In the first instance, however, it is obtained either by monthly sales in Calcutta of the opium grown in Bengal under a strict Government monopoly, or else from transit dues paid by the opium grown in the Native States of Malwa, as it passes the landward frontier into the Bombay Presidency. The manufacture of the opium in Bengal involves the Government in heavy expenditure, but in Bombay the only expenditure required is the payment of a few clerks for weighing the drug at the frontier railway stations. The gross revenue rose from 8,816,469 *l.* in 1884-85 to 8,942,515 *l.* in 1885-86. Of the latter sum Bengal contributed 6,490,619 *l.*, and Bombay 2,451,896 *l.* The number of chests sold by auction in Calcutta was 50,994, and the average price at which they sold was *Rs.* 1,234. 10. 6. per chest. In Bombay 37,677 chests paid duty, at the rate of *Rs.* 650. It is noticeable that during the year under review opium ceased to be exported from Ajmere into Bombay. The duty on Ajmere opium is *Rs.* 675 a chest. The expenditure of 1885-86 was 3,057,674 *l.*, as compared with 2,965,837 *l.* in the previous year.

Opium.
Receipts and
Charges.

The crop in Bengal in 1885-86 was a heavy one, and the stock of opium was increased during the year from 58,389 chests at the beginning to 73,016 at the end. This fact accounts for the increase upon the large expenditure of 1884-85. The produce of the last two seasons, as well as the areas engaged for and cultivated in the Bengal Agencies, is shown by the following statement:—

Bengal.

Season.	Area Engaged for.	Land Sown for Cultivation.	Net Cultivation.	Produce at 70° Consistence.
Behar:				
1883-84	<i>Bighas.</i> 446,088	<i>Bighas.</i> 410,259	<i>Bighas.</i> 309,518	<i>Maunds.</i> 59,560
1884-85	442,326	445,627	433,201	55,802
Difference	- 4,662	+ 26,368	+ 33,683	- 3,758
Benares:				
1883-84	481,367	414,927	409,831	67,037
1884-85	460,218	475,195	471,232	78,001
Difference	+ 28,851	+ 60,268	+ 61,401	+ 10,964
TOTAL Difference	+ 24,189	+ 86,636	+ 95,084	+ 7,206

A bigha = nearly one-third of an acre. A maund = approximately 80 lbs.

This table shows a very considerable increase of opium cultivation. A Commission appointed to inquire into complaints that in the Behar Agency other agricultural industries competed injuriously with the production of opium, arrived at the conclusion that the only crops seriously competing with the poppy were potatoes, sugarcane, and tobacco, and that the two latter were less profitable than opium, and that the market for potatoes was not large enough to admit of much extension of cultivation in this direction. The Behar opium appears to have been considerably finer than that produced in Benares. Improvements for the irrigation of poppy and indigo lands are being carried out. The prosperity of the year allowed a large recovery of balances due from the rayats; and the arrears

OPIUM.

remaining outstanding at the end of the year were insignificant. The purchases of Malwa opium for excise purposes were continued.

Bombay.

The number of chests imported into Bombay in 1885-86 was only 40,036½, of which 37,173 chests were exported to China; the deficiency, as compared with 1884-85, being about 2,600 chests. Africa took 9½ chests, and 1,194½ chests were sold for consumption in the Bombay Presidency. The price of a chest of opium in Bombay is determined mainly by the demand in China, and in 1885-86 the price ruled low, being Rs. 1,165 per chest for new opium, as compared with Rs. 1,169 in 1884-85. In the course of the year the principal opium merchants of Bombay addressed a memorial to the Government of India, praying for a reduction in the duty on opium exported for China from Rs. 650 to Rs. 500. They base their petition on the grounds of the enhancement of the tax on foreign opium by the Chinese Government, and of over-production in Malwa. There is no doubt the trade was in a very depressed condition. No change, however, in the rates of duty has been made. The consumption of opium in Bombay goes on increasing; 145,395 lbs. were disposed of in British districts of the Presidency, and 141,396 lbs. were sold in the Native States subordinate to Bombay. Smuggling is still largely practised in the northern portions of the Presidency, for contraband opium to the amount of 2,097 lbs. was captured during the year.

SALT.

The systems of levying the salt duty in India are very various. Imported salt, which is consumed mainly in Bengal, pays a customs duty. In the rest of India salt is manufactured from natural brine or seawater by solar evaporation, and the revenue is raised either in the form of excise, as in Bombay, or by a Government monopoly, as in those parts of Madras in which it has not been replaced by the Excise system, or by a customs duty levied on salt by the Inland Customs Department, as in Northern India. The revenue of the year from these various sources is shown in the following table, taken from the Finance and Revenue Accounts:—

SALT REVENUE.

	Sales of Govern- ment Salt.	Excise on Salt Manufac- tured Locally.	Duty on Salt Imported from England.	Duty on other Imported Salt, Seaborne.	Duty Levied by the Inland Customs Depart- ment.	Miscel- laneous Receipts.	TOTAL Receipts.	TOTAL Charges.	Net Revenue.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
India, General - - -	113,453	9,981	- -	-	953,746	28,785	1,105,965	124,307*	981,658
Central Provinces - -	30,375	-	-	-	-	-	30,375	-	30,375
Lower Burma - - -	-	3,472	15,914	-	-	-	19,386	280	19,106
Bengal - - - -	-	96,214	1,494,921	308,594	92	10,147	1,909,968	3,674	1,906,294
Madras - - - -	937,037	501,829	230	-	2	9,129	1,448,227	126,199	1,322,028
Bombay - - - -	77,788	1,749,551	517	625	994	1,732	1,831,207	147,158	1,684,049
TOTAL - - £.	1,158,053	2,961,047	1,511,582	309,219	954,834	49,793	6,345,128	401,618	5,943,510

* Including 2,264 l. for charges in England and exchange thereon.

The net salt revenue for 1885-86 shows a falling off from the higher figure, 6,057,926 l., of the previous year. This decrease is the more unsatisfactory when it is found that during the 12 months the store of salt belonging to Government was reduced by about three million maunds to a stock of about 6½ million maunds. The decline in revenue, however, is likely to be only a temporary fluctuation, and can be accounted by the stoppage of manufacture, and therefore of sales of salt, at Sambhur on account of floods and bad weather. Collections of salt revenue figure for the first time under the Central Provinces. These collections appertain to the Baraghora salt revenue, and have hitherto been included under Bombay.

In 1885-86, 31,205,026 maunds of salt paid duty, being 3.78 per cent. less than in the previous year. The duty paid was 2.32 per cent. less. Eighteen years

years previously, in 1868-69, the first year for which the returns are given in their present form, the quantity of salt excised amounted to 22,733,359 maunds. The quantity which entered into consumption therefore increased in this period by 37·3 per cent., being at an average rate of a little over 2 per cent. yearly. The population may be taken as increasing at the rate of about 1 per cent. yearly, so that the consumption of salt increases but slowly at the rate of about 1 per cent. a year. The revenue meanwhile has risen during the same period by 10 per cent., the increase being only a third of the increase in the quantity which paid duty. During this period the duty was gradually reduced in Bengal and Northern India from Rs. 3·4. and Rs. 3 a maund, respectively, to Rs. 2, at which rate it has stood since March 1882. The duty in Madras and Bombay was raised from Rs. 1·13. to Rs. 2·1. in 1877, and then reduced to Rs. 2 in March 1882.

The duty realised in 1883-84, 1884-85, and 1885-86 was thus apportioned between the different provinces:—

	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	£.	£.	£.
In Bengal	1,905,469	2,085,508	1,988,060
In Northern India	1,331,653	1,422,458	974,447
In Madras	1,491,591	1,483,125	1,536,937
In Bombay	1,048,438	1,095,757	1,448,086
In Sindh	37,881	42,013	45,350
In Lower Burma	20,709	26,441	19,386

The falling off in 1885-86 in Northern India was owing to unfavourable weather at the Sambhar Lake during the manufacturing season.

In Bengal the receipts of the year were as much as 6 per cent. below those of 1884-85. The reduction resulted partly from smaller clearances, and partly from a restriction in the bonding transactions, which are credited under the head of Rent of Warehouses. The quantity of salt in stock at the end of the year was less than 10 million maunds, as compared with nearly 15½ million maunds at the beginning of the year. Calcutta and Chittagong shared the importations of salt; but while Calcutta received 1·7 per cent. less than in the previous year, Chittagong took 68·9 per cent. more. This fact indicates the growing importance of the latter port in the salt trade. The manufacture of salt under an excise duty goes on in Orissa. The supervision of the operations there has been transferred to the Commissioner of Salt Revenue, Madras, in the hope that more effectual efforts may be made to check illicit dealings and to foster the Government revenue. Smuggling is assigned as the reason why the quantity of Orissa salt sold in 1885-86 declined by about 25,000 maunds to 478,749 maunds. The manufacture increased by over 20,000 maunds.

The revenue and expenditure of the Punjab divisions of the Northern India Salt Revenue Department are compared in the following statement:—

	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Punjab Mines	332,818	362,051	29,994	27,669
Kohat	23,609	20,560	4,442	4,146
Mandi	2,399	3,059	780	761
Delhi Salt Sources	114,259	66,778	4,475	3,800
TOTAL	473,585	452,448	39,691	36,466

SALT.

The product of the Punjab mines was considerably larger than in any previous year; but a yet greater expansion of their trade may confidently be expected when the Jhelum bridge is completed. The Kohat mines did not produce so much as in 1884-85, but their outturn was nevertheless much in excess of the yield of any year before 1883-84. The profits of the Mandi mines go mainly to the Raja of Mandi. The figures above given represent the Government share, or one-fourth only, of the profits. The trade in the salt from the Delhi Salt Sources, that is, from the works at Sultánpur, is not satisfactorily conducted. The license-holders are in debt and apathetic. The raising of the price of Sambhar salt offered them an opportunity for increasing their own sales; but this they made no use of except to raise the price of the Sultánpur article, and so allowed salt from the Bombay Presidency to occupy the market. Many of the factories are being closed in failure, and the future of the salt trade from this source is as gloomy as can be.

Central Provinces. The salt revenue credited in the Finance and Revenue Accounts in respect of the Central Provinces represents receipts on account of Baraghora salt revenue.

Lower Burma. In Lower Burma the customs duty on salt is only at the rate of three annas a maund. The receipts under this head in 1885-86 fell away from 23,076 *l.* to 15,914 *l.* The decline is attributed to over-trading in the previous year, and to the disturbances in the country. The excise revenue rose from 3,303 *l.* to 3,777 *l.* The total outturn of the local manufacturers is estimated at more than 450,000 maunds.

Madras.

It has already been indicated that the Madras Salt Department took over charge of the administration of the salt revenue of Orissa. A further departmental change was carried out by transferring to the Salt Commissioner the administration of abkari or excise, and by making the holder of the combined post an additional member of the Board of Revenue. It has also been found necessary to strengthen the Department to enable it to meet the requirements of Orissa, and to allow the introduction of a new system of taxation in South Canara and Malabar, and the expansion of fish-curing operations on the west coast. The manufacture of salt under a Government monopoly is fast giving way to the excise system. Whereas in 1884-85, 4,574,555 maunds of Government salt, and 3,003,877 maunds of excise salt, were brought into store, in 1885-86 only 1,597,976 maunds of Government salt and 4,121,985 of excise salt were so received. The net decrease from the combined sources is attributed partly to the unfavourable character of the season, and partly to the stoppage of works at some factories. The total licit consumption of salt, including 915,997 maunds of imported salt, amounted to 9,485,122 maunds, or 269,278 more than in the previous year. The revenue accordingly improved by nearly seven lakhs of rupees, while the charges were reduced by about 3½ lakhs.

Bombay.

There was a remarkable extension of the salt trade in the Bombay Presidency. The failure of the Sambhar salt supplies brought an unusual demand from Northern India upon the Khárághoda Salt Depôt, and the large surplus stock there was consequently utilised. Of three million maunds of Barágra salt issued from Khárághoda, 1½ millions were exported to the North West Provinces, and one million more to the Central Provinces, Central India, and Rajputana. In the South Konkan, too, where there was no extraordinary cause increasing the demand, the exports of sea salt increased by a quarter of a million maunds. The season was not particularly favourable, but the amount manufactured and brought to account within the year increased from about 8½ million to 9½ million maunds. The consumption of salt in the presidency amounted to 2½ million maunds, showing the rate of about 10½ pounds to each individual. This amount in the districts where the price is highest would have cost about six annas, representing one or two days' wages of an unskilled labourer. In Sind the production of salt and the receipts of the Salt Department increased satisfactorily. The average consumption of salt in this part of the presidency had increased from two pounds in 1878-79 to eight pounds in 1885-86. The conventions with Cambay and Janjira, and the arrangements under the Portuguese Treaty worked well.

The revenue from stamps consists mainly of a number of small payments **STAMPS.** levied by Government in the form of impressed or adhesive stamps, two-thirds of which are derived from litigation and one-third from commercial documents. This is, however, exclusive of those fees on litigation levied in cash and not by stamps, which come under the heading of Law and Justice, as well as of the fees levied on documents of title, which are brought to account under "Registration." The following are details of the stamp revenue given in the Finance Accounts for 1885-86:—

	India, General.	Bengal.	Assam.	North West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces.	Burma.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Sale of Court Fee Stamps	21,351	903,278	55,874	471,142	220,700	94,698	60,549	306,902	244,320	2,509,904
Sale of Commercial and other Stamps.	18,040	337,464	21,908	147,338	104,703	41,907	32,320	214,751	162,374	1,080,805
Fines and Penalties	141	2,947	257	1,829	1,085	292	619	4,576	1,139	12,879
Miscellaneous	68	17,117	143	1,489	1,419	127	268	3,631	35,234	59,406
TOTAL	£. 30,600	1,325,806	78,372	621,708	393,907	137,024	93,756	589,950	443,061	3,663,174

After deducting 45,449 l. for refunds, and 147,970 l. for the total charges for collection, the net revenue of the year was 3,469,755 l., which exceeds the net revenue of 1884-85 by 38,610 l. Special causes for the increase of stamp revenue are said to be the growing tendency of the people in Assam to substitute written agreements for verbal contracts, the growth of litigation consequent on the Tenancy Act in Bengal, and the payment by stamps, instead of in cash, of Revenue and Criminal Court Record Funds in the North West Provinces and Oudh. Favourable seasons and development of trade likewise tend to foster the stamp revenue.

In Bengal there was a large increase of revenue collected under the Stamp Act and Court Fees Act. The practice of remitting money to England more frequently by telegraphic transfer has caused a decline in the receipts from foreign bill stamps. A ruling of the High Court requiring the stamping of the conveyances of estates from private individuals to themselves as a limited company was beneficial to the revenue from the sale of impressed labels, which, however, declined nevertheless. **Bengal.**

A diminution of about 5 per cent. appears in the receipts from sales of Court Fee stamps in the Punjab, which is partly attributed to the reorganisation of the Appellate Courts, by which the number of civil appeals has been reduced, and partly to the exemption of mutation cases from payment of Court Fee Stamps. The revenue from other kinds of stamps in this province has increased under the influence of general prosperity. **Punjab.**

In Burma there was a decline in stamp revenue, mainly from a diminution in the number of bills of exchange. The war is probably to blame for the loss of revenue. **Burma.**

The favourable season and development of trade led to an increase in the stamp revenue in Madras, which was the highest on record, and 2½ lakhs of rupees in excess of the revenue of 1884-85. **Madras.**

There was an unexplained decline in the receipts from court fee stamps in Bombay, but this was more than made up for by larger sales of other kinds of stamps. **Bombay.**

42 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

Excise.

The particulars of the excise revenue and expenditure, as shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts for 1885-86, are given in the following table:—

	India, General (including England and Exchange).	Bengal.	Assam.	North West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces.	Burma.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
License and Distillery Fees, and Duties for the Sale of Liquors and Drugs, viz.:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
License Fees and Farmers' Rents.	14,448	582,305	23,887	186,152	40,645	76,472	55,790	*871,713	273,457	1,924,909
Distillery Fees - -	4,227	3,206	415	254	542	56,375	7,402	155	9,009	81,685
Still-head Duty - -	34,427	108,545	3,198	218,273	38,520	25,867	8,399	138,112	461,198	1,031,530
Duties levied on Drugs	6,766	110,255	22,898	79,589	16,127	† 50,810	44,157	4,432	33,517	368,351
TOTAL - - - £.	59,958	804,311	50,398	484,268	95,834	209,324	115,748	809,412	777,181	3,406,434
Duty on Opium consumed in India.	2,383	153,511	167,204	51,319	32,125	42,671	92,595	71,558	105,430	718,796
Acreage on Land cultivated with the Poppy.	-	-	-	-	2,919	-	-	-	-	2,919
Fines, Confiscations, Miscellaneous.	428	647	53	304	106	294	1,748	2,022	17,901	23,463
Upper Burma Revenue -	-	-	-	-	-	-	504	-	-	504
TOTAL Revenue - £.	62,769	958,469	217,635	535,891	130,984	252,289	210,505	882,902	900,512	4,152,136
Charges - - - £.	2,456	32,264	646	10,633	5,820	6,830	4,265	35,338	26,120	124,372
Net Revenue - £.	60,313	926,205	216,989	525,258	125,164	245,459	206,330	847,654	874,392	4,027,764

* Includes 5,156 L for contribution for Revenue Establishments.

† Includes 9,762 L Duty on Ganja.

‡ Includes 17,783 L for Purchase of Spirits.

The total net revenue, when compared with the corresponding figures for 1882-83, 1883-84, and 1884-85, viz., 3,475,348 L., 3,744,602 L., and 3,908,208 L., respectively, shows that the income from this source is steadily increasing. Under the circumstances the growth of the excise receipts may be taken to indicate growing prosperity among the people. The principal changes in the year in connection with this branch of revenue were the reorganisation of the excise system in Madras for the manufacture and supply of arrack, and of the enhancement of still-head duty and of the tax on toddy trees in Bombay. In Burma locally-distilled liquor is hardly able to compete with Penang rum and with illicitly-distilled spirits, hence a falling off in revenue. The sale of opium has declined except in Madras and Bombay. The present generation of Assamese do not seem to indulge so much in the drug.

In the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, the figures for which are not included in the above statement, the excise revenue amounted to 137,261 L., or 14,482 L. less than in 1884-85. The decline is attributed to the revenue having been unduly forced up during the previous years.

The changes carried out in Bengal in 1884-85, in accordance with the recommendations of the Excise Commission, and referred to in last year's Report, had at the outset an unfavourable effect on the revenue from outstills in some places. As a result there was a decrease of nearly 50,000 L. in the excise revenue of the province. The decline was greatest and most general throughout Bengal under the head of receipts from country spirits. This may partly

Berar.

Bengal.

partly be attributed to bad harvests and local circumstances, but undoubtedly a large part of it is due to the substitution of central distilleries for outstills. It is noticed that foreign rums and cheap brandies are superseding rum of local manufacture. The consumption of opium declined considerably.

Excise.

Opium contributes 76 per cent. of the excise revenue of Assam. Yet for some years past, and 1885-86 is no exception, the consumption of opium in the province has declined steadily. Former consumers have in some degree given up the use of the drug, perhaps because there has been a change which has to some extent raised the price, and because the quality of the drug has varied. The sale of country spirits is increasing remarkably, being now $2\frac{1}{2}$ times what it was in 1879-80. The rum sellers have found it very difficult to compete with the country article, and have in many cases had to shut up their shops. The excise revenue for 1885-86 fell short of the previous year's revenue by more than 9 per cent.

Assam.

In the North West Provinces and Oudh also there was some falling off, about 25,000 l., in the excise revenue. It was expected. One anticipated cause was that the year was not auspicious for Hindu marriages; another, that, of set policy, the area under outstills was much reduced, and many retail shops abolished, in order to lessen the temptation to drink. The high price of the materials from which country liquor is made had also something to do with the decline of revenue. There was a falling off in the receipts on account of opium excise; but this, going as it does with an extension of opium cultivation in the province, is not a favourable sign, and probably indicates only that smuggling is on the increase. An experimental reduction of the duty on spirits of wine used in certain manufactures was found unworkable and discontinued.

N. W. Provinces and Oudh.

It was in the receipts from opium that the decline of excise revenue in the Punjab occurred. The cause is said to be that, under the discouragement of falling prices, the area of poppy cultivation was restricted. Arrangements for obtaining the necessary supply of excise opium were still under consideration at the close of the year. It had, however, been decided early in the year to give up the system under which crude Malwa opium used to be admitted on payment of a quarter duty. The whole excise administration of the province, so far as it affects spirituous liquors, is also being reconsidered, and changes are likely to be introduced.

Punjab.

In the Central Provinces monopolies for the sale of country spirits generally fetched higher prices, and produced in consequence a larger revenue, notwithstanding lower receipts from the duty on the manufacture of spirits.

Central Provinces

In Lower Burma all the sources of excise revenue contributed less than in the previous year; and the aggregate decrease amounted to 18,772 l. The efforts to reduce the consumption of opium in the province were continued; one more shop was closed, leaving only 17 open in the whole of Burma. Rules also were passed which make it still more difficult for opium smokers to obtain the drug. In consequence, the total amount of Government opium sold was reduced by nearly 8 per cent., while the net revenue derived from opium fell away by about $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The prohibitive measures, by forcing up the price of opium, have undoubtedly encouraged smuggling, especially in the Arakan district bordering on Chittagong. A quarter of the opium sold is disposed of in Rangoon and consumed mainly by non-Burmans.

Lower Burma.

In Madras the excise revenue, partly from late changes in administration, and partly from the effects of a good season, rose by 10 lakhs of rupees, or 14 per cent. above the figures of the previous year. In two years the increase of revenue has been more than 25 per cent.

Madras.

The income derived from excise in Bombay, chiefly on account of country liquor, increased by about $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees. A rise was to be expected, as the year was prosperous, and not inauspicious to Hindu marriages, as 1884-85 had been. In Sind, too, the presence of large gangs of labourers on the Government public works led to a larger consumption of country liquors in that portion of the presidency. The restrictions imposed by the Government on the liquor traffic, combined with the heavy taxation, provoked memorials from persons interested in the trade in the city of Bombay, and from persons in Surat, Thana, and Kolaba. The Surat, Thana, and Kolaba memorials were still under consideration at the close of the year. In respect of the Bombay memorial it was decided, after investigation had been made by a special Commission, that measures should be adopted to increase the supply of toddy, a comparatively harmless liquor, in the island of Bombay, and that some restric-

Bombay.

EXCISE.

tions on the drink traffic should be modified, and that a still-head duty should be levied on spirit distilled from toddy. The excise arrangements with Native States worked satisfactorily.

CUSTOMS.

There was no change in the customs tariff during the year, and the imports liable to duty continued to be salt, arms and ammunition, drugs, and spirituous liquors. But excluding the duty on salt, which has already been taken into account in dealing with the salt revenue, the net receipts from imports, after deducting refunds, amounted in 1885-86 to 435,450 *l.* The increase of about 20,000 *l.* occurred under spirits imported from foreign ports. The export duties, falling wholly on rice, brought in a revenue of 743,849 *l.*, as compared with 588,394 *l.* in the previous year. The increase is accounted for by the recovery in the rice trade, which is discussed in the chapter on trade. After deducting refunds and drawbacks, the customs duties, excluding those on salt, brought in a net revenue of 1,151,305 *l.*, or 163,302 *l.* more than in 1884-85.

PROVINCIAL RATES.

The provincial rates differ in different provinces, and are assessed for various purposes. They are generally collected with the land revenue, with which also their productivity varies. The following were the principal changes in these rates in 1885-86. In Bengal there was a revision of the assessment for the various imposts, and for the first time cesses were realised on rent-free lands; and in Oudh the village watch cess was increased to meet the cost of the increase in the number of village watchmen required by a rearrangement of the village watch circles.

ASSESSED TAXES.

Assessed taxes include a number of direct taxes upon individuals according to their incomes or means of livelihood, the most important being the license tax upon trades and professions. They are almost equivalent to an income tax of 14 per cent., and are assessed on about 250,000 traders. There has not been much variation from year to year in the receipts from this source, and the small decrease of 15,602 *l.* in 1885-86 calls for no remark. After deducting refunds, the net amount received was 485,271 *l.* In the year under review an important change was made by the passing of the income tax law, which for the future transforms the license taxes into an income tax levied from sources other than agriculture.

OTHER MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

Forest and Registration are treated in separate chapters, and the heading of Provincial Rates and Tributes from Native States requires no remarks.

VIII.
FORESTS.

THE following statement distributes among the several provinces the forest areas that were partially or entirely under the management and control of the Forest Department at the end of the year 1885-86. The reserved forests, so constituted under the Indian Forest Act of 1878, have been surveyed and demarcated, are entirely devoted to the production of forest produce, and cannot be alienated. The protected forests are those which, though not surveyed and demarcated, enjoy a limited share of protection. District forests on the other hand are not interfered with by the Forest Department, except for the levying of certain duties on the produce. The total area of forests in 1884-85 is also given with a view to comparison with the year under review.

PROVINCE.	Area of Province.	Forest Area on 31st March 1886.				Total Forest Area on 31 March 1885.	Remarks.
		Reserved Forest.	Protected Forests.	District Forests.	TOTAL.		
	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	Sq. Miles.	
Ajmere - - - -	2,711	145	- -	- -	145	144	
Berar - - - -	17,711	1,546	- -	2,736	4,342	4,364	
Coorg - - - -	1,583	239	- -	- -	239	238	
Bengal - - - -	150,589	* 5,205	2,219	4,034	11,458	11,493	* Of these 233 square miles were not yet gazetted.
Assam - - - -	45,838	2,332	862	6,392	9,586	9,595	
North-West Provinces and Oudh.	106,080	3,468	73	144	3,685	3,607	
Punjab - - - -	106,772	1,417	321	2,709	4,448	4,234	
Central Provinces - -	84,445	† 19,434	- -	404	19,838	18,844	† 3,505 square miles are 1st class Reserves; the rest 2nd class.
British Burma - - -	87,220	‡ 4,471	- -	- -	4,471	3,942	‡ 422 square miles are taungya areas.
Madras - - - -	141,028	3,061	§ 7,060	- -	10,121	9,020	§ Reserved lands.
Bombay - - - -	124,300	9,505	4,427	- -	13,932	13,945	
TOTAL - - -	868,377	50,824	14,962	16,479	82,265	80,426	

These figures do not include forests leased to the department by native chiefs, nor the forests managed by the department in Baluchistan or the Andamans.

The work of Government forestry in India is well described in the following passage, which is generally applicable to the whole of India: " Good progress has been made in protecting the forests from fire and misusage, and in otherwise improving the conditions requisite for systematic natural reproduction. If the measures taken for such ends still fall behind the full requirements of scientific forestry, it has to be borne in mind that the conception of husbanding the

FORESTS.

resources of our forests is still novel to the country; and that wherever the population that is settled upon the margin of cultivation and the classes that live by the open woodlands have been from time immemorial habituated to a free use of the forest produce, any restrictions imposed abruptly on customary profits and privileges will be sharply felt and may be widely unpopular. The precise point at which this consideration should give way to the higher necessity of providing for the future and for the wants of the people at large is always disputable; nor is it surprising if on particular occasions the prepossessions of the Forest Department do not always coincide with the views and responsibilities which must weigh with the Government."

It is important that the administration of the forests should be systematic, far-seeing, and thorough; and with this object it has been laid down that detailed working plans should as far as possible be provided for all forests to guide controlling officers in their management for a long series of years. These working plans are being prepared in the various provinces.

The Forest revenue and expenditure in 1885-86 are shewn below, the figures being taken from the Finance and Revenue Accounts.

	India General (including England and Exchange).	Bengal.	Assam.	North West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces	British Burma.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.	TOTAL for 1884-85.
Revenue (tens of rupees)	12,322	39,743	19,653	146,149	65,042	103,690	202,336	119,865	336,679	1,086,992	986,564
Expenditure (ditto)	22,960	37,037	21,090	97,181	67,539	44,469	111,675	93,074	162,954	680,988	678,454
Net Revenue (ditto)	-10,637	22,706	-1,437	48,968	17,503	59,221	90,661	26,791	173,725	405,104	308,110

From a comparison of these figures with those of the previous year it would appear that the gross and net receipts alike increased by nearly Rs. 1,000,000.

Ajmere Merwara.

The area of reserved forests in Ajmere Merwara continued the same as in 1884-85. Of the 145 square miles it is satisfactory to find that only 55 acres were burnt in the year. The receipts slightly fell off and the net charges increased owing to the fact that, with fodder generally plentiful, only half the number of cattle were allowed to graze in the reserves, as compared with the number in 1884-85.

Berar.

