## PROCEEDINGS

## OP THE

# SECOND CONFERENCE OF REGISTRARS <br> OF CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES 

held in calcutta on the
18TH NOVEMBER 1907, AND
$\square$ FOLLOWING DAYS $\square$

WITH APPENDICES


CALCUTTA
SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, india
1008

## OAZOUTTA:

GOPERNLESNT OF INDIA, CBNTEAI PBINTING OYYICB.
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3linutes of the Proceedings of the Second Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Credit Societies hellin Calrulta on November 18th and following days.

November 18th.

## Present:

Peigidint.
Mr. R. W. Cablile, C.I.E., I.C.S., Minaza.


1. The President welcomed the Registrars.
2. The President suggested that the lengal Registrar should be appointed Secretary : to this the Conference agreed.
3. The Members of the Conference recorded their regret at the absence of Mr. English, I.O.S., and of a representative from the Central Provinces.
4. It was agreed that the discussion should follow the heads of the programme drawn up by Mr. Wilson, the late Mevenue Secretary.
5. Four general statements attached to these minutes, showing the combined statistics of the societies in the different provincos, were laid upon the table.
6. The heads of the programme were then taken up in order.
7. I.- General Progress.-The President stated that he considored that the statements showed that satisfactory progress bad beon made and that the prospects of the movement were hopeful.
8. II.-Cash Banks.- Village Banks.- Number of members: Area of operations.-These tro subjects were considered together. The Mrembers agreed that it would be unwise to limit the number of members by rule or regulation, and that it was best to leave the societies to elect their own members. It was agreed that the area should be kept as small as possible. With a large arca the sense of joint responsibility is much weakened and the dificulties of management increased. These difficulties are got over in the United Provinces by subdivision into patties. In Bengal the area with which each society deals is limited to one village or even one hamlet, and the villages heing suall the number of members is necessarily limited. In the Punjab the village is gencrally tho unit. In Eastern Bengal the area is small, but in Assam it is considerably larger. In Bombay the area of operations is small. The circumstances in Coorg appear to be different and one society deals with an arca of 40 to 75 square miles. The area is subdivided into groups, having its own committee, formed of iofluential people who do not themselves wish to borrow. In Madras the number of members in each society is sometimes considerable, but the area is strictly limited.

Mr. Wilberforce was of opinion that it was unwise to found socirties in villages where there were two or more factions, as ons fuction was likely to try to ruin the rival's society; it was generally agreod that under such circumstances success would te dificult, and that it was best for Registrars to counno their attention to more hopeful villages. It was gencrally agreed that tho very low castes would ind it dificult to obtain admission to societies, and that wheresuch communities exist, as for example for the Namasudras in Eastern Bengal, special efforts should be made to found caste societics for them alone.
9. Limited and Unlimited Liability.-It was agreed by all Registrars that unlimited liability was the best foundation for rural societies. Mr. Wilberfurce however was of opinion that where there was a demand for limited liability it should not be refused as a matter of course. Most of the Registrars were of opinion that limited liability should be directly discouraged. In Coorg all the societies are founded on limited liability, but Mr. Haller stated that this was due to the peouliar features of the area with which he liad been dealing: and that it was his intention to found unlimited liability sooieties in the north of Coorg. In Madras all the new societiss registered since August 1905 have accepted the principle of unlimited liability. The same principle has been accepted in Burma. It was agreed that there was much more danger with the principle of limited liability, because one man might get the whole control into his hands and would then only te made responsible for the amount of his liability: where the liability was unlimited, on the other hand, it was to the interest of every member to see that the society was properly managed.
10. Deposits by Members.-The societies hitherto have generally failed to altract voluntary deposits from members. The Bengal Registrar was of opinion that the societies lad never offered a rate of interest sufficiently high to attract such deposits. In the United Provinces and in Eastern Bengal the system of small compulsory deposits has been introduced, either by payment of a rate on cultivation or rent, or by a deduction of two to four pice per rupee on the loan taken. The object of this is to hasten the building up of a capital and to give the members a tangible interest in the society apart from their unlimited liability. In Bengal and Bombay there is no system of compulsory deposit. In Madras and the Punjab there are both deposits and share capital. In Burma there are no deposits but some shares. In Coorg, where the members are rich the deposits are of the nature of payments towards share capital.
11. Loans by Non-Members.-Loans by non-members have been attracted in Bengal and Burma by the offer of a bigh rate of interest. The interest olfered by the MLadras Oentral Bank has been sufficient to attract some outside capital. This is also the case with the Central Banks in the United Provinces, but the Registrar was of opinion that it was doubtful whether much more capital could be attracted at similar rates. In the other provinces the loans from non-members are made more from philanthropic motives than with a - view to investment.
12. Loans by Government.-The Bengal Registrar stated that be did not require any further assistance from Government, exoept in a case of famine or distress, when takavi loans at 64 per cent. might be given to assist the societies as is provided for in the Famine Code. Mr. Fremantle was of opinion that it was unnecessary to advance more money on the terms of the Government of India's Resolution, but that ordinary advances under the Aprioulturists' Loans Act might be made on the recommendation of the Registrar. On the other hand, Mr. Wilberforce pointed out the dificulty of refusing a loan to a new society in the neighbourhood of an old one which had taken advantage of the terms of the Resolution and that the present rules favour the bis society which can subscribe the limit of Rs. 2,000 within a short time. Mr. De stated that if Government refused further assistance it would be extremely difficult to make further progress as he had failed to raise oapital otherwise. Mr. Campbell was of opinion that deposits by members should not ho mado a sine quä non condition of tho Government loan, that it was necessary to lend moneg at a low rate of interest to clear the agriculturists of debt, but that whon this was done they would be able to pay a ligher rate. The President was of opinion that the time had not yet come for Government to withdraw all financial assistance to the societies and that the question raised by IIr. Campbell should be discussed in a sub-committee.
13. The President pointed out that there was an absence of accurate information on the subject of the prevailing rates at which agriculturists borrowed from money-lenders, and he requested the Registrars to make special inquirics on this point and embody the results in next year's reports.
1.1. It was generally agreed that with efficient management no special provision for penal interest was necessary.
15. The Burma Registrar has stated in his report that in his province it is necessary to confine loans to productive purposes on acoount of the im. provident babits of the people. The Registrars of other provinces were of opinion that the decision on this matter could safely be left to the societies themselves. Experience had shown that very few loans had been giren for unproductive purposes, and Mr. Wilberforce pointed out that by giving loans for marriages, eto., the societies were often able to restrict the member's expenditure: while if loans for such purposes werb prohibited the member would be forced to borrow from the money-lender.
16. It was agreed to defer the consideration of the other mattcrs till Wednesday (20th November). Meanwhile the following questions wero referred to sub-committees of the Members named below:-
I.-Definition of Profits and Treatment of Reservo Funds:

Messrs. Fremantle, Wilberforce, and Rao.
II.-Dissemination of Information:

Messrs. Fremantle, De, and Gourlay.
III.-Form of Report and Returns :

Messrs. Kerr, Wilberforce, Campbell, and De.
IV,-State Aid and Special Procedure for Recovery:
A Committee of all the Registrars.
V. - The Agricultural Bank of India :
a A Committee of all the Registrars.

## November 20th.

17. The Secretary reported that all the subjects referred to in parograph 16 of the minutes of November 18th had been disoussed by a committeo consisting of the whole of the Registrars. The various reports wero then discussed by the Conference and agreed to, with certain slight moditications, which hare been embodied in the revised notes given below.
18. Reserve Fund, and Profits. (a) Societirs wilh unlimitcd liavility.The Registiars of Eastern Bengal, Madras and Coorg consitered that the reserro should never be emploged as working capital, but that it should be placed in a safe investment out of the control of the socioty. The other Rogistrars were of opinion that so long as tho reserve fund was small it should preferably be employed in the business of the bank, in order that capital may bo accumulated more quickly, but that when it bears an appreciablo ratio to the capital it may be advisable to invest it apart from tho society in order to provide security for borrowed capital. Where a Contral Bank exists the reserves may well be deposited with it.
(b) Societies with limited liability.-All Registrars agroed that it is desirable to set aside the reserved fund from the first.
(Profils.-The Registrars accepted the definition of profits given in the note lattached to the programme of the Conferenoe.
19. Dissemination of Informatoin.-It was generally ogreed that it way desirable that gentlemen, both offoial and non-ollicial, should be asked to attond the Conference for parposes of consultation, and that cach of the Registrars of the larger provinces should be empowered to invito tivo such porsons. The President should always have the power to nominate extra members.

It is desirable that legistrars should circulato to their colleaguos all circulars issued by them.

It would be of no use to issue pamphlets broadeast, but they should be arailable both in English and the vernaoular for the information of inquirers.

It is not desirable to attempt to pronagate co-operative prinoiples in rural areas unless arrangements can be made to control societies when formed.

Sufficient experience has not yet been gained to warrant the preparation of a Manual.

Use should be made of the Agricultural Journals in the different provinece, and periodical notes on the working of societies should be communicated to the local press. Abstracts of balance sheets might be supplied with the notes.
20. The report of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the Annual Report and statements was read. It was agreed that the Conference should be held in Simla in October on a date to be tired subsequently after consultition with the Registrars. With regard to paragraph 2 it was agreed that statistics should be compiled for districts or if necessary for groups within districts. The rest of the Report was accepted.
21. State Aid and Special Procedure for Recooery.-Under the present Resclution of the Goreroment of India loans are mado against an equal amount deposited in rural societies only; there is no reason why this concession should not be extended to societies which, through the want of the proper propotion of agriculturists, are classed as urban, bat which are founded on unlimited liability and are similar in every way to rural societics. $\Delta t$ present, for example, the Resolution does not provide for emall societies of artisans which it is particularly desirable to encourage. The Bombay and Eastern Bengal Registrars desired to have a small sum placed at their disposal by tho Government to finance societies in which the members were too poor to make depovits. The Registrars of Bengal, Punjab and United Provinces were of opinion that ay a rule capital for such societies should be found apart from the Government, and that in special cases takavi loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act might be given. In any case in famine time takavi for the use of members should be adranced through the socictics. The Bombay Registrar desired that tho views expressed by him in the following note be recorded :-
"In most respects the Gorernment of India have left Local Governments a free hand in the administration of en-operative socicties: in ne respect, however, no discretion whatever has been left, and, therefore, no deviation 2852 R. \& A.
from a precise set of directions is ever possible to meet any modification which local conditions may suggest. The case in point is that of 'lonns by Governemnt.' I have put forward that Bombay has spesial conditions in part for special treatment. The other Registrars find nothiag corresponding in their own provinces; so the Conference can do nothing. The Bumbay Government can do nothing but refer to the Government of India; and the latter Government refers to the Conference of all Registrars.
"I suggest that in this particular matter some discretion be left with Looal Governments regarding the conditions contained in paragraph 26 of Government of India, עepartment of Revenue and Agriculture, Resolution No. 1-63-3, dated 29th April 1904."

