## REPORT ON THE WORKING

# c0-0PERATIVE CREDIT' SOCIE'IIES 

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BENGAL

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1907-1908.


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## No. 956 C.C.S.

From W. H. BUOHAN, Esq., 1.0.s.,
Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societiee, Bengal,

To the SECRETARY to the bOARD or REVENOE, Ll P., Lund Revenue Departarent.
. (Through the Diroctor of Agriculluie and Co-operatioe Credil Socictios, Denga).
writers boildings,
Dated Cakulta, the 111h Soptember 1808.
Sir,
I nave the honour to submit the annual report on the working of the Co-operative Credit Societies in Bengal for the year ending 30tb June 1908. The report was due to the Board on the 1st September. The impossibility of collecting the statistics in time is the cause of delay.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient sorvant,
W. II. BUCIAN,

Registrar.

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## REPORT ON THE WORKING

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## TOR THE YEAR 1007-1008.

I.-Administration and Tours.
-i: ; IRgistrar of Cu-opcrative Credis Societies.-Mr. W. R. Gourlay, s.c.s., held the office of Registrar from 1st July 1907 to 4th January 1008, on which dates I took over charge. Under the new arrangement, sanctioned in Government Order No. 1103T.-R., dated 17th June 1903, Mr. Gourlay as Director of Co-operative Credit Societies retains control of the polioy of the Department, while as Registrar I am in full charge and responsible for the detailed working.

Mr. Gourlay, who while Registrar acted as Magistrato and Colloctor of Puri and Champaran, was then placed on spocial duty in Eastern Bengal and was latterly appointed Director of Agriculture, had no time for touring. I was almost continuously on tour from the early part of January till tho beginning of May, and again at the beginning and end of June. During that timo I visited every division and locally inspected over 120 socictics.
2. Staff and Administration.-Under Government Notification No, 077A., dated 29th January 1908, Babu Jamini Mohan Mitra, Deputy Colloctor, was appointed for a year as Personal Assistant to the Registrar. In Day of this year Babu Jitendra Nath Sircar, Deputy Collector, and Babu Srish Chandra Ghoso, Sub-Registrar, were placed on temporary deputation to assist in the annual audit of the societies. To the permanent staff of the Calcutta offico ono clorkwas added during the year owing to the increase of work. There are now three clerks. A new feature of the year is the creation of a staff of local clerks working under the different honorary organisers. There aro throe at Chitarpur (Hazaribagh), and oue each at Rohika (Darbhanga), Dettiah; Berhampur, Midnapore, and Khulna:

The appointment of those local clerks is a recognition of the Registrar's. limitations as well as of the societies' requirements. Experience has proved the need of infant societies for constant supervision and instruction, and the inadequacy of the Registrar's isolated periodic inspections. Nll that is involved in the idea of co-operative credit cannot be grasped at once by simple people. In very few cases can a society be trusted to work successfully with the assistance of an annual visit. In the majority months of pationt instruction and correction and frequent visits of supervision are essential. The existence of this necessity for supervision, which ceases at no etage of a socitty's progress, does notimply peculiar defects. We are merely repoating the experience of Germany and other countries. The Registrar cannot now personally perform this fupction adequately. The growth of the movement makes it daily more impossible; and it is inevitable that in timo he should lose close touch with individual societies. The difficulty has been met by the appointment of local clerks. They are usually traincd mon of the neighbourhood. At present they are paid by Government, but in time they will become a chargo on the local societies. Already they have proved a grat succees and hovo removed a serious obstacle to advance. It should be recognised that, wherever the mover ent shows signs of spreading, the appointment of a clerk in that arca is a necessity. The Registrar must inevitally become less and lees a local propagandist and instructor, and increasingly an administrative officer.

## (a)

Central Societics.
3. Bengal is still without Central Societies. The policy in this Province has beon not to create such institutions from above but to form them by natural combination from below. The union of societies for the purposes of finance and control presumes a stage of development which it is possible we have not yet reached. But as all advance beyond a certain point is barred until this problem is solved, the matter will be taken in hand at once. A scheme for the coming cold of societies in local unions is now before Government, and in the working. I whall refer to this matter later.

