

## REPORT

# CO:ÖPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES 

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Me. A'artinde Nijaopt, The Mague.

Frow W. R.'GODRLA Y, Esq., i.c.s., Megistrar of Co-opioratice Credit Soxities, Dingil,

To the SEORETARy to the boalli of Revenue, Land Revesue Dascer.

Dated Cakiulta, the 12in April 1800.

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\mathrm{SIR}_{\mathrm{I}}
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I mave the honour to submit the following report on the working of the Co-operative Credit Societies Act in the Lowor L'rovinces of Bongal fur the year 1905-06. The report is unaccompanied by statistical tables, as it is impossible to compile these till the annual audit has been complotod. This year the experiment of auditing the accounta of a considorable number of societies locally is being tried, and it will consequenlly be impossiblo to givo complete and accurate statistics bofore tho month of July. The tablos will bo torwarded in continuation of this report togother with a short explanatory note as soon as possible.
2. I was in charge of the Department from the commencement of tho year till the close of July: during this poriod I was unable to do any touring, but I supervised the audit of the accounts in addition to my dutios as Private Secretary to His Honour the Lieutenanr-Governor. From August to November Mr. Cobden-Ramsay was in charge and spont 75 days on tour. In December I returned, and in the last four months of the year spent 83 days on tour. All 'the districts in the Patna, Chota Nagpar and Orissa Dirisions were visited, also all the districts in the Bhagalpur Division, except Bhagulpur itself: in the Presidency Division, the 24-Pargannas and Nadia: and in Burdwan. Midnapore, Birbhum and Bankura.