In the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, the forest revenue increased in 1885-86 from 29,345 *l.* to 32,005 *l.*, and the expenditure from 15,251 *l.* to 15,904 *l.* The net surplus, viz., 16,101 *l.*, was thus better than in the previous year by 2,008 *l.* The area of reserved forest was slightly reduced through a rectification of boundaries and the exclusion of some land given out for cultivation. Fires prevailed over a larger area than in 1884-85. More than half the profits of the forests are derived from grazing and fodder grass. The old system of selling the grazing lands by contract is giving place to the method of levying a grazing tax, as the rates levied by the contractors are found to be excessive. Natural reproduction of the forests is going on satisfactorily. Broadcast sowing of seed was also practiced in several reserves over 4,416 acres. Forest roads are being freely made in the Melghat; tanks also have been constructed for the storage of water, and various necessary buildings erected.

Coorg.

The Coorg plantations of teak and sandalwood were increased to 596 and 321 acres respectively. A larger number of trees were felled than in the previous year; but sales were fewer; and, though expenditure was reduced, the surplus fell off from 3,628 *l.* to 2,370 *l.* The quantity of timber cut by the Forest Department was 67,556 cubic feet, of which 36,792 cubic feet consisted of teak. The total yearly yield of the Coorg forests is estimated at 250,601 cubic feet of timber, 90,679 cubic feet consisting of teak. The hindrance to any great expansion of felling operations, for which there is here so large a margin, is the want of carriage and of means of export. Fire protection was less successful in 1885-86, 10 per cent. of the area attempted being burnt, partly owing to the negligence of officials, and partly to fires that crossed over from Mysore and the Wynaad. Since the close of the year 1885-86, the Indian Forest Act VII. of 1878 has been made applicable to Coorg.

FORESTS.
Bengal.

The greater part of the forests of Bengal are to be found in the Sunderbans and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. To obtain greater progress in providing detailed working plans, a special division of the forest establishment has been created for the purpose. This reform was not effected till after the close of the year. Fire protection was attempted over 1,296 square miles, or 36 square miles more than in 1884-85. The attempt was generally very successful, except in the Angul and Singbhum forests, where most of the additional forests taken in hand during the year are situate. In Singbhum, however, only 20,900 acres out of 101,120 protected were actually saved. But in this tract there is special liability to fire, as appears from the fact that the whole of the area unprotected, viz., 233,480 acres, was burnt. In Angul about 73,000 out of 179,000 acres protected were burnt. The yield of the forests was larger than in 1884-85, and consisted of 6,589,578 cubic feet of timber and 18,803,054 cubic feet of fuel. The opposition raised by the firewood merchants of Calcutta to a change of system, referred to in last year's report, collapsed, and the demand for both fuel and timber increased. With a fall in expenditure from Rs. 411,915 to Rs. 370,399, and a rise in revenue from Rs. 571,152 to Rs. 597,432, the financial administration of the Bengal forests may be considered satisfactory. Breaches of forest laws occurred in 1,363 cases, of which 739 were compounded. These figures are not quite so favourable as in the previous year.

There was for the second time a deficit in the working of the Assam forests, amounting to 1,484 l., as compared with 1,729 in 1884-85. Receipts and expenditure alike increased. More produce was obtained from the Government forests in Upper Assam and Sylhet and by import from Manipur, but the outturn of *sāl* timber in the Assam valley fell off considerably in consequence of dullness in trade. Survey operations are being actively conducted. Three new divisions were added to the department.

Assam.

N. W. Provinces
and Oudh.

Financially and administratively the work of the Forest Department in the North West Provinces and Oudh may be considered very satisfactory. The area of reserved forests was extended by the inclusion of 181 square miles of State land, which were formerly worked for charcoal and fuel by an ironworks company in Kumaon that is now defunct. Seventy square miles were also added to the "protected" area. Large additions to the Government forests in these provinces are now no longer to be expected; but much remains to be done in improving the condition of those already in the possession of the State, and in opening them up by rail and road. Without injuring the prospects of the future, enough timber of a high class is being obtained from the Himalayan and sub-Himalayan reserves to meet the present demand. Meanwhile the forests of private owners are being much impoverished and mismanaged. Groves and woods also exist in the plains which cannot be brought under State protection, but there is no reason to suppose that their area is being reduced. Submountain forests which villagers have been accustomed to use for grazing afford much difficulty to the forest department. Many of them have been so overworked that scientific forestry would require the absolute exclusion of men and cattle from them for a long time. But this has naturally been found impossible except in the case of certain valuable blocks. Others it has been found possible to close for some months in the year, a policy which has led to an encouraging improvement. The importance of protecting forests from fire has been fully appreciated. The efforts at protection in 1885-86 were successful over 921,574 out of 947,610 acres. The latter figure is larger by 200,000 than the acreage protected in 1884-85, and is nearly equivalent to half the whole area of reserved forests in the province. The expenditure of the year declined, but not in so great a proportion as the revenue. In consequence, the surplus fell off from 55,222 l. to 48,698 l.; still there is a very satisfactory result. The revenue is largely derived from the supply of railway sleepers for lines in course of construction in and round the province. One of the events of the year in connection with the forest administration of these provinces was the completion of an investigation into the question to what extent pasture lands had of late been brought under the plough and what remedial measures might be necessary for providing against mortality among cattle in times of drought. The conclusion was that the area of grazing land had not been materially reduced in the last 20 years; that new grass reserves could not be supplied except at prohibitive prices; and that if supplied they would be of little use in years of drought when most needed. It was found too that in many districts stall-feeding, as more

FORESTS.

economical of fodder, was taking the place of open grazing. It also appeared that there was a great recklessness in breeding cattle beyond what the land could support even in ordinary times, and that this was encouraged by the present system of throwing open to villagers large tracts of State pasturage on very low terms. Until some restriction of pasturage is felt, no improvement of breed can be expected.

Punjab.

The chief additions to the reserved forests of the Punjab were in the Chenab Division. For several of the forests working plans were completed, while for others plans were in preparation. The outturn of the year rose from 2,499,555 cubic feet to 2,881,296. The importation of logs also increased. The surplus of 17,494 *l.* is less by 1,635 *l.* than in the previous year; the gross revenue was larger, viz., 85,042 *l.*, as compared with 74,935 *l.* But a larger expenditure was incurred mainly on remunerative works. The area, though not the number, of fires decreased. The diminution, from 20,055 to 16,717 acres, is attributed to the closing of all lands burnt over, and to the suspension of all rights therein for five years. Offences against forest laws increased to 1,114 in the year under review; besides, 42,132 head of cattle were impounded for trespass, an offence induced largely by the drought prevailing in several districts. An important administrative change was introduced during the year by associating the forest with the civil officers. The Deputy Commissioner is now responsible for the administration of all Government and forest lands in his district, the forest officer occupying the position of his assistant in forest matters.

Central Provinces.

The surplus from forest operations in the Central Provinces was somewhat larger than in 1884-85. The work of fire protection was very successful, except in the Nimar Division, which contained 69 out of the total of 70½ square miles burnt. The whole area specially protected was one of 1,434 square miles. At present, too large a portion of the forests of these provinces consist of second-class reserves, in which there is no strict system of conservancy. The conversion from the latter to the former class will no doubt entail heavier expenditure on executive and protective establishment. Proposals for enlarging the establishment are accordingly under consideration. The reform is one that is also necessary in order to get rid of the present want of system in maintaining, checking, and demarcating the boundaries of the second class reserves.

Lower Burma.

Considering the disturbed circumstances of the year, and the continued depression in the teak trade in Burma, a rise in the net forest revenue of the province from *Rs.* 459,010 to *Rs.* 822,910 is satisfactory. The gross revenue was *Rs.* 1,973,860. The price of teak was even lower than in 1884-85, but the sales of Government timber at the Rangoon depôt exceeded the sales of the previous year by 10,420 logs, of which the greater part were sold for shipment to India and Europe. The quantity of teak actually extracted from the forests during the year was 35,443 tons, or 12,565 tons less than in 1884-85. At the same time the imports of teak from foreign forests were less by about 50,000 tons. The quantity of teak exported from Rangoon and Moulmein was nevertheless larger by 20,000 tons. In consequence of the fall in the price of teak one-half less timber of other kinds was removed from the forests by purchasers and permanent holders. The number of teak trees girdled in 1885-86 was 17,874, and of other kinds 550, as compared with 18,146 and 6,000, respectively, in 1884-85. Incendiarism by dakoits prevailed in the Pegu Circle, where 77,414 acres out of 111,929 acres attempted to be protected were burnt. Altogether 152,358 acres were successfully protected from fire in the whole province. The area of reserved forests was extended by 530 square miles.

Madras.

The chief work of the department in Madras consisted in the selection of forests for reservation, by which the reserved area was increased by 515 square miles, and in the settlement of boundaries and rights in the reserved tracts, mainly in the Nilgiris and Salem districts. The total receipts from the forests of the Presidency amounted to *Rs.* 1,198,600, and exceeded the expenditure by *Rs.* 262,179. The surplus in 1884-85 was slightly larger. Fire protection was successful in 925,210 acres out of 949,454, in which due precautions were taken. The new departmental code came into force at the beginning of the year; some amendments in it were, however, required and made. Important revisions and alterations were also made in some of the rules of the Madras Forest Act of 1882.

Bombay.

The relative importance of the three forest circles in the Bombay Presidency is indicated by the fact that in 1885-86 the Northern Circle had a forest area
of

of 8,029 square miles, which gave a revenue of 10½ lakhs at an expenditure of 6½ lakhs; the Southern Circle, with a similar expenditure, gave a revenue of nearly 18 lakhs from an area of 5,230 square miles; and the Sind Circle consisted of 673 square miles of forests, and brought in a revenue of 5½ lakhs upon an expenditure of four lakhs. The Southern Circle contains the rich teak forests of Kanara, and was benefited by a large demand for sleepers for the Southern Mahratta Railway. In each circle the receipts were larger than in 1884-85. Moreover, the Sind and Northern Circles were able to afford much relief to cultivators during a scarcity of fodder by throwing open large portions of forest area to free grazing. Fires were extensive in all three circles. Many of the fires were intentionally caused by the wild tribes whose practices are hard to prevent.

The principal event in connection with forest administration in this Presidency was the appointment of a mixed Commission to inquire into the forest system, and especially to investigate the grievances complained of in the native press and elsewhere that the forest rules in the Konkan districts were unduly severe, and pressed heavily on the population. Exhaustive inquiries were made by the Commission, but were not concluded before the close of the year under review.

IX.

AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURE.

Ajmere Merwara.

The comparatively low prices of food grains in Ajmere and Merwara during 1885-86 indicate that the rainfall, though somewhat scanty and unseasonable still allowed of a sufficient harvest. Live stock prospered and increased in the absence of cattle disease; and, but for a visitation of cholera, which, however, was not so severe as in 1884-85, the health of the population was good.

Berar.

The area of land unoccupied though assessed and available for cultivation in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts was reduced from 524,723 to 504,948 acres, the new land taken up being mostly round Wun and Basim. Land under cultivation increased to a yet larger extent, viz., from 6,472,956 to 6,558,379 acres. Irrigation, too, was extended to 75,300 acres as compared with 70,919 acres in the previous year. Out of the whole area cultivated, the proportion under cotton declined, while that under jowari increased. Jowari besides being the staple food of the people was specially needed for the supply of fodder, which in the previous year had been seriously deficient. Till December hopes were entertained of bumper crops; but heavy rains damaged the jowari, cotton and linseed; while blight and rust fell on the wheat. Agricultural stock, however, prospered as all kinds of animals increased in number. Proposals for establishing a veterinary department were put forward, but not sanctioned before the close of the year. Prices of food grains rose, with the important exception of jowari; wages remained stationary. The experimental farms, though working satisfactorily, produced no new results of importance.

Coorg.

Again coffee cultivation decreased, while that of cereals extended. The local price of coffee fell still further to Rs. 24 per cwt.; the crop was, however, exceptionally large. There was a remarkable fall in the price of cardamons, owing, it is said, to the large quantity thrown on the market by planters in Ceylon, who have taken to cultivating it in the place of coffee. Food grains were dearer; wages the same as in the previous year. There was serious mortality among the live stock of the province, an inquiry into which went to show that the people generally do not bestow sufficient care on their beasts.

Bengal.

The year 1885-86 was marked in Bengal by local calamities of scarcity, flood, and cyclone. But in the regions not affected by these disasters the crops were above the average and the condition of the people was good. At the beginning of the year under review anxiety was very general in the western portion of the province. But the area of scarcity calling for special care was by May 1885 limited to the two divisions of Patna and Burdwan; and it was only in three districts of the latter division and over an area of 1,000 square miles that distress following on the failures of crops in two successive seasons was so severe as to necessitate the establishment of systematic relief operations. Nor even in these districts did prices rise to famine rates, while there was always a supply of food in the markets. Beggars and dependents as well as day labourers, to whom the failure of crops meant also scarcity of employment, suffered considerably. Some emigrated; others found relief at the Government works. In the administration of relief the rules of the Provisional Famine Code were strictly adhered to, though the unofficial agencies for the distribution of charitable relief were content to give a daily dole of food somewhat less than that prescribed in the Code. At the end of June not less than 22,000 persons were receiving relief; and the works were open for six or seven months in these districts. The cost of the measures adopted by Government amounted to Rs. 196,000.

The calamity of flood spread over large tracts in south-west and central Bengal and in the Bhagalpur division. Swollen by the excessive rains of August and September 1885, the Ganges and the rivers into which it divides spilled in destructive floods over the surrounding country. About 4,000 square miles were under water, of which 1,250 were in the Murshidabad and 2,200 in the Nadiya district. There was fortunately little loss of life, and not much

permanent

permanent harm. Indeed for the next few years the crops of the lands inundated are likely to be the more abundant. But, for the time, there was much hardship and discomfort, and relief had to be given. Charitable subscriptions to the amount of Rs. 65,655 were also collected in Calcutta for giving help of a kind not afforded by Government. Of this Rs. 37,800 were expended, and the balance remains as a fund for the prompt relief of future calamities of a similar nature.

Far more destructive of life than famine or river flood during the year was the Orissa cyclone and its concomitant storm-wave 15 feet in height. This cyclone, 100 miles in breadth, broke right over False Point on the coast of the Bay of Bengal on the 22nd of September 1885; 250 square miles were submerged; 11 villages were completely destroyed with all their inhabitants, not one escaping; 150 more villages were also entirely levelled with a greater or less loss of life and with a complete destruction of the crops. Altogether it is estimated that 5,000 persons perished; distress too was at first severe among the survivors; relief works were, however, promptly started, and 8,000 people were soon in receipt of charity. The reconstruction of the villages was quickly effected, and it is said that within a short time few vestiges of this destructive cyclone could be seen. In Balasor the embankment of the sea coast canal served a most useful purpose by stopping the wave and saving hundreds of square miles from a salt-water inundation.

The Agricultural Department did good work in encouraging exhibitions and improved methods of cultivation. The Japan paper mulberry has been grown successfully at the Botanical Gardens, and Bengal seems to offer a suitable soil for its cultivation. An experiment is being tried with mahogany seeds received from Jamaica and Kew, from which 20,000 seedlings were raised in the year.

In Assam there was in 1885-86 an average rainfall, which, except in Sylhet, was well distributed. The result was that the Assam Valley and Cachar rejoiced in a splendid rice harvest. Sylhet, on the other hand, suffered from floods, and the crops there were poor. In the Garo Hills too the harvest was somewhat deficient. Yet prices of food grains are generally reported to have risen even in the Assam Valley, but possibly there has been some error in the statistics. The year was healthy, with a death-rate of 27·91 per mille. Cholera was absent; small-pox scarce. Only the malaria was more deadly than ever. It is most serious in the *terai* at the foot of the Garo and Western Khási Hills, which is even being rapidly depopulated.

Assam.

The Agricultural Department continued the experiments for measuring the yield of the chief crops. The results of the experiments went generally to confirm the conclusions obtained in previous years as described in last year's Report; except that, as might be expected from the nature of the seasons in the two valleys, the average of the winter rice crop in the Surma Valley fell from 1,827 to 1,359 lbs. per acre, while in the Assam Valley it rose from 1,573 to 1,719 lbs. These experiments promise eventually to be of much use in affording a basis for settlement of the land revenue. The mustard crop was less productive than in the previous year. The experimental cuttings of this crop also went to show that mustard cannot be successfully cultivated more than three years consecutively on newly-broken up land in the Assam Valley. Experiments with foreign seed led to no important results, nor was an effort to test the value of *muga* silk in an English market effectual owing to accidental spoiling of the silk on its voyage to England. The most important work of the Agricultural Department consisted in the supervision of land records and settlements in the Assam Valley, and a considerable improvement was effected.

The North-West Provinces and Oudh enjoyed a prosperous year, which came as a great relief after the agricultural depression of the previous twelve months. The rains of 1884 were unusually abundant, twice as heavy as those of 1883, and allowed 10 per cent. more than the average of land to be brought under cultivation for the spring crop. The harvests were excellent; pasturage and fodder in abundance, so that the condition of stock greatly improved. Prices fell, trade flourished; exports of grain more than doubled, and other exports largely increased; wages advanced through the demand for railway works, and the health and general condition of the people were decidedly satisfactory. Agricultural fairs were popular and well attended. Landowners co-operated with the Agricultural Department, two native gentlemen holding agricultural shows on their own estates, and as many as four hundred zamindars supplying

N. W. Provinces and Oudh.

AGRICULTURE.

careful forecasts of the principal export crops. The Talukdars and Municipal Board of Lucknow sought also to give a stimulus to local industries, and with this object held at Lucknow an Exhibition, which was visited by the Viceroy, of the arts and manufactures of Oudh and the arts of the North West Provinces. Specimens were also obtained and despatched through the Department of Agriculture and Commerce to the Indo-Colonial Exhibition in London. Thanks, too, to the same Department, selected seed was largely distributed, and itinerant ploughmen were sent on tour to display on the cultivator's own fields the capabilities of the new duplex plough. Ensilage again was most successfully tried, and the compressed fodder dispensed, much to the appreciation of passing cartmen, free of charge on the Grand Trunk Road at Cawnpore. Blocks of barren waste land also were experimented on, though without certain success, with the aim of creating fodder reserves by the growth of suitable grasses; and, for the improvement of the village records of kanungoes and pátwaris, measures were taken by strengthening the kanungo staff and instituting stricter examination of both kanungoes and pátwaris.

Punjab.

The year was one of moderate prosperity in the Punjab. The crops yielded rather less than in the previous year, and caused prices generally to rise. In a few districts the crops were seriously short, and there was some slight distress. The public health improved greatly, as the death rate was only 27 per mille, instead of 35 per mille, as in 1884-85. Attention was paid to the agricultural returns of the province, with the result of making them more trustworthy and useful. The area shewn by them to have been under wheat in the Punjab was about $7\frac{1}{4}$ million acres, or one-third of the whole area under crops. The out-turn of wheat was estimated at $36\frac{1}{2}$ million cwts., giving an average yield of about $5\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. per acre. This may be compared with an average yield in Great Britain in 1885 of 18 cwts., and in the United States in 1884 of $6\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. per acre. The year was favourable to live stock, and cattle fairs continued to be held with success; at these an important novelty in the shape of ploughing matches was introduced, and excited considerable interest. The Veterinary School at Lahore did good work.

Central Provinces.

The condition of agriculture in the Central Provinces may be judged to a great extent by the exports therefrom of raw produce. Applying this test to the year under review, it appears that the exports of cotton and til or sesame, which constitute the chief spring crops, were exported in nearly twice the quantities of the previous year, that the exports of wheat declined by about 28 per cent., and those of linseed about 14 per cent. As a matter of fact, the spring harvest was excellent, while the autumn crops suffered from insufficient rains, and cloudy rust-engendering weather. In some districts the linseed, which is specially susceptible to fungoid diseases, was a complete failure. The yield of rice fell rather below the average. It was nevertheless exported in somewhat larger quantities. The prices of rice, wheat, millets, and gram were higher than in 1884-85. The management of the horticultural gardens of the province was again transferred back from the district councils to the provincial authorities. The season was not favourable to the experimental farms, but some useful work was nevertheless done in the cultivation of selected wheats, American maize, and Japan pea, in the ensilage of guinea grass, and in experiments for determining the value of embanked land, as contrasted with open fields for ordinary cultivation.

The general health was anything but good, the death-rate, chiefly from fever and cholera, rising from 27 to over 34 per mille.

Lower Burma.

The rainfall of 1885-86 was generally sufficient and well distributed in Lower Burma, with the result that the rice crop was abundant. It was, however, injured to some extent in quality by late rains. The exports of rice in 1885 amounted to 1,025,201 tons, the highest figure for any year except 1882. The competition of Saigon and Bangkok rice in the European markets, which was considerable in 1884, fell to insignificance in 1885. No large agricultural experiments were carried on in the year under review. But useful efforts were made to acclimatize various foreign products, such as Liberian and Arabian coffee, tea, nutmegs, cardamons, &c. These mostly grow well in the Government gardens, but their cultivation has not yet been taken up by the hill men. Seed of American maize and tobacco was distributed; efforts were also made to introduce improved methods of cultivating and curing the tobacco. It is satisfactory to learn that the efforts were appreciated, and that the Burmans are beginning to adopt the new methods. The cultivation of tobacco is stimulated by

by reducing the demand on land sown with tobacco. The cultivation of the sugarcane began to receive encouragement through the grant of advances to the growers. Owing, it is said, to the disturbance of the country, these advances have not resulted in much success. The people suffered considerably during the year from cholera. AGRICULTURE.

In Madras an extension of cultivation on ryotwari and Inam lands of 1,389,000 acres, or 6 per cent., is evidence of the favourable character of the season of 1885-86, as compared with its predecessor. The rains were rather short, but were on the whole beneficially distributed; and the crops, except in four districts, were up to the average. But the rise in prices of all the principal food grains, except wheat, continued. Rice, cholam, ragi, and horse gram, were, respectively, 5, 11, 8, and 21 per cent. higher than in 1884-85, and 15, 27, 20, and 30 per cent. higher than in 1883-84. Wages, too, were generally at a higher level. It was a prosperous year for cattle and live stock; and the public health was good. Madras.

In the course of the year the Government experimental farm at Saidapet, with its poor soil, was abandoned. Various efforts were made to encourage the introduction of improved ploughs, for which a demand has sprung up; and to set on foot silk and fibre industries; and to improve the qualities of wheat and barley grown in the presidency. An account of the rural condition and economy of the country is being prepared by Government, and crop forecasts and estimates were, for the first time, published in the year under review.

The south-west monsoon in the Bombay Presidency was somewhat scanty, but the late north-east monsoon unusually heavy. In consequence the rainfall in the Konkan and Gujarát was below the average, while that in the Dekkan was exceptionally abundant. In Sind, where there was less rain than usual, the inundation of the Indus was very favourable. Thus, in every part of the province both early and late crops were reported to have been excellent. In Sind, notwithstanding the abundant harvests, food grains were slightly dearer, in consequence of the foreign demand for wheat and rice, and of the requirements of the large gangs of labourers employed on the railway and military works on the north-west frontier. In the rest of the presidency, though the prices of the finer kinds of produce that are exported, such as wheat, rice, cotton, and oilseeds, showed a tendency in some places to rise; the prices of jowari and bajri, which form the staple food of the people, generally fell considerably. The condition of hired labourers was thereby much improved. And not only was grain abnormally cheap, but money wages rose almost everywhere, Government works, the briskness of trade, and the requirements of a plentiful harvest, having had the effect of enhancing the demands on the labour market. A fair indication of the prosperity of the agricultural classes is to be found in the large amount of waste land taken up for cultivation, chiefly in the districts reckoned most backward. Bombay.

The Agricultural Department was active during the year in collecting statistics and issuing forecasts. It was able also to carry out a series of experiments to test the value of wood ashes as manure. The results were in favour of the prejudices and methods arrived at empirically by the native cultivators. The experiment of distributing selected Indian wheats to cultivators had no marked success. The 22 tons disposed of did not yield specially large crops. From the distribution, however, of cotton seed of the Louisiana and Memphis varieties better results were obtained.

Chinchona is cultivated by Government at Sikkim in the Bengal Presidency, on the Nilgiris in Madras, and at Thandoungyee in Burma. CHINCHONA.

The plantations in Sikkim cover an area of 2,367 acres and contain a little over five million trees. There is, in addition, a stock of 370,000 seedlings and rooted cuttings ready to be planted out. There are now 1,325,000 trees of the *Calisaya Ledgeriana* species planted out. These are taking the place of the less valuable *Chinchona Succirubra*. The outturn of bark collected was 205,410 lbs., and 159,640 lbs. were issued for manufacture. The cost of manufacture was heavier than in previous years. The stock of bark remaining in store at the end of the year was about 250,000 lbs. The revenue derived from the sale of the febrifuge amounted to Rs. 93,476, and the net profits to Rs. 30,220.

The Government plantations on the Nilgiris contain an area of 847 acres, planted out with nearly two million trees, mostly of the *Chinchona officinalis*. The season was favourable, and the yield of the trees during the year exceeded

CHINCHONA.

113,000 lbs. of bark; about 111,000 lbs. were sold, and 125,000 lbs. remained in stock at the end of the year. The financial result was satisfactory, as the profits increased to Rs. 96,696, while the expenditure declined to Rs. 72,940.

In Lower Burma there also exists one small Government plantation, with about 60,000 trees, cuttings, and seedlings.

From such information as is accessible it appears that private chinchona plantations exist in the Nilgiris, Bengal, Mysore, and Coorg. Those in Madras have an area of 3,878 acres, and a reputed yield of bark of 230,992 lbs. The yield in Bengal is 18,103 lbs. from 1,200 acres; in Mysore, 11,434 lbs. from 326 acres; and in Coorg, 7,950 lbs. from 1,800 acres.

TEA.

The extent of tea cultivation and the outturn in 1885-86 in the several provinces where it is grown, are shown in the following table:—

	Assam and Cachar,	Bengal.	North West Provinces.	Punjab.	Madras.	Burma.	TOTAL.	Total of 1884-85.
Acres - - -	197,510	63,489	8,493	7,900	6,376½	163	283,925½	267,710½
Yield in lbs. - -	53,617,020	14,049,681	1,520,109	1,376,792	938,903	18,295	71,520,800	65,947,946

The tea industry goes on extending. The year was generally favourable, and the produce per acre in most places higher than in the preceding twelve months. In Assam, where far the largest share of Indian tea is produced, the produce per acre varies remarkably in various districts. In Lakhimpur it is put at 479 lbs. while in Kamrup it is only 172 lbs per acre.

COFFEE.

The coffee trade, which is located in Southern India, is, and has for some time been, in a depressed condition. In 1885 the area under mature plants was estimated at 186,326 acres, or slightly less than in 1884. Of this acreage 81,754 was the share of Mysore, 55,143 of Madras, and 43,000 of Coorg.

COTTON.

The cultivation of cotton was still further depressed in 1884-85, as appears from the following figures:—

	1883-84.	1884-85.
	Acres.	Acres.
Hyderabad Assigned Districts - - -	2,026,923	1,959,402
Bombay and Sindh - - - - -	2,968,306	2,875,000
Madras - - - - -	1,770,290	1,567,148
Native States in Bombay - - -	2,163,538	2,475,000
Central Provinces - - - - -	680,390	579,604
North Western Provinces - - -	1,635,497	1,573,695
Punjab - - - - -	802,534	792,096 ✓
Nizam's Dominions - - - - -	1,149,730	910,610
Assam - - - - -	88,609	98,815
Lower Burma - - - - -	10,454	9,346
Oudh - - - - -	74,947	94,115
Mysore and Coorg - - - - -	31,228	21,324
TOTAL - - -	13,352,536	12,397,055

The area under cotton in Bengal is not known. But the cultivation there is unimportant. There are probably about 13 million acres altogether under cotton in India. Nearly 500,000 acres were thrown out of cotton cultivation in the year 1883-84, owing to low prices and a bad season, and the year 1884-85 was even worse. A more or less marked diminution of cotton cultivation took place everywhere except in the Bombay Native States, Oudh and Assam, resulting in a further total decrease of 955,481 acres. COTTON.

It is satisfactory that 1885-86, for which the figures are not yet available, saw a satisfactory recovery in the cotton trade.

The normal area under wheat in the whole of India is estimated to be about 26,000 acres, of which the outturn may be estimated at 7,135,000 tons. The acreage under wheat in the Punjab, North West Provinces and Oudh, Central Provinces, Bombay (including Baroda) and Behar were ascertained by inspection. The figures thus ascertained, together with estimates for other provinces, and or the year's outturn, are shown in the following statement : WHEAT.