## (b) Urban Societies.

4. Thenumber of Urban Societies has increased from four to nine, .These are-the Premier Society in Calcutta, the Purnea Central Bank, and the Amlas' Societies at Motihari, Laheria Sarai, Madhubani, Rohika, Bankura, Midnapore and Khulna. The society at Darbhanga, which promises well, was registered after the close of the Jear, as was also the Darjeeling Mission Bank; a large institution with a capital of over Rs. 25,000 . I omit the ten so-called urban bocietios in Chitarpur and elsewhere. These, being purely Raifeissen institutions with unlimited liability, áre treated under the head of rural societies from which they differ only in name. In this province the true distinction is not between rural and urban, but between societies with unlimited and those with limited liability. The latter alone are treated here.
5. The statistics of the year indicate a greatiy increased activity. Last year's membership has beon almost doubled, the figure being now 1,000 . Share capital has increased from Rs: 8,666 to Rs. 19,000, deposits from Rs. 6,889 to Rs. 12,950, and reserve funds from Rs. 1,760 to Rs. 4,246, The actual working capital is now Rs. 37,800. The receipts of the year, including the opening balance, amount to Rs. 73,000 and expenditure to Rs. 71,000. Rs. 64,800 was granted in loans to members.
6. The Premier Society, which is composed of the employés of Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie \& Co., has concluded a very' successful year's working. It has a share capital of Re. 5,000, and deposits amounting to Re. 9,641. The declared dividend, which in the first year was 5 per cent., has risen to 10 por cent. The Society, which is doing most useful work, is an excellent advertisement of the advantages of co-operation: and I hope other firms in Calcutta will follow its example. The only criticism I have to make is that, while its capital and transactions have increased, the membership has declined, owing to the collection of shares in fewer hands. The tendency is one which its natural results will in time correct, and meanwhile it is a testimony to the - increasing confidence of the members. But if the share capital were increased 80 as to allow of the admission of new men, the benefits of the society would be more widely distributed.

The other societies in the province are of a similar type and need not be described in detail. 'Thp Motihari Amlas' Society continues to maintain its reputation as a model society, efficiently conducted, financially successful, and beneficial to its moubers. Its example should spread to every district. The Khulna Society has improved very greatly during the year, and is now a well cstablished institution, able to declare a cubstantial dividend. The Midnapore Society is also doing well. Bankura and Madhubani are bardly so ${ }^{\text {successful. They are young societies and require to be stirred up. The }}$ Purnea Central Bank after a carecr of vicissitudes under the Companies Act has been registered as an Urban Co-operative Credit Society, but it has inherited a legacy of difficulties and outstanding debts from its predecessor. Tho accounts have boen put in order and the society roused into life. But whilo the larger part of its capitul consists of unrealised dues, we cannot expect sustainod interest. The Bank's first duty is:to collect its dues with all speed. It will probably be necessary to institute scme test suits.
7. Our societies with limited liability have thus mado considerablo progress. Their number can, and, I hope, will, be largely increased. At present two new socicties are in process of formation amongst the clerks of tho Board's office and the staff of the Custom House. The type can hardly fail of success among t the more educated classes to which it appeals. It is tho testimony of every one with experience that these societies have a markedly stcadying cffect on the members. On that ground alone their extonsion is desirable. Societies like the Premior ought to exist in every large offico in Calcutta. Wo propose, on Mr. Gourlay's suggestion, to circulate a pamphlet showing tho advantages of, and giving instructions for founding, such societies. Tho larger firms will, I hope, take up the scheme. Also, every district should havo at least one Amlas' society. If some intelligent member, like tho Sccretary of the Motihari Society, were placed on deputation for a short time, it would bo possible to accomplish this.

## (c) Rural Societies.

8. The movement in Bengal is principally a rural one, and under this head the greatest development is to be recorded. Tine number of rogisterod rural societies- 326 as against 165 last year-has been almost doubled. Thore aro still 14 unregistered societies, the fate of which has not yet been docidod. Some of them may be registered, but the majority will probably bo struck off the list. I am unwilling to strike them off until I am convinced that their regeneration is impossible.

The statistics of the year are again in a different form. Under the Government of India's orders only the totals of districts and not of soparate societies are given; but as Government will wish to see how individual societies are progressing, I forward the details in separate statements. Each registered society has this year been locally audited upon a systom drawn up by the Accountant-General's office, and the accuracy of the figares may wo relied upon. Assets have risen from Rs. 85,740 to Ks. 1,05,400, und momber'ship from 6,903 to 11,076 . The actual working capital is as. $1,8 \pm, 800$, whichis nearly a lakh above last year's figure. Receipts have risen from Rs. 1,22,502 tn Rs. $1,74,370$, the smallness of the increase boing due to indifferent repayment of loans, which again is partly at least due to scarcity. Disbursoments amounted to Rs. $1,57,067$. Last year Re. 90,086 was granted in loans to members; this year the figure is Rs. 1,45,500. Deposits 'by members increased from Rs. 11,167 to Rs. 21,246, and the rescrve fund from Rs. 11,020 to Rs. 20,000.