Special Procedure.-The printed notes on the subject were read. The Hengal hegistrars stated that his experience showed that up to the present no special procedure liad been found necessary in Bengal, and that he was of opinion that the introduction of such a procedure would lead to less care in the management and less scrutiny of the purposes for which money is lent. The Registrars of Madras and Eastern Bengal agreed. The Registrar of the United Provinces, where special procedure was in force for a year, stated that in his opinion there had been no less care in the scrutiny of loans nor less efficiency in management, while the fact that such a procedure existed was sufficient to deter people who would otherwise be inclined to default. In practios it was hardly ever necessary to put the procedure in force. The Punjab Registrar was of opinion that without such a procedure it was easy for a money-lender to ruin a society by inducing members to default and forcing the society into litigation. The Registrars of Bombsy and Coorg agreed with the Registrars of the Punjıb and United Provinces. Tihs Registrar of the United Provinces pointed out that the grant of this concession would much improve the credit of rural societies, as affording a kind of Government guarantee to joint stock banks and others willing to advance capital. The Registrar of the Punjab pointed out that the present rules in force in his province and in the United Provinces do not provide any procedure for the recovery of undisputed debts.
23. The Financing of Cash Societies.-It was agreed that if possible the best method would be to build up a Central Bank from below, but it was recognized that this would take many years. The Bengal Registrar stated that he hoped in the next year to make a commencement in forming the societies into local unions for purposes of finince and control, but that nothing had been done up to the present. The United Provinces Registrar hopes to solve the same problem by the institution of district banks where there are sufficient societies formed or a demand for their formation exists. It was agreed that this subject should cone up for special consideration at the nest Conference, as the solution of the problem of finance and control is vital to the succoss of the movement.
24. How to finance a Central Bank in the event of a famine.-This subject was raised by the Registrar of the Central Provinces in his report. Mr. Low pointed out that in unirrigated tracts where practioally the whole capital of a Central Bank is lent out on the security of a single crop through rural societies, there is a great danger of bankruptcy in a time of famine. The Registrars were of opinion that until the bank had a sufficiently large reserve fund to enable it to tide over a famine, Government might advance takavi to tide over difficulties and to enable business to be carried on.
25. The other subjects on the programme have been dealt with in the various reports, and as no controversial points were raised it was thought unnecessary to discuss them.
20. It was suggested that the example of Bombay and Bengal might be followed in other Provinces in the matter of telegraphic addresses. The telegraphic addresses of the Registrars in the Bombay and Bengal are "Bombay Credit" and "Bengal Credit," respectively.
27. The following note by the Bengal Registrar on the sabject of increase of staff mas read:-
"The question of Staff.-Now that a certain amount of progress $h$ as been made and societies are spriuging up over a large area, it is essential that each

Registrar should have a personal assistant, whom be can employ to look after work at headquarters while he himself is on tour, and to risit districts where the presence of some one is urgently required to avert disaster. Travelling orer a whole province by rail and road continuously for sis months or moro in the year is very wearying, and it is necessary that the Registrar should have somo relief; much time too can be saved by sending such a trusted olfiocr a week or two ahead to prepare the minds of the people for the Registrar's visit, and much disappointment can be saved by this way. In all the larger provinces these dificulties have been felt, and oflicors of the class of Extra-Assistant Commissioners and Deputy Colleotors hare been placed on special duty for short intervals to assist the Registrar. The disadrantago of losing an officor who has been trained in the work just at tho time when he has learned what is required and just when ho has como to take an enthusiastic interest in co-operation is very great, and I would suggest that an officer of this kind be appointed to assist the Registrar throughout the year in all the larger provinces. The extra cost would amount to something like $\nexists 4,000$ per annum."

It was agreed that in all the larger provinces there should be a permanent assistant to the Registrar, not below the rank of a Junior Deputy Colloctor: In addition to the advantages already pointed out by the Bengal Registrat, the appointment of such an officer would ensure some continuity in the work. A Deputy Collector has already been appointed in Madras, and in three oasca applications have already been made by the Registrars to their Local Governments for such assistance.
28. The proposals of the Bengal Registrar printed below concerning tho appointment of a permanent Secretary to the Conference and the proceduro at the next Conference were agreed to, and it was suggested by the President that the present Secretary should continue in office till the next Conference:-
"A permanent Secretary.-I would suggest that the Registrar of ono province should be appointed Secretary to the Conference for ove year, and that he should assist in getting the proposals of the Cunference properly placed before the Government. He should also draw up the programme for the next Conference after reference to the different provincos, and should act generally as a bond between the Registrars from one Conferenco to anothor."
"The procedure.-I would suggest that individual members bo asked to prepare opening papers on each of the subjects to be discussed. This would not in any way interfere with the preparation of notes by other Registrara, but if it is the duty of one member to inform himself fully upon a dofnite subject the discussions which follow will be more valuable."
20. The President shortly addressed the Registrars on the work of the Conference and its advantages.
30. The Registrars thanked Mr. Carigle for having given so much of his valuable time to the work of the Conference.

## Appendix 1.

STATEMENT I-A.
general progress.
Central Societies (lending to other Sociotios only).

| Provinea | EIND OY SOCIETY |  |  |  |  |  | Nuxase or Sogrtiss. |  | Stucbra or Makaran. |  | Rumaza. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Casie. |  | Prodtotita. |  | Dismabitifi. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Lindted <br> limbility. | Uulinited lisbility. | Limited liability. | Ualimitad linbility. | Limitad lisbility. | Uallmited lisbility. | At the beginning of the jear, lat $\Delta$ pril 190 | $\begin{aligned} & \Delta t \text { the end of the } \\ & \text { period, soth June } \\ & 1907 \text {. } \end{aligned}$ | At the beginaing of the year, 1 at A April 1900. | At the ond of the period, 30th June 1907. |  |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Б | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Madras . - . | 1 | *.. | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | ... | $\cdots$ | 1 | 1 | 27 | 43 |  |
| Bombay - . - | ... | ... | ... | ... | .. | $\cdots$ | ... | ... | ... | ... |  |
| Bengal - - - . | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ..• | ... | ... | ... | ... |  |
| Uuitod Provinces - . | ... | 10 | $\cdots$ | ** | ... | ... | 8 | 10 | 1,669 | 2,669 |  |
| Paojab . - - | ."• | -•* | ... | ** | ** | - | - | -.. | -* | ... |  |
|  | ... | ... | ... | ** | ** | ... | ... | ... | ... | - |  |
| Eastern Bengal and Assam | ... | ... | ..- | .." | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |  |
| Central Prorinces and Berar | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | -* | 3 | 43* | 43 | *At the begin- |
| Coors - . - . | $\cdots$ | ... | ... | ... | ... | ..- | ... | ... | *.' | ... | year or at the |
| Ajmer • - . - |  | ... | - | ... | ... | $\cdots$ | ... | ** | -* | ... | tration. |
| North-West Frontier Prorince. | ... | $\cdots$ | ... | ... | ... | $\cdots$ | ... | ... | ... | ... |  |
| ${ }^{\text {Torsl }} \cdot$ | 3 | 11 | ..- | ..• | ... | ... | 9 | 14 | 1,745 | 2,761 |  |

- STATEMENT I-B.

GENERAL PROGRESS.
Urban Societies.

| - Protide. | kind of society. |  |  |  |  |  | Nomers oy Soctitis |  | Noumbr or Mrumirg. |  | Remaris. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Casa. |  | Productive. |  | Dibimibutivs. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Limited lisbility. | Unlimited Lisbility. | Limited liability. | Unlimited liability. | Limited lisbility | Onlimited liability. | At the beginning of the gear, 1st April 1906. | At the end of the period, 80th Jano 1907. | At the beginning of the year, 1 st April 1906. | $\begin{aligned} & \Delta t \text { the end of the } \\ & \text { period, soth J ane } \\ & 1907 . \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | - ${ }^{10}$ | 11 | 12 |
| Madras . . $\quad$. | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | :. | $\cdots, 9$ | 21 | 1,383 | 3,533 |  |
| Bombay . . . . | 16 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 20 | 290 | 1,945. |  |
| Bengal . . . | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | :. | $\cdots$ | 4 | 8 | 500 | 725 |  |
| United Provinces : . | *16 | ... | ]. | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 18 | 2,749 | 25,318 | *There are 1,536 |
| Punjab. . . . | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 164 | 279 | ties. |
| Barma . . . . | 3 | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 | 61 | 103 |  |
| Eastern Bengaland Assam | 12 | $\cdots$ | .. | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 12 | 529 | 1,029 |  |
| Central Provinces and Berar | 4. | ...' | -• | $\ldots$ | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | -†238 | 667 | tAt the beginning of the year |
| Coorg . . . . | ... | $\cdots$ | ... | ... | * | ... | ... | $\cdots$ | ... | ... | or at the time of registration. |
| Ajmer . - . | $\cdots$ | -* | ... | ... | -. | ... | ... | .. | ... | ... |  |
| North-West Frontier Province. | - 0 | ..• | ..• | . | - $\cdot$ | ... | - ... | ... | - 0 | $\cdots$ |  |
| - Total | 67 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 9 | .. | 37 | 89 | 5,914 | 33,599 |  |

Rural Societies.

| Prorluca. | EXND OF SOCIETY. |  |  |  |  |  | Noxasi 0] Bocistizg. |  |  |  | Rimizu. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Casm. |  | Prodvcisty. |  | Distambitre. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Limilad linbility. | Unlimitod linbility. | Limitod lisbility. | Colimitad. liability. | Limited liabbility. | Colimited liability. | $\left\|\begin{array}{c} \text { At the beginging or } \\ \text { the year, } 12 t 1 \\ 1906 . \end{array}\right\|$ | At the end of the period, 80th Jane 1907. | At the beginning of the jear, Jat April the jear, jet April 1906 . | $\begin{aligned} & \Delta t \text { the end of the } \\ & \text { period, } 10 \text { oth } \mathrm{J} \text { ane } \\ & \text { 1207. } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | Б | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Madras . . . | 12 | 29 | - 0 | " | ..• | ... | 17 | 41 | 1,323 | 2,863 |  |
| Bombay - - . | :.. | 49* | - | ... | - . ${ }^{\text {- }}$ | ... | 21 | 49 | 1,129 | 3,578 | - Two socloties inalude cortain |
| Bengal - - . . | ... | 160 | ... | ... | *- | $4 \dagger$ | 53 | $170 \ddagger$ | 2,117 | 7,159 |  |
| Unitad Prorincos . . | ..• | 130 | ... | 128 | *- | ... | 61 | 142 | 10,378 | 16,483 | + The atatistica of theoe groin eociotien are not arnil- |
| Panjab . . - . | 1 | 173 | -* | ... | ... | ** | 28 | 174 | 1,525 | 17,254 | $\pm \text { Able. }$ |
| Barma . . . . | 1 | 37】 | ... | ... | - 0 | ... | 21 | 87 | 1,366 | 1,925 | acciesies and 24 on registered grain banke. |
| Eastern Bengal and Assam | ... | 43 | $\cdots$ | *- | - | ... | 14 | 48 | 521 | 2,424 | fTbese are med meletice |
| Central Provinces and Berar | $\cdots$ | 63 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 63 | 1,8669 | 2,15 | round ap on 30th Jataary 1007. |
| Coors . . . - | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | $\delta$ | 11 | 507 | 957 | I At the beginaing of the jear or at the time of regir- |
| Ajmer • - . | ... | 8 | * | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 8 | 23S** | 186 | tration. <br> ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{OP}$ thone the name <br> of 58 members were |
| North-TFest Frontier Frovince. | ... | ... | ... | $\cdots$ | ... | $\cdots$ |  | ... | ... | ... | strack ofl the list na scoconat of their declining to pey the admingion fee. |
| Total | 25 | 703 | ... | 12 | ... | 4 | 237 | 743 | 20,970 | 54,953 |  |



|  | cudsuct | bectipts． |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | disporsmusmes． |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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STATEMENT II-C.
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS-from $1 s t$ tpril 1906 tq $30 t h$ June $190 \%$.