	Supposed normal Area under Wheat.	Area under Wheat in 1885-86, ascertained by inspection or estimated.	Estimated Outturn in 1885-86.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Punjab - - - - -	7,000,000	6,957,600	2,963,060
North West Provinces and Oudh - - - - -	5,037,000	5,240,381	1,847,400
Central Provinces - - - - -	4,000,000	3,902,707	1,859,753
Bombay (including Baroda) - - - - -	1,883,000	2,969,539	801,400
Bihar - - - - -	807,000	808,515	115,502
Bengal (Behar) - - - - -	850,000	850,000	336,920
Rajputana - - - - -	2,500,000	1,500,000	336,000
Central India - - - - -	2,500,000	3,500,000	500,000
Hyderabad - - - - -	750,000	1,144,000	114,000
Mysore - - - - -	20,000	20,000	2,056
TOTAL - - - - -	25,347,000	26,892,742	7,006,091

The season was not altogether favourable. In the Punjab and the North West Provinces the crops were up to the average, and in Bombay they perhaps exceeded that standard; but in the other provinces the early promise of a good crop was marred by unfavourable weather.

X.

POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

POST OFFICE
DEPARTMENT.

THE Post Office is a Department of the Government of India, locally organised into 14 circles. Its history from year to year is one of steady progress, of enlarged activity and increased usefulness. To this rule the year under review has been no exception.

Post Office.

The receipts and charges of the Post Office for the last two years, as shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts, are given in the following statement :—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net Loss.
	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>
1884-85 - - - -	1,047,130	1,270,454*	223,324*
1885-86 - - - -	1,113,086	1,302,604	189,518

* The difference between these figures and the corresponding figures in last year's Report is owing to the inclusion under the expenditure head of the loss by exchange on charges in England. The details of the Finance and Revenue Accounts, according to the new system for 1884-85, were not known when the statement in the last Report was drawn up.

If, however, the Post Office got the credit for the receipts from the local cesses for district post, and at the same time were charged for the stationery it uses, as well as for the services rendered to it by other Government Departments, &c., and for its share of leave and pension allowances, &c., then the net loss on the Department would be found to be considerably less.

District post.

The district post above referred to is controlled by the local postal authorities under the orders of the Local Government. But, while all the charges incurred for its management, and amounting in 1885-86 to Rs. 1,185,549, are debited against the Post Office in the Finance and Revenue Accounts, about half the corresponding revenue, which is derived from special cesses imposed on land, and amounts to Rs. 412,430, is collected with the land revenue and credited under provincial rates.

It is misleading to make comparisons between the number of offices and the length of lines of the district post from year to year, as there is a constant process going on of transferring the best organised lines to the Imperial Post, while the funds so released are used for developing the district post in backward districts. But, notwithstanding this process, the number of district post offices, excluding district post letter boxes, rose in 1885-86 from 908 to 956, and the length of line served during the year was 35,691 miles, or almost exactly 1,000 miles more than in 1884-85.

Offices, lines,
correspondence,
money orders, &c.

The magnitude of the work undertaken by the Post Office is indicated by the following figures for the three past years :—

YEAR.	Post Offices.	Letter Boxes.	Village Postmen.	Length of Postal Lines.	Articles passing through the Post, including Money Orders.
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>No.</i>
1883-84 - - -	5,879	8,426	3,843	63,536	203,340,000
1884-85 - - -	6,488	8,721	4,039	60,888	220,330,000
1885-86 - - -	6,849	9,056	4,253	62,487	243,080,000
Increase in 1885-86 } over 1884-85 - }	361	325	214	1,599	22,750,000

An analysis of the returns as to the articles carried through the post shows that the popularity of postcards is growing fast; the increase under this head was over 20 per cent., while the number of letters sent rose only about 5½ per cent. In newspapers the increase was over 16 per cent. As regards money orders almost the same remarks may be made as in last year's Report; the increase in numbers having again been about 17 per cent., viz., from 3,550,257 to 4,163,078, and a similar decline having appeared in the average value of the orders, viz., from Rs. 23. 1. 9. to Rs. 22. 8. 7. Three-quarters of the orders issued were for sums not exceeding Rs. 25, a fact which may be held to prove that the money-order system meets a want which could not be supplied by private banks or other remitting agencies. The commission realised by the Department on the issue of these orders was Rs. 1,163,830. The addition of nearly 1,600 miles to the length of the postal communications is satisfactory, and is distributed over every class of line. The policy of establishing village post offices, and of working the majority of these offices by extra-departmental agencies, as, for instance, by the village schoolmasters, has been found to act well. Being, moreover, far more economical than the purely departmental sub-office system, it has been much extended. In 1885-86 the number of sub-offices was actually diminished from 4,642 to 3,900, while that of village post offices was raised to 2,619, as compared with 1,522 in 1884-85. Nearly 2,000 of these village offices were worked in 1885-86 by agents not belonging to the Department.

The value-payable system has been remarkable for its rapid development. In the year under review 436,115 articles, of a declared value of Rs. 4,532,803, were sent under this system; the figures in 1884-85 being 338,930 and Rs. 3,435,045 respectively. The commissions to Government amounted to Rs. 85,530. The experiment, referred to last year, of permitting land revenue to be remitted to the Government treasuries by money orders has been found so successful in the single district in which it was tried that it has been decided to extend the permission to other districts in the North Western Provinces and to some districts in Bengal. No less successful has been the system of paying money orders at the houses of the payees. The danger of embezzlement has proved much smaller than was anticipated. The introduction, in October 1884, of telegraphic money orders has also been justified by the demand. In 1885-86 12,490 telegraphic orders for Rs. 834,371 were issued, as compared with 5,788 orders for Rs. 375,530 in the six months previous. On the other hand, India postal notes and British postal notes have not met with popularity; the former have now been abandoned. So, too, the business done in insured letters and parcels, though considerable, is falling off. In 1885-86 the value of insured letters and parcels, Rs. 69,778,483, was below the amount of any year since 1879-80. This decline is, however, attributed to a definite cause, viz., the stoppage of insurance between India on the one hand, and the Persian Gulf and Turkish Arabia on the other. The most important novelty introduced in 1885-86 in the work of the Department was a direct parcel exchange with the British Post Office for parcels not exceeding seven lbs. in weight. This does not interfere with the arrangement with the Peninsular and Oriental Company for carrying parcels not exceeding 50 lbs.

The district savings banks, which were introduced in 1870, and since 1882 had worked side by side with the new Post Office savings banks, were closed on the 1st of April 1886. One consequence of this measure has been the transfer, in 1885-86, of a number of deposits to the Post Office savings banks, the condition of which is indicated in the following table:—

YEAR.	Number of Banks.	Number of Accounts Open at End of the Year.	Opening Balance.	Amount Deposited in the Year.	Interest Accrued.	TOTAL.	Amount Withdrawn.	Balance at Close of the Year.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1884-85	5,490	122,500	7,514,455	16,554,952	375,207	24,444,614	11,002,703	13,441,911
1885-86	5,833	155,009	18,441,911	24,286,387	684,260	38,424,558	15,878,067	22,545,891

58 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

TELEGRAPHS.

The Telegraph Department is one of which the extension and progress is recorded every year. The advance in 1885-86, which was greater than ever, is illustrated by the following figures:—

Year.	Offices.	Line Miles.	Wire Miles.	Cable Miles.	Number of Messages.	Revenue.	Expenditure on Revenue Account.	Surplus on Revenue Account.	Capital Outlay.
1884-85 . . .	2,095	25,387	74,973	142	2,018,097	Rs. 4,727,143	Rs. 3,559,225	Rs. 1,167,918	—
1885-86 . . .	2,211	27,510	81,480	187	2,280,938	Rs. 5,110,980	Rs. 3,618,605	Rs. 1,492,291	Rs. 2,930,842

The large increase of revenue at a comparatively small increase of expenditure is a satisfactory feature of the above figures. The surplus on revenue account represents a percentage of 3.89 on Rs. 38,316,760, which was the amount of the total capital outlay up to the end of the year. The corresponding percentage in 1884-85 was 3.3. The reason that increase in the number of messages is proportionately larger than the increase of revenue, is that the cheaper rate of deferred messages is more frequently adopted, 63 per cent. of the messages in 1885-86 having been sent on this system. The policy of opening out offices worked by extra-departmental agency in connection with the Post Office has been developed, and this, combined with the system of deferred messages, has largely contributed to the effective working of the Department. The military and political requirements of the State, arising out of the preparations on the North West Frontier, the Afghan Boundary Commission, and the Upper Burma Expedition, pressed heavily on the Telegraph Department, but all demands were met with a rapidity and efficiency which reflected credit on its administration. The difficult and dangerous work of laying down 159 miles of fresh lines, and renewing 244 miles of old line in Upper Burma, was highly satisfactory, and earned for the officers employed the thanks of the Governor General in Council. In other parts of the country, too, where damage from floods and storms was exceptionally heavy, the emergencies were met with promptitude and efficiency. The special works undertaken were of unusual extent. The cost of telegraphing from the United Kingdom to India was reduced, in conformity with the decision of the International Telegraph Conference held at Berlin, from 4 s. 7 d. to 4 s. per word; but owing to the fall in the exchange it was found impossible to reduce the rupee charge per word in India; and, as it was, the rate levied failed to yield India's proper share in the total receipts after payment of the shares due in gold to other administrations. Rs. 151,349 were received from telephone companies, who had 100 private lines and 837 exchange connections in 1885-86, as compared with 77 and 703, respectively, in the previous year.

Indo-European
Telegraph Department.

The revenue of the Indo-European Telegraph Department showed a satisfactory increase through growth of traffic, from 93,693 l. to 101,928 l. But 1885-86 was a year of heavy expenditure, owing to the necessity of renewing one of the Jask-Bushire cables; and the net loss of the Department was 60,079 l. In some other respects, too, the report of the year is not satisfactory. There were longer interruptions to the traffic, a larger number of errors, reduced speed of transmission, and more complaints from the public. The capital outlay of the Department up to the end of the year was 1,129,976 l.

The net loss to Government on account of Telegraphs is shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts to have been as follows:—

	1884-85.	1885-86.
Receipts (in tens of rupees) . . .	570,552	628,484
Expenditure (in tens of rupees) . . .	788,435	672,761
Net Loss (in tens of rupees): . . .	217,883	244,277

XI.

PUBLIC WORKS.

[In this chapter £. 1 is recorded for Rs. 10 only, in respect of all transactions in India.]

THE new classification of public works revenue and expenditure which was referred to in the chapter on Finance in last year's Report is now adopted in this chapter for the first time. The technical distinction between productive and other works has disappeared; the new principal division among Railways, Irrigation, and Buildings and Roads taking its place.

CLASSIFICATION
OF PUBLIC
WORKS.

The three systems on which railways have been constructed and worked in India are the Guaranteed, the State, and the Assisted, though each of these, again, admits of sub-division. The original great trunk lines of India are due to the guaranteed companies. The contract between them and the Government was as follows: the Government gave the land required free of charge; it also guaranteed interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on the share capital raised with its consent, and a lower rate upon debenture capital. A general supervision of the working of the railway is also retained, and stores and troops are carried on favourable terms. If the net profits in any half-year fall below the amount of guaranteed interest the Government makes up the deficiency. If they exceed this amount the surplus is equally divided between the Government and the company. Moreover, the Government has the right of buying the undertaking at specified dates, on payment of the value of the shares calculated at their market price on the average of the three preceding years. In this way the East Indian Railway was acquired in 1880, the Eastern Bengal Railway in 1884, and the Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi company's lines in 1885-86. In 1870 a new policy of railway development by the direct agency of the State was inaugurated; and, in 1880-81 a return was made to the system of encouraging private enterprise by State assistance. The financial results yielded by Indian railways have been placed before the public as an indication to private enterprise of the returns to be expected from investments in future undertakings without a permanent Government guarantee. Two railway companies exist on this last basis, viz., the Bengal and North-Western and the Tarakessur Railway companies. In both cases the results obtained hitherto have proved very satisfactory, the former yielding in 1886 3.63 per cent. on its capital outlay of Rs. 22,275,062, though it was only opened in 1884; while the latter, which was opened in 1885, in 1886 paid 7 per cent. on its capital outlay of Rs. 1,688,995. The capital for the Tarakessur company was subscribed in India. The amount of assistance given to the subsidized or assisted railways varies, but it always includes a free gift of the land, and carries with it an option of purchase by the State.

RAILWAYS

60 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

RAILWAYS.
Financial results
to the State.

The following figures taken from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of 1885-86 show the financial result of the working of the Railways in India.

	Imperial.	Provincial.	England, including Exchange.	TOTAL.
REVENUE:	£.	£.	£.	£.
Railways:				
State Railways - - - - -	8,988,902	989,686	302	9,958,800
Guaranteed Companies (net Traffic Receipts).	3,725,075	-	-	3,725,075
Subsidized Companies (Repayment of Advances of Interest).	-	119	-	119
TOTAL - - -	12,713,977	989,805	302	13,684,084
EXPENDITURE:				
Railway Revenue Account:				
State Railways:				
Working Expenses - - - - -	4,212,521	689,571	-	4,902,092
Interest on Debt - - - - -	1,800,820	381,055	481,410	2,663,285
Annuities in Purchase of Railways - - - - -	-	-	1,740,798	1,740,798
Interest on Capital deposited by Companies.	289	-	257,545	257,834
Guaranteed Companies:				
Surplus Profits, Land and Supervision - - - - -	476,682	-	-	476,682
Interest - - - - -	49,767	-	4,181,040	4,231,707
Subsidized Companies:				
Land, &c. - - - - -	27,276	16,849	-	44,125
Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure - - - - -	91,235	8,030	-	99,274
TOTAL - - -	6,658,500	1,095,514	6,661,693	14,415,797

In these figures for expenditure are included all charges falling on the Government for management and working expenses of railways, for interest on their capital outlay, for land and control required by the companies, and for miscellaneous items, such as head-quarters establishment and surveys. After meeting all these expenses the total charge to the State in 1885-86 was 731,713 l., a charge which in the next few years is expected to increase rather than to diminish as new lines, likely at first to be unremunerative, are being largely constructed.

General results of the working of the railways.

The general results of the working of the various classes of railways in 1886 may be seen from the following table, from which it will be observed that the actual aggregate net profits realised by all the Indian railways amounted to 5.9 per cent. on the capital outlay, a better result than in 1885, when the percentage of net receipts was 5.84. In the present statement, the Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi Railway no longer contributes to the figures of guaranteed railways, but as part of the North-Western system is for the first time included under State railways. It was purchased by the State on the 1st of January 1886.

RAILWAY STATISTICS, 1886.

CLASS.	Length of Line Open on 31st December 1886.	Total Capital Outlay to 31st December 1886.	Passengers Carried.	Weight of Goods Carried.	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Net Receipts.
	Miles.	£.	No	Tons.	£.	£.	£.
State, Imperial - - -	6,107½	90,488,941	37,708,404	9,801,094	9,897,947	4,398,944	5,400,003
State, Provincial - - -	1,384½	10,291,503	8,361,952	1,348,072	978,066	612,204	366,762
Guaranteed Companies - - -	3,927½	60,703,058	37,777,282	7,567,551	7,217,066	3,562,883	3,654,183
Assisted Companies - - -	587	3,423,367	1,864,236	381,076	302,224	178,221	124,003
Native States - - -	797½	5,531,052	2,724,444	418,572	338,339	178,731	160,602
TOTAL - - -	12,864	170,408,911	88,436,318	19,576,365	18,704,536	8,930,983	9,773,553
TOTAL for 1886 - - -	12,207½	161,917,840	80,864,779	18,925,385	17,939,625	8,863,294	9,126,331

It will be observed that in each column of this statement there is an increase over the corresponding figure in 1885. RAILWAYS.

The railway mileage open on the 31st of March 1887 was 13,390½ miles, showing that in the 12 months then ended, 1,025½ miles of railway had been completed and opened for traffic. In addition, there were then 3,205¾ miles of lines under construction or already sanctioned, of which 452¾ had received sanction in the year 1886-87. The chief sections of railway opened during the year were 251 miles on the Southern Mahratta system, 42 miles of the Indian Midland, 275 miles of the Sind Pishin and Sind Sagar Sections of the North-Western Railway, 73 miles of the Bengal and North-Western Line, 55 miles between Lucknow and Sitapur, 39 between Bahraich and Naipalganj, 87 miles of the Nizam's Railway, 59 on the Jodhpore State Line, and 41 on the West of India Portuguese Railway. The chief extensions sanctioned were 225 miles between Toungoo and Mandalay, and 124 miles in Mysore and 67 in Kathiawar.

Of the important bridges referred to in last year's report as then under construction, the East Indian Railway bridge over the Hooghly, and the Tirhoot Railway bridge over the Gunduck were opened in the spring of 1887. The bridges over the Ganges at Balawala and Benares required for the Oudh and Rohilkhand Line, the Sutlej bridge at Ferozepore, the Jhelum bridge required by the Sind Sagar Railway, and the Indian Midland Railway bridge over the Jumna at Kalpi, were all within a few months of completion. The Sukkur bridge over the Indus is the only one the construction of which has been unexpectedly delayed.

The increase in the traffic and in the receipts was spread over most of the railways, but was most marked in the case of the Great Indian Peninsula and Rajputana-Malwa Railways, which gave respectively 47 and 19 per cent. of the increase in net traffic receipts. The improvement in respect of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was caused mainly by the recovery in the cotton and wheat trades. On the other hand, in consequence of scarcity of food grains in the Punjab, the carriage of wheat on the North Western system declined considerably; and this decline, combined with large expenditure on renewals of permanent way and rolling-stock, and on the restoration of flood damages, caused a falling off in the net revenue from that system of lines of 20 lakhs of rupees. The increase in goods traffic is considerable, and is found under 31 of the 47 items which are tabulated.

The transactions of the guaranteed lines are illustrated by the following table. In calculating the interest the rupee is converted into sterling at contract rates:— GUARANTEED RAILWAYS.

RAILWAY COMPANY.	Capital Expended to 31st December. 1886.	Net Revenue for Year ended 31st December 1886.	Guaranteed Interest for Year to 31st December 1886.	Interest in Excess of Revenue.	Revenue in Excess of Interest.	Surplus Profits Earned by Guaranteed Companies during Half-Years	
						Ended 30th June 1886.	Ended 31st December 1886.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Madras - - - -	11,593,114	296,014	522,303	226,379	—	—	—
South Indian - - -	4,675,770	141,442	208,504	67,062	—	—	—
Great Indian Peninsula -	20,941,752	1,925,708	1,180,521	-	745,187	608,455	126,720
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India.	9,272,740	729,003	410,451	-	318,552	250,392	60,870
Oudh and Rohilkhand - -	8,270,682	286,075	380,832	94,757	—	—	—
TOTAL - - - £.	60,763,058	3,378,242	2,702,701	- -	675,541	858,847	186,590
						1,004,437	
TOTAL for 1885 (including Sind, Punjab, and Delhi Railways) - £.	66,658,570	3,505,142	3,191,169	- -	313,973	785,866	

62 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

IRRIGATION

The following statement of revenue and expenditure, taken from the Finance and Revenue Accounts for 1885-86, shows the financial results to the State from its works of irrigation :—

	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	England, including Exchange.	TOTAL.
REVENUE:					
Irrigation:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Major Works:					
Direct Receipts - - - -	267,902	596,871	-	-	864,773
Portion of Land Revenue due to Irrigation.	532,607	-	-	-	532,607
Minor Works and Navigation - -	29,956	129,474	1,468	-	160,898
TOTAL - - -	860,465	726,345	1,468	-	1,588,278
EXPENDITURE:					
Irrigation:					
Major Works:					
Working Expenses - - - -	266,014	327,136	-	-	593,150
Interest on Debt - - - -	486,558	478,289	-	-	964,847
Minor Works and Navigation - -	512,471	229,584	3,105	590	745,750
TOTAL - - -	1,265,043	1,035,009	3,105	590	2,303,747

The year's charge to Government in respect of these works thus appears to be 715,469 l. The particulars as to the various systems in the separate provinces may be seen from the following table, which is prepared on a somewhat different basis, and shows the loss to the State to be considerably less. The two sets of figures cannot be compared, as that on the next page is a purely revenue account, from which is excluded a large amount of capital outlay on minor works, as well as expenditure on works for which accounts are not kept; it at the same time includes land revenue credited to minor works which forms no part of the receipts in the previous statement.

PROVINCES.	Mileage in Operation.		Area of Land Irrigated during the Year.	Capital Outlay (including Cost of Establishment and Tools and Plant).		Capitalised Value of Land occupied by Canal, Leave and Pension Allowances and Loss by Exchange.	Excess of Interest over net Revenue in past Years.	Total Sum at charge for Interest at end of 1885-86.	Gross Receipts, direct and indirect, from all sources during 1885-86.	Working Expenses during 1885-86.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Receipts.	Net Revenue (excluding Charges for Interest).	Interest at 4 per cent. on direct Capital Outlay at Commencement of year, and at 2 per cent. on Outlay during the Year.	Surplus Revenue (+) or Excess Charge (-) after paying Interest on Direct Capital Outlay.	
	Main Canal.	Distributaries.		At commencement of 1885-86.	During 1885-86.									Amount.	Percentage on Total Sum at Charge.
	Miles.	Miles.	Acres.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS :															
Bengal - - - - -	614½	2,063¾	451,422	5,034,848	63,849	161,510	2,557,957	8,418,104	157,427	114,275	72.55	43,152	220,671	-183,519	-2.18
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	1,275	5,071	1,596,015	6,207,080	95,249	460,747	-812,132	6,046,893	525,113	211,201	40.24	313,822	253,787	+60,035	+1.00
Punjab - - - - -	1,070	2,893	808,702	4,576,358	208,780	227,240	-1,840,459	9,171,919	255,209	121,137	47.44	134,162	187,230	-53,068	-1.07
Madras - - - - -	1,918	3,023	2,007,721	4,450,141	151,522	334,781	-3,784,234	1,152,210	424,131	132,543	31.20	291,588	181,036	+110,552	+0.60
Bombay - - - - -	572	456½	423,109	1,081,403	54,606	72,272	414,509	2,222,880	89,569	33,588	37.50	55,981	68,452	-12,371	-.55
TOTAL - - -	5,449½	14,096½	5,472,029	22,030,870	574,000	1,258,550	-3,464,359	21,000,000	1,451,539	612,834	42.22	838,705	917,076	-78,371	-.37
MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION ;															
Ajmere Merwara - - - - -	-	-	33,604	148,625	119	5,802	25,000	179,642	12,310	3,494	28.38	8,816	5,047	+2,869	+1.60
British Burma (Agricultural) - - - - -	-	-	-	307,132	-	8,357	-136,076	179,413	57,979	-8,981	-	66,960	12,286	+54,674	+30.50
Bengal - - - - -	-	-	-	880,579	45,945	16,881	-1,161,228	-217,822	53,434	23,938	44.79	29,496	36,141	-6,645	-3.05
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	-	-	101,305	227,040	215	19,112	42,082	288,440	20,451	19,027	95.07	824	9,086	-8,262	-2.87
Punjab - - - - -	2,509	119	844,715	184,872	-1,622	8,030	-467,889	-276,609	130,327	82,865	63.58	47,462	7,961	+40,101	+14.49
Madras - - - - -	428	131	118,280	970,373	55,381	86,616	360,070	1,408,440	23,109	41,907	-	-18,198	30,923	-58,121	-4.00
Bombay - - - - -	462½	1,770	559,360	833,816	8,825	50,208	-461,948	490,901	86,792	52,823	61.60	32,909	33,520	-620	-.15
TOTAL - - -	3,909½	2,020	1,657,264	3,552,497	108,863	195,008	-1,803,983	2,052,414	883,402	215,133	50.11	168,269	144,273	+23,906	+1.17
FAMINE RELIEF AND INSURANCE:															
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	150	131	12,356	316,958	52,801	17,700	29,360	416,918	-	208	-	-208	13,734	-13,942	-3.30
Punjab - - - - -	22	92	44,093	303,202	11,964	11,165	50,628	376,059	23	2,371	10,317.39	-2,348	12,367	-14,715	-3.90
Madras - - - - -	-	-	-	14,468	18,319	10,194	358	43,389	-	-	-	-	945	-945	-2.18
Bombay - - - - -	94	100½	16,135	478,103	79,522	16,654	66,057	640,336	43	1,300	4,558.10	-1,917	20,714	-22,631	-3.53
TOTAL - - -	266	323½	72,583	1,112,731	102,606	55,812	146,403	1,477,552	66	4,530	-	-4,473	47,760	-52,233	-3.54
GRAND TOTAL - - -	9,114½	10,445½	7,201,876	27,305,038	845,475	1,507,458	-5,121,939	24,536,032	1,835,007	832,500	46.38	1,002,501	1,100,109	-106,608	-.44

IRRIGATION.

Ajmere
Merwara.

The irrigation works in Ajmere Merwara, which the preceding statement shows to be financially a success, consist entirely of large and small tanks. The irrigated area assessed is given at 34,737 acres, or 2,606 acres more than in 1884-85. The increase was made possible by the sufficiency of water after the spring crop of 1885 for extensive crop sowings. The scantier rainfall of the year under review will, however, probably have curtailed the supply available for the crops of 1886-87. The value of the crops raised under irrigation in the province is estimated at five times the amount of water revenue assessed in the lands. The administration has of late years been improved, and greater care and economy exercised. No new works are under construction.

Burma.

The works in Burma consist of embankments along the Irrawaddy. From small beginnings they have grown gradually until they have assumed considerable importance. The above statement shows them to have been highly remunerative, the profits being mainly derived from the share of land revenue placed to their credit.

Bengal.

The Bengal Government having to pay 4 per cent. on the total capital outlay of its irrigation systems finds these a heavy drain on its finances. Its loss, however, in 1885-86, viz., *Rs.* 18,35,091, was considerably less than in the previous year, when it was *Rs.* 20,84,863, and this, although the capital outlay on which interest was charged was considerably raised by the inclusion of the figures of past years for loss by exchange. The revenue account for the year under review shows the gross receipts at *Rs.* 15,84,935 and the working expenses at *Rs.* 11,53,416. The difference between these figures, which is the net revenue of the year, was more than three times the corresponding figure for 1884-85 and four times that of 1883-84. The Calcutta and Eastern Canals, with a capital expenditure of *Rs.* 51,59,067 and net profits of *Rs.* 2,92,737, were the most remunerative in the province. The Son Canal, on which a direct outlay of *Rs.* 248,61,348 has been incurred, gave a net revenue of *Rs.* 5,10,276, or nearly double that of the previous year; but the increase was wholly due to the larger collection of arrears, for the rainfall of the year was excellent, the area under irrigation reduced, and the amount due for water rates for the year less by three lakhs of rupees. Such of the Orissa Coast Canal as was complete was opened in September 1885; but the working of the first half-year resulted in a net loss of *Rs.* 16,000. The Hijili Tidal Canal, which connects the Orissa Canal with the Hugli, gave a smaller profit than usual; indeed, this canal requires remodelling as it is suffering from the deposition of silt. The projected new works upon it will cost over 10 lakhs. The most important new works completed within the year were the Gobri, the Patamundi, and the Sarun Canals, costing respectively *Rs.* 4,45,630, *Rs.* 9,32,640, and *Rs.* 6,69,230. The cyclone and storms of the year did considerable damage to several of the canals as well as to the lands newly brought under cultivation by the agricultural works in the Balli Bhil. Some loss of life and property was, however, saved by the bank of the Orissa Coast Canal, which partially stopped the influx of the great storm-wave in September. The amount spent on agricultural works classed under irrigation in this province was *Rs.* 3,63,139.

N. W. Provinces
idh.

In the North-West Provinces and Oudh the Government systems of irrigation are year by year both a blessing to the people and a profit to the State. But the degree to which they are such depends on the rainfall of the year. In a season of drought such as 1883-84 not less than 2,297,674 acres demanded water from the canals, and the interest yielded to the State on the capital it had expended amounted to 7½ per cent. The year 1885-86, like its predecessor, was blessed with an unusually heavy rainfall; the area under canal irrigation therefore declined, and was but little in excess of 1,700,000 acres, or about 100,000 acres more than 1884-85, and the interest on capital outlay was about 4¾ per cent., as compared with 4½ per cent. in 1884-85. The principal canal under construction in this province is the Betwa Canal, which is not expected to be productive in the technical sense, but is likely to protect a part of the province from famine. It takes its rise near Bhopal, where its head works consist of a masonry weir, 3,114 feet in length, with a maximum height of 51 feet. The length of main line and branches is to be 180 miles, and of distributories 377 miles more. The length completed at the end of 1885-86 was 131 miles. The whole scheme

scheme is estimated to cost nearly *Rs.* 45,00,000, of which nearly *Rs.* 39,00,000 had been expended, *Rs.* 5,68,240 having been spent in 1885-86. In this year the large expenditure of *Rs.* 9,13,674 was also incurred on the works connected with the Lower Ganges Canal, which is designed to supplement the volume of the Ganges Canal, and to ensure the eastern portion of the Doab from drought. IRRIGATION.