These statistics indicate a very great and encouraging development. But as figures are always apt to be misleading, I give bolow a gencral resume of the actual state of affairs in each division.

## THE PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

9. There are societies in all five districts of the Presidency Division, and in parts the movement has made great progress.

The most backward districts are the 24 -Parganas and Nadia. In the former we have now 10 societies. Two were registercd during the year, Kawrapuker and Rammakal Chak, and so far they promiso well. Tho Madhyamgram Tailors' Society in Barasat subdivision, an Urban Socicty with unlimited liability, founded by Babu Promotha Nath Dutt, is flourishing, but the older societies have developed not at all. Habra; the largest and probably best, is inert. The others, I am afraid, aro moribund. They have suffered a succession of very bad harvests; they have not been sufficiently supervised, and unless next year's crops are good, they will probably have to bo wound up. Of the three societies in Nadia, Nityanadapar is doing fairly well, but Shamnagar is less promising. The great want in both theso districts is - of local men to control and guide the societies.
-10. In Jessore work has been commenced in two aroas-in Magura subdivision and near Jessore itself. The Magura societics, which number cirht, were founded by Maulvi Abdus Salek, the Subdivisional Offccr, at the beginning
of the ycar. This officer did excellent service, bat unfortunately the societies were not sufficiently or accurately instructed at their institution. They are too large and scattored. The members bave very littlo idea of co-operative principles; in many cases they take no individual interest, letting the panchayat or individual punches control the work completely, and there is a tendency to regard the society as a Govornment institution for dispensing cheap loans. Nahatta and Kurandi are doing useful work, but all have a great deal to learn. However, I fully expect that with careful instraction they will yet be successful, and in the cold weather I hope to bave them put on proper lines. When that is done, it will be necessary to finance them more adequately.

- $\Lambda$ new field has recently been opened out near Jessore. The Revd, Mr. Reid, of the Baptist Mission, who takes much interest in co-operation, has just founded two societies. With his assistance as organiser I hope shortly to estend the work in this part.

11. Berhampur (Murshidabad) is quite a new area. I'wenty societies wero founded between January and March of this year. A few of these, such as Bhola, Durganagar, and Ganga Prosad will require careful watuhing, but the majority promise well. The socisties have properly grasped the meaning of unlimited liability; their account-keeping and general practice are regular; there is an intelligence in their methods which indicates an undersianding of principles; the interest shown by the membars and the control exercised by thom are a guarantee of success. All the societies owe their existence to the onergy of Mr. E. M. Wheeler, the Honorary Organiser. His policy of supervision without excessive interference is the correct one, and to that the success already attained is due. He has been given a clerk who will perform the ordinary inspection work. The societies are young and will of course require a good deal of supervision, especially at the time of repayment, but everything points to the success which will justify a further development. The interest shown by the societies in one another is a good augury for the Union which we hope shortly to establish.
12. In Khulna a great deal has been accomplished in a very short time. There are now 46 societies, all of which were founded by Babu Srish Chandra Ghosh, Sub-Registrir of Paikgacha. Their members are drawn from perhaps the most improvident Muhammadan population in Bengal. The success attainod is a tcstimony not only to Srish Babu's knowledge of co-operative principles, but to the time and labour he lras given to the education of these socicties. They are founded on the sound 'basis 'of members' deposits and equivalent Government loans supplemented by loans from outside. . The prosence of deposits is a guarantee of interest on the part of members. The most striking feature is the remarkable correctness of working. "The accounts are bcautifully written, the pauchayat and supervisors know their duties, moet regularly every month and duly record their proceedings, repayments are prompt, and I found instances to show that the members take a real collective interest in and control their society. There is of course a good deal of formality, and I am not sure that the members always realise the significance of tho forms thoy observe. But there is a fairly adequate grasp of fundamental principles, and I am inclined to bo very hopeful. They are very young with all the dangers of Jouth before them: and probably they will require fairly frequent supervision for some time. But some of the societics, such as Srikantapur, Gopalpur and Hossainpar, are old. Srikantapur, a large society of 82 members and quite intricato transactions, is one of tho best I have ever inspected: and the other two are also excellent. If these can bo regarded as typical there is not much fear for the younger societies. Babu Nalini Kanta Roy Chowdhury, of llaruli, has been appointed Honorary Organiser. Srish Babu has set a, bigh standard, and I hopo'and believe that Nalini Babu will maintain it.