STATEMENT IİI-A.
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT—from 1st April 1906 to 30 th June 1907.
Central Societies (lending to or dealing with bther Societies only).


STATEMENT III-B.
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT-FROM IST APRIL 1900 TO 30TH JUNE 1907.


STATEMENT IIIC.
PROFIT AṄD LOSS ACCOUNT-TROM IST ${ }^{\circ}$ APRIL 1906 , TO 30TH JUNE 1907.


STATEMEITT IV-A.
baldance sheet as at sore June 1907.


STATEMENT IV-b.
balance sheet as at 30th JUNe 1007.
Urban Societies.



STATEMENT IV-C.
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 1907.
르ural Societies.



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## Appendix 2.

Definition of "profits" referred to in section 8 ant ths qucstion hoio the "reserve funds" mentioned in section 27 (2). (o) of the CJ-op:ratice Credit Societies Act should be built up.
The two points for decision are- :
(a) how "profits" should be caloulated; and
(b) how a reserve fund should be built up;
under the Co-operative Credit Societies Lot, 1001. The organization of theso societies is so elastio that it is impossible to dogmatize rery much; but tho following remarks are suggested by perfectly goneral considerations.
2. A spciety under the Act may work upon capital raised by-


Section 27 ( $h$ ) speaks of raising capital "by means of shares or dobonturos or otherwise;" but it is not clear whether 'the last two words contemplato anything except. deposits or loans; probably not. Section 8 of the det prohibits any "dipidend or payment on accopint of profits" being paid until a resery'e fund is established : but "proits" is nowhere defined.

On these data, "profits" mas be takẹn to mean-
( 1 ) the gross interest receipts, after deducting in tha order named, -
(a) the working expenses of the society; ${ }^{\text {; }}$
(b) interest on deposits, loans and debentures : and
? (c) bad and doubtful debts.
$\therefore$ (2) proceeds of the sale of stock; so far as such procceds aro applic.
able to the satisfaction of unpaid interest ; and

- (3) miscellaneóus receipts, such as admission fecs, eto.

If, however, the society has a share capital, item (1) (o) would bo subjost to rules, as bad debts beyond a certain presoribod limit wijuld involve' a writing: down of capital. If there is no share oapital, bai and doubtful dobts must clearly be a charge ágainst profits, any such debts which may subsequently be realized being credited as- profits. If the socicty has a soparato.capital account, all contribution to sinking funds for the repaym nat of loans should be taken to it.
3. The manner of building up a reserve fund is a matter for rulcs under - section 27 (2) (o). The Act does not allow any dividond on shares or any bonus to be paid until a reserve fund has accumulated. The amount of the rescrvo must clearly depend.on the extent of the society's liabilitics and on tho purposes for which the fund is to be mado available. It secms impossiblo to lay down any general rule on the subject.
4. There was some discussion at the recent Conference ol Registrars as

## Paragraph 27.

 to the purposes of a reserve; but LocalGovernments have not appareally framed any rules on the subject.' Unless, howover, a reserve is car-marked for any particular object, it seems that it may be applied to meet any current liability of tha society which the gross interest receipts of tho year aro uncqual to meeting, e.g. $:-$
working expenses;
interest due on borrorved capital ;
instalments of loan repayments which aro duo;-and
bad debts which are not covered by the mriting-down of capitsil.
The amount which it is necessary to accumulate for thes3 purposes before any dividend or bonus is divisible, must depend entirely on circumstances.
5. Thero is only one other general remark to be made. If the reserve is ta serve its parposes properly-and especially if it is to be regarded as a security for loans to the society-it should not be employed in the ordinary busincss of the society, but should be safely invested, either in the Post Offce Savings Bank or in some investment of the nature of a trustee stock, e. g.; Government paper or Municipal debentures.

## Appendix 3. <br> Report of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the Annual Report and $\therefore:$ Statements.

We consider that advance copies' of the annual report and statements should be issued by the 75 th September so as to enable the Conference to be held early in October. A later date interferes seriously with the cold, weather touring.
2. We recommend that the statistics should be compiled not forijndividual soccietics, but for groups of societies or for districts.
3. 'Statement I.- We recommend 'that Statement I should show': only two classes of societies, "Cash" and "Other"; and that two columns, should be added to show working capital at the beginning and at the end of the jear.
4. Statement.11.-(a) We think that columi 29 should not• be filled up unless there is a teal reserve specially invested and not carried forward to ther opening balance of the next year.
${ }^{-p}$ (b) We recommend that column 3 should be put between the present columns 15 and 16, and that column 16 should show the grand total receipts. including the opening balance.
(c) We recommend that a new .cplumn should be added after column 31, to show grand total expenditure including closing balance, which șhould correspond with column 16.
5. Statement 1III.-(a) We have considered the Central Provinces. Regis-. trar's criticism of column 2 and do not think it is sound. A profit and loss account should show the interest earned and not merely the interest receized during the year. ${ }^{\text {. }}$
(b) We'recommend that a column "Total" should be inserted between columns 11 and 12 to show total loss.
(c) We recommend that the following footnote be added to this form :-
" Receipts and expenditure on account of previous years, and collections and dues belonging to subsequent years, should not be shown in this statement."
©. Statement IV.-We recommend that column 25 should be placed after the existing" column 22, so that the balance sheet may show the difference between assets and liapilities.

- 7: We have observed various discrepancies in the statistics submitted this - yeari and rocommend that all Registrars should take steps to ensure that the total of, the loans outstanding at the beginning of the year plus the loans. granted during the year, should correspond with the total of the loans repaid during the joar plus the loans outstanding at the end of the year.
-8. In viow of the trouble caused both to Registrars and societies by the preparation of the statements, we consider that Registrars should not be called upon to prepare any statistics other than those prescribed.


## Appendix 4.

## Question of summary-procediure for the recovery of co-operative societies' dues.

1. The question is a large one with different sides, and must be dealt with somewhat in bits.

Pcrhaps, to bogin with, one might examine the term "summary-procedure, '" and all it may contrin, more specifically.

Then one may deal directly with the two main bodies of objectionists.

Lastly, one might add any positive side or point remaining still untouched.
The subject is not a new one; as may be secn, inter alia, from the Gorernment of India's'letter No. $830-30 \cdot 3$, dated 29 h May 1006 , to the Punjab Government (copy sent to Local Governments). But I am dealing with tho matter in a way independently and after experience.
2. "Summary eprocedure," may bo said simply to include any or moro than one of the following: -
(1) decision of original decree by Revenuo authority,
(2) execution of Civil (or Revenue) decreo by Revenue process,
(3) desision of original decree by the society itself, $\cdot \therefore$.
(4) execution of Civil (or its own) decree by the socicty itself.
$\cdot$
In the case of (3) and (4), of course, the words may appear to bg :usad somewhat loosely. "Arbitration", and "Decision by Panolh," hamercr, aro easily understood. "Execution" in such case might find its sanction, its reference and its record with the Registrar; the specifio"ollicer spocially, appointed by Government to see justice done and to protect individual and commupal.interests. However, to avoid complication and unnecessary disagrcoment ojer. minor points, we may take it that "summary-procedure": means certainly-execution by a summary-process as opposed to the process of'a Civil Court; and ppssibly also decision of decree in a : summary as opposicd to oivil procedure,

- 3. Now, it is instructive to note the readiness with which the mind dissociates any cirll procedure from anything like expodition. To " fo to lair (civil)" and to "go to man's long home" may be almost equivalent with somo people. "Assuredly life for many, after proceedings are begun, cannot casily rui again as smoöthly as before. All the time the law is procceding, bitterness is being bred and fostered. Wise advice was that that deprecated. rosort to extraneous law when brotherly arbitration was so more natural. (or spiritual). In a word, civil law (I use the words loosely ip a comprehensive sense) is terribly heavy, moves slowly, and is all-absorbing. It is a veritablo behemath, - drinking up a river and hasting not. It. is. a creature made to romedy a. terrible evil-namely the absence of fair play (to say nothing of brotherly feeling) between citizens of the same city. It has its use thien; and its ugliness may add thereto.:

4. But, what if the ugliness be more threatening to the injured than the injuring? What if the rich fraud, the cruel task-master, finds this monstor beautifully in keeping with his own methods; ever ready to tread out tho only breath he has himself left, because it is against his religion to take life? When it is a matter of distinguishing between individual and individual tho. complex centralized, Governments of to-day find a task almost if inot quito beyond them. Then why not adopt a method that at cnce setiles tho matter by substituting local knowledge for central intelligence? \% ... .
5. "Summary," then, is to be anything "on the spot," as opposod to an" extranenus something that takes longrin coming.
6. Now, it is noticeable that Government having found civil law necessary to meet an evil, have also found further action necessary to expedito protedtarc, It is Government to whom honour is due both for the process and the expedition. . Then, why treat as something strange the application by ${ }^{\circ}$ Government of one course to one case and another to another? We forget, perhaps; 'that thm simpler preceded the complex; and the old is often better than the new. It is. the mixture that does the mischief. It is the honour of Government to dis. tinguish and divide; and to grant or withhold a privilege, to check the crif dad. encourage the good.
7. But who, I ask, is to be the champion of an experimental socicty; to." face the bughear of civil proceedings as they now aro; and weary himscle physically and mentally, spend and be spent, in trying to bring a traitor to justice; not criminal justice unfortunately, but civil; with the bare possibility that the society will not lose on the whole proccedings? This is to reçompense the altruistic individual for all bis trouble.
8. To talk about the socicty suing as a whole is unpractical from berinning to end. It is mere theorizing. We shall never get any forwarder in truo co-operation if we do not call things by their proper names and fhee facts apart
from their usual soft clothing. Who is to pay the bailiff? Who is to pay the Vakil's extra-fce, not included in the costs? Who is to pay travelling expenses to and from the Court? Who to pay the " batta" of the society's representativo, who hangs on the legal adviser from day to day waiting to be told that a seal is necossary, a further signature required, some entry still to be made and other thiugs may be? Fortunately perhaps cases may beoome so frequent (when delinquents see how littlo their lass compared to the society's, and how conveniont to gain time) that Vakils and. Courts will be familiar with co-operative law and the special privileges allowed to societies. Vakils will have no necd thien to charge their "extra" fee due to the novelty of the case. Nor will Courts need to postpone for further information. But the bailiff? No novelty, no familiarity, will shake his equilibrium. Does he always ask for money ; Oh, no. But if you don't'give, you find his visits unexpected and inconvenient; and it may take nonths to get him right. He has business elsewhere. Now, who in a society is to be responsible for seeing the bailiff through? Further, who will do it a second time who has already done it once? Perhaps the answer isithat he won't need to, the little society having already succumbed to tho first caso.

- D. The tro main bodies of 'pbjectionists (that is those who object to the grant of summary-procedure for cooperative societies) are, we may say, (if only for the sake of argument) those who object on general grounds and those who object on "co-operative" grounds.

10. In the first class I conclude all who deprécate special legislation, all who do not favour privileges but would have one law for all, all who shrink from granting a special favour because others will ask the same.