The tours did not extend to Hooghly, Howrah, Jessore, Khulna, Murshidabad, Bhagalpur and Burdwan.
3. In the statement appended to last joar's report 07 sociotics aro shown: of these 8 are now situated in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam: 3 have ceased to exist: 8 have not yet been inspocted by tho Registrar: while 46 were visitad by mo this year. The repistration of societies commenced this year, and of the 56 societies in Bongal ( 8 sociction, as stated above, are now in East Bengal and 3 havo coasod to crist), 10 have been registered under the Act: 38 new societies havo beon registored during the year and 11 societies hare been registored sinco tho closo of tho year. Of the societits for which statistics were given last ycar, 34 aro working though not registered: there has been delay in getting some of the Committeca in work in accordance with the Act and Rules, bat most of theso sociotics will be registered in the course of the next few months.
3. During the year three societios have ceased to exist and as theso might be accuanted failures, I give tho reasons in detail. Tho first socicty was started by Government agenoy in a Government Estato villago. The Colloctor' for administrative teasons sold the estate. The zemindar who purchasal it did not farour the scheme and found that it would bo unwise for them to continue the society. They thercfore repaid tho capital borrowed and wero permitted to purchase carpets for use on festal occasions with tho rescrvo fund. This can be accounted a failure to fight an antagonistic zcmindar but not a failure of principle. Another society was closed by the Collector at tho request of the sirpunch., It was found later that the oiryunch was the local muncylender who lrad taken up the work of the socicty in the hope of grining some
benefit by it. He found, however, that the society really took away some Rs. 300 of his own business, and he therefore repaid the capital borrowed and bad the socicty closed. The villagers were ready enough to go on with the socicty but they explained that the Mahajan had been the leading man in the matter, and as hedid not want the society the rest had agreed. This again was a victory for the money-lender, but no failure of principle. In the third case the socicty was closed under my advice. I found on inspection that Rs. 300 had beon cntrusted to a tabsildar to form a society; the tahsildar lent the money to individuals whom he knew within a radius of some five miles; the raiyats themselves had nothing whatever to do with the management; in fact n 3 society cxisted.
0. During the year some capital bas been raised locally from Marwaris or Mahajans, but money has been borrowed at a rate at which the lender is preparod to finance other villages should the first experiments prove successful. The rate charged by these lenders is 12 per cent., and the society lends to 1 ts members at $18 \frac{3}{4}$ per cent. As the ordinary rate on small loans is seldom léss than half an anna per rupee or $37 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent., this is no hardslip, and it has been found better to finance a society at $18 \frac{8}{4}$ per cent. on money borrowed locally than at $12 \frac{1}{2}$ per ceat. on money borrowed from some outside source. In the former case the whole country'side watches the experiment and the Marwari when he secs success is willing to continue the experiment in other villages. Even whore money can be obtained at 6 per cent. if the ordinary rate is $37 \frac{\mathrm{y}}{\frac{7}{3}}$, societies aro recommended to start lending at $18 \frac{3}{4}$; the profits all go to the reserve fund and the society becomes established in a much shorter time.
7. The societies are almost all small, from 10 to 50 members, and the capital employed is from Re. 150 to Rs. 500. I have confined my attention as much as possible to villages which are not heavily indebted and the operations of each society are contained within the limits of a single village. In this way it has been possible to reuch a large number of small cultivators with the limited capital. The members have been chosen without any outside interference; the only check exercised is the examination of the landlord's papers to make sure that the members or a fair proportion of them are settled raiyats of the village. who have been paying their rents regularly. In many cases the villagers. express interest in the scheme when it is explained to them, but no one comes forward to join; later on, however, a small group will come and say that provided no one else is allowed to join, these 15 or 20 are willing to beliable for each others borrowings. The explanation is that there were some in the village whom they could not trust, but they were unwilling to cause unpleasantness by deuouncing them before the rest. From Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 is often quite sufficient to finance a low-caste village. As a result, however, of this policy, the members aro unable at first to deposit anything in the societies beyond their small entranco fee. After the society has been working for a year, however, and the members realise that they have made some saving, they are recommended to deposit their savings in the society. The usual answer is that that is impossible, as tho money is required to finance the next crop. It is then explained to them that though they deposit their money now, they will be able to borrow for the noxt crop. The raiyats, however, are sharp enough to see that they would not gain by depositing money at 64 per cent. and borrowing it again at 121 . For this roason, in many casos, the rate paid on deposits is $12 \frac{1}{2}$, the same as that clitarged on loans. In this way the members are being gradually taught to deposit, and as the society, during the first three years of existence, is able to horrow from Government as much as the members have deposited and this loan is free of intcrest for three yenrs, the society is able to pay a high rate on deposits without loss.
8. In almost all societies the Reserve Fund is employed as working capital. It is truo that in time of stress when the crops fail and members are unable to pay their loans, there may be nothing to fall back upon. At present however, the amount is so small that it would not be of any use in tiding the society over difficultics, and therefore at present it is better to lend the money from tho roserve fund to the society and obtain a return of 121 per cent. on it. Whilo the socicties are young the only way to tide! them over diffcultics is to accommodate them with temporary extra capitala? , ,
9. It is in Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa that tho scheme has succeed. ed best. Didnapore District in Burdwan is an exception. Within theow areas the scheme might be cxtended indefinitely; the only dificultics are want of capital and want of men to explain the principles and guido the villagers. Where societies have been formed, the local conditions ara not excertional. Success has been due to personal influenco and individual cffort. In Midnapore, to the interest of Babu Jamini Mohan Mitra; in Bettiah, to tho individual effurts of the Subdivisional Oficer Mr. Hopkyns; in Hazaribarh, to tho persural influence of the Rev. Finch-White. In Monghyr Rai Camaleswari I'rasad Singh Bahadur has offered to finance the villages on his own estates at if per cent. if societies can bo ostablished there. Somo 12 societics wero fousded before the close of the year and others will follow as soon as the success of thiss has been assured.
... 10. In Purulia there are two Mission socictics which are worthy of special -attention. These societies were founded by Dr. Wagner, tho ono in Purulis which is looked after by himself and the other at Gobindpur is watchod over by Dr, Campbell. In theso societies it is not the credit in the villago which has heen organised but the credit in the Christian'community. Tho operationy are spread over a very large area. Every member must deposit Rs. 5 in addition to his entrance fee of Re. 1. and no member is allowed to borrow more than three times the annount he has deposited. In Puralia tho deposits amount to Re. 830, and the working capital is close upon Rs. 2,000. In Gobindpur the deposits amount to Rs. 510 and the working capital is over Rs. 1, 700 . Theso societies are doing mach good in the communities for which thoy are intended, but they differ from the village socicties in bcing managed by the principal people of the Mission and not by the people themselves.