The Punjab showed in 1885-86 a larger irrigated area than in any previous year. It was the perennial canals that showed specially favourable returns, the Bari Doab, with 505,357 acres, or nearly 130,000 acres more than in 1884-85, the Abohar Branch of the Sirhind, with 152,837 acres, or 116,000 more than in 1884-85, and the Swat River Canal, on which irrigation was rapidly developed to the extent of 44,092 acres. Owing, however, to the larger rainfall and less need for canal water, the area irrigated by the Western Jumna Canal declined to 223,322 acres; and the Inundation Canals irrigated less by 60,255 than in 1884-85. The Swat River Canal, though open for irrigation, paid no revenue, as the water was given free till the rabi crop of 1885-86. The Inundation Canals in operation in the year gave a profit of over 13 per cent. on their direct capital outlay of about *Rs.* 18,00,000. Several improvements were made during the year in the systems of Inundation Canals; but the most important works of construction were the completion of the Bhatinda Branch of the Sirhind Canal, 100 miles in length, and the completion of 92 out of 98 miles of the Kotla (Native States) Branch of the same canal. Punjab.

The large irrigation works constructed by the Government in the Madras Presidency are and have long been most profitable. During 1885-86 the delta systems of the Godavari, Kistna, and Cauvery rivers yielded clear profits, after paying interest, of 6.95, 7.38, and 35.53 per cent. respectively on the direct cost of their construction; and the Penner and the Srivakotham anicut systems yielded in like manner clear profits of 3.36 and 2.73 per cent. The only other principal systems of irrigation in the Presidency are the half-finished and but partially opened works of the Ganjam anicut system, which paid .85 per cent. only on its capital outlay, the Barur Tank, which is still under construction, with no portion yet open, and the Kurnool Canal, the unfortunate work of the late Madras Canal Company, which had finally to be bought over by the Government, and has never but once paid its working expenses. The net loss on working it in 1885-86 was *Rs.* 1,11,420, against *Rs.* 82,299 in the previous year, besides which a charge had to be met of 4 per cent. for interest on the total capital outlay, which by adjustments on account of loss by exchange has been raised to the sum of *Rs.* 216,59,353. Generally speaking, the year was favourable for irrigation. Compared with 1884-85 about 200,000 more acres were under irrigation from the Cauvery system, 35,000 more from the Godavari system, and 20,000 more from the Kistna system. Work went on in the construction of the Buckingham Canal, and of the Rushikulya project in the Ganjam district: the latter is designed as a famine protective undertaking. The construction of the tidal canal from Ganjam to Gopálpur was postponed owing to scarcity of labour. The restoration of several tanks was taken in hand, that in the Red Hills from which Madras is supplied with water, and which was breached by a cyclone in 1884, was completely restored during the year; tank maintenance operations were extended over an additional area of 2,560 square miles. The expenditure on tank maintenance works was *Rs.* 1,61,311. Madras.

The area irrigated by Government canals in the Bombay Presidency, excluding Sind, increased from 37,701 to 59,450 acres, of which 11,195 acres were added by the Nira Canal, which was opened for irrigation. The Wághád Tank was nearly brought to completion, and the Muttra canals advanced. In Sind the inundation of the Indus was "an exceptionally good one;" and the area irrigated there was 1,739,919 acres, which though less by 43,254 acres than in 1884-85, was considerably higher than the aggregate of any other year. Some contraction of irrigation and loss of revenue from the Ghár Canal was caused by the corroding action of the Indus near the head works of the canal. The regulating bridge will have to be restored, and clearance of the canal effected. Bombay.

66 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

BUILDINGS AND
ROADS.

The receipts and expenditure shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts for 1885-86, under the head of Buildings and Roads, is now given.

	Imperial.	Provincial	Local.	England, including Exchange.	TOTAL.
REVENUE:					
Buildings and Roads:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Military Works - - - -	41,158	-	-	-	41,158
Civil Works - - - -	7,238	393,237	147,980	25,968	574,423
TOTAL - - -	48,396	393,237	147,980	25,968	615,581
EXPENDITURE:					
Buildings and Roads:					
Military Works - - - -	960,415	-	-	8,505	968,920
Civil Works - - - -	350,452	1,708,305	1,363,097	94,502	3,516,356
TOTAL - - -	1,310,867	1,708,305	1,363,097	103,007	4,485,276

The net expenditure of all sorts on this class of works in 1885-86, appears from these statements to have been 3,869,695 l.

The imperial, provincial, and local revenue and expenditure in India is thus divided among the several provinces:—

	India General.	Bengal.	Assam.	North West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces.	Burma.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
REVENUE:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Imperial - - -	29,988	843	277	88	707	247	893	2,568	12,625	48,396
Provincial - - -	-	74,637	732	107,153	58,701	7,345	4,715	12,788	127,166	393,237
Local - - -	2,202	65	12,643	7,685	367	8,392	5,580	73,035	38,011	147,980
TOTAL - - -	32,190	75,545	13,652	114,926	59,775	15,984	11,128	88,411	178,003	589,613
EXPENDITURE:										
Imperial - - -	783,606	107,340	19,524	27,354	72,735	18,024	47,793	51,087	183,404	1,310,867
Provincial - - -	-	278,472	47,523	303,498	251,620	128,707	130,109	211,104	357,272	1,708,305
Local - - -	6,481	336,314	73,753	249,849	83,313	20,170	34,286	376,764	182,107	1,363,097
TOTAL - - -	790,087	722,126	140,800	580,701	407,668	166,901	212,128	638,955	772,003	4,382,269

Ajmere-
Merwara.

Berar.

Owing to the financial pressure no new public works could be undertaken in Ajmere-Merwara, and the expenditure on this head had to be reduced from 21,400 l. to 15,700 l.

In the Hyderabad Assigned Districts the figures for which are not included in the above tables, the total expenditure on Public Works from all sources amounted to 149,159 l., as compared with 230,878 l. in the previous year. But of the apparent decrease of eight lakhs more than six lakhs is accounted for by the change in the arrangements in connection with the Nizam's State Railway, which has now been transferred to a company. The Provincial Public Works expenditure in Berar amounted to 93,306 l. The most important undertakings in hand were waterworks at Amraoti and Khamgaon. 21,142 l. were spent in keeping in good repair the 789 miles of roads in the province. Besides, several new roads were being constructed, of which the most important was a road 35 miles long from Morsi to the frontier of the Central Provinces, estimated to cost 17,677 l., and another leading to the Gugamal Forest in the Melghat, which will be 12 miles in length and will cost 14,892 l. Want of indigenous labour has made work in the Melghat extremely difficult.

Coorg.

Financial pressure caused the Public Works expenditure in Coorg, as elsewhere, to be reduced. Only 14,882 l. were therefore spent. The largest work in hand was the

the bridge over the Cauvery at Sidapur, which was nearly completed. Communications were generally improved, and no longer merit the complaints which have hitherto been with some justice made. BUILDINGS AND
ROADS.

In Bengal the imperial expenditure on Roads and Buildings was reduced from 15,346 *l.* on military, and 116,208 *l.* on civil works in 1884-85, to 2,370 *l.* and 58,357 *l.*, respectively, in the year under review; the provincial expenditure remained almost the same, amounting in 1885-86 to 272,665 *l.* The Jessore Collectorate buildings, the Secretariat offices and the Lieutenant Governor's house at Darjiling, were the most important buildings completed; court-houses at Maimansingh, Faridpur and Pabna, and a police office at Barisal, were also under construction. The Bhagalpur waterworks scheme was well advanced, and the port water supply-works at Chittagong completed. A new lighthouse was commenced at the mouth of the Damra. Amongst improvements in communications are noticed the Son causeway works, which were approaching completion, and the erection of an iron girder bridge on the Ganges Darjiling road. Considerable outlay had to be incurred in repairing the damage done by unusually severe floods and earthquakes. The Jessore road and the Orissa Trunk road were those that had suffered most. Work in the Seebpore workshops was reduced in consequence of the reduced outlay on public works; still the year's profit on its manufactures amounted to 3,144 *l.* The outturn of the Barákhá ironworks was 5,325 tons, principally of railway sleepers and jaws. There was also a larger outturn of miscellaneous castings, especially of ploughs and rice-bowls, to meet a growing local demand. Bengal.

The expenditure on Public Works in Assam was 200,498 *l.*, or about 50,000 *l.* less than in 1884-85. Among military works executed were buildings at Kohima, barracks at Shillong, and the Golághát-Nichuguard road, in the Naga Hills. The Provincial outlay was spent partly on roads, one from Gauháti to Shillong, another from Companyganj to Salutikar in Sylhet, and a third from Sadya to Bomjur on the Lakhimpur frontier, partly on the Shillong water-supply scheme; and to a still larger extent on the Cherrapunji-Companyganj railway. The works on the Jorhát railway were also nearly finished. About 73,500 *l.* was spent under the control of the Local Boards, 28,000 *l.* being on repairs, and 41,500 *l.* on new works. The chief of these were the Kákadanga bridge in Sibságar and the Diju bridge in Nowgong; the Chorkbai and Sylhet Fenchuganj roads; and the clearance of the Kusiára river from obstructions. The management of the Boards seems to have been satisfactory. Assam.

The expenditure on Roads and Buildings in the North West Provinces and Oudh in 1885-86 was 562,474 *l.*, or little less than in the previous year. More than two-fifths of this sum was expended through the local boards, who year by year are receiving more extensive powers in regard to the initiation and sanction of works, and to the control of the funds at their disposal. They are recognised to have performed their duties well. It is on the maintenance and construction of roads rather than of buildings that these Boards fix their attention. A complete and comprehensive scheme of extra-district communications in connection with the railways has been prepared by them, which will form the basis of future road operations. The principal buildings in hand were the Minor Central College at Allahabad, which having been begun in 1873 was completed this year, and the additions to the District Courts at Ahmedabad and the prisons at Fategharh and Benares. The most important of the roads was a cart road between Rañibagh and Rañikhet. The communications in Bundelkhand were also improved, roads being metalled, and bridges constructed over a considerable length. A particularly large number of bridges throughout the province were built during the year. The tanks of Bundelkhand were likewise attended to and restored. The experiment of boring for an artesian well at Agra was disappointing. The Archæological Division of the Public Works Establishment, which during the past ten years had performed useful work in conserving the great architectural monuments of the Province, such as the Taj, Fatehpur-Sikri, and the Agra Fort, was abolished in 1885. But attention will still be paid to the subject. The question of selling the Government Foundry Works at Roorkee was under consideration at the end of the year. N.W. Provinces
and Oudh.

The military preparations on the North West Frontier include a scheme of frontier roads, on which during the year under review there was an increase of expenditure of 30,221 *l.* These roads are from Kushalgarh, on the Indus, to Dera Ismail Khan, viá Kohat and Bannu, and from Dera Gazi Khan across the

BUILDINGS AND
ROADS.

Suleiman range to the Rakhni plains and the Bori valley towards Pishin. On other works expenditure had to be curtailed. The most interesting operations were coal explorations in the Salt range, which led to the discovery of coal seams, averaging 24 inches in thickness, and estimated to contain $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of coal. The court buildings at Lahore were well advanced, the Simla waterworks completed, and schemes for water supply at Pesháwar and Rawalpindi taken in hand. A Town Hall was also being constructed at Simla at a considerable outlay, and useful irrigation works carried out in the Delhi and Gargaon districts.

Central Provinces.

In the Central Provinces the cutting down of public works expenditure was to be regretted, not so much for the diminution of outlay on civil buildings as for the abandonment of a number of projects for new roads, many of them feeders to the railways. A delay is thus entailed upon the development of the resources of the province. The administration of the Warora colliery was transferred during the year to the hands of the Provincial Government, and though difficulties have been met with the prospects are considered very hopeful. The total expenditure on public works in the province was 150,149 £, of which 39,052 £ was for new and 40,612 £ for the repair of old roads.

Lower Burma.

The outlay on public works in Lower Burma, which in 1883-84 was 444,516 £, and in 1884-85 had sunk to 340,732 £, declined yet further in 1885-86 to 241,655 £. This restricted sum allowed no new works of importance to be undertaken. Expenditure on communications absorbed 68,732 £. But beyond keeping the main lines of communication and their subsidiary roads in repair, all that was done was to construct a road from Tavoy to the Siamese frontier and to complete several large bridges on the Rangoon Prome road. The Pegu Canal, which was damaged by rebels, had to be repaired, and some progress was made with the Sittang and Kayikto Canal. The completion in 1885-86 of the Sittang Valley railway as far as Toungoo should have an important effect in developing the resources of the province, and with the annexation of Upper Burma should prove a remunerative undertaking. The principal buildings erected during the year were a new hospital for European troops in Rangoon, and a court-house with offices in Pegu. The sum of 16,954 £ spent on embankments, was required mainly for keeping up existing works.

Madras.

The Madras Harbour works were pushed on during the year at a cost of 66,425 £; 139,569 tons of material were brought to them from the quarries at Pallavaram; the new rubble base was commenced, the old concrete blocks lying in its way being blown up by submarine mines. Other works of importance were the new Madras Ophthalmic Hospital, completed in 1885-86 at a cost of 10,000 £, and a screw pier at Gopálpur, the construction of which under contract was commenced during the year. The principal roads under construction in this Presidency are those of the Wynaad, and one from Pottinghi to Koraput, which will help to connect the plains of Vizagapatam with the Jeypore plateau. An experiment was tried at Madras for boring an artesian well; it was a failure.

Bombay.

But for the financial crisis 70,000 £ more was to have been spent on public works in Bombay. As it was, the grant amounted to nearly 500,000 £. Among civil buildings, on which about 160,000 £ were expended, the Káma Hospital for women and children was almost completed, the Wilson College commenced, and progress made with the Cathedral High School and the new Central Press buildings. The work of converting the old buildings at Bijapur, once the residence of the kings of the Adil Shah dynasty, into the offices of the headquarters of the collectorate, was nearly completed. The waterworks at Junnar, constructed at the cost of the municipality, were likewise almost finished. Out of the twenty-eight lakhs assigned for communications, eight were spent on new roads. Most of these were in the Southern Division of the Presidency, where feeder roads are required for the new Southern Mahratta railways. The Karáchi Harbour works were taken over by the new Karáchi Harbour Board; who also have the disposal of the lakh of rupees which Government continues to grant for dredging the harbour. The defence works at Bombay, Aden, and Karáchi, were continued at a cost of about 65,000 £. The greatest progress was made at Aden. In addition, more than 110,000 £ was spent on other military works, of which the chief were the permanent barracks for the troops at Colába and the station hospital for European troops at Admedabad.

Beside

Beside the net charges incurred by the State in 1885-86 on account of rail-ways, irrigation, and buildings and roads, amounting, as already stated, to 731,713 l., 715,469 l., and 3,869,695 l., respectively, and in the aggregate to 5,316,877 l., the following sums were also expended on the construction of public works:—

CAPITAL OUTLAY
AND TOTAL
EXPENDITURE ON
PUBLIC WORKS.

	Chargeable on the Revenues of India under the Head of		Expenditure not charged to Revenue.	TOTAL.
	Famine Relief and Insurance ("Protective" Works.)	Construction of Railways (in addition to that under Famine Insurance).		
	£.	£.	£.	£.
State Railways - - - - -	589,000	632,055	4,712,328	5,933,883
Irrigation - - - - -	186,607	- - -	582,536	749,143
TOTAL - - - £.	775,607	632,055	5,275,364	6,683,026

A charge of 1,086,045 l. was also involved in the redemption of liabilities. Excluding this, however, the total net expenditure in 1885-86 on public works, both capital and revenue account, appears to have been 11,999,903 l., of which not less than 6,724,539 l. was charged against the revenues of the year.

XII.

TRADE.

FOREIGN
SEABORNE
TRADE.

CONSIDERING first the foreign seaborne trade of India, it will be seen from the following table that the private trade of the country in 1885-86 rose by a small fraction (.06 per cent.) beyond the total of the previous year, but was still more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. below the figure for 1883-84:—

FOREIGN TRADE.

	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
PRIVATE IMPORTS:	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>
Merchandise - - - - -	50,003,041	52,703,891	53,149,311	51,811,580
Treasure - - - - -	13,453,157	12,877,903	13,878,848	15,477,801
TOTAL - - -	63,456,198	65,581,794	67,028,159	67,289,381
PRIVATE EXPORTS:				
Merchandise - - - - -	83,400,865	88,121,296	83,200,528	83,627,840
Treasure - - - - -	980,859	981,572	1,887,330	1,087,838
TOTAL - - -	84,381,724	89,102,868	85,087,858	84,715,678
TOTAL PRIVATE TRADE - - -	147,837,922	154,684,722	152,116,017	152,005,059
GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS:				
Imports { Stores - - - - -	2,092,670	2,575,457	2,553,761	3,844,329
{ Treasure - - - - -	-	-	9,350	-
Exports { Stores - - - - -	84,258	51,974	51,764	53,424
{ Treasure - - - - -	61,200	23,735	83,300	20,400
TOTAL - - -	2,238,128	2,650,166	2,701,175	3,918,153
Excess Exports of Merchandise - - -	91,889,412	32,806,922	27,552,220	28,225,355
Excess Imports of Treasure - - -	12,411,038	11,667,656	11,917,568	14,300,563
Total Excess of Exports over Imports - - -	18,978,314	21,029,086	15,634,652	13,855,792
Drawings of Secretary of State's Bills - - -	18,588,900	21,621,382	17,102,383	13,532,500
Percentage of Trade through Suez Canal - - -	62.25	65.8	65.6	66.2

The net imports of treasure in 1885-86 were larger by about 20 per cent. than in the previous year; and the gross as well as the net exports of merchandise were higher by about 60 lakhs. In the figures for imports of merchandise it will be observed that private trade declined, and Government trade rose by almost the same amount, about 130 lakhs. The increase in Government stores was due partly to the transfer to Government of several railway companies, such as the East Indian

Indian

Indian, Eastern Bengal, and Sind, Punjab, and Delhi lines, which necessitated the transfer from the statistics of general to those of Government trade of the imports for those lines; partly too to the activity of Government in the construction of new railways.

FOREIGN
SEABORNE
TRADE.

Of the Government imports, valued at about 384½ lakhs, three-fifths, or 230 lakhs, consisted of railway material, and most of the remainder was wanted for telegraphs and buildings, or for the Military Department. The merchandise imported by the State is mainly of such a kind as is not produced in India. Indeed, it has been a part of State policy of late years to resort as far as possible to the Indian producer rather than to foreign importation for the supply of Government requirements. It is in consequence of this policy that the Government importation of beer has now declined to only 375,396 gallons, and is likely soon to cease altogether. The importation of quinine has already practically ceased; and that of printing paper is dying out. Cardboard for railway tickets, boots and shoes, woollen piece goods, and cement, are articles which, though of such a kind as India might reasonably be expected to supply, are still wholly drawn from abroad.

The movements of gold and silver coin and bullion during the five years ending with 1885-86, show a declining demand for the former metal and an increasing demand for the latter. As compared with the net imports in 1881-82 of Rs. 4,84,39,842 worth of gold and Rs. 5,37,90,499 of silver, there was in 1885-86 a net import of only Rs. 2,76,29,347 worth of gold, while the net import of silver amounted to Rs. 11,60,66,285, a higher figure than in any year since the famine. This change in the consumption of the precious metals may be expressed in another form by saying that in the five years ending with 1884-85 the proportion was three of gold to five of silver required by India; in 1885-86 the proportion was only one of gold to five of silver.

Gold and Silver.

The proportion of the trade carried through the Suez Canal is steadily growing. This tendency is owing partly to a greater ratio of increase in the trade with the west than in the trade with countries east of India, and partly to a greater preference for the Suez Canal route over other routes to the west. It is noticeable that imports and exports do not show an equal attraction to the Canal route, seeing that while 77·32 per cent. of the imports into India pass through the Canal, only 56·81 of the exports are transmitted by that route. Of the trade using the Canal over three-fourths represents commerce with England.

Trade by Suez
Canal.

The shipping entered and cleared at Indian ports from and to foreign countries was represented in 1885-86 by 10,562 vessels and 7,294,589 tons. This shows a recovery of 2 per cent. in the number and 10 per cent. in the tonnage from the depressed figures of the previous year. The tonnage was, however, still below that of 1881-82. The percentage of steam to total tonnage, and the average tonnage of each vessel, both rise invariably year by year, and now amount to 65 per cent. and 691 tons respectively. Of the steam tonnage entered and cleared from Indian ports 64 per cent. passed through the Suez Canal; this is a smaller proportion by one per cent. than last year. The clearances of steamers without cargoes from Indian ports increased from 44 to 47 ships aggregating 74,614 tons; of these 36 cleared from Bombay. The steamers entering in ballast were 301, of which 132 entered in Burma, as compared with 272 in 1884-85.

Shipping.

The tonnage employed in the trade with the United Kingdom was 44 per cent. of the whole, the same proportion as in 1884-85. British shipping carries the lion's share of the trade, the proportion of British to the whole tonnage being 79·1 per cent. This is a larger share than in any year since 1881-82, when it was a fraction more. The share taken by British Indian tonnage continuously declines, the successive percentages for the six years ending with 1885-86 having been 6·32, 5·58, 5·11, 4·8, 4·3, and 4·17. The number of British vessels was 4,136, with an average tonnage of 1,395 tons; the British Indian vessels, on the other hand, numbered 2,198, but had an average capacity of only 139 tons; this average is, however, higher than in the averages of 1883-84 and 1884-85. Foreign shipping was represented by 1,565 vessels, with a total tonnage of 1,071,543 tons, which shows a proportion of 14·69 per cent. to the whole tonnage employed in Indian trade. The share of foreign shipping rose between 1880-81 to 1882-83 from 11·5 to 16·5; but it has since declined to its present figure. Steamers are rapidly superseding sailing vessels

72 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

FOREIGN
SEABORNE
TRADE.

in the shipping of foreign nationalities. Among these nationalities, Germany is represented by the largest tonnage. Then come France, Italy, Holland, and Austria. Native craft engaged in trade numbered 2,663 vessels in 1885-86; but their aggregate tonnage of 148,333 tons was only 2.03 per cent. of the whole; their share of the trade is constantly declining.

Trade of each
Province.

The following table shows the division of the foreign seaborne trade among the various provinces of India. The figures given do not include treasure, of which, however, it should be remembered, four-fifths are taken by Bombay:—

	1884-85.	1885-86.
Bombay:	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>
Imports - - - - -	21,516,068	22,014,330
Exports - - - - -	32,732,622	31,298,358
TOTAL - - -	54,248,690	53,312,688
Bengal:		
Imports - - - - -	21,431,384	19,985,639
Exports - - - - -	32,832,122	33,112,069
TOTAL - - -	54,263,506	53,097,708
Madras:		
Imports - - - - -	4,824,266	4,250,367
Exports - - - - -	8,432,673	8,264,412
TOTAL - - -	13,256,929	12,514,769
British Burma:		
Imports - - - - -	3,695,388	3,419,815
Exports - - - - -	5,287,169	6,780,369
TOTAL - - -	8,982,552	10,200,184
Sindh:		
Imports - - - - -	1,682,190	2,141,438
Exports - - - - -	3,915,742	4,372,632
TOTAL - - -	5,597,941	6,514,170

Bombay thus takes the lead in Indian commerce from its rival Bengal. The decline of imports into Bengal was large, amounting to nearly 7 per cent.; its export trade, however, improved to the extent of nearly 1 per cent. Bombay, on the other hand, exported less, but imported more than in the previous year. The large increase, 28 per cent., in the exports from Burma is the result of the recovery of the rice trade from its depression in 1883-84 and 1884-85. The decline in the Burma import trade may perhaps be accounted for by the interference of the war with business. The most striking facts to which the above table testifies are the commercial decline of Madras, and the commercial rise of Karachi, the port of Sindh. Madras imported nearly 12 per cent. less, and exported

exported 2 per cent. less ; Sindh, on the other hand, took 27 per cent. more imports, and shipped nearly 12 per cent. more exports than in the previous year. FOREIGN SEABORNE TRADE.

There are fifteen foreign countries enjoying more than one per cent. of the Indian trade, and these arranged in the order of their importance are shown below :— Trade with Foreign Countries.

COUNTRIES.	1884-85.		1885-86.	
	Total Imports and Exports.	Percentage to Total Trade.	Total Imports and Exports.	Percentage to Total Trade.
	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>		<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	
1. United Kingdom - - - -	84,118,377	55.3	84,639,221	55.61
2. China, Hong Kong - - - -	12,324,323	8.1	13,305,363	8.74
3. France - - - - -	8,889,454	5.84	7,408,055	4.87
4. Straits Settlements - - - -	5,210,095	3.42	5,390,282	3.54
5. China, Treaty Ports - - - -	4,273,826	2.81	5,097,763	3.35
6. Italy - - - - -	4,038,243	2.65	4,548,821	2.99
7. United States - - - - -	4,676,815	3.07	4,482,783	2.95
8. Belgium - - - - -	3,369,206	2.21	3,990,753	2.63
9. Egypt - - - - -	3,182,701	2.09	3,554,410	2.34
10. Ceylon - - - - -	3,252,086	2.14	2,907,837	1.91
11. Austria - - - - -	3,140,197	2.06	2,668,162	1.75
12. Persia - - - - -	2,175,810	1.43	2,103,745	1.38
13. Mauritius - - - - -	2,746,742	1.8	2,061,535	1.35
14. Arabia - - - - -	1,424,451	0.94	1,676,060	1.10
15. Australia - - - - -	2,529,172	1.66	1,667,830	1.03

There are eighteen other countries trading with India which together take about 4 per cent. of its trade. England's share slightly increased in 1885-86 ; and is considerably more than that of all other countries together. The principal change to be noticed as regards these other countries is the increase in the shares of China and the Straits Settlements, and the decline in that of France. Opium is still the most important of the exports to China, but Indian yarns and piece goods are now taking a very important place in the China Trade. The decline in the export trade to France was mainly in oilseeds, cotton, and wheat ; in the latter case perhaps due to the imposition of a protective duty. To Italy and Belgium, on the other hand, the exports of these commodities was much larger than in the previous year. The import trade from Belgium, which is also increasing, consists almost wholly of articles which compete with British goods. A large falling off in the export of linseed to America is the main cause of the decline in the Indo-American trade, and is due to the competition of the home growth with Indian seeds. It should be observed that the trade with Egypt is almost entire transit trade.

74 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

FOREIGN
SEABORNE
TRADE.

A comparison of the total values of imports and exports during the last two years, classified under the headings adopted in the English and French Trade Returns, is now given.

	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS (Indian Produce and Manufactures).	
	1884-85.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1885-86.
	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>
I. Animals - - - - -	207,309	250,830	117,955	100,679.
II. Articles of Food and Drink - - - - -	6,327,266	5,851,803	20,591,872	24,712,701
III. Raw Materials and Unmanufactured Articles	3,052,207	3,251,023	34,547,841	31,240,376
IV. Oils - - - - -	1,229,497	961,130	534,041	395,563
V. Articles Manufactured and partly Manufactured :				
(a.) Yarns and Textile Fabrics - - - - -	27,210,537	26,938,482	5,329,118	5,177,494
(b.) Metals and Manufactured Metals - - - - -	5,688,285	5,543,601	40,342	45,780
(c.) Machinery and Millwork - - - - -	1,484,124	991,553	211	144
(d.) Railway Plant and Rolling Stock - - - - -	1,592,620	2,018,005	—	—
(e.) Apparel - - - - -	948,930	1,037,260	62,812	89,895
(f.) Drugs, Dyes, Chemicals, &c. - - - - -	873,947	801,660	15,891,403	15,515,573
(g.) Other Manufactured Articles - - - - -	4,534,590	4,099,210	3,197,813	3,456,466
TOTAL of V. - - - - -	42,333,033	41,489,831	24,521,499	24,285,352
GRAND TOTAL - - - - -	53,149,312	51,811,580	80,313,208	80,734,731

Manufactured and partly manufactured articles form the only head of imports that is of much importance. But among exports Classes II. and III., as well as Class V., contrioute large shares.

Imports.