I cannot help thinking that a point of view starting on these lineswill end finally by logical procedure in negation of Government altogether. I am not of course concerned in the least with mere political problems here. I only introduce the subject for my particular purpose, and would point out that what has been written above may show that it is the discretion of substitution or application, of restitution or adjustment, that is claimed in this case for Government: not arbitrary creation. "."'
11. But to be concise, one may say that this whole point of view turns on a consideration of the present money-lending class. Give the sarkar his'due of course ; but don't yield to him at the expense of others: don't give the monopoly to a system that favours him, while refusing the extension of a sister system that meroly treats him in company with others. We must rememberit is not a" new system. "Summary-procedure" pervades the administration of India. And where it prevails things run smoothly, where it is not wheels become terribly ologged.
12. But, it is argued, (and now-a-days much weight is given to.such misleading arguments)-if you give to one others will ask. Let them. Oh, but we must then give to them too. Why? Or, we shall have to go into intricato details to extricate ourselves from the charge of favouritism. Yes, it is that modern catchword "favouritism" that does all the mischief. Surely it is one of tho highest privilegos of Government to favour the good and disfavour the eril. The answer then to those who ask because others have been given is casy-we have given to them because they conform to the good of the community, you may have the same when you do likewise. Certainly, in the case under consideration it may readily be said to the sarkar-your ways are selfish but societios' not so: you are welcome to their privileges when you conform to thoir methods.
13. The other, the "co-operative," objection is' perhaps more subtle; less casy to see through and overcome. It is sound too, if not pressed too far. Pampering is almays dangerous for a child; and a spoilt child is notorious. Erco to tako much notioe of young people may spoil them. And it goes hard with youns plants outside if bept too long in the hot-house. But, on the other hand, children and plants dio without care; and grown-ups too for that matter. As the constitution sq should the treatment be. And I would venture to say that "summary-procedure" is the most natural and logical procedure for on-operativo societics from beginning to end ; there is no forced or unnatural growth necessarily inrolved in it. I would suggest further that as "co-operation" has prored the logical conciusion of all attempts to settle the agricultural
question of debt, so is "summary-procedure" the only logical conclusion (not inclusion) of all the legislation that bas been aimed at the release of the farmor from the trammels of civil law. It is too big a matter for this short memo. to trace the steps taken in India to defend the poor man from those, tho rich, whose burden the Civil Courts made law. It may sullice to mention "registration," with its complicated impositions, as an obvious oxamplifcation of the expedients employed to protect tho poor and check tho araricious. Now, the expedient was good: but as things move on its place is taken in part by a new registration; the registration of societies, wheroby therich suffers equally with the poor if either play false. The old registration clashes with tho new, and is a mere burden if imposed upon it. To lighten tho burden Government have kindly released the fees. Surcly with the fecs tho burden should fall to the ground. It is as though one said to a society- jou are doing exactly what we wanted to remedy defcets, and the very thing for which wo had to devise the more cumbrous system of registration: but wo must troublo you still to conform to the old regime, though we let you off the payment therefor. But we cannot let them off the.expenses incidentally incurred in connection with frequent visits to a distant (physically and morally) subregistrar. One sub-registrar, logically enough, seems to have thought no fco no registration. He forgot evidently that registration was not made for him but for the Civil Court above. And in fact we may leave "registration" for its. solution in the solving of the all-absorbing Civil Court problem:
14. If there is one thing, not principle, that co-operation wants moro than another it is-truth. Legal fictions; social glamour, political politencsscs are useless and worse than useless to it. Arguments not based on fact, suppositions untrue to experience, intentions not realized, and utopian theorics that await a millenium, have little place in the co-operative world. Judgment by results not principles, by works not preacling, is what co-operation needs. People, true people, who will do, not only say, or write, is what it wants. Persons, genuine characters, not masked, is its desideratum. Then, why magnify legal sentiment, or political aphiorisms, or suppositioual priaciples at the expense of the genuine and just convenience of persons, acting in consonance with those above and those below? . Governmont has two procosscs to offer-one tedious, the other expeditious. Why not simply lay doma tho circumstances under which the former will apply and thoso (inoludins co-operative societies) under which the latter? The question is alrcady assuming definite shape in connection with Banks, like "the Eryptian." Moreover, the Co-operative Act itself (X of 1001) brings it pointedly, to the front in its Section 26. How can we then still look upon it as a grave innovation in co-operative principles? It is a matter of expedienoe, not principles. The Civil Court may continue to loom in the distanco, if reference thereto be still sought. The society, presumably, knows its busincss best.
15. But, say some, the essence of a society is brotherly fecling, and better that the society be in its grave (or never come to birth) than be tainted with the poison of help from above. I may be excused if I express my humblo opinion that, as far as the Bombay Presidency is concerocd, such opinions belong to those only who have taken no active part in aotual existing societics or in the organisation of new ones. I have myself, too, studitd Wolff and co-operative literature carefully; I have followed out the system in theory and practice; and I cannot see, granted India. anything whatever to make ono think that the assistance of Government coming through a special expedient rather than through the usual long-process would bo detrimental to the cooperation of a society. On the contrary, the opposite I think might, and still may, if not remedied, hold good. Wolff is very strong against Government patronizing-with money. We are already doing that, and be is watching. We must beware surely of straining at a gnat and swallowing a camcl. It is almost as though one argued (after reading some treatise on the "family," or "patriarchal life," or the like) that as the "family" should obviously be. based on piety, therefore no provision against impiety was requircl. Pcople forget, perhaps, that both the Patriarchal and the Panch systems had to deal with impiety (because they dealt with human beings), but had the remedy in themselves. Now, it is being said-the son should not bo a thief (this is theory); if he is, the father is welcome to go to court of law ; ho must not
be allowed to punish the boy himself because it would militare against the brotherly-love on which the family depends. As a matter of fact, as with the family so with the society, it is that forced reference without, due to enforced disabilities within, that breaks up an establishment, perhaps irreparably. No utopian theorists or milleniumizing idealists have yet managed to prevent offences coming. Nor will a Co-operative Act, Co-operative Rules, nor even rigid by-laws and elections ever doso. This is what I mean when I say that co-operation needs facts not theories, it deals with persons not principles.
16. It remains only to close with a few more general remarks. We havo found the "sirkar" system as a whole bad; we have tried a Government system of "tagi", but that has only proved partial. Theindebtedness of the farmer has gone on. We have introduced co-operative credit societies: we find them work: we find them even setting aboat doiag that wo hove never done, namely, the redemption of old debts. They have what the saykars have not, namely, clear accounts; they aim at a cheap rate of interest for loans; they encourage thrift, self-help, friendly feelings, social discipline. " They have in view a wholesale improvement of the soil (only acceptable to the cultivator wiben its encumbrance is removed), and friendly intercourse in the market nnd life generally. In fine, the co-operative movement is. bent on releasing tho land from its present debt and improving it so as to pay the cost nove and to pay its own way to increasing prosperity in future. The society does not rise up in arms against the savkar, does not declare him an enemy in any: way, docs not forbid his existence; on the other hand, it asks his assistance; it offers terms of equality with others; or if he prefers to remain outside it offers self as a humble borrower. Are we then going to listen to the savkar when he says you never gave mo the special privilege of summary-procedure? If he were honest he might add in-that I might make merry with my fellow-sarkars, or by myself. The savkar, the man who keeps no accounts or false ones, who cares nothing for the land and less for its people, except with the love of a parasite, in whose dictionary the words "mercy"-"morality""modesty" are all found under the head-"money"? I think of a class, not individuals. Anyhow, has the profession of money-landing any object in vietr but its own gain; and that a verg individual gain? Whereas the society by profession is bound to help the people and improve the land; it may or may not make much for itself, but that much is for all, not for one. The loss a society helps people generally the less true is it to its profession, the lcss a savkar is kindly the more he may make out of his profession.

Are we then going to allow the savkar say-you ask mo to give up my high rates and lend at smaller to op through your society: but I can rocover my dues more easily than yoa: I sue alone, and knowing the Court, and having the. money; it is part of my work: but you, you are too clumsy to sue, too ignorant as a whole, too busy with your other ( (proper) work: suing is part of my trado and my principles; suing spoils your trade and offends your principles: thank you, I prefer my own business-?
17. Again, why double our'procedure: why have double registration, Why double audit? Surely Government Audit, by a specially appointed Registrar, to vouch for the correctness of a due is sufficient "decision" to satisfy all the requirements of a decree, evea a public one, when it is remgmbored that the dealings are professedly inter pares? Surely the proceedings of a village society are as intelligible to the public generally as the intricacies of an Urban Court?
18. Another thing we may introduce into our consideration is the necessity for strengthening our societies against attacks in the village. We have seen how the savkar might afford to laugh at them. What of the village-officers? It is by no means a foregone conclusion that those magnates will be members. The very principles of co-operation alonost forbid one, or both, or all. The old Maratha proverb classes the Kulkarni with the Sonar and the Shimpi, as one of thoso who take their perquisites on the way. The society particularly uceds to avoid sll such perquisite-taking. It deals in small profits; and a little perquisite rould go a long way to rain it. The Patil, too, may have become pompous with the assumption of authority, and disdain to be co-member but we must reckon better village officers, of course, are ready enough to help: Eulkarni assuredly are such. We are practically in a village the Patil and Eulkarni assuredly are such. We are practically re-introducing the "Panch"
system, and courting in part opposition from tho "Patil." Why not protect the society by giving it power and dignity, sare it from the precariousncss of the ordinary civil procedure, and puta premium on honesty of accounts and honourableness of membership?
19. Factions, too, have to be met with ; and Governmert may mect them' best by affording facilities most readily to those who submit to their supervision. Societies are always open to inspection. But who ever inspects factions? What officer ever gets to the bottom of them? Factions may thriro by illdeeds, but a society suffers therefrom. Why not make the socicty a power in the village, the power in the village for good. Societies, if possibly they proved oppressive, could be readily dissolved. The more oppresive factions are the less easy of dissolution. Of course, the socicty is mainly cconomio. But the village system is still primitive enough to be monological.
20. If Government interference of any kind is deprecated for co-operative societies then the safest way to ensure sound work and a minimum of dissension will be surely to debar them from those Courts of litigation altogether, to keep them strictly outside the Vakil-world, to leave them full discretion and their own devices. Why leave them liable at any time to bailifs and blackmail? And why allow their private, meroly personal, a atairs troublo the edars of a public Court? But don't refuse Government interference because (in theory) they are never to need coercive power. But do so only if they, have that power in themselves, as a father has with his child-and a rod. And who is to give that power or allow its use but Government? And why should not Government be as forward as anyone to give all it can to help on co-operation? It is money that is the dangerous gift, beosuse if unearned it is out of place. When earned it ceases to be a gift. Societies are given Civil procedure willy-nilly, an unwelcome gift; are they not to get tho summaryprocedure they have worked for?
21. To sum up,-the four great enemies of co-opcrative socictics arosavkars, factions, registration, etc., and Civil Courts. All theso I have tricd to show, are dealt with, in part anyhow, in the question of "summary-procedure." Why establish free institutions by law and then allow them to be depressed by previous legislation? I have tried to show that that provious legislation has really been leading up to co-operation, and should bow before it When it comes. I have tried to show that it is not a question of "Government intervention" or "no Government intervention"; but of the kind (and kindliness) of that intervention. I have tried to introduce Government as the strongest friend (as it is) of a good cause, itself the prime-mover thercia. I have been jealous for the honour of Government throughout; , and 'if I have been hot at all, it is with not a whit of any personal bitterness. . Whether I deprecate or advocate it is on behalf of Government; and my highest hopo herein is that Government will continue ever, as it has begun, in the forefront of the fight in India between honest co-operation and avaricions self-secking, the conflict between fellow-feeling and unfriendly pride. Who will say that "co-operation" will suffer, or die, from this friendship and friendly action of Government?