1. 11. Four urban societies with limited liability exist. All of theso havo been registered: the "Premier society,"-confined to the cmploy ís of Mesers. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Co., the Motihari Amlah's socioty, tho Midnapore Amlah's society and another societs of Khulna amlahs. All theso aro making progress and doing good work. The Purnea Central Bank is still under the Companies Act but arrangements have now boen mado for handing over tho business to an Urban Society which is being formed in Purnca.
1. With the exception of a reorganisation of the grain busincss in tho Sonthal Parganas, very little has been done in the way of ostablishing grain societies. It is only in the harvest season that cultivatore can bo induced to pay in deposits of grain. Unfortunately both Mr. Ramsay and I wero unablo to tour during the latter half of November and December, and the opportunity was lost. Later the price of paddy rose so rapidly, that all who had surplas stocks sold out and no one was willing to deposit. In Ranchi two socictics with a grain capital has been registered.

In the Sonthal Parganas the Deputy Commissioner has beon carrying on a grain-lending business for the relief of the raiyats of the Government and Wards' Estates. Golas have been established in the Damin, the Sankara cstate, and at Rohini and Punasi with a total capital of over 25,000 maunds. As loans were given to individual raiyats on the recommendation of the head man of the village, the account-keeping.in a short time assumed nomanageablo proportions. The difficulties which arose were the impossibility of checling such a large number of accounts and of taking stock; cost of management also was great. On inquiry it was found that it was difficult to get the grain to the individual raiyat at a rate of 25 per cent. Exactions mudo at both times of weighment ado on other occasions brought the real rate of interest nearer to 50 per cent. than 25 per cent. To overcome theso dificulties norr rulcs havo been drawn up for Rohini and Punasi under which grain is not lent to individuals but to batches of ten or more from one villare or neighbouring villa;es. The borrowers then have the choice either of briuging the grain back to tho central.gola every year or of buildin? a gola in their villago and thus iorming a srain co-operative credit socicty of their own. In the furmer case the whule of the interest is credited to the central gola; in the latter case hall is crelited to the villaje gola.:-

It is practically impossible to run a gola for eced grain; erea in a email village the number pe diferent kinds of paddy sown is large, and few raiyais will sow mixed grain. It would be ustess to try to persuado ell the raiyat:
of the villare to sow the same kind, for they have been taught by their forefathers the kind which is suited to the particular plot. The only method secms to bo to make a budget of the requirements of the village for seed and then to purchase such seed after selling the necessary quantity of food gzain All collections are then placed in the same gola and used for maintenance. After a year paddy deteriorates by keeping, and after each harvest surplus. stocks should be sold and the gola filled with the new year's paddy. All this means a considerable handling of grain, and unless the stock is small and the members of the gola well bound together, the danger of peculation is considerable.
13. Last year the account books of all the societies were called in the head-quarters and the audit was conducted under direct supervision. This year an oxperiment is being tried of auditing the accounts locally. Some 20 to 30 socictics havo been selected and two auditors will visit these villages and $g o$ through the accounts with the punchayat on the spot. In this way it wiil be possible to collect better statistics, and what is more important it will be possiblo to explain to the punchayat the mistakes made and to give them advice for the future management of the society. It will not be possible "to complete this audit before the beginning of July.
14. Stcady progress has been made, and I am satisfied that so far'as Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Urissa are concerned, societies on a Raiffesien basis will succeed: where, as is the case in many of the Bengal districts, the village hardly exists, and the cultivators who live in isolated clusters of hùts haye little knowledge of their neighbours, I am less sanguine. With few "exceptions," all. the socictics which are at present working are fouuded on the credit which, the individual member has within his village. That such a credit founded on' a character for honesty esists is well known to all who are familiar with villago life. The majority of the village transactions are done without $a$ :" word in writing, and such debts are seldom repudiated. This credit, however ${ }_{2}$ soldom extends beyond the limits of the village, and in many cases not even besond the limits of the tola, or hamlet in which the individual resides. It is this existing village credit which has to be organised, and when the villagers uyderstand this, unlimited liability has no terrors for them: they accept the principle without question.