## THE BORDWAN DIVISION.

13. Unly in one district, Midnapore, has any real progress been madet In Birdwau thero is one Young society, Keshabpur, based on deposits of members, uhich, if proporly guided, will do well. The two Birbhum societies, Fatehpur
and Kushmore, I havo not seen. They are not so successful as wo hopod, and I doubt whether they are truly co-operative. I shall inspect them shortly. llankura bas been disappointing. The Maliara Society, which was a farce, kept up to please the authorities, will bo closed. Borjuri is the only socioty now existing. It is very slack and indifferent. We shall make no headway in Bankura until we can rouse some local interest in the movoment.
14. Midnapore is by far the most encouraging district in tho prorince. The number of societics has risen from 11 to 33 . Tho majority aroin tho Sadar subdivision, most of them being grouped round Kholar; thero aro seven Sonthal societies in the west of the district; and tho remainder are in the Ghatal subdivision. The success is due primarily to the enthusiasm and excellent instraction of my assistant, Babu Janini Moban Mitra, who founded the original societies in Khelar and Balarampur in 1906. Theso continuo to maintain their reputation as the best societies in the province, and they furnish the best possible example to the new societies in the noighbourbood. All the old societies of the Khelar group are most flourishing and the younger onos havo made an excellent beginning. The same is true of the rest of the Sadar subdivision, except perhaps in the case of Chandkuri, which sufferod from too great confidence in its panchayat. The latter has now boen reconstituted and thésociety will do well.
-- These societies would bear comparsion with similar institutions in any country. Their procedure is correct, interest is promptly collected, loans punctually repaid and the capital quickly and usefully turnod avor; mootinge of the panchayat and of the General Assembly are regularly held and tho minutes show that their procoedings are not merely formal; accounts aro clear and accurate and the forms are frequently the work of members. The well-to-do and the poor are found side by side in the socioties. They work together harmoniously and there can be no question as to the genuinely co-operative nature of the work. But the most convincing testimony to thoir success is the confidence of the local public. Deporits both from members and the money-lenders come in freely and would be doubled if tho rato of intercst ( 64 per cent.) were raised. Most of the societies are financed by doposits from members and equivalent Government loans; others by loans from local mahajans. Both of these sources are a guarantee of success. In tho Khelar society Rs. 2,073 was deposited during the year by members and Rs. 000 withdrawn ; and on 30th June the deposits stood at Rs. 2,077. The Balarampur Society has deposits amounting to Rs. 1,454, Porannagar Re. 540, Balarampur Sonthal Rs. 600, Sauri Rs. 975, Dhitpur Rs. 1,060, Gar Belebara Rs. 1,000, and so on.

The development which has taken place during the year in this aroa is due entirely to the hard work and derotion of Babu Rati Nath Boso, Collector: ate record-keeper, who deserves the bighest praise. His cnthusiasm is an example_to others.

The seven Sonthal societics in the west are an interesting experiment. They were formed.at the instance of Mr. D. Weston, the Collector, to assist the Sonthals in freeing themselves from the Hindu money-lenders. I hare not yet been able to visit them, but Babu Srish Chandra Chosh in his audit note gives a good account of their work.

In the Ghatal subdivision nothing has yet been done towards reconstructing the two moribund societies at Jhankra and Radhanagar. It is still under consideration whether to dissolve them or convert them into Central Associations for financing village societies. Threo nerv socictios have becn started, two of them financed by the Radhanagar Society and the other by Sir D. M, Hamilton. Ghatal is a place which should offer scope for experiments in industrial cooperation. With the help of the honorary organiser, Babu Sital Das.Roy, I hope that something may be done in the coming wintcr.