I. The import trade in *animals* consists mainly of horses from Australia; and is steadily growing. Prices have risen.

II. Among the imported articles of food and drink, coffee from Ceylon and the Straits still finds a place to the value of Rs. 4,71,000, but as the value in the previous year was over Rs. 10,00,000, the trade may be considered to be dying out. Last year it was said that the imports of *liquors* of all kinds were declining. Except as regards wines and liqueurs, valued at Rs. 32,80,000, this statement does not hold true of 1885-86, seeing that there was a largely increased import both of spirits (Rs. 66,77,000), and of beer and porter (Rs. 30,06,000). The latter increase does not appear to have interfered with brewing operations in India, judging from the fact there was a larger demand of hops from abroad. In the wine trade India hopes soon to begin to resort to her own growth in the vineyards of Kashmir. The imports of *provisions* (Rs. 1,19,19,000) continued to increase; it is strange to find among these an item of 2½ million pounds of flour coming not only from the Straits, Hong Kong, and Australia, but also from Italy, Austria, and England. *Salt* (Rs. 59,60,000) arrived in smaller quantities than in the two preceding years; *spices* (Rs. 71,87,000), on the contrary, in much larger quantities; for though foreign pepper almost ceased to be imported, the demand for betelnuts and cloves expanded very greatly. The importations of *sugar* (Rs. 1,45,81,000) show some fall from the excessive figures of 1884-85. The position of the trade was explained in last year's report. The stimulus of bounties in Europe and Brazil there referred to, has continued, but the heavy fall in prices of 1884-85 led to a contraction of cultivation; and consequently to some recovery in prices. But prices are still much below, and likely to remain much below, the level of former years. It is mainly from the Mauritius that sugar is brought to India. Larger than ever were the imports of *tea*, amounting in 1885-86 to four million pounds, valued at Rs. 30,43,000. The

more

more tea India produces the more she imports. Why markets so close at hand have not been already secured by Indian growers is not evident. They would certainly be worth fighting for. FOREIGN
SEABORNE
TRADE.

III. *Coal* is the most important of the Raw Materials and Unmanufactured Articles imported into India. Including coke and patent fuel, the imports of this article amounted to 790,000 tons, valued at Rs. 1,30,84,000, which is more than in the previous year. The reason for this increase, in the face of the competition of Indian collieries, is that Bombay is not in connection with the home coal fields, and has to rely on imported coal, of which it took 533,000 tons in 1885-86 for the supply of its steam shipping, railways, and cotton mills. On the other hand Bengal, with the Raniganj coal mines at hand, only needed 100,000 tons of foreign coal; Burmese millers, too, dispense with coal altogether, having found a substitute in the husk of rice which is now no longer wasted as refuse. *Cotton* (Rs. 17,81,000) came in larger quantities from Persia for the Bombay cotton mills. This trade has been fostered by the deficiency in the Indian cotton crop during the last two years. The decline in *silk* imports (Rs. 72,19,000) continued; *wool* (Rs. 7,77,000), however, was more largely imported; *ivory*, too (Rs. 31,25,000), came to India in quantities half as large again as in 1884-85.

IV. The decline in the imports of oils is owing to a diminished quantity of kerosine, 70 instead of 111 lakhs worth, imported from America. This diminution from the very high figure of the previous year is probably only temporary. American kerosine is now universally employed in India for illuminating purposes; nor are even the mineral oils of the country likely to compete with it, that brought from Upper Burma being used mainly for lubricating machinery, while the Baluchistan oil if discovered in large quantities will be used rather for fuel.

V. (a) The group of yarns and textile fabrics represent more than half the Import trade; and far the most important item in the group is *cotton goods*, which show little increase in value since 1881-82, and are below the figure for 1884-85. That there is room for expansion in this trade is apparent from the fact that less than one rupee per head is at present spent by the population of India on imported clothing. The diminution in 1885-86 is, however, one of value rather than of quantity. *Grey piece-goods* (Rs. 11,89,67,000) indeed fell away in quantity as well as in value, though proportionately more in the latter than in the former. But *white piece-goods* (Rs. 3,56,67,000) were actually more in quantity, though they figure at a considerably reduced value. The same is true of *twist and yarn* (Rs. 3,17,20,000) which fell in value but not in quantity. But in *coloured piece-goods* (Rs. 5,13,33,000) the increase, marked as it is, would have shown as half as large again had prices not given way. *Silk piece-goods* (Rs. 1,10,16,000) declined in quantities as well as value. *Woolen goods* (Rs. 1,12,56,000) on the other hand, were imported in greater quantities and at higher prices.

V. (b) Under the head of Metals and Manufactured Metals there is a decrease. The falling off occurred in *hardware* and *cutlery*, and in most of the metals, *copper*, *quicksilver*, and *spelter* excepted.

V. (c) The decline under the head of machinery and millwork is very large; these imports have not stood at so low a figure for years.

V. (d) An increase of 30 per cent., on the other hand, appears under the head of Railway Plant and Rolling Stock.

V. (e) Under apparel it is noticeable that the importation of *boots and shoes* is increasing; in 1884-85 311,000 pairs were received in India. Natives as well as Europeans are beginning to use them. The value of other articles of apparel also increased.

V. (f) The most striking feature in this group, of Drugs, &c., is the very unsatisfactory growth of the trade in *aniline dyes*, which in five years has risen from 3½ million ounces to nearly 11½ million. In the same period their prices have been reduced by half. The general use of these dyes cannot but be disastrous to the reputation of Indian fabrics.

FOREIGN
SEABORNE
TRADE.

V. (g) Under "Other Manufactured Articles" come a number of luxuries; and the decline in the imports of this group, spread as it is over almost all the sub-heads, shows a diminution of the power or the inclination of the people to purchase luxuries.

Exports.

I. The exports of *animals* constitute an unimportant, though gradually increasing, branch of trade. They consist mainly of cattle shipped from Southern India to the Straits, Sumatra, and Ceylon.

II. Articles of food and drink make up nearly one-third of the export trade, and in this group the increase for the year has amounted to about 20 per cent., distributed among most of the chief staples of the trade. After the late continuous decline in the exports of *coffee* it is satisfactory to notice a recovery from Rs. 1,24,55,000 to Rs. 1,34,84,000. Prices, however, remained very low, and the expectation of better returns owing to the failure of the Java crop were not realised. The *rice* trade (Rs. 9,24,71,000) appears from the following figures to have regained its normal condition after two years of great depression:—

—	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Cwt. - - - -	28,888,421	31,258,288	27,039,859	22,051,632	28,222,595
Tens of Rupees - -	8,308,167	8,477,327	8,362,080	7,192,198	9,247,126

But little of the rice is now exported in the husk; one reason being that the husk has been found valuable as fuel, and has led to great economy in the working of the mills; 19 out of the 28 million hundredweight of rice exported was shipped from Burma and nearly seven from Bengal, leaving a balance of 1½ million hundredweight for the other provinces. The exports of *wheat*, 21,060,519 cwt., of which half came from Bombay, and nearly one-third from Sindh, were the largest on record. The conditions of this trade for the last six years, are shown below:—

—	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Cwt. - - - -	7,444,375	19,963,520	14,144,407	20,956,495	15,831,754	21,060,519
Tens of Rupees - -	3,277,942	8,604,081	6,068,934	8,877,561	6,309,140	8,002,350

This trade first rose to importance after the repeal of the export duty in 1873. Famines affected the growth of the trade between that date and 1880, but in 1880-81 the exports rose from less than 2½ to 7½ million cwt.; a yet greater rise took place in 1881-82, when a conjunction of circumstances, such as a good harvest in India, bad crops and a "cornered" market in America gave Indian wheat a good opportunity which it accepted. Extended railways and irrigation, reduced rates by rail as well as freights, economy at the ports, and good seasons since 1880, have also naturally contributed much to the development of the trade, and have more than made up for the fall in prices in the European markets which has only been partially covered by the fall in exchange. More than half the exported Indian wheat was taken by the United Kingdom, and about half the remainder by Belgium and Holland. Besides rice and wheat, other grains such as *gram*, *pulse*, *jowari*, *bajri*, *oats*, *Indian corn*, &c., are exported mainly from Bombay in considerable quantities, amounting in the aggregate to 1,442,000 cwt. A large demand for these grains comes from emigrated Indian coolies. The requirements of Eastern Africa, Arabia, and Aden, are also considerable, Europe, on the other hand takes only about

about 150,000 cwt., mainly of pulse, millets, and Indian corn. It would seem that in this part of India's trade with Europe there is great room for development. In the competition with America, India enjoys not less advantages for the supply of Indian corn than for the supply of wheat; yet at present out of 31½ million cwt. of maize imported by England, less than 50,000 cwt. comes from India. The increase in the exports of flour, now valued at Rs. 9,72,000, or four times what they were in 1881-82, is noteworthy; as has already been said, the imports of flour continue nevertheless. The trade in *spices* (Rs. 48,63,000) has almost doubled in the last five years; the increase in 1885-86 was about 3 per cent. The chief growth has been in the European demand for ginger. The decline in the exports of *sugar* from Rs. 54,61,000 to Rs. 52,54,000, occurred wholly in the refined product, which fell away by more than 50 per cent. The loss was partly made up under unrefined sugar, the export of which increased 12 per cent. The European sugar market continued very unhopeful during the year. The condition of the *tea* trade was satisfactory, notwithstanding the continuance of low prices; the exports of the year amounted to 68,784,249 lbs., valued at Rs. 4,30,61,000. Out of this more than 66½ million pounds were sent to England, which is practically the sole market for Indian teas. Cachar and Sylhet (122,083 chests), and Assam (104,843 chests), are the chief sources of the Indian tea supply; next come the Terai and Duars, with 52,515 chests, and Darjeeling and Kurseong, with 39,710 chests. Other sources are comparatively unimportant.

III. The class of raw materials and unmanufactured articles is much the most important in the export trade of India; and in this class the decrease is almost 10 per cent. It is the most important items of *cotton* and *jute* that are responsible for this falling off. Prices of both products have greatly fallen in the last five years, and cotton has likewise declined in quantity, as is shewn in the following table:—

Exports.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.
Cotton:					
Lbs. - - - -	5,627,453	6,168,278	5,979,494	5,066,057	4,189,718
Tens of Rupees -	14,935,960	16,049,017	14,383,728	13,286,367	10,777,204
Jute:					
Lbs. - - - -	7,510,314	10,348,909	7,017,935	8,368,686	7,782,435
Tens of Rupees -	5,030,302	5,816,926	4,592,635	4,001,368	4,355,363

The trade in *seeds* (Rs. 9,94,83,000) shows some decline from the high figures of the two previous years. The depression of the oil-seed crushing industry in England is represented as the cause of the present fall, which has occurred mainly under rape seed and til or jinjili. On the other hand, linseed, castor, and poppy were carried more largely. *Wool* exports, 23,148,763 lbs., valued at Rs. 87,23,000, show an increase of 22 per cent.; but this is not considered an indication of a satisfactory trade, but is rather attributed to the forced disposal at low prices of accumulated stocks, which had for some time been held back in the hopes of better payments. The demand for raw *hides* (Rs. 2,63,83,000), and *skins* (Rs. 35,41,000), continues to increase. The number exported in 1885-86 was 8,607,724 of the former, and 4,947,579 of the latter. *Saltpetre* (Rs. 37,82,000), *silk* (Rs. 24,27,000), and *horns* (Rs. 15,29,000), show diminished exports. The last decrease is probably only temporary.

IV. The chief *oils* exported are castor and cocoanut. The restriction in the trade was due mainly to a deficient crop in India.

V. (a) The yarns and textile fabrics consist mainly of *gunny bags* and *cloths* (Rs. 1,12,84,000) from Calcutta, and *cotton goods* (Rs. 3,60,76,000) from Bombay. The exports of the former have decreased, of the latter, increased. In neither industry is the condition of affairs satisfactory. Both are characterised by large stocks, increased capacity for production, and little or no dividends.

The cotton industry is, however, much the more promising. Its development has certainly been marvellous. From 47 mills in 1876, producing goods to the value of Rs. 74,10,000, it has steadily increased to 86 mills, producing Rs. 3,56,87,000 worth of goods. Of the 78½ million lbs. of yarn produced in 1885-86, 68½ went to China; this is more than three times the amount of yarn exported from England to China. Indeed, India exports to China more yarn than England exports to India and China together. The exports of *silk* manufactures (Rs. 32,96,000) are larger than in 1884-85. The trade steadily expands.

V. (*f*) *Opium* (Rs. 10,73,55,000) and *indigo* (Rs. 3,78,32,000) are the two principal items in the class of drugs, &c., and a fall in both these has naturally led to a reduction in 1885-86 of 38 lakhs as compared with 1884-85, and of as much as 210 lakhs as compared with 1881-82, in the total exports of this group. The fall in opium is due almost wholly to a decline in prices; that in indigo followed, on the other hand, from a short crop. But as Indian indigo has almost a monopoly of the market, the deficient supply caused a considerable rise in the value of the article. With regard to other dyes, *myrobolams* (Rs. 29,94,000) and *turmeric* (Rs. 13,95,000) have been very greatly in demand. The exports of the former have doubled, of the latter, quadrupled in value since 1881-82; *cutch* (Rs. 25,28,000), on the contrary, shows no tendency to increase. *Tobacco* exports (Rs. 12,48,000) declined with the recall of the Indian garrison from the Egyptian coast. The trade in *chinchona* bark (Rs. 9,97,300) is constantly increasing, and now exceeds 857,000 lbs.; but the collapse of prices has disappointed the fond expectations of Ceylon and Madras planters. The exported bark comes mainly from private plantations in the Southern Presidency. The product of the Government plantations, which are also in Madras, is mostly used for medical stores and hospitals.

V. (*g*) Other manufactured goods show a larger export, which is due almost wholly to the increase under *dressed or tanned hides and skins* (Rs. 3,34,22,000). This industry has developed, mainly in Madras, side by side with the growth of the trade in the raw article. *Lac* (Rs. 58,45,000) is the only other important item in this group. In this the trade has slightly declined in value, though a larger quantity has been exported.

The transmission of articles unspecified by the post is beginning to occupy an important place in trade statistics; the recorded value of those articles now amounting to Rs. 10,30,000.

Fall in Prices and
in Exchange.

One characteristic appears in almost all comparisons between the figures of 1885-86 and of past years. That is the decline of prices. The difference would be yet greater if measured in gold values. Compared with the quotations in the London market in 1873, the sterling prices of the principal articles of Indian export and import trade are estimated to have fallen on the average by not less than 30 per cent. This result is generally attributed to the appreciation of gold, and has been accompanied by a fall of about 20 per cent. in the gold value of silver, which is India's currency. Had other conditions of the trade remained the same in 1885-86 as they were in 1873-74, the rupee prices in India of commodities exported to or imported from England would accordingly have declined about 10 per cent.; and the cultivator in India would have received so much less than he did 13 years previously, and he would have obtained English manufactures at a like reduction. The conditions of Indian trade have, however, been very largely modified during this period, so that the Indian cultivator does not find his produce depreciated in his own market, at any rate to anything like this extent of 10 per cent. The modifying causes have been mainly the reduction of sea freight, and of railway rates, and the extension of railways in India. In the case of the bulky goods which form the chief portion of Indian export trade, the freight is a very important consideration. Freights from Calcutta to England, representing as they now do about 24 per cent. on the cost of wheat in India, 20 per cent. on the cost of rice, 14 per cent. on linseed, 13 on jute, and 4½ per cent. on cotton, are only half what they were in 1873. The cost of transit by rail from the great central grain markets in India to the ports, has at the same time been reduced by proportions varying from 4½ and 9 per cent. to 33½ per cent. The conveniences too at the ports of shipment have been enormously extended, and the dock charges reduced. Added to all this has come the extension of the railway system in India from

5,880 miles of open railway in 1873, to 12,005 miles in 1885; an increase which is calculated to have laid not less than 100,000 square miles of India under contribution to the export trade. These have been some of the conditions which, combined with the late good harvests in India, have fostered the growth of the export trade in the face of falling prices, the effect of falling prices being at the time modified by the decline in exchange. Similar causes have also affected the prices of imported goods before reaching the hands of the Indian consumer. Indeed, it is noticed that even at the ports of arrival, the rupee values of the chief articles of the Indian import trade are much below what they were in 1873. Grey cottons are 16 per cent. cheaper, mule twist 33 per cent., Turkey red and copper, 43 per cent., and iron 50 per cent. cheaper.

FOREIGN
SEABORNE
TRADE.

The progress of the trans-frontier trade during the three years ending 1885-86 is shown below :—

TRANS-FRONTIER
TRADE.

	Imports.	Exports.	TOTAL.
	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>
1883-84 - - - - -	5,314,251	4,526,642	9,840,893
1884-85 - - - - -	5,331,403	4,552,996	9,884,399
1885-86 - - - - -	4,991,603	4,045,702	9,037,365

Although Upper Burma has been incorporated with the Indian Empire, its trade with the lower province is included in the above statement for the sake of comparison with previous years, and for the reason that no record has yet been kept of the trade between Burma and China. On the other hand, the trade with the Sind Peshin Valley, consisting as it does almost wholly of Government material valued at 174 lakhs for the State railway that is being constructed beyond the frontier, and of supplies and goods valued at 144 lakhs required mainly by the British garrison or their camp followers beyond the border, is excluded. The imports from the Sind Peshin Valley, which are also omitted, amounted in 1885-86 to Rs. 20,17,893. The trade between Lower and Upper Burma declined materially owing to the disturbed state of the country; so also did the trade with Karennee from the same cause, and that of Kashmir, owing to the depression in the shawl trade. The increase of exports consists almost wholly of large exports of railway material for the Sind Peshin railway which is being constructed beyond the frontier. There is a considerable expansion in the exports to Kabul, chiefly under the heads of Indian cottons, wheat, leather, and salt. The import trade declined; Nipal, while supplying India with a larger quantity of goods, mainly rice and other grains and timber, valued at 154 as compared with 139 lakhs in 1884-85, received only 86, as compared with 98 lakhs worth of Indian exports, of which the principal articles were cotton and piece goods and metals.

The coasting trade has diminished. The following are the figures for the last two years :—

COASTING TRADE.

	1884-85.	1885-86.
	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>	<i>Tens of Rupees.</i>
Imports :		
Merchandise - - - - -	27,464,753	26,310,713
Treasure - - - - -	2,462,399	3,092,082
Exports :		
Merchandise - - - - -	25,740,389	25,150,596
Treasure - - - - -	2,734,013	3,044,896

80 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

COASTING TRADE. Burma and Sindh are the only exceptions to the decline in this trade. It will be observed that the decline is wholly in merchandise, for treasure was more largely imported and exported. As a natural consequence we should have expected to find a smaller tonnage employed in the trade. This was not the case, however, as appears from the following statement :—

	ENTERED AND CLEARED.							
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Native Craft.		TOTAL.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1884-85 - -	10,945	11,035,218	9,103	973,090	333,154	5,397,864	853,202	17,406,172
1885-86 - -	12,271	11,406,222	7,979	1,047,368	328,719	5,372,543	348,969	17,826,133

The number and tonnage of native craft fell away considerably, but the deficiency in tonnage was more than made up by the increased capacity of the steamers and sailing vessels. The average size of the sailing ships would appear to have grown largely, while that of the steamers has to some extent diminished.

XIII.

MINES AND MANUFACTORIES.

IN all 95 collieries had been opened in India up to the end of 1885, of which 90 were in Bengal, mostly in the Burdwan district, two in the Central Provinces, two in Assam, and one at Umeria in Rewa (Central India). The opening of coal mines in the Punjab and Burma is also in project. Of the mines in Bengal, 27 were not working in 1885. The whole output for the year was 1,294,221 tons, a smaller yield than in either of the two preceding years, when the figures were 1,397,818 and 1,315,976 tons respectively. Of the total, the Bengal collieries gave 1,123,700 tons, the most productive being four in Hazáribágh, which together yielded 446,051 tons, and two in Manbhoom with an aggregate output of 126,202 tons. The two collieries of the Central Provinces produced 119,116 tons; those of Assam 43,707 tons; and the Umeria Colliery 7,698 tons. The number of persons stated to have been employed in the collieries is 22,745.

MINERAS
RESOURCES.
Collieries.

Iron is worked by native agency in almost every district of India, and numbers of iron and brass foundries are to be found in most provinces. A few large works are conducted on European methods of manufacture, the principal being the Government works at Barrakur in Bengal. The output from these works and from those of private firms appears to have been smaller than in 1885.

Iron works.

The Indian oil wells of most importance are those at Akyab in Burma. Their yield in 1885 is stated at 1,450,423 gallons. The fall in the price of American petroleum has diminished their value.

Mineral oils.

There are two gold mining companies located in Bombay, and eight in Madras. The four mines in the South East Wynaad are stated to have obtained 1,174 ozs. of gold within the year. Beyond this little is known about the working of the mines.

Gold.

The cotton industry grows each year, as is indicated by the following statement:—

MANUFACTORIES.
Cotton mills.

	Number of Mills.	Number of Looms.	Number of Spindles.	Average Daily Number of Hands Employed.
1884 - - - - -	74	16,251	1,895,284	61,386
1885 - - - - -	81	16,455	2,087,055	61,596
1886 - - - - -	89	16,748	2,213,345	71,577

Of the 89 mills, 49 are in the island of Bombay, and 18 others in the same Presidency; of the rest, six are in Bengal and six in Madras. The joint-stock mills, 73 in number, represent a nominal capital of 848 lakhs; and the whole capital invested in the cotton industry of India is estimated at 1,000 lakhs. The year was not a prosperous one for the trade. Short crops in 1883-84 and 1884-85 kept the price of the raw material at an abnormally high level; and the trade with China was very unsettled. Prospects brightened before the close of the year 1885-86, under the influence of the expectations of a good crop in that year. It is noticed that with the improvement of trade the Mill Association cancelled their previous resolution as to the observance of Sundays as holidays in the mills. In consequence the native holidays are the only ones observed in the mills. The Factory Act of 1881 was strictly enforced in the factories of the Presidency, which, including all sorts of industries, numbered 110. Irregularities were detected in the employment of children.

82 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

MANUFACTORIES.
Jute mills.

It was an unfavourable year for the jute mills, of which there are 24, all in Bengal except a small one at Vizianagram. The extent of this industry is indicated by the following figures :—

	Number of Mills.	Number of Looms.	Number of Spindles.	Average Number of Hands Employed.
1884 - - - - -	21	6,139	112,650	47,868
1885 - - - - -	22	6,926	131,740	51,902
1886 - - - - -	24	6,936	126,064	47,640

The capital invested in these mills is held to be about 300 lakhs. The amount of jute worked up in the year 1886 is stated at 3,035,195 cwt., which is little more than the output of the previous year. The jute industry was throughout the twelve-month in a state of depression; and the production of gunnies in the jute mills was curtailed in order to reduce the glut of stock in the market.

Indigo.

The information as to indigo factories is very defective. There are a great number of these factories in Bengal and the North West Provinces, but none managed on the joint-stock principle, all being owned by individuals, singly or in partnership. Very many small factories in these provinces, as well as in Madras, are now owned and worked by natives. In the Punjab there are said to be 39 factories, and in Rajputana one. The actual yield in Bengal in 1884-85 is stated at 108,692 maunds, while that in 1885-86 is estimated at 130,000 maunds. The export of 1885-86 amounted to 76,109 cwt. (103,593 maunds), valued at Rs. 25,596,913. The exports are considerably less than in the previous year; but in consequence of the shortness of the crop the value per maund was higher. The cultivation of indigo in Madras somewhat declined, only 308,101 acres being under the crop in 1885-86, as compared with 329,146 in 1884-85.

Other manufac-
tories.

Among other works there are four woollen mills, with a nominal capital of 17 lakhs. Their outturn declined by about half in 1886. The paper mills, nine in number, five of which are in the Bombay Presidency, represent a nominal capital of Rs. 3,868,000, and are credited with a production valued at Rs. 1,779,954. The breweries are 24 in number, and have of late years much increased their production, till in 1885 it amounted to 3,150,342 gallons. Of this the Commissariat Department purchased 1,982,777 gallons. Nearly all the beer consumed by the troops in Northern India is Indian beer. The extent to which the imported article has been superseded in the year under review is indicated by the fact that imports of English beer fell off from 1,505,062 gallons in 1884-85 to 375,396 gallons in 1885-86, and that of the latter quantity the bulk was for Burma, Sindh, and Bombay, where breweries are not yet in operation. Other industries include 44 rice mills, of which 40 are in Lower Burma; 41 timber mills, of which 34 are in Lower Burma; 21 coffee works, all in Madras; and a number of flour mills, cotton and jute presses, and factories for lac, ice, catch, soap, sugar, tile, and rope. The most noticeable is the Rosa Sugar Factory at Shahjehanpur in the North Western Provinces, with a capital of 2½ lakhs and a yearly outturn of equal value. The Rajmehal Stone Quarry, with a similar capital and an outturn valued at Rs. 1,14,095, and the Raniganj Pottery Works, yielding Rs. 1,50,000 worth of produce a year, are also worthy of special notice. Art pottery and characteristic native ware are produced in Bombay and various parts of India, but the operations are nowhere on a large scale.

XIV.

EDUCATION AND LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

EDUCATIONAL organisation in India forms a continuous system, mounting up from the primary school to the university, the maximum standard of one grade of school, roughly speaking, reaching the minimum standard of that immediately above it. Local differences are still conspicuous in the various provinces, but since 1855 a greater degree of uniformity has been gradually introduced. The classification of educational institutions is now everywhere threefold: (1), departmental, being those which are entirely maintained by the Government; (2), aided and inspected, those which are supported by private enterprise, but which receive aid from the Government grant, and are inspected by officers of the Department; (3), extra-departmental, of which the Department has no cognisance. These last may either be privately supported institutions, which are independent of Government assistance, or indigenous schools not yet brought under the grant-in-aid system. The head of each Provincial Department is styled Director of Public Instruction. Subordinate to him are a staff of inspectors and teachers of various grades. The funds at the disposal of the Education Department fall under five heads: (1), the Imperial grant, being a portion of the assignment to the Local Governments, is expended on education, subject to definite regulations; (2), local cesses; (3), municipal assignments; (4), fees; and (5), subscriptions and donations. Broadly speaking, the main object of educational policy in India of late years has been the improvement and extension of elementary education.

EDUCATION.

Starting from the top of the educational organisation, *i.e.*, the universities, and working downwards, it will be easy to see how the different parts of the system are linked together. The Universities of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and the Punjab University, are purely examining bodies founded upon the model of the University of London. By means of their examinations they exercise a general control over the colleges which prepare students for degrees, and through them over the higher secondary schools which send up candidates for matriculation. Degrees are conferred by the universities in the four faculties of Arts, Law, Medicine, and Engineering. The colleges, which were originally independent of the universities, have now been affiliated to them, and may practically be regarded as their teaching branches. Admission to them is confined to those who have matriculated at the university, and the curriculum is adapted to the university examinations. Next come secondary schools, classified into: (1), high schools, which prepare for the matriculation examinations of the universities; (2), middle schools, which are subdivided again into middle-English, in which English is compulsory, and middle-vernacular, in which it is voluntary. Below these come primary schools, in which the standard varies from the preparatory requirements of secondary education down to the most elementary instruction. Supplementary to these are the professional or technical schools attached to primary and secondary education. The majority of these are normal schools for training masters and mistresses; but there are also industrial and engineering schools. It remains to mention the Oriental colleges, which are independent of the general system, in which the study of the Oriental classics according to Oriental methods is the main object.

In the following tables the total receipts and expenditure on education in India for the two years 1884-85 and 1885-86 are given, together with the total number of schools and scholars:—

RECEIPTS.

	Total (including Private Institutions)		Government Grants and Provincial Revenues.	Municipal Funds.	Local Rates and Cesses.	Fees and Fines.	Endowments, Subscriptions, and other Sources.	TOTAL.
	Schools.	Scholars.						
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ajmere - - -	149	7,771	40,413	7,170	6,201	4,160	8,153	66,097
Berar - - -	951	41,018	231,309	6,269	113,812	56,127	2,742	410,319
Coorg - - -	107	4,448	19,796	2,104	10,469	5,142	3,024	40,554
Bangalore - - -	127	6,210	38,296	-	55	32,060	44,956	115,367
Bengal - - -	57,533	1,358,029	2,990,059	78,410	6,174	2,238,190	1,334,837	7,047,670
Assam - - -	2,424	68,623	139,366	4,392	153,502	94,329	61,181	452,720
North West Provinces and Oudh.	13,301	334,192	586,809	74,584	1,346,287	260,355	640,151	2,917,186
Punjab - - -	14,315	268,874	695,667	154,184	490,876	191,410	348,749	1,880,886
Central Provinces -	1,854	104,000	350,623	56,465	174,670	56,276	118,940	756,974
Lower Burma - - -	5,412	158,932	273,718	343,523	106,291	88,324	137,873	949,729
Madras - - -	10,014	455,837	1,274,946	175,561	612,741	1,429,396	906,721	4,489,305
Bombay - - -	10,456	531,127	1,409,138	241,099	685,153	912,013	1,268,848	4,517,151
TOTAL for 1885-86	122,516	3,332,851	8,050,199	1,144,661	3,706,251	6,376,722	4,966,125	24,243,958
TOTAL for 1884-85	141,137	3,497,552	7,989,302	809,701	3,802,162	6,206,612	4,773,765	23,731,542

EXPENDITURE.