- Tho secret of financing agriculture in India lies not in creating anything new butlin organising the credit which already exists.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,


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\text { No. } 408 \text { C.C.S. }
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Frox L.' E. B. COBDEN.RAMSAY, Esq., 1.c.s.,
Registrar of Co-ïperatire Credit Suxicties, Eengal,

To the SECRETARY to the BOARD of REVENUE, L. P.,



i. In continuation of Mr. Gourlay's letter No. 255C.C.S., datod tho 12the "April 1906, submitting the Annual Report on the working of tho Coöperative Credit Societies in this Province for the yoar ending 31st March

- '1900; I have the honour to forward horewith the statiatics callod for: these - státistics have been compiled (a) for the Socioties which have been recristorod
$\because$ under the Acf; and (b) for those which have not ret come under tho oporation
- of the Act. Appendices I and II deal with rogistored Societics and Appendices
' $\because$ IA and IIA furnish figures for the unregistered ones.

1. 2. Appendices $I$ and $I A$, -It is satisfactory to noto that tho number of
$\because: \because$ Membership. members enrolled up to tho 31st of March 1000

- rose:from 3,910 in last year to in the registered and unregistcrod Docictics who received loans during the year is 2,595 .

The disparity between the total number of members and the total number
Member and loans. of loans granted during the year which is noticoable in some of the Sociotics may bo mainly ascribed to the folluwng reasons:-
(a) In some cases members have not paid up their old debts and fresh loans were not granted.
(b) In some societies the mombers aro woll-to-do raijats and oven depositors rather than borrowers, vide Habra, Balarampur, Radhanagar and Jhankra Societics.
(c) In other societies the funds are not adoquato to meot at ono timo tho demands of all the members.

- 2 In respect of Radhanagar Socicty, it may be noted that tho members of this society were, well-fo-do pooplo who deposited a fairly largo sum of monoy
- in the society and did not require to take loans; a sufficient number of poorer
$\therefore$ members had not been admittod.
$\because$ - As Rodhanagar is a large village, a proposal is accordingly under
c.consideration :to ro-organise the Socioty as a Central Bank to lend moncy to groups of emaller villages.
-.. As regarde the Balagan Society (No. 27, Appendis IA) the failuro to grant - any loana vas due to some unaccountable misunderstanding on tho part of tho punch, who refosed to reloan tho monios realisod, until all outstanding - loans wpere realised, though they had realisod 75 pcr cent. of their loana.

The reason for the small number of loans grantad by the Dakhtiarpur Society (No. 8 Appendix IA) is not clear and is ander enquiry.
$\therefore$ In the cases of societics where the number of loans as shown in the statament is greater than the number of members, the reason is that tho members had more than one transaction with tho Socicty during the year repaying and taking out fresh loans.
3. In last year's Resolation Government called attention to the unerenness in the distribution of loans. : This ycar the valuo of the loans granted raried from Mo. 1 to Ms, 2 CJ in Rural Societics and from Re. 5 to Rs, 550 in Urband Socicties.

There is probably always bound to be a considerable variation in the value of loans taken and granted: in the first place better security must undoubtedly influence the Committee in granting loans and, until by experience, it has been found that poorer members are as prompt, and reliable in their repay; ments as the better-to-do members this unevenness will continue. On the other hand the unevenness is not so great as the figures would apparently indicate. When inspecting societies which are working to full advantage it has constantly been noticed that immediately a few rupees have come in on account of interest the Committee have loaned them out at once to any one of the members who would take a petty loan and thus they ensure the prompt circulation of the Society's funds. In some Societies a maximum limit of loan has been'fixed, varying from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50, but at present it is not proposed to fix the limit of loans.

The unevenness, it may, however, be remarked is mostly noticeable in the Urban Societies where loans are granted according to the number of shares held by each member.
4. Eight hundred and nine loans were outstanding at the close of the year

Loans outstanding sind overdue. in the registered societies and 817 loans in the unregistered societies. Of these, the number of overdue loans in the case of the former societies is 129 and in the case of the latter is 240 .

In the case where loans have not been duly repaid within the fixed' period, the reason is mostly to be found in unfavourable agricultural conditions and not to any attempt to escape or withhold payment.
5. The loans in rural societies have all been granted for agricultural' purposes; only. in the Habra Society (No. 13.
Purpose of loans. in Appendir I) one loan was granted for tradè purposes.
In the six societies in the Sankara Estate, Sonthal Parganas (Nos. 32-37'. of Appendix I) where the number of members is very large, loans sufficient to finance the raiyats throughout the year cannot be granted and loans varying from Re. 3 to Rs. 5 are allowed which are just sufficient to pay for the hire of a pair of bullocks and these societies are largely used for this purpose.