## THE PATNA DIVISION.

15. The work extends to the districts of Saran, Gaya, Cbamparan and Darbhanga. The first two can ehow little progress. In Gaya there are two societies at Nawada and Dubaur. They are prospering financially. The

Namada Society is run by the influential men of the locality: Dubaur las a punclayat of makajans. They are benefiting the people. Their principal dcfect is that they are run for, rather than by, the members.
10. Uf the five societies in Saran, Umda and Karharia are doing quite well, Parsa and Telpa are stagnant, and Jalalpur is indifferent. The conditions of the district are directly unfavourable. On the whole the people are fairly well off and do not require cheap loans to the same extent as their less fortunate neighbours. When thejcan borrow at $12 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. locally they are not likely to be enthusiastic about societies which charge the same rate; and the other benefits of co-operation are not obvious enough to appeal to them directly. This district will probably not be taken up with success until the advantages of co-operation have been fully demonstrated in other parts of the Province.
17. The Bettiah (Champaran) Societies exhibit the results of insufficient instruction and supervision. When I visited them in February I found that, although the members appreciated the benefits of co-operation, they had very little idea of how to conduct their business. Some of the more intelligent societies, Auraia, Mahanagani, Balua Rampurwa and Barwat Beldari, were doing well; others, such as Mansa Tola, Chailabhar, Lalgarh and Khairwatola were distinctly bad; while the rest were notrealising their full usefulness. , One great and common defect was the neglect to realise dues. In many cases loans had been outstanding for years. The societies had therefore no means of meeting the yearly requirements of members; and, there being nothing to sustain interest, stagnation was the result. This and many other defects, such as usurpation of power by single members, confusion of accounts, \&c., were largely due to ignorance and want of supervision. It must also be said that tho wholly inadequate capital of the societies had much to do with their indifferent success. All these defects it is hoped will now be removed. Mr.J. E. Rutherford has been appointed honorary organiser with a clerk to assist him. The societies bave been given extra loans to pay off their mahajans and redeem thein mortgaged lands. They will now be under proper local control, and with their more adequate capital I hope they will prosper. Mr. E. L. Tanner, the Subdivisional Officer, has given us.great assistance.
18. Rohika (Darbhanga) is one of the most flourishing areas in the Provinco. The societies, the number of which has now increased to 16, are usually fairly large. . Capital is" kept in constant circulation and usefully employed. Their working is wonderfully regular, and the members seom roally to have grasped the meaning of co-operation. Their success is due entirely to Mr. R. S. King, the honorary organiser, who has been of the greatest assistance since the institution of the movement. In financing new societies Mr. King divides the capital into two parts-(1) a special capital for paying off old debts, which is repayable in regular yearly instuluouts, and ( 2 ) an ordinary capital for annual current expenses. Mr. King's policy is to advance slowly, to test the movement by a few successful and carefully located societies which will serve as examples and advertisements. So far the movement can hardly be described as spontancous, but I have no doubt that the success attained will induce a more voluntary spirit.

In the south of Darbhanga a new area has recently beeu tapped near Mr. C. R. MacDonald's factory at Daulatpore.' Mr. MacDonald will proceed on lines similar to those of Mr. King. He has already done some good work and will be a valuable addition to the ranks of organisers. But the results come within the scope of next year's report.

## THE BIIAGALPUR DIVISION.

10. In the Bhagalpur Division generally the co-operative movement has not developed greatly; but in every district a beginning has been made.

Bhagalpur itsolf has one society at Golama. Its practice is irregular, but it scems to be doing uscful work, and the members arekeen. Babu Saroda Prosed Sircar, Subdivisional Officer of Madhepura, is founding more societies. Our chief difticulty lies in making provision fur local control.
20. There is no advance to record in Purnea; but, when allowanco is made for uncertain supervision, the societies are not at all disappointing. Nandanpur, which always was a thorn in the flash, is being closed. Maranga is remarkable for the correctness of its work according to theory, but repayment of loans is not what it ought to be. Mirzapur prospers, probably owing to its proximity to Korha factory, and has accumulated a considerablo reservo fund. Binji too would flourish if it received more advice. Its affairs aro too much in the hands of one man.
21. In Kalimpong we have still only four societies which suffer from their inaccessibility. They are not models of co-operation; but considering the small amount of supervision they have had, their progress has been wonderful. Balukope and Sindipong have even achieved deposits, and in all four a distinct inferest is shown in the work. There are great possibilities in the Kalimpong Estate, and the spirit of the present societies promises well for the futurc. I would like to have a society in each block. The Head Clerk, who has already shown his interst in co-operation, has solected various promising places; and when I return to Kalimpong in October, I hope to form new societits there.
22. The six nominally co-operative societies in the Sankara Estate (Sonthal Parganas) are exactly where where they were last year. They are not societics, but merely aggregations of villages. The Manager of the Estate distributes loans to the members, and recovers them through his own agents. Each socicty has accumulated a considerable reserve fund in the Post Office Savings Bank, but the members probably know nothing about it. There is not a vestige of co-operation. The experiment was tried of giving loans to groups of villagers instead of to individuals, but this has not been a success. The prosent system is benefiting the people, and in time I hope proper co-operation will bo taught. Meanwhile, as an example, we have, with the assistance of Babu Profulla Chandra Ghose, Deputy Collector, formed two societies on orthodox lines. One, Hatkcria flourishes: the other is too young for criticism. If these are successful their example will be useful.
23. In Monghyr there are four societies at Choukra, Bhogatpur, Ghogi, and Basdeopur. 'They are very small, composed of the type of poor and ignorant cultivators who require much patient instruction before they grasp anything An attempt was made during the year to put the sccietios on correct lines; but until we can find a local supervisor to guide them I have not much hope of their success. The two societies at Gobind pur across the river have perished.