YEAR.	Universities.	Colleges.	Normal, Technical, and Special Schools.	Secondary Schools.	Primary.		Direction and Inspection.	Scholarships.	Buildings.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
					Boys.	Girls.					
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1884-85 -	212,943	2,055,174	1,398,220	7,359,404	7,210,398	857,929	1,877,896	562,602	1,414,697	703,875	23,553,138
1885-86 -	330,733	2,047,434	1,265,865	7,761,841	7,147,084	888,359	1,986,993	598,223	1,481,646	735,780	24,243,958

Ajmere Merwara. The progress of education in Ajmere Merwara in the year under review is shown in almost every respect. The increase in the number of pupils has been from 7,474 to 7,771, in income from Rs. 66,730 to Rs. 70,120, and in expenditure from Rs. 63,424 to Rs. 66,097.

Berar. The Hyderabad Assigned Districts were suffering from an unfavourable season in 1885-86. In consequence educational advance was checked. There was, however, a slight increase of one to the number of schools and of 1,291 to the number of scholars. Moreover, the standard of many schools hitherto private has been raised by bringing them into the class of aided schools, teaching the Government standards and passing under Government inspection. The educational income for the year was augmented by Rs. 20,000, of which about Rs. 6,000 came from additional contributions of municipalities. The expenditure rose from Rs. 373,715 to Rs. 389,392. The results of examinations during the year spoke well for the character of the education given.

Six new schools and 202 more pupils mark the creditable extent of progress in education in Coorg. About 15 per cent. of the whole male population of Coorg is under instruction in public or quasi-public schools; as the boys of school-going age cannot much exceed this proportion of the male population, it would seem that Coorg can boast of having all its boys at school. EDUCATION.
Coorg.

In Bangalore the education of girls advanced, judging from the increase of girl schools from 25 to 29, and of girl students from 1,297 to 1,506. Aided boys schools numbering 43 with 2,576 pupils showed no growth. The fact that fees contributed Rs. 32,960, and other private sources Rs. 27,099, out of a total expenditure of Rs. 88,773, shows that education is really valued at Bangalore. Bangalore.

The progress of the various kinds of schools in Bengal is illustrated in the next table:— Bengal.

	1884-85.		1885-86.	
	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS:				
Colleges - - - - -	25	2,779	26	2,908
Secondary Schools - - - - -	2,008	168,400	2,137	173,570
Primary Schools - - - - -	65,585	1,222,038	50,710	1,009,680
Special - - - - -	67	4,849	90	5,733
Female - - - - -	2,354	44,112	2,336	46,293
TOTAL Public Institutions - - -	70,129	1,442,841	55,299	1,328,280
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS:				
Advanced - - - - -	2,028	20,326	1,879	24,212
Elementary - - - - -	372	5,265	234	3,689
Other Schools not conforming to Departmental Standards - - - - -	112	1,748	121	1,848
TOTAL Private Institutions - - -	2,512	27,339	2,231	29,749
GRAND TOTAL - - -	72,641	1,470,180	57,533	1,358,029

The most striking feature of these returns is the reduction of primary schools and scholars under Government Institutions. The reason is that 15,108 of these schools with 112,151 scholars have been removed from the returns in consequence of a rule that has been adopted to the effect that no primary school should be recognised as eligible for rewards unless it had been in existence six months, could produce ten pupils and proper registers of attendance, and used printed books in its ordinary course. The object of this rule was to exclude the "bogus" schools as they were called in the last report, which used to come into existence at the time of the reward examinations only to disappear again immediately afterwards. In all other respects the returns show satisfactory progress, especially in English schools and the upper section of primary schools. The total expenditure on education decreased from Rs. 7,815,000 to Rs. 7,648,000, owing to the exclusion of the schools above referred to. The Government expenditure was less by Rs. 9,000. The total cost of secondary education, amounting to Rs. 2,501,000, is somewhat larger than that of primary education, but the Government grant is larger to the latter than to the former. The policy recommended by the Education Commission of handing over colleges to local authorities is being carried out. And now that district boards have been established under the Local Government scheme, Government have transferred to the boards the allotments for primary education and scholarships within the area under their control, as well as the grant-in-aid allotment for certain classes of schools, and the net grants to all Government schools under the direct management of the board. The education of Musulmans received careful attention; special scholarships were instituted awardable to Muhammadan students on the results of the university examinations.

EDUCATION.¹
Assam.

The year's increase in Assam is shown as 121 schools and 2,073 pupils. The results as regards Muhammadans were disappointing; the proportion of Muhammadan boys to the total number fell off from 16·79 per cent. to 15·56 per cent. In Sylhet especially this difficulty of getting these boys to attend the Government schools is great. Of 29 scholarships offered to enable students to pursue their collegiate education in Bengal, three have been specially set apart for Muhammadans. Another measure under consideration for popularising education among the Musulmans is the proposed abolition of maulies attached to high schools. They are apparently of little real use, and their abolition would permit a lowering of the fees for Muhammadan boys. Out of Rs. 452,720 spent on education in Assam in 1885-86, Rs. 139,366 were paid from provincial, and Rs. 153,502 from local funds. The assignments for primary and secondary education were almost equal, and constituted 87 per cent. of the total spent on instruction.

N. W. Provinces
and Oudh.

The educational advance of the North-West Provinces and Oudh in the year under review is to be found, not in the number of schools controlled and inspected by the State or of the pupils in them, which was almost the same as in the previous year, but in the improvement of the educational standard among the primary pupils, of whom a greater proportion had learned to read and write, and in the marked development of secondary education. Not only had the numbers so increased that all the accommodation was utilized, and the boarding houses crowded, mainly by self-supporting pupils, but the standard too, as shown by the proportion of pupils who had reached the upper classes or passed successful examinations, had everywhere risen. The stricter requirement of a certain fixed standard of educational qualification for the literate classes of the public service has clearly caused an augmentation of the number of candidates for the middle vernacular examinations. University education has also been more sought after, the number of undergraduates having risen from 383 to 448, and of students who passed the B.A. and other university examinations from 324 to 430. In the science course their success was specially marked. At the same time Sanskrit learning prospered at the college at Benares, judging from the growth of numbers. These facts again brought into prominence and into consideration the project for the constitution of a provincial university at Alláhahad. The Muir College building which was opened during the year by the Viceroy, is expected to afford provisional accommodation for the proposed university, for the establishment of which steps have been taken since the close of the year under review. There was a satisfactory increase of nearly 10 per cent. in the income derived from fees in these provinces; and though the expenditure on education increased from Rs. 2,792,605 to Rs. 2,917,186, the actual cost to the State was less than in the previous year by Rs. 56,670, as the contributions from other sources were more by Rs. 124,581. Another satisfactory feature in the educational administration of these Provinces is that the local boards, who have now the direct control of the State primary schools, are taking a stronger interest than they have hitherto done in this branch of their duties. A new code was provisionally introduced during the year for the regulation of European schools, by which grants-in-aid are to be proportioned to the number and proficiency of the scholars.

Punjab.

The Punjab is credited with 2,117 educational institutions and 137,286 scholars. An increase of 64 in the former and of 4,293 in the latter has taken place. The number of scholars and the quality of instruction in the primary schools show a particularly satisfactory progress. An analysis of the returns brings to light the fact that the number of Muhammadan scholars are increasing more rapidly than that of Hindus. There is certainly room for it, as the proportion of Hindu scholars to youths of a school-going age is more than double that which prevails in the case of Muhammadans. The Sikhs furnish a still larger proportion of their youth to the schools than even the Hindus. Female education, though still backward, is advancing. For the first time female candidates from the Punjab entered this year for the University examinations. The support given to the scheme for establishing a Punjab Chiefs' College is proof of the value set on education in the Punjab.

Central Provinces.

In Assam the total expenditure on education rose from Rs. 709,145 to Rs. 756,974, and the pupils at school were nearly 5,000 more than in the previous

previous year. Nearly three-quarters of the expenditure from public funds were devoted to primary education. The examination results are disappointing and do not show much progress. In accordance with the recommendation of the Education Commission primary scholarships were during the year thrown open to competition. Other changes of importance were the introduction of revised fee rules, which were well received, and at the same time resulted in increased collections, and the introduction and extension of new grant-in-aid rules for indigenous schools. EDUCATION.

The political disturbances had a prejudicial effect on advanced education in Burma, with the result that fewer candidates passed the Middle School examination. The High Schools were, however, more successful, and the secondary institutions, though less successful in examinations, increased in numbers from 50, with 6,532 pupils, to 70, with 8,881 pupils. Primary scholars at the same time increased from 137,504 to 156,066. The expenditure on education increased from Rs. 808,480 to Rs. 949,730, of which 22·34 per cent. were devoted to primary and 35·34 to secondary instruction. Provincial funds supplied 28·82 per cent., local funds 36·17 per cent., and municipal revenues 23·82 per cent. Good progress is reported in the matters of technical and female education. The educational history of the year was marked by the formation of the educational syndicate into a society under the Companies Act. The functions of the syndicate have been enlarged by a rule empowering them to take charge of any educational institution entrusted to them by the Chief Commissioner. Under this rule the Rangoon College and High School were, after the close of 1885-86, handed over to them, and the question of also handing over to them the Rangoon Municipal Schools was under consideration. Lower Burma.

The year 1885-86 saw the recommendations of the Education Commission largely adopted by the Madras Government. Indigenous schools are now visited, and help given to the masters to improve them; the curriculum of primary schools has been revised to include subjects of practical use; the more regular levy of school fees in Board schools has been provided for, coupled with a liberal system of scholarships; a system of night schools has been developed; Government primary and secondary schools have generally been transferred to the charge of district boards and municipal councils; the scholarship scheme has been revised, and scholarship grants instituted in aided colleges and high schools; and, lastly, liberal provision has been made in the new code for the development of Muhammadan and European education. A comparison of the numbers of schools and pupils in the two years 1884-85 and 1885-86 is given below:— Madras.

Classes of Institutions.	1884-85.		1885-86.	
	Schools.	Scholars.	Schools.	Scholars.
Government or Departmental Institutions.	141	8,574	143	8,908
Institutions under Local Bodies or Committees.	1,318	48,877	1,414	49,584
Aided Institutions - - - -	9,172	274,339	8,897	280,530
Unaided Institutions, including Private Schools.	4,956	99,061	5,560	110,815
TOTAL - - - -	15,587	430,851	16,014	455,837

From the totals for 1885-86 it appears that 17·3 per cent. of the male population of school-going age are at school, and that there is an average of about one school to every two towns or villages of more than 200 inhabitants. The whole expenditure on education was Rs. 4,489,305.

88 STATEMENT EXHIBITING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL

EDUCATION.
Bombay.

Notwithstanding the zeal for economy which affected the funds of the education as of other departments in Bombay, education made progress in the presidency as is illustrated by the following figures:—

Number of Colleges and Schools.	Average Monthly Number of Students on the Rolls throughout the Year.	
Institutions maintained by the Department - - - -	111	13,438
" " by Local Boards - - - -	4,057	211,958
" " by Municipal Boards - - - -	641	68,485
" " by Native States - - - -	1,763	96,451
" aided by the Department or by Local or Municipal Boards.	861	45,551
Unaided Schools - - - - -	40	4,004
Police Schools in British Districts - - - - -	19	1,102
GRAND TOTAL for 1885-86 - - - -	7,492	442,989
Corresponding Figures for 1884-85 - - - - -	6,726	412,914

To the figures for 1885-86 may also be added the number of "unrecognised" schools and scholars not included in the returns submitted direct to the Education Department, which would raise the total of 10,456 schools and 531,127 children; giving an average of one school to every 24 square miles of the Presidency, and 2.29 scholars to every 100 of the population.

The most important modification of the educational system in 1885-86 was the transfer of the primary and in some cases of the secondary schools within municipal limits to the charge of the several municipalities.

There was no falling off in the results of University examinations; and the Arts Colleges were in a very flourishing condition. A proposal to start an art college for Sind was well taken up and was on the way to being carried out. Technical education of every kind showed active progress. The high schools increased in numbers and attendance. The number of middle schools also increased by 24, and that of primary schools by 728, of which 43 were for girls. The municipalities which took up the charge of middle and primary schools displayed in many cases much energy and interest. The transfer of these schools to the municipalities set free considerable sums which were utilised in increasing the salaries of schoolmasters and in establishing new schools in rural districts education in the Native States is decidedly improving. The progress is most marked in Káthiáwár, the Mahi Kántha, Pálanpur, and Rewa Kántha agencies. The "unrecognised" schools include Vedic, Sanskrit, Mosque, and Mission schools, which are many of them in strong antipathy to the Educational Department. Some of them are itinerant schools following the nomadic pastoral tribes in Sind. The number of Muhammadans under instruction increased from 54,148 to 57,717. The children belonging to "the depressed castes" and wild tribes" who were at school also increased satisfactorily. Among these the schools conducted by missions were considered the most efficient. The young chiefs under education at Rajkot continued to make excellent progress, and at the Tálukdári and Sardárs' schools good work was done. A revision of the grant-in-aid code was framed and submitted to Government, but not finally decided upon before the close of the year. It was the outcome of a departmental conference following upon a series of conferences held at various centres at which not only inspectors and teachers in Government schools, but also managers of private schools were invited to attend.

The

The literary activity of Berar was very limited. Four newspapers, two periodicals, and a few educational books make up the whole results of the year.

LITERATURE AND
THE PRESS.

In Bengal and Assam 10 English and 63 vernacular newspapers were published. Of these, 41 were Bengali papers. Twelve new vernacular papers are reported to have come into existence during the year, and 17 to have ceased to be published. Most of the papers have a limited circulation of less than 1,000 copies; the Calcutta "Bangabási," however, is said to circulate as many as 20,000 copies. The tone of the Calcutta papers, which more and more set the fashion of criticism to the up-country local papers, is not satisfactory. Not merely is it antagonistic to the legislative and administrative action of Government, but in its antagonism it exceeds the limits of temperate and reasonable discussion. The editors and writers are described generally as disappointed placemen, or schoolboys trained to mistake insubordination for independence. They are, nevertheless, credited with a powerful influence for mischief, in that they are said to exert a terrorism over native officials, so deterring them from the effective discharge of their duties. The rancour with which they attack the European community certainly lays them under the charge of a deliberate intention to keep alive race differences.

Berar.
Bengal.

The Calcutta Library received 2,731 books published in 1885, of which 317 were in English. Among the books of interest were memoirs of Keshab Chandra Sen, the Brahmo leader, and Babu Akshaya Kumar, one of the framers of the Bengali language and literature; the *Nanah Prakash*, which is an exposition of Sikh doctrines; works of fiction by Babu Sanjib Chandra Chatterji and other Bengali novelists, and a number of works on castes, religion, and philosophy. There were also several books of travel published, including descriptions of visits to England and to English colonies.

Fourteen publications were registered in Assam, none of which merit special notice. One of the two newspapers in Assam was discontinued in 1885, having failed for want of support. The surviving paper unfortunately follows the fashion of the reckless Bengali periodicals.

Assam.

The number of publications registered in the North West Provinces and Oudh shows a steady increase over a period of years. In 1885 it was 1,290, the highest yet recorded. Hindi, Urdu, and Persian were the languages mostly used. About half the books were occupied with religion and language, but the groups assigned to poetry, science, history, law, philosophy, and medicine were also considerable. Of newspapers there were in these provinces just 100 in 1885; 21 of these had started within the year, and 16 had ceased to be published before its close. Far the larger number were in Urdu. The articles, particularly those attacking Europeans, and principally the covenanted Civil Service, were, it is said, often characterised by unconscious exaggeration, and an undeveloped sense of responsibility, which incapacitated the majority of native writers from taking a calm and temperate view of questions in which race or religion were involved. It is to be noticed, however, that in the treatment of social questions, such as the re-marriage of widows, or the prohibition to travel beyond the seas for education, the vernacular press was markedly in advance of the general public; and that in them education, vaccination, and public morals found support. Occasionally, too, municipal affairs have been usefully and intelligently reviewed. Articles on the Central Asian question showed a decided preference for English to Russian rule, and advocated an alliance with Turkey. The war with Burma, except at the outset, and the Copyright Bill, and the administration of the license tax were generally condemned.

N. W. Provinces
and Oudh.

The publications in the Punjab in 1885 numbered 1,566, or 31 more than in 1884. They were in 11 different languages, rather more than half being in Urdu, and more than half the remainder in Hindi and Punjabi. Poetry, religion, language, and miscellaneous are the largest groups according to subject. There were 61 vernacular papers in the province, six of which came to an end in 1885, and 17 came into existence in the same year. Only one of the papers has a circulation of over 1,000.

Punjab.

None of the 10 works published in the year in the Central Provinces is of importance.

Central Provinces.

The publications registered in Burma show a falling off in numbers from 234 in 1883 to 176 in 1884, and 68 in 1885. The war and depression of trade hardly

Burma.

LITERATURE AND
THE PRESS.

account sufficiently for this large decrease. Too many presses were undoubtedly opened in 1882 and 1883, with the result of over-production followed by stagnation. Of the 68 publications of the year, 26 were of a merely educational character; of the rest, the most interesting were an essay "on the sources and development of Burmese law," and the publication of a portion of the text of the *Vinaya Pitakat*, furnished with a Burmese key. A valuable report on the antiquities of the province by the Government Archæologist was also being printed at the close of the year. Sixteen newspapers of little importance and six monthly journals were also in circulation in the province.

Madras.

The list of publications registered in Madras in 1885 includes 753 books and 119 periodicals; 214 were educational works, and 417 treated of religion. One of the books published was in the Badaga dialect, and was remarkable as the first ever published in that language. Copyright was resorted to for 172 books. It is complained, however, that pirated editions of registered books, especially of Government school books, are brought out with impunity in the French settlement of Karikal for sale in the Madras Presidency.

Bombay.

The works registered for publication in Bombay in 1885-86 consisted of 1,527 books and 486 periodicals. Works of drama and fiction were the most common among the native publications. Many of the dramas or farces were written with definite objects. A number were occupied with the subject of child-marriages, and other social questions, on which discussion had been excited, mainly by the works of Mr. Malabari and other well-known reformers of Hindu society. Of newspapers there were 104 in existence in the Presidency at the end of 1885-86, showing an increase of 11 within the year. They were mostly written in Maráthi, Gujaráti, Kanarese, and Sindhi. Only five have a circulation of over 1,000. The tone of the vernacular papers, though occasionally unwise and violent, was fairly moderate and unobjectionable. The subjects engaging the strongest interest were the introduction of the revision Survey Settlements, and the administration of the Forest and Abkári Departments, which met with sharp criticism; the annexation of Burma, which was generally condemned; and the limit of age in the competition for the covenanted Civil Service, against which complaints were reiterated. Attention was also paid to the usual grievances respecting the maintenance of a Christian church, the extravagance of British administration, the exclusion of natives from high posts, and the extent and abuse of the power of political agents in native states. The poor accommodation for third-class railway passengers also caused much complaint, and the working of the local self-government schemes was anxiously watched.

XV.

MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

THE year was one of great importance in the development of local self-government in India. The progress made varied in the various provinces, and is described in the following sections. The municipal constitution of towns, and the newly-instituted local bodies for country districts, are generally treated separately. The following table gives the particulars of the population, income, and expenditure of the town municipalities in the several provinces. The revenue has somewhat increased, while expenditure has been largely reduced.

MUNICIPALITIES IN INDIA, 1885-86 (including Presidency Towns).

	India.	Bengal.	Assam.	North West Provinces and Oudh.	Punjab.	Central Provinces.	British Burma.	Madras.	Bombay, including Sindh.	TOTAL.
Number of municipalities	16	134	13	108	201	58	13	48	101	749
Population within municipal limits.	No. 268,205	No. 3,312,544	No. 67,696	No. 3,175,951	No. 2,141,998	No. 690,426	No. 341,683	No. 1,729,818	No. 2,672,250	No. 14,400,571
RECEIPTS (excluding Balances and Loans).										
From taxation, in tens of rupees	21,182	460,583	5,634	203,015	246,988	60,435	72,608	173,751	621,083	1,866,169
From other sources, in tens of rupees	7,736	123,361	6,449	65,415	50,462	29,373	121,874	76,849	124,483	606,022
TOTAL Income, in tens of rupees	28,918	583,944	12,083	268,430	297,450	89,808	194,482	250,600	745,566	2,472,191
Incidence of taxation per head of population.	Rs. 0.78	Rs. 1.39	Rs. 0.83	Rs. 0.64	Rs. 1.15	Rs. 0.87	Rs. 2.12	Rs. 1.00	Rs. 2.32	Rs. 1.29
Incidence of income per head of population.	1.07	1.76	1.76	0.84	1.38	1.30	5.69	1.45	2.79	1.71
TOTAL Expenditure, in tens of rupees	31,703	907,564	13,103	273,816	294,154	93,700	229,800	295,720	1,366,254	3,503,814

Ajmere, Beawar, and Kekri are the three municipalities in this administration. Ajmere-Merwara. Ajmere completed its new conservancy scheme, which so far was working satisfactorily. Its completion had led to a reduction of establishment, and so of charges. New municipal regulations were being considered at the close of the year, and meanwhile the old committee, under an extended term of office, continued their efficient administration. The municipal arrangements of Beawar and Kekri are also well reported on.

As in 1884-85 the number of the Berar municipalities was seven. Berar. The elective system was in force in only Amraoti and Khamgaon; it has also been introduced in Akola. Further changes in municipal constitution are to be brought in by the new Berar Municipal Law. The financial condition of the municipalities, with an income of Rs. 144,656, an expenditure of Rs. 134,393, and a closing balance of Rs. 55,083, may be considered very sound. The working of the municipal system was on the whole satisfactory. The principal undertakings of the town councils were systems of waterworks at Amraoti and Khamgaon, which were opened during the year and were much appreciated.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Coorg.

Coorg contained five municipalities in 1885-86, having an income of Rs. 21,041, and an expenditure of Rs. 21,862. Their balance was accordingly reduced to Rs. 4,677. The diminution of receipts is attributed to larger outstanding arrears.

Bangalore.

The municipal administration of Bangalore is, on the whole, well reported on. The attendance of non-official members, though generally regular, still leaves room for improvement. The introduction of certain sections of the Madras Municipal Act of 1884, with modifications for the regulation of the Bangalore municipality, is in contemplation, a draft Act with this object having been framed. The year's expenditure was Rs. 175,598, or somewhat in excess of the receipts, which amounted to Rs. 164,577.

Calcutta.

The chief event of the year in connection with the Calcutta municipality was the fourth general election of commissioners, held in December 1885. A decline in the number of voters since 1882 is attributed to more rigid scrutiny in the examination of claims. The business of the municipality was carried on without friction, and many sanitary improvements were executed. The reclamation and improvement of *bastis* occupied special attention; the most urgent cases were disposed of. No less than 36 tanks were filled up or emptied with a view to reclamation. The sites of two of them are to be converted into a public recreation ground. At the same time 47 bathing platforms were completed for use, and had before the close of the year become exceedingly popular; 37 more were under construction or projected. The extended water supply provides or will provide the necessary water for most of these. The loan liability of the commissioners, which stood at the beginning of the year at Rs. 14,609,013, had risen by the end of the year to Rs. 15,641,972. A new debenture loan of Rs. 2,500,000 had to be contracted, partly for paying off old debts, and partly for the extension of water supply and drainage works. The year's income of the municipality was Rs. 2,777,883, and the expenditure Rs. 2,965,314. The deficit was mainly on account of water supply, and was to be met by an augmentation of the water rate from 3½ to 5 per cent. Before the close of the year a project was put forward, in a Bill introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council, to amalgamate the urban parts of the suburbs of Calcutta with the town. The need for some such measure had been shown by the constant complaints as to the insanitary condition of the suburbs, a thorough remedy for which could not be expected until all parts of the town should be united under one system of municipal government. The Bill proposes important alterations in the constitution of the municipality.

Bengal
Presidency.

The other municipalities in Bengal, of which there were 133 in 1885-86, carried on their work satisfactorily under the provisions of the Municipal Act of 1884. The elected commissioners are reported to have taken much interest in the affairs of their respective municipalities. The elective system has undoubtedly proved a success. The population within the limits of these municipalities numbered 2,627,886, and were represented by 1,995 commissioners, of whom 1,088 were elected, the rest nominated. Out of the total 323 were Government officials, and 202 were Europeans. The income at the disposal of the commissioners was Rs. 2,632,864. Their expenditure, however, exceeded this sum by Rs. 1,02,815. The year ended with a balance at their credit of Rs. 498,490.

An Act to extend the system of local self-government in Bengal was passed by the Legislative Council of the province in April 1885, and received the assent of the Governor General in July of the same year. The previously existing district board and school committees had very little power, and were subject to a great deal of State control. In consequence men of education and ability, though willing to participate in public business, were not attracted to them; and scant relief in administration was afforded to the officials of Government. The new Act is intended to remedy this defect; by it district boards are established in every district, and local boards in most subdivisions of districts. The local boards are to consist of not fewer than six members, of whom it is tentatively provided that in certain mentioned districts two-thirds shall be elected. The elective system may be extended to other districts by order of the Lieutenant Governor. The district boards are to have not less than nine members, of whom one-half are to be elected by the local boards. To the district and local boards the Act has entrusted extensive powers and duties

duties in regard to the construction and maintenance of roads and communications, of tramways, railways, waterworks, and public buildings. They are also to attend to the hospitals and dispensaries of their localities, and to take in hand sanitation, vaccination, famine relief, the arrangements for fairs, and other matters of public interest and utility. They are likewise to have the maintenance and management of all primary and middle schools under public management within their respective jurisdictions, and are to distribute the grants-in-aid among private institutions for the promotion of primary education. Considerable time was occupied in making arrangements and framing rules. And the Act could not accordingly be brought into operation before the close of the year under review.

MUNICIPALITIES.

There was no important change during 1885-86 in the municipal administration of Assam. It continued to have only five municipalities proper together with three stations and five unions; and these were all constituted under the old Bengal Act of 1876. The income and expenditure of these 13 municipalities, amounting respectively to Rs. 122,699 and Rs. 132,476, were both larger than in the previous year. This is partly accounted for by the fact that the Gauhati steam ferry was transferred back again from the local board to the municipality, and partly to the fact that unexpended balances in the different municipalities were largely used up for the execution of sanitary improvements. There was an increased expenditure also on education and vaccination. The year closed with a balance to the credit of the municipalities of Rs. 22,858, having opened with a balance of Rs. 32,625. A scheme for providing the Sylhet municipality with a pure water supply is the most important municipal work in progress.

Assam.

The number of municipalities in the North West Provinces and Oudh was 108, the same as in 1884-85. They were mostly constituted under Act XV. of 1883, except that six were altogether under the provisions of the old Act of 1873, five others were excluded from the new rules for the election of boards, and six of the larger towns continued to have their chairmen nominated by Government.

N. W. Provinces and Oudh.

The work of the municipal board during the year was efficient and satisfactory. Important schemes of sanitation and conservancy were undertaken in various towns; and generally the intelligence and public spirit of the non-official members earned the repeated acknowledgments of Government. The constituencies too continue to show an intelligent interest in the selection of their representatives to fill the vacancies caused by retirements on rotation. One-fourth of the 50,000 electors took part in the voting. Polls were held in all the larger and many of the smaller municipalities.

The income which the municipal boards had at their disposal amounted to Rs. 2,695,000, of which octroi duties produced Rs. 1,707,145, and other taxation Rs. 332,005. The system of octroi taxation at present in vogue requires all dutiable goods passing the barriers to pay the tax, but allows a refund of the tax on application for all goods that are again conveyed beyond municipal limits. The principles of municipal taxation approved by the Government of India which forbid the taxation of goods in transit seem to be infringed to some extent by the present municipal taxes, for a careful investigation of the facts by the Director of Agriculture and Commerce shows that the municipal revenue from octroi still exceeds what might legitimately be expected from the average consumption of goods by the inhabitants of the town, yet, as there is no doubt that octroi is the form of taxation the vast majority prefer, the object of reform should be to prevent the evils to which the system of octroi now gives rise. It has accordingly been recommended that the imports, at least, of the more important articles as wheat, cotton, seed, sugar, and tobacco, should be brought untaxed to a broker's warehouse, and that the goods purchased there by local dealers for sale in the town should be taxed, but not those purchased by wholesale traders, presumably for export. The wholesale dealers should at the same time be forbidden to engage in retail trade. A trial has been given to these proposals, but without much success except in a few towns. The inquiry, however, has had a decidedly useful effect in improving octroi administration.

The new scheme of local self-government in country districts came into operation for the first time at the beginning of 1885-86. The first elections under Act XIV. of 1883 were held in the early months of 1885. Under the previously existing Acts of 1878 the district was the unit of local administration.