In the urban societies the loans have been granted for miscellaneous non-agricultural purposes, e.g., marriage expenses, house repairs, etc.
6. The general rate of interest on loans granted to members has been

Rate of interat on loanr. $\quad 9 \frac{3}{8}$ and $12 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Teorkhali (No. 18, Appendis I), Hardi and Rohika (Nos. 16 and 19 in Appendix IA.) charged a higher rate of interest ( $15 \frac{5}{8}$ and 18 per cent.), which is, however, much below the rate charged by local money-lenders.

The Premier Urban Society of Calcutta formed amongst the office employés of Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company, charges only 8 per cent. on loans.
7. Appendices $I I$ and IIA.-These statements furnish the figures of

> assets and liabilities of the registered and unregisDeposit. tered societies.

The total deposit made by members in the registered Societies amounts to Rs. 6,637 , and that in the unregistered ones 1,977, or a total of Rs. 8,614 against a total deposit last year, of Rs. 3,236. This is one of the most satisfactory features of the your's working, and very especial attention was throughout the year given to incroase the confidence of the people in the Societies and encourage deposits. Of the rural Societies, only Maranga, Manbhum and Kashipur Societies (Nos. 31, 55 and 57 in Appendis II) have their capital in shares though the liability is unlimited. The Urban Societies have a share capital with limited liability.

The advances granted by Government free of interest for three years under the India Government Resolution of 29th April 1904, have in all cases been in consideration of the deposits made by members in equal amount. It has however been found that in one case (Labsa 'Society No. 19 in Appendix II) deposits have been withdrawn towards the close of the year. The matter is under coquiry; and unless the deposit be renewed the grant will have to be withdrawn. In making adrances, it is now the custom to ascertain what propurtion of the deposits is for one year fixed or for a shorter period.

Balarampur Society-(No. 5 in Appendix II).- An adranco of Rs. fino was sanctioned by the Board of Revonuo provious to tho delecration of the power of anctioning loans to Co-operativo Credit Socictics, to Registrar. The amount of eatrance fees (Rs.68) was taken into account as deposit in sanctioning the advance.

Khelar Society.-A loan of Rs. 330 was sanctioned from Mr. Hamilton's Fund previous to the deposits made by members. Since tho close of the juar the deposits have been raised to Rs. 500 and an equal amount has bcen sanctioned from Government funds and the Socioty will now repay Mr. Hamilton's loan.

Habra Society-(No. 13 in AppendixII!.-A loan of Rs. 350 was eanctioned from Government funds, but the amount could not be drawn beforo the close of the year.

Manbhum Native Christian Society-(No. 55).-Sinco tho close of tho yoar the original advance of Rs. 230 has been supplemented by another advance of Rs. $\bar{j} 20$ inasmuch as the share capital amounts to over Is. 000.

- Advances at $6 \frac{1}{2}$ per cont. per annum were made by Govcrnment to Societies started experimentally in Khas Mahals beforo tho passing of tho Act, and these Societies are still being worked with theso funds. These Government advances are not in consideration of tho deposits nf mombers.

8. This represents amounts due to Government, depositors and othry

Intereat doo to creditorn. . creditors, o.g., Bettiah Raj, Hathwa Raj, Hamilton's Fund, etc. The due time for the payment of interest to creditors was not in all cases the close of tho financial ycar, and yo the. interest shown as outstanding in the annual balance shects will in most cases be paid off in course of two or three months: for the purpose of drawing up the balance sheets the interest which had accumulated up to 31 st March had to be calculated.

In Hardi Society (No. 10 in Appondir IIA), Babu Krishen Prosad Narsin Singh, the financier, allowed the interest duo to him to be ro-investod again ycar after year to a larger number of raiyars. Instructions havo however been issued to the effect that the interost due to him should not be loft outstanding from year to year and should bo paid regularly. It tho Society requires more capital the financier may regrant the interest in the shape of additional loans with the approval of the Registrar.

Instructions for the regular payment of interast due to Government havo also been issued to the Societies in the Orisse Division.