C. S. CAMPBELL, Iegistrar, Co-operative Oredit Socielics, Borinlay.

## Appendix 5. .

Note on the enforcement of decisions and of awards $l y$ arlitralors under section 27 (2) ( $p$ ) of Act $X$ of 1001.
This subject came under prominent notice by a case where the heirs refuscd to acknowledge the debt of a deceased member. The society proceeded under the rules issued by the Local Government under Niotification No. 07 , dated 27th December 1906, and which are similar to those issucd by Gorcrament of tho United Provinces.
2. When proceeding with the case it was found, that the arbitrators were powerless in summoning the attendance of persons who were required for tho enquiry. An amendment of the rules seems nccessary for this purpose.
3. Although the dispute herein referred to, was settled amicably, I took legal advice from the Gorernment Pleader, Mr. T. V. Nagaratnam Pillai, d.L., b.L.,
who was of opinion that there is no procedure prescribed for the enforce ment of an award. In this respect the following doubt requires to. be cleared :-

Is an award legal if passed for non-payment, i.e., where there is no dispute?
4. As regards the Act itself, the Government Pleader is of opinion-and I also concur with him:-", that the society is in no way better off than ordinary creditors, except, perhaps, as regards its claims under section 19 (b). Considering, honcver, the time that must necessarily elapse before' the award ripens into a decree, and the decree is put into execution, I am afraid that one year's limitation prescribed by clause ( $a$ ), within which the priority over the crops, or
 Thero is then only one month left for action to be taken by the society. But during this period the Courts are closed for the summer holidays. It is, morcover, not advisable to resort at once to a Civil Court,' without some effort. being made for an amicable settlement. This necessarily requires some timo for various reasons.
6. Summarising, the above, I am of opinion that the following provisions. are neccssary :-
(a) Rules for the enforcement of attendance of persons who are required for the enquiry.
(b) Rules prescribing the procedure for the enforcements of awards, ordecisions, as provided for by the Act (section 27 (2) (p)).
(c) The amendment of the Act extending the time under section 19 (a). to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ years.

GUSTAV HALLER,<br>Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies, Coorg.

Mrrcara:
The 20th September 1907.
NOTIFICATION-By the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, No. 97, dated Bangalore, the 2lst. December 1906.
In exercise of the powers conferred by section 27 (2) ( $p$ ) of the Co-operatire Credit Societies Act, 1904 ( X of 1901) the Chief Commissioner is pleased to prescribe the following rules in connection with the working of the co-operative credit socicties in the province of Coorg.

1. Any dispute in respect of the business of a society between any person who-
(a) is or has been a member of a society, or
(b) claims through any one who is or has been a member; and such society or its committee or any of its officers, shall be referred to the Registrar for decision.
2. The Registrar on receiving notice of such a dispute as is referred to in Hulo 1, shall either decide the dispute himself or shall refer it for arbitration to three arbitrators of whom one shall be nominated by each of the parties to. the dispute and the third by the Registrar.
3. Where any party to the dispute fails to nominate an arbitrator within. fifteen days after roceipt of notice from the Registrar, the Registrar shall himself make the nomination.
4. In proceedings under Rule 2 before the Registrar or arbitrators thestatement of the parties who attend and of such witnesses as they may produce shall bo reduced to writing, and upon the evidence so recorded, and after considcration of any documentary evidence produced by either side, a decision oramard, as the case may be, shall be given in accordance with justice, equity and good consoicnce.
5. (i) Any party aggrieved by an award of arbitrators may appeal to theRegistrar, within one month of the date of the award.
(ii) Every order made by the Registrar under these rules shall' be final and conclusive.
6. In procecdings under these rules neither party shall be represented byany legal practitioner.

Extract from the Iroceedings of the Government of Bombay, Rrecnue Department, No: 9368, dated the 24th.September 1007.
Read-
Letter from the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Socictics, .io. 973 , dated 31 st July 1907:-
"I have the honour to submit humbly a note,* which I bave ouly written after much . . thought, feeling that the full intentions of Government were nut reaching and could not reach the noble goal at which they aim without some moditication of
. . the hard and fast rules by which Government have (for the tiwo of courso rightly) bound themselves.
2. The time has now come when the idea of co-operativo credit has touched tho - uneducated, as a rule ignorant, classes. Such classes call for gentler triatmeot than is required by their better to-do brethren, who are naturally the first to realise the good of the movement and the liberality of the help held out by Government.: The condition of 'equal deposits, etc.,' has been excellent for such people, not of course by emphasizing the 'co-operative credit' side of the novement, but by bringing the 'agricaltural bank' into actual life. Yet, ono can hardly contemplate without concern for the future a strictucss giving rise (liko tho Watan Act) to expedients, almost tricks, derised to get round conditiona Which seem 50 unnatural to the people in connection with lonus. I ask, however, merely for discretion to help the less fanoured, the oncs that chave not any' -to pick up the closing words of the Government lie erolution nest quoted. Otherwise, the question may ariso whether 'Savings Banks' rather than 'Credit Societies' are not the main object of the whole movement.
3. In Government Resolution No. 11378 of lst December 1000, it is truo Government have suygested that the open marlet shonild be counted on as much as Government for loans in circumstances somowhat speculative. But I trust I sball not be misunderstood when I lay emphasis on the fact that the moncylender is rather discouraged from lendiog when Government lirst refusc, and refuse because there is no cash amongst the members ; while he may readily point to the provision for summary recovery which Governmeut have secured for their own loans, while his are to go the way of all his previoue opef, that tedious and unsatisfactory way of the bailiix!
-4. I humbly request that the matter may receive very early consideration, and to submitted to the Government of India in time for the Annual Confurcace should it be thought necessary to do so. My note will be reid of courie not, as a criticism, but as a report of experiments and public "pinion."
Memorandum from the Director of Agriculture, No. A.-4403, dated 12th Aagust 1007 :-
"Forwarded with compliments.
2. Attention is. invited to this ofice No. A. $\mathbf{- 4 3 7 5 , t}+$ dated 10 th instant, regarding certain specific proposals made by Commissioner Booth Tucker, and in larticular to paragraphs 5 and 6.
3. All that seems neoessary at present is to inquire whether the conditions laid down by the Government of Iudia in paragraph 26 of their hesolution No. 1-63-3, dated 29th April 1904, are open to discussion noiv or at the yest annual meeting of the Registrars. It may also be added perhapa that further experience in Bombay has confirmed the view taken ly the late Mecrintrar that in this Presidency the rule in question has operated unfurtuately. A promining field for saccessful co-operation ia at present clused for want of initial capital, and possible societies which would, in the Registrar's opinion, be likely to do good work canot be registered because local capital io buxtile and Government is debarred from assistance under the rule in question. It in not necessary to

- abrogate the general principle that such socictice thould not look to Government for aid, but must acquire by thrift at least a moiety of the fcude required. But in special cases approved by the Local Government-if necessary within a limit to be imposed by the Imperial Gorernment - special conce-sions may temporarily and experimentally be made with a vier to test the alility of theso porter classes to manage their affirrs."

Resolution.-Government have only recently expresed their opinion on this point and are not prepared to re-open the subject at present. But there can be no objection to the Registrar's proposing the subject to the nert Confercucs for discossion ; and if his opinion is endorsed by the Confercace, then there will be a much stronger case for a reconsideration of present orders.

M. K. Nalidian,<br>Acting Under-Secretary to Govcrnment.

[^0]Copy forwarded with compliments to the Secretary, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, Government of India. The subject is intended for discussion again at the coming Conference.
2. The undersigned takes the liberty to send the whole Government Resolution as it stands, as it is too late now to get the matter put up separately; and he desired his remarks in his letter to Government (No.973, dated 31st July 1007) to accompany his Note.

# C. S. OAMPBELL, Registrar, <br> Co-operative Credit Societies, 

 Dated the 10th October 1907.
## Accompaniment to Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 9368, dated 24th September 1907.

## Note on Government loans to co-operative credit societies.

The question has arisen how far the conditions attached by Government to their loans to co-operative credit societies are really the most suitable in practice.
2. One of the errors to which "Co-operation," perhaps more than other branches of activity, is liable is that of adherence to principles at the expense of practice.

Even in Mathematics exact calculations may be found faulty in practice; so many little factors may. come into play, each too minute in itself, or too abstract, to allow of ready inclusion in a wide calculation, yet together sufficiently numerous' to tell on the result of work as a whole.

In "Co-operation" the personal element is so strong that its problems are more or less soluble only in the solution of practical experiment.
3. The conditions connected with Government loans are all to be found in paragraph 20 of Government of India Resolution No. 1-63-3, dated 29th. April 1001. To these may be added merely section 26 of Aot X of 1904. For convenience of reference I will mention them all. here, dividing them roughly into 2 classes :-
4. Conditions favouring the societies:-

1. No interest.charged for 3 years from date of registration.
2. No payment required for
3. Interest thereafter only 4 per cent.
4. Annual instalments thereafter not to exceed $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the loani:
D. Conditions neutral or favouring Government :-
5. Loan not to exceed $\not 72,000$.
6. " to be in even fifties of rupees.
7. Society to have from its own resources actual capital in hand to an equal amount as the amount to be lent by Government.
8. Government may recover their loan by summary-procedure.

As regards B 3, it must be said that the said capital need only be booked for 5 ycars, which would, however, ordinarily affect "deposits" only, not. "shares" or "subscriptions".
4. Now, the reasons leading to these conditions may be disposed of by concluding them in the desire of Government-
(a) not to patronize or demoralize societies, yet
(b) to give an earnest of Government's interest therein ; and
(c) to call forth an earnest of the people's interest; and
(d) to cncournge habits of thrift and the principles of self-help; and withal
(e) to meet a real need, principle or no !

All the conditions under $A$ abore may be referred here to (b). Conditions 1 1, 2 and 4 may not unfairly be concluded under (a). Condition B'3. is the result of $(c)$ and (d), and is the chicf bone of contention.
5. Some would insist that Government should not lend at all, but the need is too obvious, principle or no! And the safest opinion no doubt is that the test of co-operation should be in the working, and the rorking of a Credit Society necessitates capital, and capital is oapital whencesocver it may come.

Nor does it seem a matter for great comment that Government should prove a kindlier master than the ordinary money-lender? Is the sarkar to teach the Sarkar sympathy! Let him that has. the means communicato to the needy, and Honi soit qui mal y pense.
6. In practice a Government may have to be ready to stand or fall by What it dees and is, rather than by what it means and intends. Gorcrnment servants then must be ready to see things as they look to outsiders as well as knowing things as they are within.