MUNICIPALITIES.

tion, and the entire committee was appointed by the Government. The object of the Act of 1883 was to constitute the committee on a more independent basis and to extend their functions. By it boards have been established in every *tahsil* subdivision, while the district board is ordinarily made up out of these local boards. Of these *tahsil* boards, consisting variously of 6, 9, or 12 representatives, Government reserves to itself a right of electing not more than one-fourth of the members. The rest are chosen by an electoral body varying in numbers according to circumstances between 25 and 100, and appointed by Government. Ordinarily the Government appoints directly only one member to the board, usually the *tahsildar*. The Act leaves the sub-divisional boards to elect their own chairmen; the district boards have, however, the alternative of choosing their own chairmen at a special meeting or of leaving the appointment to be made by Government. As a matter of fact, all boards have preferred the latter alternative, and the district magistrate has in each case been appointed chairman of the board. It is certainly convenient that for some time to come the executive head of the district should preside at the central board. By the new Act the powers and jurisdictions of the new boards have been much extended and defined, while the control of Government has been limited and subjected to definite forms of procedure. The boards are thus no longer mere local agencies of the Government, but are enabled to establish for themselves a position of independent influence and practical importance. As yet, however, one main element of financial independence is wanting to them in that they have not received the power of raising special income. In present circumstances it was unadvisable to require the boards to levy fresh taxation, and it was accordingly decided merely to assign to the boards from the provincial treasury a fixed share of the land revenue about Rs. 4,000,000, the Government, as a matter of convenience, undertaking to collect it with the rest of the revenue. The new system promises to be a great gain to Government in enlisting more and more of local support and local vigilance for the management of local funds, for the improvement of schools, the extension of communications, and the establishment of medical relief and sanitation. It will, it is hoped, gradually transfer all such duties to the persons who by their position, influence, and public spirit may be found best qualified to undertake the administration of local interests and institutions. The work of the boards in this their first year of activity is an earnest of success. They have disposed satisfactorily of much important business, and have in most cases taken a reasonable and sensible view of their position, power, and duties, and have done their best to justify their creation. The first elections under the Act which took place in February and March 1885 testify to the interest taken generally in the scheme of local self-government. The registered electors numbered 13,080 for the 206 boards that were constituted or 63 to each board. Of these, 9,418, or 72 per cent., recorded their votes at the first election. The elected members numbered 1,335, in addition to whom Government appointed 228 members. It thus appeared that the Government appointed only 14·7 per cent. of the members on the boards.

In addition to the municipalities and the local boards there were 338 towns administered under the *Chaukidari Act* of 1856. The total number of houses assessed in these towns was 198,084, out of a total of 372,966. The tax realised Rs. 305,029 from a population of 1,671,216. Their total expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 335,992, and a balance remained at the credit of the towns at the end of the year of Rs. 61,965.

Punjab.

At the close of 1885-86 the municipalities of the Punjab numbered 201, but shortly after its close 41 small towns, which are mere agricultural villages, were deprived of their municipal constitutions. But as the *District Boards Act* provides for the inclusion of these villages in a general system of local administration, no risk of retrogression in sanitary and other matters is run. The number of towns that retained a regular municipal administration was thus 160, of which 106 were before the close of the year in enjoyment of constitutions under *Act XIII.* of 1884. To the majority of the remainder the Act was also about to be extended. The elective system holds in all except 45 municipalities. The district high schools have been converted into municipal schools, and the municipalities have also been charged with the responsibility for ferries, cattle pounds, and other petty public matters. The income and expenditure connected with these services have at the same time been transferred from the provincial

to the local accounts. The total income, excluding loans, of municipalities was *Rs.* 2,968,267, of which *Rs.* 52,357,48 came from octroi. Their expenditure amounted to *Rs.* 2,936,553. MUNICIPALITIES.

Progress was made as regards the local self-government of districts. Twenty-five out of 31 districts in the province had before the close of the year been brought under the operation of the Punjab District Boards Act of 1883. In 18 districts subordinate local boards, mostly co-extensive with the *tahsils*, had also been constituted. As each district has issued a different set of rules for the election of the boards and kindred matters, there is an objectionable variety. Efforts are, however, being made to systematize the administration of all the boards in all matters of procedure not affected by local circumstances. The boards were invested during the year with the management and financial control of ferries, cattle pounds, rest-houses, &c., hitherto managed by the provincial governments. The income administered by the boards in the year was *Rs.* 2,157,232, and the expenditure *Rs.* 2,305,544.

In the Central Provinces there were, at the close of 1884-85, 58 Municipalities in existence constituted under Act XI. of 1873. The number of members on the committees was 694, of whom 488 were elected, 121 *ex officio* and 85 nominated. The principle of election was extended during the year, with the result of diminishing the proportion of European and official members. The wisdom of withdrawing official control was generally proved by the growth of a more energetic and enlightened public spirit than had hitherto existed. The year was not very favourable to the revenues of the municipalities which declined from *Rs.* 774,562 in 1883-84 to *Rs.* 774,135 in 1884-85. The receipts from octroi, which in the previous year had risen by *Rs.* 50,000, declined again by *Rs.* 40,000, in consequence of the year being unpropitious for Hindu marriages. The total expenditure of the Municipalities, viz., *Rs.* 1,009,578, exceeded the income by about *Rs.* 47,000. The revision of octroi taxation has been taken in hand. Central Provinces.

The position and work of the reformed municipal committees, and of the District Councils and Local Boards in this Province, though of a mixed character, have supplied during the two years of their existence on the whole considerable ground for congratulation and encouragement. In the promotion of education the local bodies have been specially successful. The Inspector General of Education considers the work of District Councils, and in a less degree that of Local Boards, to have been, generally speaking, good. In the administration of dispensaries they have also, as a rule, rendered good service. In sanitary matters, though some of the bodies required to be reminded of their duties, advice has been well received. More activity is also required in the matter of local works. The necessity for personal supervision of work and personal control of expenditure by members also requires to be constantly insisted on, if the objects of the Government policy are to be obtained. The local officers have been urged by the Chief Commissioner to afford to the local bodies all possible assistance and encouragement. Frank and courteous advice and kindly and prompt acknowledgement of good service rendered is likely to make the work of the members of these bodies more pleasant. Though all the new members are not possessed of sufficient public spirit, leisure, and capacity, it is encouraging to find that the new system has brought to the front a number of singularly good men.

In Lower Burma the population were considered averse to local self-government, but gradually a more enlightened feeling on the subject has been created. There were 13 Municipalities established at the close of the year, as compared with 10 at the beginning. There were besides 19 towns, the affairs of which were administered by Town Committees. The financial condition of the Municipal and Town Committees was generally sound. The 13 Municipalities closed the year with an aggregate balance of *Rs.* 270,000, and the 19 towns with a total balance of *Rs.* 119,000. Of the whole municipal revenues, amounting to *Rs.* 2,133,160, *Rs.* 674,710 were derived from the taxes, of which the most productive was a tax on houses. The sources of income were the same as in previous years. The concession, however, which had previously been made in only eleven larger municipalities, viz., that the receipts derived from capitation collected in the towns should form part of the revenues of the municipality, was extended to all municipalities. The expenditure of the municipalities was devoted mainly to the promotion of education, to medical relief, Lower Burma.

MUNICIPALITIES.

relief, vaccination, conservancy, and public works. The percentage borne by expenditure on education to total expenditure increased from 9·7 per cent. in 1884-85 to 11·9 in 1885-86. Rangoon, Akyab, Bassein, and Henzada were especially prominent in their zeal for education. The principal municipal works undertaken during the year was a scheme, likely to cost Rs. 2,300,000, of surface drainage in Rangoon, and a project for the gradual reclamation of low-lying land near the same town to meet the requirements for house room of its rapidly increasing population. The funds of the 19 Town Committees have also been largely devoted to education, medical relief, and public works. The functions and powers of these committees, which were the same as in former years, were exercised in a satisfactory manner in the supervision of their local affairs.

Madras City.

The Madras Municipality borrowed a further sum of 3 lakhs, mostly at 6 per cent., to continue the Black Town Drainage Works, for which four lakhs had already been borrowed. Half of the additional amount raised was expended within the year. The scheme for the improvement of the water supply engrossed much attention. The restoration of the Red Hills Tank was not completed till November 1885, previous to which date the city was rather short of water, as the supply had to be pumped up to the mouth of the delivery channel. Satisfactory work appears to have been done in regard to communications, hospitals, vaccination, conservancy, and other public matters. The revenue of the year, exclusive of balances and loans, was Rs. 977,033; the total expenditure including that from borrowed funds, Rs. 1,143,253. The Municipal Debt now amounts to 24 lakhs.

Madras Presidency.

The District Municipalities Act (IV. of 1885), which superseded the towns Improvement Act of 1871 came into force on the 1st of April 1885. The constitutions of the municipalities were thus changed. By the new system there is only one *ex-officio* member, viz.: the Revenue Divisional Officer; only one-fourth of the total strength of the Council, of which the minimum limit is fixed at 12, are official members. Nine new municipalities were constituted during the year, but had not begun to work before its close. The number of municipalities actually working thus continued to be 47. The number of municipal councillors was 813, of whom 47 were *ex officio*, and 469 nominated, the remaining 297 having been elected. The elective system is in force in 31 towns, four more than in the previous year. Of the councillors, 205 were officials and 177 Europeans and Eurasians. Both these classes of members show a large diminution in favour of private individuals and natives. The total income of the municipalities amounted to Rs. 1,572,763, of which they spent Rs. 1,503,101. Various improvements in regard to water supply and conservancy were carried out during the year, the allotments for sanitary purposes amounting to Rs. 591,071; the most important water supply scheme undertaken was at Cuddalore. Good work was done by the councils in the matter of education.

On the 1st April 1885 also came into force the Madras District Boards Act (V. of 1884), which superseded the Madras Local Funds Act of 1871. The principal changes effected were similar to those brought about in the municipalities by the District Municipalities Act, in that the proportion of official members on the boards was reduced to one-fourth, that the Revenue divisional officers were made the sole *ex-officio* members, and that provision was made for the election of non-official members. In addition, subordinate divisional or Taluk Boards were constituted, and under these again were created "Unions," consisting of one or more villages administered by a Panchayet or Council. Steps were taken during the year for the formation of these Taluk Boards and Panchayets in 16 districts; but the local bodies did not commence to work till after the close of the year. In the hands of the district boards, education showed steady and satisfactory progress. The local board dispensaries also grew in number and popularity, and sanitation and vaccination made improvement. The revenue of the Board amounted during the year to Rs. 6,304,187, and their expenditure to Rs. 5,841,742, and their balance increased to over 20½ lakhs.

Bombay City.

The year 1885-86 was an important one for the Bombay Municipality. Not only was much activity shewn in the construction of roads and of large drainage works, both for storm water and sewerage, and in the improvement of the existing water supply from the Tulsi and Velhar lakes, by constructing new catch-water channels and mains and by raising the heights of the dams, but the

the far larger project of obtaining a new water supply from the Tansa was finally adopted and the works commenced. This project which is to cost 123 lakhs of rupees proposes to build a dam, at first 109 and subsequently 133 feet above the river bed, across the river Tansa at a point 53½ miles from Bombay. A lake of eight square miles will thus be formed, which, having a catchment area of 52 square miles, with an annual rainfall in excess of 100 inches, would be able to supply Bombay throughout the dry season with 100 million gallons of water a day. Tunnels, conduits, and pipes capable of delivering 33 million gallons daily in Bombay will be laid down. This supply with the existing Tulsi and Vebar lakes will be more than ample to meet all the needs of a growing population. The project will take seven years to complete. The total amount spent by the municipality on all kinds of public works was, speaking roughly, 26½ lakhs of rupees. The expenditure of the year was about Rs. 39,77,000, and, as the income was Rs. 43,84,000, there was a considerable surplus. Exclusive of deposits the total balance of the year was Rs. 15,62,410, of which, however, half represented lapsed grants since renewed on account of incomplete works or undischarged liabilities. The demand of property rates was largely increased during the year by an increase in valuation. The public health in Bombay was generally fair.

The number of the other municipalities in the Presidency was reduced to 160 by the abolition of two unimportant ones. The elective system was introduced only into the larger and more advanced municipalities; of which few are in Sind. Of the total number of commissioners, viz. 2,333, 893 were elected. The incidence of municipal taxation varied from Rs. 1. 13. per head of population in municipal towns in Sind to 12 *a.* in the Southern Division, where the municipalities are generally poor. The receipts from octroi taxation amounted to Rs. 14,75,056, and the total income, including balances available by the municipalities amounted to Rs. 43,10,969, of which they spent within the year Rs. 31,86,147. The danger of octroi taxation degenerating into a transit duty requires the urgent attention of all the municipalities except those in Sind, where the refund system seems to have been well worked. The municipalities earned a fair measure of praise in the management of the primary and secondary schools which were transferred to their care. In some of the smaller municipalities difficulty was felt in meeting the expense occasioned by the transfer. The energy displayed by the elected commissioners in their new duties seems to have been uneven. In the Central Division a want of vigour was observed; but generally they performed their duties with zeal and industry and with good feeling and intelligence. Caution was exercised by all the newly constituted municipalities in preferring to wait and husband their resources before committing themselves to any expensive schemes of public works. No important alteration in their schemes of taxation was made within the year.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Bombay Presidency.

XVI.

EMIGRATION AND MIGRATION.

EMIGRATION.
Bengal.

THE statistics for emigration are, in future, to be calculated for the calendar year. The returns for the year under review accordingly refer to only nine months, from 1st April to 31st December 1885. A comparison of these figures for these nine months with those for the previous financial year are now given:—

	1884-85.				1st April to 31st December 1885.			
	Under Requisition.	Dispatched.	In Excess of Requisition.	Short of Requisition.	Under Requisition.	Dispatched.	In Excess of Requisition.	Short of Requisition.
Demerara - - -	7,000	2,288½	- -	1,711½	3,500	3,362	- -	148
Trinidad - - -	3,060	1,941½	- -	1,118½	1,500	1,479	- -	21
Jamaica - - -	600	539	- -	60½	-	-	-	-
St. Lucia - - -	825	829	4	-	-	-	-	-
Grenada - - -	164	165	1	-	-	-	-	-
Natal - - -	3,468	1,184½	- -	2,303½	-	-	-	-
Fiji - - -	1,200	2,074	874	-	1,430	500	- -	930
Mauritius - - -	602	1,348½	1,348½	-	-	-	-	-
Surinam - - -	1,350	1,535½	185½	-	-	-	-	-
Guadeloupe - - -	450	461½	11½	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL - - -	18,639	15,867½	2,422½	5,794	6,430	5,884	- -	1,099

Seven out of 10 colonies which had indented in the previous year for coolies sent no requisition in the nine months under review. Fiji alone required a larger number. The falling off in the requisitions from an average in the last four years of 14,734 to 6,430 in the nine months of 1885 is attributed generally to the depression of the sugar industry; in Jamaica the introduction of representative legislation contributed to the result. Of the 5,884 who actually emigrated, 418 were return emigrants, most of whom had already been to British Guiana, Trinidad, and Surinam. Of the total, 3,512 were men, 1,560 women, and 822 children. The majority came from the lower provinces of Bengal, in which there was some distress, instead of, as in former years, from the North West Provinces. Not less than 4,077 emigrants returned from the various colonies, with savings amounting to 4½ lakhs of rupees. The savings of the British Guiana emigrants averaged Rs. 250 each. Guadeloupe does not seem to be a country for Indian coolies to thrive in. In one voyage from that colony 9·87 per cent. of the returning emigrants died, and the cause of this and similar previous voyages from the same colony is stated to be the feeble health of the passengers. The new Act (XXI. of 1883) relating to colonial emigration did not come into force before the close of the year. The delay was caused by a prolonged consultation on the subject of certain rules with the agents of the various Colonial Governments.

Madras.

As in the case of Bengal, the emigration returns under review are for the nine months ended the 31st December 1885. During this period 46,053 emigrants were registered, as compared with 55,427 in the previous 12 months. Ceylon took 35,670, coming wholly from the southern districts of Madras and Tinnevely, 1,684 went to the Straits Settlements, and 1,083 to British Guiana, in

in both cases nearly half as many again as in 1884-85, while the remaining 7,616 only proceeded to Burma. Mauritius and Natal ceased to draw Indian emigrants owing to the depression in the sugar industries. The returned emigrants during the nine months of 1885 numbered 39,673, as compared with 57,548 in 1884-85. EMIGRATION.

The recruitment of labourers in Bengal for employment on the tea-gardens in Assam was carried on in 1885 by 147 recruiters under five contractors, and by 1,743 garden sardárs certificated under the Act. The former registered 4,398 emigrants and dependents; the latter, 12,006. The recruited emigrants thus numbered 16,404, as compared with 31,286 in the previous year. The system of "free" or assisted emigration, under which emigrants are not registered, is being greatly developed in preference to the recruiting method. The total number of labourers who entered Assam, mainly from the Hazáribágh, Bírbbhúm, Bánburá, and the Santal Parganas districts of Bengal, declined from the high figure of 45,511 in the previous year to 29,398 in 1885. The reason was that in 1884 there was scarcity in the districts of Bengal and the North West Provinces, from which the coolies are mainly recruited, while the tea trade in Assam was specially buoyant. In 1885 these conditions were much altered in a way unfavourable to immigration. The total labour force in Assam at the close of the year is stated at 291,608, of whom 157,284 were in the Assam Valley and 134,324 in the Surma Valley. It is satisfactory to learn that the mortality among the coolie immigrants during transit was much diminished. This was partly due, in the case of labourers going to the Assam Valley, to the employment of the steamers of the daily mail service, which offer far more healthy accommodation than the country boats. An accelerated steamer service of a similar kind has, since the close of the year, been established on the Surma Valley route, and it is to be earnestly hoped that all immigrants will avail themselves of the new steamers. It is also satisfactory to find that fewer offences were committed by the immigrants, both under the Penal Code and under the Labour Acts. Inspection, too, appears to have been carried out efficiently, only 30 out of the 742 gardens requiring inspection having remained unvisited. There was, moreover, a very satisfactory diminution in the death rate among labourers on the gardens from 43·2 and 41·3 per mille in the two previous years to 36·8 per mille in 1885. The number of unhealthy gardens, with a death rate exceeding 70 per mille, at the same time declined from 69 and 93 in the two previous years to 42 in 1885. The improvement in the death rate is mainly attributable to the absence of cholera. The question of appointing a committee to sit upon the most unhealthy of the gardens was under consideration. There seem to be some managers who take no steps to remedy defects in the gardens which are pointed out to them, and a prohibition against the employment of coolies imported under the Act upon any particular garden does not prevent the employment therein of any number of non-Act labourers. MIGRATION.
From Bengal to
Assam.

Lower Burma yearly receives from Madras and other ports a crowd of immigrants, principally natives of India, who come and work during the busy months in the large ports of Burma, and mostly return at the end of the season to their homes. Those who thus came to Rangoon and Moulmein in 1885 numbered over 56,000, of whom less than 51,000 returned back to India. The year's gain to the province would thus appear to exceed 5,000. The majority of such settlers find employment in the large towns. From Madras to
Burma.

The migration of labourers during during harvest-time from Upper Burma to the Lower province is worthy of notice. The greater number of these coolies return again to their northern homes at the end of the harvest; but the number remaining to swell the Burman population of Lower Burma is considerable. In 1885 it was about 14,000. The last few years of growing poverty and disorder in Upper Burma has made this migration much larger than formerly. It may, however, be expected in time to cease, as the Burmese are not naturally a migratory people. It is noticed that the migration is largest in the districts of Hanthawaddy, Pegu, and Tharrawaddy, where the size of agricultural holdings is largest, and where, in consequence, assistance in reaping their harvest is more required by the farmers than in districts where holdings are smaller. From Upper to
Lower Burma.

XVII.

POLITICAL.

NATIVE STATES, FRONTIER RELATIONS, AND MILITARY OPERATIONS.

NATIVE STATES
UNDER THE
GOVERNMENT OF
INDIA.

Hyderabad.

THE Native States which are in direct relation with the Supreme Government consist of the four great States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, and Kashmir, and of the two groups of States comprehended in the Central India Agency and the Rajputana Agency.

The State of Hyderabad, with an area of 81,607 square miles, and a population of 9,845,594 at the time of the last census in 1881, has a revenue of about Rs. 40,000,000. The yearly land revenue demand alone is stated to exceed Rs. 18,000,000. The administration of the country has been completely re-organised since the introduction of reforms in 1883. The state of the country, and especially the condition of the cultivators, seem to have been improved of late years.

Mysore.

The area in square miles and the population of Mysore, according to the census of 1881, are 24,793 and 4,106,188 respectively. The revenue amounts to about Rs. 10,000,000, of which Rs. 2,500,000 is due as tribute to the Supreme Government.

Baroda.

The revenue of Baroda is also stated to amount to Rs. 10,000,000, while its population in 1881 numbered 2,185,005 in an area of 8,570 square miles. The abolition of the Gaekwar's contingent of 3,000 horse, which used to perform the police duties of the Tributary States, has been in part effected, its duties being undertaken by a new police force under British officers. The country had the benefit of good crops in the year 1884, but in 1885 the rainfall was below the average, and the water in the tanks was generally so low as to cause some apprehension of distress. Education meets with considerable assistance from the Gaekwar. The principal events of the year seem to have been the death of Nawab Mir Kamaluddin Hussain Khan, Sir Suba of the Contingent, who was the principal Muhammadan noble of the State, and the commencement of a large waterworks scheme for the town of Baroda.

Kashmir.

No census has been taken of the population of Kashmir, which is estimated to number one-and-a-half millions. The area is about 80,000 square miles, and the revenue about Rs. 8,000,000. The Maharajah Ranbir Singh, who was the second ruler of the Kashmir State, and had reigned for 28 years, during which he had been constantly loyal to the British Government, having rendered specially valuable services during the Mutiny, died in September 1885. He was succeeded in the chiefship of Kashmir and Jammu by his son Mian Pertab Singh. With the change of ruler a change was introduced into the relations between Kashmir and the British Government by the appointment of a British Resident. This measure was necessary to ensure the introduction of reforms into this long-misgoverned State. Some of the reforms required are the reduction of exorbitant assessments of land revenue, the abolition of monopolies, of vexatious taxes, and of the system of farming the revenue, and the improvement of communications. The change of government was introduced without any disturbance, thanks partly to the good season and exceptionally large crops of the year. Earlier in the year, however, in June, the country suffered severely from a series of disastrous earthquakes, from which in two districts alone over 3,000 persons are reported to have been killed, 60,000 houses destroyed, and 7,000 cattle and 23,000 sheep and goats killed.

CENTRAL
INDIA AGENCY.

The group of States included in the Central India Agency lie between the Satpura Mountains on the south, and the River Jumna on the north, stretching east and west to Benares and Rajputana. There are altogether 70 separate States, of which the total area is 75,059 square miles, and the population, according to the last census, 9,261,907. The entire Agency, which is under the charge of the Agent to the Governor General for Central India, is itself divided into

into eight subordinate agencies. The most important of the States included in them are Gwalior, Indore, and Bhopal. A visit of Lord Dufferin to this Agency, which had not been visited by a Viceroy for ten years, caused much interest and pleasure both amongst chiefs and people. In Durbar in the Gwalior Palace, on the 2nd of December 1885, the Viceroy announced the intention of the Government of India to surrender to Maharaja Sandia the historical fortress of Gwalior, and to abandon the British cantonment of Morar in exchange for the fort and town of Jhansi. The surrender of the fort and the exchange of territory was completed before the end of the year 1885-86. But long and ardently as the Maharaja had desired this event, he was fated never to enter into his recovered fortress, as he fell ill shortly after its surrender and died in June 1886. When the year closed, Maharaja Holkar of Indore was also ill with his last illness, which closed with his death three days before that of Maharaja Scindia. The record of the change of *régime* in these two important States belongs to the year 1886-87. In neither of these two large States has the administration during late years been satisfactory. There have been complaints of oppression and injustice, and dacoity has been very rife. The number of dacoities in Gwalior alone in 1885-86 was 50.

CENTRAL
INDIA AGENCY

Affairs in Bhopal attracted much attention during the year under review. The Nawab-Consort Mahomed Sadik, whose maladministration and reprehensible conduct had brought him under the severe censure of the Government of India in 1881, was in October 1885 deprived of his title of Nawab, and of his salute in British territory, and was prohibited from all interference in the affairs of the State. This measure could no longer be delayed in the face of the numerous complaints against his administration, and of the tyranny, torture, and confiscation practised by his agents; on his degradation the Begum had to appoint a new minister; and her strong wish to have a European minister was gratified by the appointment, after the close of the year under review, of an officer of the Central Provinces' Commission. Meanwhile, however, a native, Nawab Abdul Latif Khan, C.I.E., was deputed to act as a minister, and under his auspices a programme of reforms was accepted by the Begum and publicly announced. This, which may be called the Charter of the rights of the people of Bhopal, promises the improvement of judicial administration, the administration of Muhammadan law in accordance with the wishes of the mass of the Muhammadan population, the abolition of certain vexatious restraints on individuals, and the establishment of the minister's proper financial control. The action of the Government in these matters has been received with unanimous satisfaction by both Hindus and Muhammadans in Bhopal.

The important States of Rewah and Charkhari, which are temporarily under British administration, are making gradual progress in prosperity and civilisation. Most of the other States under native rulers appear also to be satisfactorily governed. There are, however, exceptions. Bijawur, for instance, is in great disorder, and its affairs have been drifting from bad to worse. The Thakurs were discontented, the people without redress, the servants unpaid, and the treasury empty. Reforms were, however, anticipated at the close of the year 1885-86, from the appointment of a new minister. The appointment of a new Dewan in Chhatarpur also gives promise of a much-needed improvement in that State. The state of Jaora was found in hopeless financial embarrassments in June 1865; a loan had to be granted to it by the Government of India, and arrangements were made for freeing the State from its difficulties, which arrangements are said to be working well.

The year was generally a fairly prosperous one for the people in the Central India Agency. The harvests were up to the average, and the season moderately healthy, except for an epidemic of small-pox in Bhopal, which carried off 3,000 children in the town of Bhopal alone, and showed how much required is a proper system of vaccination in these States. The cultivators of opium in the Agency were throughout the year suffering from the low prices of the drug, while, too, the native chiefs, to whom the opium cultivation furnishes a principal source of revenue, were caused much anxiety. The native Durbars are said to have tried at first to avoid reduction in their rates for opium lands, notwithstanding the heavy fall in the value of the produce. The necessary consequence was great distress and general complaint. Remissions of revenue have, however, been since sanctioned and measures adopted to mitigate the agricultural distress.

RAJPUTANA
AGENCY.

The Rajputana Agency consists of 20 States lying to the west of those of Central India. Their population in 1881 numbered 10,268,392, scattered over an area of 129,750 square miles. For these States the year 1885-86 has been one of quiet and unassuming progress. The Viceroy's tour to the principal capitals of the Agency, and the Indo-Colonial Exhibition, gave occasion to the chiefs again to show their loyalty and generosity.

To the agriculturists, the year 1885-86 was not generally a prosperous one excepting in the States of Bhurtpur, Kerowli, and Dholepur. In the western portion of the Agency the crops quite failed, and but for the previous season's bumper harvest there would have been severe distress. As it was, in some places in Bikanir emigration *en masse* and relief works had already been resorted to, before the rains of December and January dispelled all serious anxiety. There is good reason to believe that the inhabitants of Rajputana are now better prepared to meet a scarcity than they have ever been. In matters of sanitation, too, no doubt there has been considerable advance. The great fairs, however, continue to be a cause of the spread of disease. In the year under review cholera and small-pox were very prevalent and deadly, and the season was not healthy.

The scheme referred to in last year's Report, of training young men for the civil and revenue administration of the Rajputana States, is working successfully, and it has accordingly been extended.

The Local Corps of this Agency have much improved in discipline, physique, and drill. But more might still be effected if they were supplied with more European officers.

The Public Works expenditure, amounting to Rs. 33,51,884, of which only 3½ lakhs are Imperial, is an indication of the enlightenment of the Rajput chiefs. This total includes the cost of the working of the Jodhpur Railway, which in 1885-86 gave a return of 10·9 per cent. on its capital outlay of Rs. 11,03,642. The two chief contributors to the Public Works expenditure were Jaipur, with 11 lakhs, and Marwar, with 7½ lakhs. The reported discovery of a coal-field in Jeysulmere if confirmed is one which may prove of great value, not only to that State, but also to all the railways of the north-west of India, which have now to pay Rs. 28 or Rs. 30 per ton of coal.

The records of crime in Rajputana show a steady improvement. The criminal tribes of Bhils and Moghias are settling down to honest methods of life, and are consequently behaving better. Dakoity is being steadily suppressed. It was most frequent in Marwar, where 43 cases occurred, but of these 36 are supposed to be the work of two Mina dakoit leaders, who it is hoped will soon be hunted down. One instance of thagi by poisoning, two of witch murder, three serious affrays, and one mail robbery, form the remaining catalogue of exceptional crimes.