The transaction of three registered and two unregistored Sociotics endod in loss due to the failure of the Committecs to re-invest the capital promptly in the issue of new loans.
9. No cases occurred during the year in which disputes about the recovery

## Arbitration by Regintrar.

 of loans from mombers wero referred to tho Registrar for decision or were tho subject of arbitration. During the year the Motihari Urban Society submittod an addition to their bye-laws by which irrecoverable loans could be reportod to the liegiatrar for realisation as a public demand under the certificato procodure. Tho Legal Remembrancer who was consulted in the matter held that tho proposed amendment would not be legal. In the Model Bye-laws framed for the guidance of Societies in this Provipce no special rules havo becn framed undor ecetion 27 (2) (p) of Act X of 1904. It is merely stated in tho Soodel Rules that disputes which the Committee cannot decide will be referred to the Registrar : it was hoped that the personal influence of the Registrar would suffico in tho carliur days of the movement: so far the Societics have not failed to realiso their loans and no change in the Act scems neccssary at prescnt. To allow loans to be recorered on the decision of the Registrar as a pablic demand would bo likely to encourage carcless management on the part of the Committce, and the granting of loans rashly and without duo enquiry : it would also bo likely io make the Committee and the members gencrally lax in watching tho uso made of the loane by their fellow members, all of which are cssential to the epirit of local co-operation.I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient acriant,
L. E. B. COBDEN-RAJISAY

Registrar of Coö̈piratios Credit Sociefics, Lenjal.
appendices.

For Registersd Societies for the


DIS I.

## Statement.

year ending 31st March 1300.


For Registered Socicties for th


## DIX I-conchl.

## Statemint.

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For unregistered Societies for


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| Byed M. Ganimat Honamin. |  |  | Do. ... | 8420 |  | 6 | ${ }^{0}$ | 191 | Dilte ... |  |
| Fireshan Bing .. | 51 | 0.0 | Do. ... | BABO | 25 | 16 | 18 | $\bigcirc$ | Dilta |  |
| Not known ... | 107 | 0.0 | Da. $=-$ | 2293 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 18 | Disto. |  |
| Balrap Temari ... | 88 | 0.0 | Do. m | 4 410 | 88 | NiI | 87 | 18 | Dilo. |  |
| Not known memer | 87 | 0.0 | Do. ... | 4283 | 5 | 20 | su | 194 | Ditto. |  |
| Dito ... | 90 | $0: 0$ | Do. .m | Nil | 25 | Nil | N.1 | - | Ditio. |  |
| 1) Ditto ... | 4 | 0.0 | Do. ... | $8 \pm 80$ | 64 | $\omega$ | su | 128 | Ditto. |  |
| Ditto . - | , •’ | re. |  | Pigares nol av | ailuble 4 |  |  |  | Ditur |  |
| Ram Pbal Lal ... | 108 |  | Do. ...1 | 1480 | 60 | $\infty$ | *11 | 181 | Dilla |  |
|  | 88 | 080 | Do. ...) | $3 \pm$ \& | 81 | 81 | NII | 129 | Dlua |  |
| $\cdots$ | . |  |  | Tigares not av | rallabla |  |  |  | $\cdots$ |  |
| Eaghunandina Koar. | 88 |  | Do. ... | 1283 |  | $\infty$ | - | 18 | diua | - • |
| Kapilanande Das | 238 | 0.0 | Do. ... | 3480 | 6 | 8 | Na | 14, | Dithe. | - |
| Gangadhat Pat. nalk. | D8 | - 0 | Do, ... |  | Nı | sin | Na | 14 | Dillo. |  |
| Har Kribhas | to | - 0 | Do. ... | 6** | 1 | Nu | $\boldsymbol{3}$ | 281 | Dua |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { Ram } \\ \text { Batur } \\ \text { Blandre } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 198 | $0 \cdot 0$ | $\overbrace{}^{\text {Da }}$. - |  | 78 | 88 | 1 | 121 | Dilta, |  |
| $\text { Rammagran } \text { Chandra }$ | - 117 | 080 | Da. ... | Nil | 78 | Nil | 31 | 14 | Ditta. |  |
| Besadova Tripall | es | -10 | Da. ... | $\boldsymbol{B 4}$ | 2 | 8 | 4 | 14 | Dina |  |
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| B. K. Alkat - | - | - | - | - : | - |  |  | $\bullet$ |  |  <br>  |
| $\cdots$ |  |  |  | $\cdots$ Fisuranet | ravalite $\dagger$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| ..... | $\rightarrow$ |  | - | Dillo | $\cdots$ |  | - | - | - --- | - . |
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| Totas - | 2.011 | - | - | -....' | 03 | H1 | In | $\ldots$ | . |  |

Statement of Assets
For registered Societise for the


## DIX II.

and Liabilities.
year anding S18t Ilaroh 1900.