In this case we have two conditions (oiz., 3 and 4) which may be looked on as removing Government loans entirely from the sphere of the ordinary business and law of co-operation. B 3 may be said to violato the principlo of "money" for credit" as opposed to that of "cash for cash"; while iB 4 appears in direct opposition to the principle enforced by Government itsclf in proclaim. ing the brotherhocd of, mankind in the eyes of co-operation, and the efficacy of that brotherhood to recover all dues. On the strength of such a principle poor struggling societies are denied, not Government belp, but Government help in an expeditious frrm. But this is a matter outside the present note, which is intended to deal only with condition B 3 .
7. The exact wording of condition B 3 may be given as :-
"The amount advanced to a society shall not excecd the amount of capital subscribed (and actually paid up) or deposited by tho members which is not repayable by the society. within five jears from the date of subscription or deposit."
The question of limit to Rs. 2,000 (condition B 1) need not be touched on here; it may have an importance of its own, but not directly in connection with condition B 3.
8. Now, quite apart from the apparent inconsistency (nor is consistency by any means an unmixed blessing) of a qualification that refuses a. loan on credit to a Credit Society, it has been said of the United Provincos, and may be well'said of Bombay, that the conditions have worked well. In a word, condition B 3 (with its intentions) is justified by its children.
9. But what if the children are all of one class, or in one class? Aro there no other children, equally true-born, whose birth might resalt from less hampered conditions but more discretion? It might even be said that children of pure credit would be truer to their name and more intense in their appreciation of and love for co-operation.

Is Government, who bas done so much to meet simple necds, to bo backward in meeting simpler ones? $O r$ is it to be said that Government holp is in inverse proportion to the need? The more ncedy the people, the less Government will help them ?

Some would say, let us have no idle period free from interest and instalments, let us not have a rate of interest so alluring, but let us have the moncy to lend wherever it is genuinely needed. And surely it is needed most where there is no money' to begin with.

But who is to determine this genuineness, who to distinguish between tho company of persons who should get ncthing unless they bhow apprecistion of the principles of savings and deposits, thrift and self-help, and the company of those poor but promising brothers in amiction, for whom par excellenco cooperative credit is preached? The Government legistrar of Co-operative Credit Societies is at present little more than an account officer in the matter of Government loans to his societies. The more experience he gaina the moro he may distinguish cases, but ho cannot modify terms; and the people he would encourage most may be the people he could help least.

No one surely contends that the principles contained in the prescat conditions are absolutely right, and not merely relatively convenient. And it is this distioction or relation that is so important a principlo in co-operation, so closely connected with the personal equation, so fatally missed when left outside.

## Appendix 7.

## Note on " Concession of Remittance Transfer Resceipts at par."

The Government of India have (in their No. 1390-174-2 of 18th August 1900 to the Government of Madras) allowed remittances between societies registered under Act X of 1904 to be made by Remittance Transfer Receipts at par.
2. The same concession has been extended to Bombay ; and probably, it is thought, elsewhere also.
3. The question is whether the present Account law should be modified, or the Government of India's sanction requested, to a special procedure by which the concession may be more conveniently made use of by village societies.
4. As things stand, Remittance Transfer Receipts can only be issued and cashed by and at Huzur Treasuries, that is to say, speaking generally, for the Bombay Presidency, from and to the Capital of a District.
5. There is a possible procedure (not very intelligible to the uninitiate) by which the use of Remittance Transfer Receipts for village societies may bo facilitated without further sanction or change. The following describes it:-

The representatives of a village society go to their taluka town, pay in money, and ask for a Remittance Transfer Receipt. The Sub-treasury officer gives a zeceipt for the money, and includes the amount in his daily-sheet to the Huzur with a request for a Remittance Transfer Receipt. In due time the Huzur sends; and the villagers, warned accordingly, come again to get the document. They receive and despatch it to the other society (also a village one, say). The recipient society takes the Remittance Transfer Receipt to its taluka town; but has to wait for the cash till the sub-treasury has forwarded the paper to the Huzur and received back a Cash-order for the amount. When. ever that comes the villagers have again to be present at the Sub-treasury to receive their money.
6. Thus, both the sonding and the receiving society has to go twice to its taluka tornn or Sub-treasury; and the second time either after the delay of being specially called, or to wait the pleasure (or exigencies of work) of a subordinate and superior account-office, bound up may bein delays or red-tape, and accossible possibly to the fluctuations of preferences.

The sanction now suggested is that by which both issue and receipts may be possible at a Sub-treasury as well as Huzur.
7. The point may seem small and unimportant; but two things must be remembered:-

1. Every delay means "interest" paid (by the borrower) on a sum which is doing good to no one.
2. Every journey means possible expense and considerable trouble to those concerned.
Some socicties may, of course, be conveniently situated as regards the Trcasury; but others are not. And the life of each society is the life of an individual ; and valuable like that of a man's.

Loss of "interest" may be light and unnoticed; but the expense and trouble of a journey are both obvious and discouraging, especially to those most iu nced of cncouragement.

Of course, it may be said the concession is only for those to whom it is a concession. That is truo ; and tho only point of this note is to raise the question whether an effort should be made to widen the concession's sphere of benerolence. At present it is likely that the larger and richer societies will reap the benefit of tho concession while their unostentatious clients suffer
uuobserred.

Perhaps roduced postal rates would be more in keeping with village intelligenco.

Anghow, let us berare lest a so-calied concession become a snare.

## C. S. CAMPBELL,

## Appendix 8.

Note by Mr. Gourlay on several miscellaneous matters to be dealt rith at the Conference.
Number of members.
I do not think that any limitation should be placed unon the number of members of a society; this should be left to the members themselres to decide. If they think that a man is suitable to be elected, that is suficient ; the number of members will usually depend on the nature of tho bond which holds the community together. In village societics where liability is unlimited tho number of members will as a rule be small, seldom excecding 50 or 60 (corresponding to a population of 300 to 400 as each member will probably represent a household of 5 or 6) : where the bond is religious, tribal or industrial, the number of members will often be much larger.

In Bengal, however, except in the two Christian societics where tho number of members exceeds a hundred, we bave no experienco of class socictics.

Where the liability is limited and the society is situated in a town, it is but natural that the numbers should be much larger for the society will appeal to a larger community.

I do not think, therefore, that any attempt should be made to restrict tho membership of the society by rules and regulations.

## - Question of area.

The question of the area of a society's operations depends altogether on tho nature of the liability involved. If the liability is unlimited tho members will only elect those whom they see every day, and in whose character they havo tho utmost confidence ; such members will as a rule reside within a very small arca. The dangers of admitting a member who lives at a distanco aro usually apparent, but to prevent mistakes at the beginning of tho society's carcor it is, I think, desirable to limit the area as far as possible. Tho Act uscs the "rords "residing in the same town or village or in the same group of villages," but the village itself is in no way defined. This, I think, is sulliciently clastic for all practical purposes. In Bengal the societies, with two orceptions, are strictly confined to one revenue survey mouza and often to one hamlet within a mouza. The two exceptions are in Orissa where the members aro drawn from the group of villages over which the sarbarakar has influcnce ; but even thero as the liability is unlimited and there is no special procedure for the recovery of debts, the tendency is to exclude all members residing at a distanco.

## Class of people.

In Bengal the great majority of the societies aro composed of members who belong to the poorest classes of tenants. In Bettiah and Mazaribagh Circles, there are also a few landless labourcrs. In the Midnapur Circlo, somo of the members are of a higher grade, but in the whole province.there are very few members who do not require to borrow money for their annual needs. In one case in Monghyr there are two socictics in the same villageone composed of the purely cultivating castes, and the other composed of higher castes.

## Class or Tribal Banks.

As I have said above, there are only tro class Banks in Bengal, and theso are founded on the credit which the members have with the Christian communities at Purulia and Pokuria in Manbhum; the reason for the existence of these societies is that the individual members hare a greater credit within the Christian community than they have in their villages. In other cascs I have always found that an individual's credit within his orn village mas much greater than his credit within his caste, and I believe our socictics ought to bo founded on credit based on a character for honesty and not upon the ability of an organisation to enforce payment. -

The question of regimental societies is one of great interest, but wo hare had no experience on this subject in Bengal.

I append a note written some time ago for the Adjutant of the 7th D. C. O. Rajputs:-
"I would let each company rua its own society and be entirely distinct from its neizhbours. The character for honesty which a man has will be greatest in his company, and consequently bis great credit will be greater there than anywhere else. The credit should therefore be organised in companies. The men will take more interest in it, and the work in conncction with the regiment will be spread over some eight small committees of the men instead of being lentrusted to one large unwieldy committee made up of delegates from the different companies. Let the men, too, elect the members of the committee from among themselves, Twa British officers and the senior native officer might be appointed as "Supervisors" in each company to go over the accounts once a quarter and see that all is in order and up to date. The real management of the lending to the men, however, should be left to the men themselves. They koow what the applicant's credit is, they know what his needs are, and they know when he can repay. When you are speaking to them I would recommend your taking each company separately, and you woold soon see then which men in each company had taken up the idea; and once you get the principles of the scheme into the head of one of the men, he will explain to the others far better than we ever can. If some of the companies don't take to it, don't force them ; let the one which does appreciate it try first, and you will find the rest ranning round you with applications to be let in within threemonths.

All this deals only with the company societies. You must have a different organisation for the Central Regimental Bank which is going to finance these. I will sketch roughly what I think the scheme should be, and if you agree will later work out details for you.

The Central Bank should consist of two bodies: 1 , a committee of the officers of the Regiment, and 2, a committee formed by delegates from each of the company societies (one delegate from each society would probably be sufficient). You will yourself know which of the officers should be the ex-oficio President of this committee. This joint committee would look after the administration of the funds to be lent by the regiment to the men. The committee (or Central Bank as we will call it) would only deal with company societies and never with individuals.

The delegate would state the needs of his society, the Central Bank would consider the security offered by the company society in the way of shares subscribed for, and if satisfied would hand over the required amount to the society fixing the conditions as to interest and re-payment. The society alone would be responsible for loans made by it to individuals. The Central Bank would have the power to call for the books of any society at any time, and to call upon the chairman and committee of the company society or the supervisors to explhin anything connected with the management of the company society.

I would recommend that in all cases the Central Bank charge at least 6 per cent. on all loans made to company societies; if the officers do not want interest on their money, the whole of the profits of the Central Bank could be placed in a Fund (called the Reserve Fand) which will in time be sufficient to finance the Central Bank without assistance from the officers. I would also recommend.that the company societies lend their money at 98 f per cent. (one and a half annas per rupee per year)".

## Entrance Fees.

I do not attach any great importance to the amount of an entrance fee So far as my experienco goes there are only two points to be considered, first, it is well that a small fee should be charged to discriminate between those who are members and those who are not, and second, it is necessary to see that there is $\Omega$ sufficient fund to start with from which to meet the small incidental expenscs of stamps, stationery, etc.; a fee of four annas per member has been found suflicient for this purpose.

## Loans by non-members.

Tho Act (section 9) lays down that a society may receive deposits from the members withoat rostriction, but it may borrow from persons who are not members only to such extent and under such conditions as may be provided by its bye-lars and rulcs made under the Act. This section covers both loans and deposits from non-members. Up to the present in Bengal we have been in the habit of issuing orders permitting a society to borrow a certain sum from a specified individual, but I think it would be better to permit societies to receire deposits from non-members without specification of name up to a certain amount. The Midnapore societies have succeeded in attracting local capital from non-members, but in almost all other cases the non-member has been either a zemindar or a financier without any knowledge of the society.