Education progresses steadily in this agency. Jaipur and Ulwar take the lead, and Meywar comes third. Some of the least advanced States, such as Jeysulmere and Bikanir, are awakening to the need of education, and establishing schools. In the history of the Mayo College the year was an important one; though it had been established and at work for some time, it was not till November 1885 that it was formally opened by the Viceroy. The number of students then at the college was the largest on record.

The financial position of the States of this Agency is generally sound. In Jeysulmere the revenue increased 40 per cent. The debts of Bikanir have been satisfactorily dealt with, and its financial difficulties overcome. Such, however, has not been the case with the Tonk State, of which the finances are still quite disorganised. Instead of the promised improvement, it has ended the year with another deficit of 1½ lakhs, and a prospect of inextricable embarrassment. The Durbar, pressed as it is by creditors, has, in despair, applied to the Government of India for a loan of 12½ lakhs at low interest. Under any circumstances the initiation under the authority of the Government of India of more stringent measures of reform is peremptorily required.

BENGAL.

The principal of the Native States in connection with Bengal is *Hill Tipperah*, of which the government cannot be considered satisfactory. A heavy load of debt; an expenditure largely in excess of the revenue; useless *employes* retained in the service because arrears due to them cannot be paid; all departments, especially that of the police, in urgent need of reform; fees for justice extremely heavy; communications extremely bad; schools not inspected, with a declining

declining roll of students, and with teachers irregularly paid; no regular postal system; the relations of the Maharajah with his tenantry, especially with those on his estates in British territory, seriously strained; great difficulty experienced in raising cesses; all these are ugly features in the administration. The want of good government is said to show itself clearly in the unfavourable contrast which the hill territory presents when compared with the immediately contiguous tracts under British rule. Yet the people fared prosperously enough during the year 1885-86. They had good crops of rice and seeds, though not of cotton, which suffered to some extent from rain, and wages were very high. The export trade fell off slightly in value. Mines of good coal have been discovered, but, like the rich forests of the States, remain as yet unworked. The condition of the people in the *Tributary States of Orissa* and in the *Chutia Nagpur Tributary Mahals* was healthy and prosperous during the year under review, thanks to a good season. Korea is the only one of the Mahals that is not satisfactorily governed. The *Chittagong Hill Tracts* were disturbed by raids from the trans-frontier Kakis. The closing of the bazaars against the Hanlongs has not had the effect of bringing them to terms. Nothing of importance occurred with respect to *Kuch Behar* and *Sikkim*. The border State of *Bhutan* was so disturbed by internal dissensions that it was decided to delay payment of the allowance promised to its government under existing treaties.

BENGAL.

The *Kapschar Akas* and *Chuhkda Mishmis* were in 1885-86, as in the previous year, the tribes on the Assam border that gave most trouble. They were both under blockade for the whole year, and still refused to submit. As to the *Nagas*, who live west of the Naga Hills District, it was decided that the Deputy Commissioner should exercise an efficient control over the Ao tribe dwelling west of the Dikhu river; but that east of the Dikhu there should be no interference with tribal quarrels; within the pale peace is to be kept, and infractions of it punished; but no revenue is yet to be raised from the Aos. In the *Naga Hills District* itself there was an outbreak of lawlessness, during and perhaps owing to the absence on leave of the Deputy Commissioner, who had done much in the past four years to convert the warlike Angamas into peaceful British subjects. The villagers of Khonoma, on the rumour that three of their traders had been murdered by the men of Shipvomi, a village of Manipur, in order, it was said, to obtain human trophies for the celebration of a chief's funeral, formed a retaliatory expedition, and attacked and burnt Shipvomi. The returning party was however intercepted; booty recovered; and arrests made. An inquiry followed, which proved Shipvomi to be guiltless of the murder of the Khonoma traders. Thereupon the ringleaders of the raid were tried and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment; and fines were imposed on the Khonoma community and on other villages that had aided in the expedition. In *Manipur* the year was eventful. Several raids were made by the Kakis, who are described as a race of ferocious and bloody savages; and an expedition had to be made by the Political Agent, Colonel Johnstone, for the rescue of certain *employés* of the Bombay-Burma Trading Company. These had been employed on the Upper Chindwin river at the time the Burmese War broke out; they had been attacked and some of their party murdered by the Burmese, and themselves made prisoners by the Woons of Mingin and Kendat. They were, however, treated well by these Woons, who were not unfavourable to the English; but their position was very precarious until they were relieved by Colonel Johnstone. Other military operations too had to be undertaken during the year against insurgents on the Burmese border.

ASSAM.

Knowledge of the transfrontier regions was extended during 1885-86 by the exploration by Mr. Needham of the course of the Brahmaputra river from Sadiya in Assam so far as the Zayul Valley to within a mile of the Thibet Village of Rema. The officials there prevented him from crossing into Thibet. The country explored had not been entered by a European since a punitive expedition in 1855; it was satisfactory therefore to find the Mishmis between the Zayul Valley and Assam very friendly to a European traveller.

The relations between the Government of the Central Provinces and the 15 feudatory States under it require little notice for the year 1885-86. Charges made against the authorities of Bastar of kidnapping victims for human sacrifice led to a long inquiry, which while clearing the Raja of this grave charge, showed the administration to be so very lax, that it was thought necessary to have the Diwan removed, and an extra Assistant Commissioner of the Province appointed

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

CENTRAL
PROVINCES.

in his place. An improvement in this State may therefore be expected. The Raja of Sonpur, who pays little heed to the responsibilities of his position, was also strongly advised to appoint a competent and trustworthy Diwan. The best administered of the 15 States is Bamra, the chief of which is really desirous of promoting the welfare of his people.

MADRAS.

The principal States in connection with the Madras Government are Travancore and Cochin. The financial position of both States is very strong; in the former there was a balance at the close of the year of over 50 lakhs, in the latter of over 36 lakhs; and both States spent less than their year's income. A larger expenditure on public works on the part of both these States would under these circumstances seem desirable; and in the case of Travancore at any rate is likely to be undertaken. The administration of justice has been much improved in Travancore, and is on the whole very satisfactory. The same cannot be said of the working of the Zillah Court of Appeal in Cochin, where the delays are intolerable. In August 1885 the Maharajah of Travancore, H. H. Rama Varma, G.C.S.I., died, after a vigorous and prosperous reign of five years. He was succeeded by his son of the same name.

BOMBAY.

There are a number of native States subordinate to the Bombay Government, and divided into five groups, viz., the Gujarat and Southern Gujarát States, of which those of Cutch and Káthiawár are the chief, the Maratha and Southern Mahratta States, the Satára Jágirs, the principal of which is Kolhapur, and the Khairpur Principality in Sindh. Among the chiefs, there was one death that calls for mention. The Chief of Kagal, who was also Regent of Kolhapur, died suddenly at the age of 29, to the deep regret of his subjects, leaving behind him the reputation of having been a courteous, liberal, and enlightened ruler. Internal reforms were carried on in several of the States in this Presidency. Kolhápúr, Navánagar and Jurágad, and some other States, gave relief to trade by the abolition of certain transit duties; others also promised to follow suit. But much more relief is still required if all the cultivators in Native States are to find it profitable to bring their produce to the railways. In other departments too progress has been made; the administration of justice has been accelerated; education extended; dispensaries more widely utilised; forests for the first time preserved; and surveys and settlements introduced. Moreover, arrears of land revenue were largely recovered, thanks to the favourable season and the improved position of the cultivators. The decline in the trade of many of these States is due to the deficiency in the cotton crop of 1884-85. But depression is not likely to be permanent, especially if transit dues are taken off, communications improved and the capabilities of the harbours of Cutch and Kathiawar developed, conditions which are all likely to be satisfied. An unsatisfactory feature in the administration of these States is to be seen in the deplorable lawlessness in Kathiawar. With a country so split up into different jurisdictions the repression of crime is difficult. But an aggregate of 112 robberies, and 99 dacoities, in this one Agency is beyond excuse. The condition is worst in Junágod; but there it is due chiefly to the Mekranis, who are in open rebellion against the State authority. The improvement which is required may be expected to result from the new police force which has been organised in this Agency, and has superseded the Gaekwar's contingent. Only the new force will have to be kept under strict discipline. The conduct of the Sir Desai of Savantvadi still rendered him unfit for the management of the affairs of his State, which continued to be administered by the British Government. The three chief scholastic institutions, the Káthiawár Training College, the Rajkumar College, and the Wáthwán Tálukdári Grássia School were in a flourishing condition during the year.

ADEN.

At Aden, which is also subordinate to the Bombay Government, there was a satisfactory revival of trade. There were no political events of importance. A destructive cyclone in June 1885, and the progress of the fortification works, alone deserve mention.

PUNJAB.

The number of native States subordinate to the Punjab Government is 34. They are grouped as follows: Patiála, Baháwalpur, Jind, and Nábhá under the Lieutenant Governor; Kapurthalla, Faridkot, Mandhi, and Suket, controlled by the Commissioner of Jullunder, Chamba by the Commissioner of Lahore, and the rest by the Commissioner of Delhi. The government of Chamba was in the course of the year entrusted to the young rajah, who has so far acquitted himself well. The principal events of the year were two marriages. The Raja of

of Kapurthalla took to himself a Rajput bride, thus laying the foundation of an alliance with the Kangra Rajputs. The wedding was carried out with considerable magnificence at the cost to the State of five lakhs of rupees, a sum which the State was well able to afford out of its balances. Its strong financial position is also indicated by the fact that 99.9 per cent. of its land revenue demand was collected within the year without pressure. The other marriage was that of the son of the Raja of Faridkot, and was also the occasion of large expenditure. The rule of most of the Punjab chiefs is praiseworthy. A Vice-regal Durbar in October 1885 was an occasion for the meeting of all the chiefs ruling between the Jumna and the Sutlej; and the opportunity was used to heal several outstanding differences and quarrels. Some contingents from these States took part in the military manœuvres near Delhi. The year was fairly prosperous for the agriculturists.

PUNJAB.

The Akagais who were concerned in the Agror raids referred to in last year's report did not submit during the year, and were still under blockade at its close. A further blockade on all the sections of the Bonerwals was imposed in retaliation for raids on the Yusafzai border. Threatening gatherings of these tribesmen which thereupon took place in the Sadum valley had to be dispersed. But no submission was made in this quarter and no settlement effected during the year. A blockade had also to be imposed on the Shiranis along the Biluch frontier, nor yet was their submission obtained although the tribe suffered considerably in consequence. The remainder of the Punjab border was quiet, and the relations with the frontier tribes amicable. The Khyber arrangements worked well. On the British side of the Hazara and Peshawur frontier the villagers are now fairly armed, and are thought to be strong enough of themselves to beat off the attacks of transfrontier raiders. The Derajat was conspicuously tranquil; the British occupation of Quetta has led to a gradual pacification of the feuds among the neighbouring tribes. In the Kohat District, at the urgent desire of the Kurram headmen, an officer was placed in charge of the Thal Outpost. It is hoped that by his advice and under his influence they will be able better to administer their own affairs and at the same time avoid complications with the Afghan tribes under the Ameer. The disputes with these tribes have been a source of much anxiety.

N. W. FRONTIER.

Muscat and the Pirate coast of Oman were disturbed to no less degree than usual by petty wars and insurrections. There were hostilities at El Katr; a big battle in which the people of Shargab were defeated by the chiefs of Debay, Ejinan, and Hamriyeh; and an insurrection against the Sultan of Muscat's authority at Dhofar; an attack was also contemplated, but not carried out against Muscat itself. The slave trade was unusually active. The removal of the vessel, which had for many years been stationed at Zanzibar, gave an opportunity which is believed to have been largely utilised for conveying slaves to Arabia. Two dhows with 74 slaves were captured during the year. The year 1885-86 was by no means favourable to either agriculture or trade in the neighbourhood of the Persian Gulf. The wheat crop failed; the price of bread rose; there was an outcry against engrossers, and a demand for a stoppage of the export of grain. An embargo was consequently laid on its exportation. This reacted on the import trade, and the demand for Manchester goods, which had at the beginning of the year been lively, quite collapsed; prices fell; and importers suffered loss. It is noticed too that the pearl fisheries gave very poor returns during the year; and that the prices of opium declined in sympathy with the China market. The opium crop was, however, fairly good. A new submarine cable was laid down in 1885-86 between Jask and Bushire.

PERSIAN GULF AND MUSCAT.

Slave Trade.

From the reports for Port Blair and Nicobars, for 1884-85 and 1885-86, it appears that these islands are making satisfactory progress. In the five years ended in June 1884, land under cultivation by ryots increased from 1,734 to 5,852 acres, by 1885-86 it had further increased to 6,676 acres. The land revenue has also risen greatly. In 1885-86 it amounted to Rs. 27,541. Swamps have been cleared; one tea-garden is already in successful management, others are being planted; coffee cultivation has been introduced and is promising; so too are the new plantation of cacao and ceara rubber. The cultivation of Indian corn, rice and sugar cane is rapidly extending, cattle and sheep breeding is also being taken up and is found profitable. But, after all, the most paying product of the settlement is the cocoanut. The export of these nuts increased in the year

PERSIAN GULF
AND MUSCAT.

1884-85 from less than three million to considerably over four million. The trade of the islands mainly depends on this staple produce. An important scheme for colonising the island with Chinamen was tried, though with indifferent success. Fifteen Chinamen were planted in the Nicobars on land of their own selection, but fever broke out, and took the heart out of these would-be pioneers of Chinese civilization. Efforts are still to be made to carry the experiment to success. Relations with the Aborigines are becoming more satisfactory. The net cost of the Settlements is shown at Rs. 11,09,142 in 1884-85 and Rs. 9,64,909 in 1885-86.

MILITARY.
Army.

The established strength of the Army at the close of 1885-86 was 207,873 officers and men, showing an increase of nearly 20,000 since the beginning of the year. The whole Army may be divided into the European force, consisting of 3,720 commissioned officers and 69,862 non-commissioned officers and men, and the Native Army, consisting of 1,508 European and 2,634 Native commissioned officers, and 130,149 non-commissioned officers and men, of whom 165 were also Europeans. Divided among the presidencies, 117,577 officers and men were under the Bengal command, 48,159 in the Madras, and 42,137 in the Bombay Army. The increase to the Army was the outcome of the alarm felt with regard to the advance of Russia on the North-West frontier; and was shared equally by the European and Native portions of the force. The total military expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 200,977,790, against which there was a total of receipts by the military department of Rs. 9,638,720, leaving a net charge Rs. 191,339,070, of which Rs. 30,079,010 were for non-effective, and Rs. 161,260,060 for effective service. Of the total expenditure, Rs. 152,470,880 were spent in India, and the equivalent of the remainder in England.

MILITARY
OPERATIONS.

Soon after the beginning of the year under review the Indian Contingent was withdrawn from the Soudan. The only military operations in which the Indian forces were engaged in 1885-86 were then in Upper Burma, which are described in the following section.

AFFAIRS IN UPPER BURMA.

UPPER BURMA.
Extent of
country.

THE territory of Upper Burma proper covers about 100,000 square miles: in addition to this, the Shan States subordinate to Burma have also an area of, approximately, 100,000 square miles.

Relations between
the Burmese and
Indian Govern-
ments prior to the
war.

The dynasty of which Theebaw was the last ruler was established by Alaung-pya in 1752. The predecessor of the late King was King Mindon, who came to power shortly after the second Burmese War, and who, during his whole reign, maintained friendly relations with the British Government, and was not opposed to the introduction of western ideas and western civilisation. In 1867 he concluded a Treaty providing for the extradition of criminals, for the encouragement of trade, and for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries by the appointment of a British Resident at Mandalay. But when King Mindon died in 1878, and was succeeded by his son Theebaw, a change came in the relations between the two Governments. The horror excited by the execution under the King's orders of members of the Royal Family, the passive unfriendliness of the Burmese Government, and the unsatisfactory treatment of the Resident, led in 1879 to the withdrawal of the British Representative from the Burmese Court. Between that date and 1885 two attempts were made to restore friendly relations; once in 1879-80, when an Envoy was sent, but not permitted to proceed to Mandalay; and again in 1882, when a Burmese Embassy visited Simla, but without effecting the restoration of good feeling.

Events leading up
to the war.

Complaints against the Burmese Government meanwhile multiplied, British subjects suffered insult and violence at the hands of local officials, and no redress could

could be obtained. Trade monopolies were created in defiance of the express terms of the Treaty of 1867. The disorganisation of Upper Burma infected with disorder the adjacent districts of the British province. Negotiations were carried on by the Burmese Government for the purpose of contracting close alliances with other European countries, to the studied neglect of England. These causes had contributed to make the situation very unsatisfactory to the British Government, but were not such as to demand active interference. A *casus belli* arose, however, out of a specific act of the Burmese Government, who raised a large claim, amounting to several lakhs of rupees, against the Burma-Bombay Trading Corporation, a company of merchants, mainly British subjects, who had a large business in Upper Burma. In view of the magnitude of the claim, and of the interests of British subjects involved, mediation was attempted by the British authorities in order to ensure an impartial investigation. The mediation was ignored; and the company, without being allowed reasonable opportunity for defending themselves; were condemned by the Burmese Council to be mulcted to the amount of Rs. 2,300,000. The British Government protested against this arbitrary act; and their demand to have the proceedings stayed until the matter had been referred to an arbitrator was peremptorily refused. It was on this refusal that the British Government decided to send to the King of Burma an ultimatum, which should be designed to adjust once for all the relations between the two countries. The ultimatum required the King not only to suspend proceedings against the corporation, and to receive an Envoy with a view to the settlement of the matter at issue, but also for the future to permit the residence at Mandalay of a British Agent who should be treated with due respect. It was added, too, that the external relations of Burma should in future be regulated in accordance with the advice of the British Government, and that facilities should be given for opening up trade with China. This ultimatum was dispatched on the 22nd October 1885, and a satisfactory reply was demanded by the 10th of November. On the 9th of November the reply was received, containing an absolute refusal of the proposed terms. Moreover, on the 7th of November a Proclamation had been issued by the King of Burma calling on his subjects to rally round him, that he might annihilate these heretic foreigners and conquer and annex their country. The ultimatum had thus led to war. The expeditionary force, already prepared, crossed the frontier on the 14th of November, and within a fortnight from that day Mandalay had been occupied by General Prendergast and his troops, and the King was a prisoner. The only serious resistance met with had been at Minhla.

UPPER BURMA.

The *casus belli*.

The ultimatum.

Its refusal.

The outbreak and success of the war.

The decision as to the settlement of the country thus conquered was only gradually arrived at. It was not till the 1st of January 1886 that Upper Burma was declared by the Viceroy's Proclamation to be part of Her Majesty's dominions, and placed under his direct administration. Whether it should not continue under the rule of a Native Prince was not finally determined till the 1st of March 1886, when Upper Burma was incorporated with British India, and was, with the exception of the Shan States, constituted a scheduled district of the Indian Empire.

The decision to annex the country.

Meanwhile the administration had been carried on under a provisional arrangement. In order to avoid a breach of continuity, the Hlutdaw, or Great Council of State, were continued in office under the guidance and control of the chief British officers; and Proclamations were issued ordering Burmese officials to continue in the regular performance of their duties. Before long several of the districts, and the city of Mandalay, were removed from the superintendence of the Hlutdaw, and placed under British civil officers directly subordinate to the Chief Commissioner of British Burma, who had arrived at Mandalay in the middle of December. After the incorporation of the country with British India the Hlutdaw ceased to exist, though some of the members were retained as advisers of the Chief Commissioner.

Provisional arrangements prior to March 1886.

In organising the administration of the country the old civil divisions of Burmese times were followed. By the end of the year 1886 four divisions and 17 districts had been constituted for the whole of Upper Burma. These were Mandalay, Bhamo, Katha, Ruby Mines, and Shwebo, in the Northern Division; Ava, Sagaing, Kyaukse, Ye-u, and Chindwin, in the Central Division; Myingyan, Pagan, Minbu, and Taungdwingyi, in the Southern Division; and Meiktila, Yamethin, and Niagyan, in the Eastern Division.

Administrative organisation of the country.

UPPER BURMA.
Character of
administration.

Upper Burma was, as has been said, constituted a scheduled district in March 1886; it was therefore removed from the operation of the statute law applicable to the rest of India. Nor were its circumstances such as to admit of the introduction into it of the whole body of Indian civil and criminal law. Until, therefore, suitable regulations could be framed and issued, and such Acts as seemed applicable extended to the province, the administration had to be carried on in accordance with provisional instructions. These instructions formed the law of Burma from March to the end of November 1886, when the Upper Burma Laws Act came into force; and even after that date the parts of the instructions relating to excise and revenue continued in force. By these instructions each district was placed in charge of a civil officer, who was invested with the full powers of a Deputy Commissioner, and, in criminal matters, with power to try as a magistrate any case and to pass any sentence. The Deputy Commissioner was also invested with full power to revise the proceedings of any subordinate magistrate or official, and to pass any order except an order enhancing a sentence. In criminal matters the courts were to be guided as far as possible by the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Penal Code, and the Evidence Act. But dacoity or robbery was made punishable with death, though magistrates were instructed to pass capital sentences only in very heinous cases. In order to provide a safeguard against undue severity in the infliction of punishments, it was ordered that no capital sentence should be carried out except after confirmation by the Chief Commissioner. No regular appeals were allowed from any decision; but it was open for anyone who felt aggrieved by the decision of a subordinate officer to move the Deputy Commissioner to revise the order, and for anyone who demurred to an order passed by a Deputy Commissioner to bring the matter to the notice of the Chief Commissioner. In revenue matters the customs of the country were as far as possible to be observed, save that no monopolies (except that of precious stones) were allowed, and no customs or transport duties were levied. As regards excise administration, in accordance with the custom of the country, the sale of opium and of intoxicating liquors to Burmans was prohibited. But a limited number of licenses were issued for the sale of liquors to persons not of Burmese race, and the Chinese were specially exempted from the restrictions imposed on the traffic in opium. To carry out these instructions, each of the Deputy Commissioners placed in charge of a district was assisted by a police officer, and supported by an adequate military force and police.

Pacification of the
country; and
British losses.

The pacification of the country has been a prolonged work of much difficulty. Dacoity on the largest scale has been rampant; and military operations have been necessary in almost every part of the country in order to suppress it. To the end of the year 1886 about 180 encounters had taken place with these lawless bands. They seldom offered serious resistance, except when fighting in bush or jungle. The loss they caused to the British troops between the 17th of November 1885 and 31st October 1886 amounted to 11 officers and 80 men, killed or died from wounds. But greater difficulties than the armed opposition were found in the dense jungle, the want of roads, and the unfavourable, in some cases deadly, climate. The result of these difficulties during the period above mentioned was a total loss of 3,053 officers and men, who died from disease or had to be invalided. The average number of troops employed in Upper Burma during 1886 has been 14,000, but at the end of 1886 the number in the country was 25,000.

Character of
operations sub-
sequent to the
war; and policy
towards the
people.

Throughout all these operations for the pacification of the country the dispatch of flying columns, to move through a part of the country and then to return, leaving the people without protection, has been discouraged. The plan has been rather to push forward military and police posts, and so to extend the area under settled government. Villagers who had been compelled to afford assistance and shelter to dacoits, in the absence of protection from local authorities, have received every indulgence. The burning of villages as punishment has been strictly forbidden; and the services of loyal and capable local officials constantly enlisted for the suppression of dacoity, and for the introduction of settled administration.

Organisation of
police.

The organisation of an efficient police force for Upper Burma was begun in February 1886, when it was determined to raise two local levies of military police, each consisting of 561 officers and men, and to recruit from Northern India to the number of 2,000 military police. The local levies were composed

of men who had received military training. They have already done excellent service. The military police of Northern India were untrained men, and were later in entering on their duties. They have, however, begun well. In addition to these police forces, district officers, as occasion required, raised local police, and gave them such training as was possible. More regular levies, too, have since been required and provided. It is proposed to have in the country a total military police force of 16,000 men, 9,000 recruited from India and 7,000 from Burma. UPPER BURMA.

One of the steps taken to ensure the pacification of the province has been the disarmament of the people. In the case of dacoit leaders, or of rebel villages, the surrender of a certain number of firearms has been made a condition of pardon. But, as a general rule, the object has not been to deprive the people of arms. On the contrary, a suitable distribution of arms under proper safeguards has been aimed at. Firearms have been carefully collected and marked with distinctive numbers. These marked arms have then been allowed to remain in the hands of men of proved loyalty, on the condition that the holders live in a village which is defensible and possesses a minimum of arms sufficient for self-protection. But, with few exceptions, the licenses do not authorise the holders to carry arms, but only to possess them for self-defence. This policy has proved very successful. Disarmament of the people.

The improvement of communications, and the construction of adequate military and civil buildings, naturally attracted much attention, as soon as annexation was decided on. Indeed, such works are vitally necessary for the complete pacification and organisation of the country. The most important work as yet undertaken is the projected railway from Toungoo to Mandalay. Before the end of the year 1886 work on this railway had been begun at Ningyan, Toungoo, and Mandalay. It is estimated to cost 183 lakhs of rupees, and to be 240 miles long. The services of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company have been extended and made more frequent; their steamers ply up the Irrawaddy as far north as Bhamo; they have also established a regular service on the Myitngé river, and run steamers during the rainy season on the Chindwin. A number of roads have been taken in hand; most of them were already in existence, but in sad need of reconstruction. Irrigation works are also requiring attention. Irrigation systems, hundreds of years old, are to be found in Kyaukse and Salin; but they require much repair and extension. The repair and partial reconstruction of the Mandalay embankment, which burst with such disaster to the town during the floods in August 1886, have already been commenced. The principal military works undertaken since the occupation have been the conversion of the buildings in the palace at Mandalay for the use of civil and military officers and troops, the construction of barracks, hospitals, officers' quarters, and commissariat buildings at Mandalay, and of barracks at Bhamo, Ningyan, Yamèhin, Alôn, Myingyan, Pagan, and Minbu. The principal civil building commenced is a jail at Mandalay for the reception of 1,600 to 2,000 prisoners. The telegraph has been largely extended, and the service successfully worked, notwithstanding the interruptions caused by dacoits cutting the wires. Public works.

The revenue of the new province is still very uncertain. Under the late Government there were seven principal sources of income, viz., capitation tax, monopolies, rent of royal lands, tribute from Shan States, irrigation tax, forests, and earth oil. Of these, the revenue from monopolies has been abandoned by the British Government, excepting only the monopolies of precious stones, jade, and amber, which are estimated to bring in over Rs. 200,000. From the Shan tribute, which under the former régime had amounted to Rs. 450,000, the English had at the close of 1886 realised nothing. At the same time it had been decided to abandon the Burmese taxes on imports from the Shan States, which had brought in an additional income of Rs. 750,000 a year to King Theebaw. A revenue of about Rs. 400,000 a year is expected from the forests, which are at present worked by lessees. As regards capitation tax, rent of royal lands, and irrigation tax, collections were made during 1886 in almost all the districts of Upper Burma; but in some the realisations were insignificant. In making these collections local customs were generally observed, and where the people had suffered from attacks by dacoits liberal remissions were made. No demand was made for the year 1885-86. Revenue of Upper Burma.

UPPER BURMA.
Resources of the
country.

The resources of the country are considerable. Rice, wheat, maize, and other cereals are largely grown in many parts. The forests of Upper Burma have already been referred to as the source of considerable revenue to the State. The mineral wealth of this country is great. The famous ruby mines are to be found at Mogòk, to the north-east of Mandalay, and form a State monopoly, as already mentioned. Jade is found in large quantities, and amber in small quantities, about the head waters of the Chindwin, Mogaung, and other higher effluents of the Irrawaddy. There is a valuable trade in jade carried on with China and Japan, both by land through Bhamo, and by sea through Rangoon. But the most valuable mineral product of Burma will undoubtedly be its coal, which is to be found in several places; at Thingadaw, 70 miles from Mandalay, and within a few miles from the left bank of the Irrawaddy, at Kalè, 150 miles up the Chindwin, and three miles from the main stream, at Paulaug, and at several places on the Shan plateau.

Shan States.

The Shan States are a group of semi-independent States lying to the east of Upper Burma on both sides of the Salween river, and stretching to the confines of China, Tonkin, and Siam. The British Government proposes to interfere as little as possible with these States, which will continue to be administered by their own chiefs or Sawbwas. The overthrow of the Burmese Empire has caused convulsions and dynastic struggles in several of these States. Serious opposition on the part of these States is not anticipated. Some were early in making an unqualified submission to the British Government, others have wavered, but are not likely to withhold their allegiance. The chief interests of the Government of India in respect of these States are the maintenance of peace on the borders of Burma, and among the Shans themselves, the opening up of trade routes, and the realisation of a moderate tribute. The Shans have already received an important benefit from the English annexation of Burma in the abolition of the import and transport duties formerly levied on merchandise brought into Upper Burma.

H. A. HAINES.