DIX II-concluded.
and Liabilities.
ending 31st March 1906-conoluded.



## DIX IIA.

and Liabilities.
ending \$1st March 1906.


## LAND REVENUE

CALCUTTA, the lith AUGOST 1906.

# RESOLUTION-No. 24GCL.R. 

## Read-

A Report No. 2550.C.S., dated the 12th of April 1606, from Mr. W. II. Gourlay, on the working of the Co-pperative Credit Societies for the year ending the 31st March $1900^{\circ}$; and a Supplementary Meport No. 4080.C.S., dated the 1 (th July 1906, from Mr. L. E. J. Cobden-Ramsay, on the same subject.
Read again-
Government Resolution No. 3032T.-R., dated the 9th September 1905, on the Rogiotrar's report for 1904-05.
This is the second report submitted by the Registrar, but it is the first of its kind dealing with societies registored undor Act X of 1004.
2. The report was due to Government on the lst July. Mr. Gourlay, the Registrar, before he proceeded on leave, submitted a preliminary report on the 12 th April last, but it was not possible to prepare statistios by that date. The compilation of the statistics and the proparation of a reviow of them was, therefore, left to his locum tenens, Mr. Cobden-Ramsay, who was unable to submit them until the 10th July, and the report as a whulo did not reach Government till the 27th idem. The statistics nuw submittod aro not in all cases complete, and the figures of seven societies were not before Mr. Ramsuy when he prepared his review. The reports submitted are clear and conciso. and it is uunecessary to review them in detail.
3. Mr. W. R. Gourlay was in charge of the Department, in addition to his duties as Private Secretary to His Monour the Lieutenant-Govornor, fram the beginning of the year till the end of July, when Mr. L. E. B. CobdenHamsay was appointed Registrar and acted as such till Mr, Gourlay relicved him in December. Messss. Gourlay and Cobden-Ramsay spent 167 days on tour and visited all the districts of the Province, except Burdwan, Hooghly, Jessore, Khulna, Murshidabad and Bhagalpur.
4. Tho year $1905-04$ opened with 67 unregistered societics. Eight of these were situated in districts.which have been transferred to the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Five societies (Majnamutha, Chakdhi, Dalsingserai, Baktiarpur and Baltara) ceased to exist owing to varions circumatances. Two more-Chenny and Loopoongtooly-were amalgamated with tho Mampur Society. Of the remaining 52 societics, 19 were registered during tho year, 38 new societies were also registered during tho year, and at its close 00 societies in all-registered and unregistered-stood on tho list as against $\mathbf{C 7}$ in the preceding year.
5. The number of members of tho socictics amounted to 4,017 as against 3,280 in 1904-05, and the number of loans granted roso from 1,737 in 1904-05, to 2,595 in the jear under review. The members of tho different societies varied from 10 to 357, and the amount of capital from Rs. 100 to Rs. 2,000.
6. The unequal distribution of louns was one of the points to which attention was drawn in paragraph 5 of the Government Incsolution on the Report for 1004-05. In that ycar the loans varied from Ro. 1 to lis. 101. In the year under revier, the unovenness of the distribution of losns was evin more marked, being from Re. 1 to Ms. 26j in tho rural societics, and from Rs. 5 to Rs. 550 in the case of the urban societics. Mr. Cobden-1amsay notos that variation is bound to continue till it is found by expericnco that the pooref members are as prompt as their well-to-do brethren in repaying
the ioans granted to them, as the question of security must influence the Committecs in granting loans. Moreover, in urban societies, which are practically "Limited Companies," the distribution varies according to the number of shares held by cach member.
7. Tho sucietios were financed either by loans (with or without interest) from Government and from private partios and by duposits made by the members. Rupees 3,210 wero granted to registered societies free of interest for three years in accordance with
 paragraph 26 of the Resolution of the Government of India, dated the 29th April 1904, on deposits of equal amounts being made by the members. Rupees 5,457 were lent by Government on interest at $6 \frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to societies in Government estates, and Rs. 15,829 were advanced by other parties. Of the latter amount, Ks. 10,355 went towards financing the registered societies, and the balance of Rs. 5,474 to help the unregistered societies. The details of these are given on the margin.
The deposits made by the members amounted to Rs. 8,614 as against Rs, $\mathbf{3 , 1 8 1}$ in 1004-05.
8. The rate of interest which the societies charged on loans granted to members was generally $12 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as in last year, but Mr. Gourlay shows in paragraph 6 of his report that in some cases it is better for a society to charge $18 \frac{3}{4}$ per cont. on lending out money borrowed locally, than to borrow money from outside sources and lend it out at a lower rate.
0. The societies workod on the whole at a profit. The total assets amounted to Rs. 47,786-6-10, and their liabilitios to Rs. $44,276-4 \cdot 7 \frac{1}{3}$, thus loaving a profit of Rs. 3,510-2-2t as against Rs. 1,955-1-6 $\frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}}$ in the preceding year.
10. These results indicate that the scheme is progressing steadily, but much depends on the zeal and sympathy of local officers. It has succeeded most in the districts of the Bihar, Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions and in the district of Midnaporo. Mr. Gourlay thus describes the causes of this success :-
"With few exceptions, all the societios whioh are at present working are founded on the oredit whioh the individual member has within his village. That suoh a oredit, founded on a oharaoter for honesty, exists is well known to all who are familiar with village life. The majority of the village transaotions are done without a word in writing, and suoh debts are seldom ropudiated. This oredit, however, seldom extends beyond the limits of the village, and in many cases'nnt even beyond the limits of the tola, or hamlet, in which the individual resides. It is this existing village oredit whioh has to be organised, and when the villagors understand this, unlimited liability has no terrors for them; they aocept the prinoiplo without question.
"The seorot of finanoing agrioulture in India is not in creating anything new but in -organisiog the credit whioh already exista."