## THE CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.

24. There are societies in Manbhum, Palamau, Ranchi and Hazaribagly.

In Manbhum there has been no extension; but the two Christian socictics à Purulia and Pokhuria continue to flourish and to do good work. Mr. F. Hahn, who takes considerable interest in the movement but has no beliof in societies which do not deposit, proposes after the next favourable harvest to extend the work in the German Mission on the basis of deposits.
25. Palamau I was unable to visit. We have only one small socicty at Bhogu, which appears to be very simple and primitive. I hope to visit the district soon.
26. Hazaribagh contains about one third of all the societics in Bengal. There are two centres-one at the head-quarters station, the other at Cbitarpur. The former was first tackled in 1902, and the three societies then founded-Korra, Matwari and Hurhuru-have been a source of trouble ever sinco. The membership, which in each case is much too large and mixed, requires expurgation; there never has been any proper grasp of principles and the societies are practically moribund. I have this year had the accounts put into proper order; but the only bope for the societies lies in complete reconstruction. This I hope to effect after next harvert. With the espulsion of the indifferent and the defaulting they ought to do well. The other societies, particularly those of recent creation, are more promising. Under Dr. Hearn's supervision, I trust they will prove a success.
27. Chitarpur is the largest, most interesting, and prohably most backward area in the Province. There are 115 rural, and seven so-called urban, societics. Their membership is drawn from just the population which we wish to roach,
the poorest and simplest cultivators who are at the mercy of money-lenders and an ordinary rate of interest of $\mathbf{7 5}$ per cent. The future of these societies will furnish a supreme test of the suitability of our work to Indian conditions. At first the popularity of the movement led us beyond our intentions. The initial impulse was not co-operative conviction, but.merely a desire for cheap loans. A larger number of societies was formed than could be adequately. instructed and controlled. Unfortunately also a great many illiterate societies. were registered under a misconception. The result was that when I visited Chitarpur in January I found the members totally ignorant of everything connected with "coopera. tion. Corporate interest hardly existed; accounts were in confusion : societies were often ran by single members, and in one case, Jario, the:sir-punch had irregularly taken a large part of the capital hiniself. There were of course a fow notable exceptions; but the majority of the societies had every thing to learn. The defects were all due to want of instruction, possibily also to a too great belief in the self-evidence of co-operative principles. Idrew up a set of instructions for the clerks which are now being carried out: and in the meantime an attempt was made to finance the societies adequately. At my second visit in July I tound some improvement. The societies have now a proper conception of their raison detetre. They are learning correct methods of work and of account keeping, but a very great deal of consolidation is still necessary. I shall sanction no more registrations until the existing societies have been got into proper working order. That I hope will not take very long. There is aiia encouraging spirit abroad. One can see, I think, the beginnings of a moral effect on the people. They are eager to learn. Several societies asked me to have schools started in their villages, 'One village, Chotki Kundru, has formed a society to take its own lease; and we hope to experiment with other forms of co-operation during the coming year. If Mr. Finch. White with the help of his three clerks would take up the consolidation of his own work with that energy and enthusiasm to which all the societies owe their existence, this area would in a very short time be a model to the province. Without careful supervision and consolidation there will inevitably be failure.
23. In Ranchi the two old societies have made no progress. The little society at Sidrol is quite promising, and with better seasons may yet do well. But Rampur, which never had a chance, will be closed up 'and reconstituted. Our hopes in the Ranchi district are now centred round Ittio, where Mr. H. R. Lonsdale, the new Honorary Organiser, has founded several societies. I hope to have ten in working order before the cold weather. These will be watched for a year, and if their progress is satisfactory, the work will be extended.