## Rates of interest of money-lenders.

It is my intention during the coming year to colleot the materials for a survey of the rates of interest prevalling in each district in Bengal from onquiries made by seleoted officers in the different districta and sub-divisions from the returns of the Registry offices and possibly also from the Civil Court Records. At present, however, I hare nothing to go upon except enquiries - in the neighbourhood of the societies which exist : these show that the least rate at which the agriculturist can borrow sums of less than a hundred rupees is $18 \frac{3}{4}$ per cent., one pioe per rupee per month, and this rate prevails only in the district of Saran. From this district a large number of the polioe force is recruited and a large number of the peons and durwans, both of this Province and of the Eastern Province; also, large number of cultivatora go every year to the Eastern Province to cut paddy, etc. These classes send back to tueir homes considerable sums of money every month and the money order return of Saran is a very remarkable one. The result is that there are families in almost every village who are willing to lend money to their neighbours, and this competition has lowered the rate of interest. At present we have not been able to collect this local capital into societies, but I hope in time this will be possible. The ordinary rate of interest in other districts of North Behar is sawai, or 25 per cent. per annum, and in most cases a commission of one anna per rupee is charged, bringing the interest up to something like $81 \frac{1}{4}$ per cent. I believe that the provailing rate of interest is similar in South Behar and in the regulation districts of Bhagalpur. In the jute area to the east of Purneah, however, the interest taken in kind is much higher. In Darjeeling and :Santhal Parganas I have not sufficient data to go upon, but I havo frequently come across instances of 75 per cent. ; in the Santhal Parganas interest of more than 12 per cent. per annum oannot be recovered through the Courts, and in no case can a sum larger than the principal be recovered as interest. In the Presidency Division the usual rate of interest in 25 per cent. with or without commission. In Orisss, so far as my information goes, it is the same, but very high rates are met with in the Gurjat Statea. In the Chots Nagpur Districts (more removed from the railways) the ordinary rate is 75 per cent. and a 15 per cent. is by no means uncommon.

I append a note on the rates of interest prevalent in the jute distriot of Mymensingh compiled from detailed enquiries made there in September and October.

## Note on interest charged by money-lenders in a jute district.

In their dealings with the money-lenders the raiyata are divided into two great classes, those who deal direct with the lender in the large bazaars and those who deal with the village money-lender and itinerant bepari. The tendency is for the Sirkari raisat to deal direct and for the jotdari to deal with the local man, but this is not always the case, and often raigats deal both directly and through the money-lender. Those who deal direct are divided into regular customers and casual borrowers. The raisat does not deal exclo--aively with one money-lender, in many cases one raiyat owes moncy to the village money-lenders, to a bepari and to several mahajans at the same time. There must be some olearing house system for exchange of information amongst the money-lenders before this can be possible, but my endoarours to collect any information on this point failed.

The rate which the village money-lender ctarge is two pioe, 871 por cent., and the bazaar money-lender charges the aame to his regular customern. In Falgon when money is necessary to every jute cultivator and in consequenoe is scarce the money-lenders as a rule refuse to give loans except on a promise to deliver jute in some form or another. The village money-lender is unable to get any more capital and the raiyat is forced to go direot to the bazaar to beg an advance from the bazaar money-lender. The rates are doubled on the plea that the raiyat is a casual borrower unknown to the mahajan, and as the raiyat must have the money if he is to save his crop he is willing to agree to any terms as to interest and cubsequent delivery of fute. Hence the anomaly of two men from the same village with equal security borrowing similar amounta, the one at 2 pice and the other 4 pice per rupee per mensem.

From Falgun to Bhadro (say April to July) the raivats enter into contracts which in nine cases out of ten rob them of the whole of the profits from their jute crop. They are improvident to the most incredible extent; no provision is made beforehand to finance the weeding, cutting and preparation of the jute crop, and they are willing to throm away the whole of the profits for the sake of the cash advance at the moment.

I drew up a statement of the rates of interest payable in 327 individual cascs inquired into. The total indebtedness of the 135 families concerned amounted to $\mathrm{Z} 23,452$, an average of $\mathrm{P173} 7 \mathrm{per}$ family. Of this sum 55 per cont. was borrowed at two pice or $37 \frac{1}{9}$ per cent. (or rather 40 per cent. When the compounding of interest every six months is taken into account); of the balance 17 per cent. was borrowed at rates varying from $\mathbf{7 4 2}$ to $131 \frac{1}{2}$, while only 20 per cent. is at rates below 18 per cent. per anuum.

The rates of interest may be divided into the following classes: (1) rates calculated at so much per hundred rupees per mensem usually on loans granted by large money-lenders or merchants, (2) rates calculated at so much per rupee per month usually on loans by small money-lenders and local men, (3) money Ient as "bawlati" nominally without interest, (4) rates of interest calculated in jute, and (5) the system where no interest is charged but a contract is entered into to deliver jute either at a fixed rate or at a rate 4 annas to Al below the market rate.

Loans on which rates of so much per $\not \approx 100$ per mensem are charged for: the most part are large and are secured by a first mortgage over the raiyat's land. The rates met with were A1-7, 1-8, 2, 2-4, 2-8, 2-10, $2-12,3,3-8,4$ per 100 per. mensem, corresponding to rates varying from $17 \frac{1}{3}$ per cent. to 48 per cent. por annum, but there was only one loan of $\not \approx 120$ at $\mathrm{Z1} 1-7$, and one loan of $\mathbb{Z 2 4 0}$ at Al-8. The most of this money is borrowed at 24 and 30 per cent.

The rates of interest calculated on the rupee per month met with were 2 pice, $2 \frac{1}{2}$ pice, 3 pice, $3 \frac{1}{3}$ pice, 4 pice, 5 pice, 6 pice, 7 pioe, corresponding to ratos varying from $37 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $131 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loans of this class are compounded at the end of every six months so that it would be more correct to say that the rates vary from 40 to 175 per cent. Rates of 5 pice, 6 pice, and 7 pice are not common, but are known in almost every village; rates of 3 pice and 4 pice are fairly common, but $37 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent or 2 pice per rupee per month is the regular rate. As I have said above, 55 pèr cent. of the total borrowing is done at this rate, while 6 per cent. is at 3 pice and 6 per cent. at 4 pice. It may be said therefore that the value of credit in this part of the district is two pice per rupee per month compounded half-yearly, corresponding to about 40 per cent. per annum. The higher rates are "usually on loans contracted originally for a short period and those shown in the statistics are cases where the borrower through bad seasons or other misfortunes has been unablo to pay off the debt when he expected; "hawlati" loans are made betireen villagers or between relations, usually for a short period of one or two months. Betiveen relations if the loan is for a very short period interest is not charged, but in other cases a present calculated at two pice per rupee per mensom is given at the time the loan is returned. It is thus that the Muhammadans are enabled to keep within the letter of their law against usury. But I have sech cases in which a money-lender gave "hawlats" free of interest for one month, but bearing penal interest at 4 pice per rupee or 75 per cent. por annum, a snare to attract the unwary.

The interest collected in kind is also attributed to the Muhammadans, but tho boparies and mahajans found that it paid so much better than interest in cash that the system has been adopted widely. The season when these loans are mado is, as I have said, about April to July '(corresponding roughly to Falgun to Bhadro), the time when the raiyats' need is greatest. The jute crop; may be assured, but he must have money to harvest it. Under the "dharti" sgstem the raiyat contracts to pay from half a seer to two and a half seers por rupeo per month. With jute at $\not 78$ per maund the first of these rates works cut to about 125 per cent. per annum and the $2 \frac{1}{2}$ seer rate works out to 025 per cent. Tho rates commonly met with are one seer and one and a half scors, corresponding to rates of 250 and 375 per cent. per annum. The statistics show but foir of these loans, for the majority had beon repaid before the
inquiry commenced, but there are few familics which do not borrow somo money either on this system or on the "Patthi" and "Kaum-Besh" systems explained below.

Under the "Kaum-Besh" system tho raigat contracts to repay tho principal lent by delivering jute at from 4 annas to 12 helow the market rate. No interest is charged as a rule on the advapce. The Marwarics and beparics deal largely in this manner, and the system is moro advantageous to tho raiyat than any qther. With jute at R 8 per maund a raigat borrowing $\mathrm{n7} 7$-12 woild repay in kind 78 (if the "Kaum-Besh" rate be 4 annas) which works out to a rate of $3 \ddagger$ per cent. or (if the loan be for three months) between 12 and 13 per cent. per annum. Similarly one rupee "Kaum-Desh" works out to about 50 per cent. per annum.

The most iniquitous of all systems is called "patthi"; under this tho raiyat binds himself to pay the principal in jute at a rate fixed at tho time of borrowing, usually $\nexists 2$ or $\not$ tht per maund. In one case I met with a raiyat Who borrowed $\mathbb{7} 7$ and repaid $2 \frac{1}{2}$ maunds of jute three months later. lior the accommodation of $\mathbf{7 7}$ therefore he gave value in kind of A 20 , which works out to arate of 744 per cent. per annum. This was an exceptional caso, tho usual "patthi" rate is $\mathbf{7 4} 4$, working out to 400 per oent. per annum, so that "patthi" at Z 4 corresponds to "dharti" at one and a half seers.

The mahajans prefer the "dharti" system to the "patthi". Under the former their interest goes on accumulating if the borrower fails to pay; under the latter the rate is fixed and the chances of realisation are smaller.

In several cases bonds were met with which contained a contract to pay interest at a high rate where it was admitted there was a verbal agreement that interest would be accepted at a lower rate. The object of this is to get tho raiyat in to the lender's power, for if he should default the lender would suo him on tho written bond and the Court would refuse to listen to the plea that intercst had been paid in full according to the verbal agreement. The most notable cascs of this (and cases which drew my attention to the system) wcre in the village named Kolkihara. Two raiyats had taken loans of $\mathrm{P1} 100$ and 7200 , agrecing to pay 50 and 100 maunds of jute respectively. The raiyats had very little land and there was no prospect of their ever being in a position to carry out the contract. When I inquired I was informed that the rate actually paid was 2 pice per rupee per month and that the maliajan held the bond over the raisat so that if necessary he could at any time sue him for the jute. Onco attention bad been drawn to the. system I found several cases where 0 and 8 pico wero entered in the bond, bat the rate agreed upon verbally was 2 pico. Such contracts are peculiarly bad for they bind the raisat over at once to the maliajan.

Very few documents are registered, the grcat bulk of the lending is dono on note of hand. Roughly I should say that the registered mortgages do not represent more than 5 per cent. of the indebtedness. The raigat bas no idea of business. I have seen documents where a raiyat borrowed money in Falgun at 4 piceand later on when money was more plentiful obtained another loan at 2 pice, but it never occurred to him that he might borrow at 2 pico to repay a loan at 4 pice.

## Penal interest.

The subject of penal interest has never. arisen. Pinaltics aro not collected, they are most uppopular when caforced by mahajans, and I would not recommend their adoption by our societics. If it is necessary to grant tho reneral of a loan this should be done without penal clauses, and if a member does not pay when he can, the best courso is to expel him.

## Expulsion of unsatisfactory members.

There have been vely fert casts of expulsion. When the liability is onlimited, the first list of members is made with great care.

## Dissemination of information.

The usual means adopted in other countries for the dissemination of information aro:-

1. Distribution of Pamphlets.
2. Lectures by travelling lecturers.
3. Publication of manuals.
4. Conferences or Congresses.
5. The press.
6. I think it is most desirable that the Registrars should ${ }^{\text {ºm }}$ comincate with each other with a view to drawing up suitable pamphlets. The groundwork of a pamphlet in English setting forth the benefit of co-oparation ought to be the same in every province for there are certain fundamental principles. upon which we are all agreed.