Tho schome is being extondod gradually on sound lines, and this will yiold bottor results in the end than the establishment of a large number of socictios in communitios where tha principlo of co-operation is not proporly understood. Of the two obstacles which hinder progress in these tracts, viz., the want of capital and tho absence of men able to explain the principles to guide the villagers, tho latter is tho most serious, though it is hoped that in tho largo Christian communitios of Chota Nagpur the requisite instruction may in time bo furnishad by the Missionaries and their assistants. As to capital, it is not too much to expect that others will follow the example of Rai Camaloswari Prasad Singh Bahadur, of Monghyr, and such is now boing done by local malajans in parts of Bidnaporo.
11. The Government of India in their Circular Order No. 7-30-4, datod the 20th May 1906, desired that the cases in which disputes about tho recovory of loans from members were reforrod to the Registrar or were the
subject of arbitration should bo noticed in the report. Tho Recistras reports that there were no such cascs during tho year. Tho Licutcnant-Gorernor agrecs with Mr. Cobden-Ramsay and the Board that to allow loans to be recorered on the decision of the Registrur, as a public demand, would bo likely to encouriwo careless granting of loans and to causo apathy among tho Committecs who manage the societics.
12. An effort was mado during tho year to establish grain sucieties and golas for seed grains, but the schemes have mado littlo progress for tho reasons given in paragraph 12 of Mr. Gourlay's report.
13. The Lieutenant-Govornor desires to place on rocord his apprecistion of the zoal and energy with which Dessirs. Gourlay and Cobden-llamsay performed their duties.

His Honour also noticos with plousuro the valuable assistanco giren to tho movement by Mr. Hopkyns, Subdivisional Oficer of Bettiah, tho Ruvd. Mr. Finch-Whito, of Hazaribagh, Babu Jamini Mohan Mitra, Deputy Collector of Midnapore, and Rai Camaleswari Prasad Singh Bahadur, of Dlonghyr.

Order.-Ordored that a copy of tho Resolution bo forwarded to the lloard of Revenue for information and communication to the leegistrar, Co-operativo Credit Societies.

## By order of the Licutenant-Governor of Bengal,

R. W. CARLYLE,<br>Claif Sccy. to the Goct. of Eengul.