## TRE ORISSA DIVISION.

29. Orissa, especially in the Government Estates of Banki and Khurda, offors a promising field for co-operation. But so far we have not been able to tako full advantage of its possibilities. There is little to be added to last yoar's report.

In Balasore tho Nuaparhi Society coutinues to look well on paper, but I doubt whether it is really very co-operative. Orora I was unable to visit. The Collector reports that it is doing fairly. well.
30. Of the Khurda (Puri) societies, Taraboi is the best. Bolgarh is too largo aud unwieldy. It requires subdivision. Balugaon, an inaccessible and unregistered society, suffers from having mahajans on its panchayat. The members appreciate its benefits, and if the punchayat was 'reconstituted, I belicre it would flourish. Nimapara I did not manage to inspect. A local organiser is what we most need in Puri.
31. Tho Banki (Cuttack) societies have suffered from failure of crops this y car. Only one, Nistipur, has been added since last report. They are all doing quite well. One or two societies have even risen to deposits. Repayment of loans is fairly satisfactory, and the capital in many cases is 'turned 0 ver with gratifying frequency. The great defect in all is the disproportion between the membership and capital. I thought of giving extra loans to reveral. 1 ing socicties; but I find that it will be necessary first to reconstitute the Subdivisional Oo that soon with the help of Babu Balmukund Kanungo. the Subdivisional Officer of Banki, in whom wo have an intelligent and keenly
interested officer, of whom I hope much. Banki is an eminently suitable area for our work, but if we are to develop it with any chance of success the appointment of a local clerk will be necessary.

## hil.-Workina of Societies.

32. -Types.-There are two main types in Bongal to one or other of which all societies conform, -(1) the Urban, with limited liability which is based on tho Schulze Delitsch, or more correctly speaking, the Luzzati model, and (2) tho Rural, with unlimited liability, which observes Rnifeissen principles Tho constitution of both was fully explained in the last year's report and neod not be again discussed. The Urban society has proved itself eminently workablo and suited to the requirements of clerks and others on monthly wages, small traders, \&c. But as the vast majority of the population are agriculturists it is to the rural societies that our attention is principally directed.

I need not repeat the discussion of the seven Raifeissen principles-unlinited liability, restricted area, no shares and no dividends, no remuneration to offcers, loans repayable from the return on the capital lont, an indivisible reserve fund and the moral improvement of the community. It is sufficient to say that last year's working has confirmed our conviction that unlimited liability must be the foundation of all successful work in rural Bengal. Tho idea is simple, not foreign to the cultivator's daily lifo, and is willingly accepted by him. The other principles are on their trial. They bave been very successful in Europe; but it is possible that Indian conditions may make adaptation and addition necessary. The movement is yonng and wo are still in the stage of experiment. The seven principles are not found in perfection in any society, but so far as we can judge they work well. We shall continuo to follow them until experience indicates the necessity for change.
33. Capital.-The following statement shows the various sources from which the capital of rural societies is drawn .-


The statement is instructive. The capital contributed by Governmont, zamindare, and the Court of Wards, amounting to 3 , per cent. of the total, has a tendency to be philanthropic. That supplied by investors has not. The latter are people who have confidence in the societies and who regard their loans as businesslike investments. The members themsclvcs havo provided nearly 13 per cent: of the tolal capital whicb is satisfactory so far as it goes. It is less encouraging that outside local capital amounts to lons than 2 per cent. Until our societies can gain the confidence of the local money market progress is bound to be slow. Of the Rs. 3,360 under this head all except Rs. 300 is invested in the Midnapore district. But thero is no cuuso for discouragement. If the Midnapore societies, which offer a low rate of interest, have by their good work attracted local capital, there is no reason why, as the work develops and improves, the societies of other districts eliould not do the same.
34. Rate of Interest.-The Covernment of India hare asked for statistics regarding the rates of interest prevailing in the various districts of the
province. The matter is important in more ways than one. It is not conducive to the teaching of thrift that the interest charged by societies should be out of all proportion to local rates. Nor can a society hope to attract local capital if its rates do not bear some reasonable relation to the interest charged by money-lenders of the neighbourhood. A survey of the provincial rates of interest is now being made with the help of the Deputy Collectors who are carrying out the wage census. I am unable to give the results of the survey in this report, as the returns have not come in. When I reccive them I shall submit a further report to Government. For the present I give below the result of enquiries which were locally made daring the recent audit. The figures were arrived at in most cases by actual question. ing in the villages, and for the area covered by our societies may be regarded as fairly accurate. They also probably represent roughly the state of affairs in each district. In most areas interest varies according to the status of the borrower and the nature of the security. I give only the average rate charged by money-lenders for ordinary loans to cultivators, as that is the rate which principally concerns our societies:-