Pampllets would be useful in spreading knowledge of what we are doing amongst the educated people in India; at the same time I think we should be most careful in distributing literature amongst the uneducated. We have not yet solved the problem of Co-operative Credit in India, and we are not in a position to extend its benefits to all and sundry. It is one thing to start successful societies, but it is another to organise these societies in such a way as to ensure a proper control over their financial transactions. This is the problem which we have still to solve, and until we have done so it would be dangerous to raise hopes in the minds bef the cultivatore which wo are not in a position to fulfil. It is necessary to have papers both in English and in the vernacular to give to those who show an interest in the movement and" ${ }^{\text {to }}$ give to each member in the village where it is proposed to found a society, but to distribute tracts broad-cast would at present serve no useful purpose.
2. In Bengal we have not yet got men to assist us, and I think that it- is possible that much more use might be made of the Agriculture Department in this respect. I propose to try and train the different Agriculture Inspectors in this province during the coming year.

We certainly want more men to explain the principle not necessarily to ; new villages, but to the members of new societies. The lead given us by Bombay and the Punjab in the appointment, of Honorary Organisers is the greatest advance that we have made in this direction, but here again we must be careful not to raise hopes which cannot be fulfilled.
3. I believe that the publication of a suitable manual- of instructions for forming societies with limited liability (and with unlimited liability) would be most useful, and I think that the editing might be entrusted-to the permanent Sccretary. Each of the Registrars will be'able to communicate his 'viè ws, on the subject and the Secretary would circulate these to the other members of the conference. At the same time I think we might make an advance by drawing a skeleton for the guidance of the Secretary. We should aim at drawins up a volume which would enable Honorary Organisers to keep upon the right lines without continual references to the Registrar. The volume would lay down the principles which we believe must be followed in all cases, suggestions drawn from the experience gained in the different provinces, a copy of the Act and of all rules published thereunder and models of the byolarrs used in diferent provinces.
4. On the continent it is the custom to summon conferences of delegates from all the socicties, and I think that it would be of great benefit to us if we extended our conferences beyond Registrars. I would suggest that Honorary - Organisers be invited to attend and in the meantime that the Government pay their travelling expenses, and I would suggest further that Registrars be permitted to invite others who could render us help in this matter. The cost to the Government would not be very great and the stimulus which the invitation would give to the work of Honorary Organisers would be very great indeed.

## Remittance Transfer Receipts.

- The concessions piren by the Gorernment that transfer receipts should bo issued to societies at par has not been of any value in Bengal. At present
the societies have practically no ocoasion to remit money, if they had, the sums would bo so small that it would be easier to pay the Post Olfico commission on money orders than to go to the nearest Treasury and encounter the difficulties connected with obtaining such a reccipt.



## Proposals for the MIanual.

## Part I.

- The Co-operative Oredit Societies Act (being Act X of 1001) with a commentary (on the lines of Mr. Hope Simpson's work). Rules publishod under the Act.

Part II.
An account of what has already been done in the different provinces of India and a short history of the movement in India, with spme genoral statistics, for each province for limited lisbility, unlimited liability and special societies.

## Part III.

$\cdots$, . .Instructionafor organisers.
Literature available on the subject in English and the vernaculars :
$\because$ (a) European publications, (b) publications of the different provinces.
$\therefore$ - Practical instructions for all provinces.
Practical instructions suitable to the needs of different provinces.
$\because$ Instructions for book-keeping, auditing and the preparation of the balancer sheets.
$\therefore$ Instructions of the Government of India for drawing up the Annual Reports of the different provinces.

Model by-laws for credit societies with limited liability.
Model by-laws for societies with unlimited liability.
Model by-laws for special societies such as weaving societics, etc. .
Model by-laws for productive and distributive societies.
Model by-laws for grain societies.
Model by-lärs for Central Unions.


Pabt IV.

1. 'Problems still to be solved. Miscellaneous.

A list of the Registrars with their postal and telegraphic adjressos.

- A list of Honorary Organizers with their addressos.

To this might be added the publication of a Oo-oporativo Annual containing articles published during the year and worthy of being pressrved and other information of value to thoss interested in the movement.

I would suggest that a sub-committee be appointed to draw' up a skeleton on these or on other lines and that an Editor be appointed, both for the Manual and for the Annual, and that the sub-committee draw up for the approval of tho conference instructions for the guidance of the Editor.: The Nanual would then be drafted and submitted to the Registrars and ottucrs for' approval and would be finally passed at the next conference. The $A$ nnual mirht bo publishod after the conference each year and might contain an account of the confer: ence.

## REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

## Bombay Castle, 31st March 1008.

No. 3344.-The following resolution of the Government of India is republished :"Department of revenue and agriculturb. LAND REVENUE.
Administration of the Co-operative Credit Societies Act (Act X of 1904), during the fifteen months ending 80th June 1907.

The reports received from Local Governments on the, edministration of the Co-operative Credit Societies Act (Act X of 1904), dutring the fifteen months ending 30th Junè 1907.

1
The proceedings of the conference of Registrars of Co-operative Credit Societien held in Calcutta on the 18th November 1907 and following days.

## Resoletion.

After the passing of the Co-operative Credit Societies Act in March 1004, I Iegistrar was appointed in each province to carry out the formal duties imponed upon that officer by the Act and to foster in every possible way the growth of the co-operative movement in Indis. In the instructions issued by the Government of India after the passing of the Act, stress was laid on the necessity of reducing restrictions to a minimum, so that the people might be encouraged (nulject to certain necessary safeguards) to work out the problem on their own lines with such guidance and help as could be given to them. Local Governments were invited to select a few districts in each province in which the experiment might be most hopefully tried, and it was pointed out that it would be advisable to start cantiously and to progress gradually, since the principle of co-operation might be fatally discredited by a series of failures, wherean a few really successful results would encourage imitation and set an example which would quickly spread.
ulst March 1905, thirty-five rural and six urban societies with a capital of $l_{i s}$. been registered under the Act, but there were also, especially in the United Provinces, .e number of societies at work that had not been formally registered. A year later the "were supervising the work of 490 societies, but of these over 200 were either not workinu cif, had not been registered under the Act. The total number of active societies register oc (c.e Act on the 31st March 1906 was 283, of which 9 were central societies, 37 were urban difs and 237 were rural societies. They had a membership of 28,629 and a working capital of 1,73,210. In accordance with the recommendation of the first conference of Registrars which was hcld in September 1906, the 30th June was fixed as the end of the Co-operative Credit Societies' ycar and the reports and returns now submitted accordingly cover a period of fifteen months. The following table compares the statistics of registered societies on the 30th June 1907 and on the 3lst March 1!00:-


- Profits inclusive of reserve fund.

The expansion of business is very remarkable though it is exaggerated by the omission from he returns of 1006, as now prepared, of societies which were actually working without having has bech much greater than was antice made for this cause however the material progress made that out of the total capital of anticipated when the movement started. It is also satisfactory while over 11 lakhs has been advanced by the mema 3 lakhs has been advanced by Government The work of the State has been as far as possible mbers themselves as share capital and deposits. their initial stages.
3. Other satisfactory features in the reports are the punctuality with which loans have been "pidd and the fact that the purposes to which the money lent has been applied have been almost chlusively prohuctive, although this matter has hitherto been left entirely to the society them"f the cultivators in that coune Burma Registrar is of opinion that owing to the improvident habits of hams to those given for productive pourd be advisable to lay down a rule restricting the grant nocessary of that the increased fepurposes, but elsewhere there is no indication that this is minuse of credit and to greater indebtedness for borrowing afforded by the societies have led to a
4. But while the progress made is sati
frinsin of the vast population concerned satisfactory, the movement has so far touched only the it minute fraction of the numbers which The 90,000 members of existing societies represent only bucht, if co-cperative credit is to produce any eventually be brought within the scope of the move-

## Partil] THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT G.IZETTE, APHL :

ness in India. It would not be prudent at the present stane to press for tow rapid an whance, lint it is noticed that the main obstacle to expansion is the failure of the woceties to attract math., capital. The deposits mede by members are satisfactory so far as they go, but thourh th. lum. amount of members' deposits obtained in some provinces is remarkable, comparatively litt of expected from this source until the poorer members have bencfited sutliciently to lin in :. to save. In many places, well-to-do persons have joined the socicties from philanthripic and their pecuniary contributions together with their personal influence have been of preat But it would be unsound to depend on assistance of this nature for the estahlishme wit of the ment on a widespread and permanent basis, and one of the most important problems tw $\mathrm{l}_{\mathrm{w}}$ wh the immediate future is to obtain for the societics access to the outside money market. Sum has already been effected in this direction in Madras, Burma and Bensal, where the rate of intwe offered by the societies is higher than elsewhere. It will be impossible to attract wuthile capital without paying a comparatively highrate of interest and the societics will find it dificult to estahbinh themselves on a permanent basis, unless they attract outside capital on business terms.
5. Another problem raised by the expansion of the movement is the best methon of whamiing and combining societies for the purposes of control. The personal control of the lis aintar wher individual societies must diminish as they increase in number. In the United Provinces this difficulty is being met with apparent success by the establishment of district banks to which the rural societies are affiliated. Elsewhere local unions of rural societies are being formel. It is becoming recognised that the combination of village societics for the purposes of fimance and control is as important as the combination of individuals for the purpose of forminis a fingle. society and that the combination of societies is intimately connected with the problem of fiwnin them access to the outside money market. Time and experience alone can show whether the combination of societies can best be effected from above or from bclow.
6. As regards the question of State aid from Government, the majority of the licrinfurs consider that the present rules under which Government loans are only made ngainst an erpal amount of deposits made by members make adequate provision for the encourancment of meis li, s in their initial stages, and it seems to be advisable that this restriction should continuo acept in cases where for special reasons it is desirable to form societies which could not comply with this
 urban societies is being referred to Local Governments for consideration. Several Jicuintrars consider that a special procedure for the recovery of debts due to societics would do much to improve their credit, but the Government of India are inclincd to think that there is much foneo in the argument that there is a danger that the introduction of such a grecial procelure would hatl to less care in the management of the societics, and so far there has been no indication that a special procedure is necessary. On the contrary, the punctuality with which loans have lut repaid is one of the most satisfactory features of the movement.
7. In their reports the Registrars deal with the problem of their respective pruvinces wh thoughtful and sympathetic lines, and the interest which they have shown in making thous wos acquainted with the principles and procedure which have proved successful in other countria $s$ is most satisfactory. Genuine advance has been made everywhere, except in Ajmer and the NinthWest Frontier Province where the movement has not yet taken ruot. Jut the line 4 on whirh progress is being made are by no means stereotyped, and provided main principes aro mot infrinjond the societies are rightly allowed a large amount of elasticity in their working. The results 19 far achieved give every reason for the hope that the problcm of founding indivilual cridit mercictic in India will be successfully solved and that the system will take root and spread, while the ppirit shown by all who have taken part in the movement is a hopeful augury that the larict rum - innis connected with the combination of individual societies for the purposes of finance and control will in. due time be satisfactorily settled. The failure of crops in a lare part of the comitry in the present year will subject the societies to a severe strain, and the result of ther working lurin: tha period of trial will be looked forward to with special interest. The Government of halia in. H1. H, associate themselves with the Local Governments in their appreciation of the homl wotk inm: liy the several Registrars and of the valuable assistance received from non-oflicial gentlonn in many provinces.


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to the Gazette of India.
(Siancl) IS. W. Cambit.
Sccretary to the (;overnment of India."
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    - Not priated.