Tho rato put down for Darjeeling and the Sonthal Parganas is that allowed by law. Tho interest actually charged is probably higher. The money londors get round the restriction by making the debtor execute a bond for a larger amount than he realls receivea. In many cases, too, no document
is drawn up until some time after the money has been lent. It is not till considerable interest at a higher rate has accumulated that a bond for the total amount of principal plus interest is executed at 24 per cent.

On the whole the rates offered by societies in the important districts are not too low, except in Champaran, where the interest will be raised when a Union is formed. The objects of the Act would not be fulfilled if they paid more than $15 \frac{3}{8}$ per cent. on their borrowed capital and charged over $18{ }^{3}$ for loans to members. The districts in which societies are financed at $6 \frac{1}{4}$ per cont. are, as a rule, backward areas. Most of these-.ocieties were founded before the importance of observing local rates of inctisst was realized. In extending the work there a higher interest will be offe, car outside capital. Midnapore is a special case. The interest offered is disproportionate to local rates. But the excellence of the societies and their obvious socurity have won the confidence of the neighbourhood, and deposits and loans flow in freely. If the societies find that they require more capital than their present terms attract, they will raise the rates.
35. Deposits by members.-In Midnapore and Khulna it is the rule for members to deposit money in their societies. But in the rest of the Province, with a few scattered exceptions, there are no deposits. While not admitting that this is in any.way a sign of failure, I recognise the very great importance of encournging deposits not ouly as a source of capital, but as a stimulus to interest on the part of members. It is quite true that as a rule mewbers join only in order to borrow and that any spare funds should be devoted to liquidating old debts. On the other hand I think (it may seem a paradox) that no member is too poor to make a small deposit. It seems to me sound economy that he should put a little of his own money into the society even while he is borrowing to pay off old debts. It will mean that tho liquidation of the debts takes a little longer; but it directly teacbes thrift; it gives him a tangible stake in the society; it impresses on his mind the significance of the otherwise vague term "unlimited liability;" and it gives him a visible inducement to see that his society is properly conducted. I would therefore encourage the making of deposits in all societies.
36. Loans-amount and purpose.-Full statistics of the amoant and parposes of loans given by all societies have been locally collected during the audit. These have been compiled, and the statement is printed as an appendix. Although probably not accarate in all details, it gives a fairly correct idea of the nature of the the societies' transactions. The loans given numbered 8,195 and amounted to Rs. 1,43,468-0-11. The average loan per member was therefore just under Rs. 18. It will be seen, however, that the district average varies very greatly, and it must be remembered that the inequality of loans granted by societies is often very considerable.

It is unnecessary to discuss each district in detail. The figures speak for themselves. Generally speaking the statement roughly represents the nceds of the different localities and it indicates the various stages of progress. When a society is young, bare necessity, and not considerations of profit, determines the purposes of the loans, which are therefore few as a rule. The first requirement of members is to free themselves from debt; so loans for repayment of mahajans occupy the largest place in the accounts. $\Delta t$ the same time the crops have to be grown; so cultivation and cattle expenses take the next place. And in a year of scarcity like the present loans for maintenance necessarily bulk largely. As most of our societies are still in the stage of necessity, these four are the principal objects of loans. When members have freed themselves from their load of debt, they will require less assistance in their cultivation, and will be able to apply their loans to improvement of land by wells and bunds, purchase of new land, and other profitable but less essential objects. The more a society develops the moro variod its transactions become-a fact which is exemplified in the figures for Midnapore.

The appended statement for rural socioties shows that 75 per cent. of all loans was applied to the repayment of old debts, cultivation, and purchass of cattle-the three primary needs of the poor agriculturist. The various percantages in order of importance are-Payment of debts, 28.05, cultivation, 26.37, purchase of cattle, 19.08 , trade, 6.64 , maintenance, 5.88 , rent, $4 \cdot 11$,
purchase of land, $1 \cdot 88$, improvement of land, $1 \cdot 72$, marriage expenses, $1 \cdot 63$, house repairs, $1 \cdot 18$, raw materials, $1 \cdot 00$, ceremonies (other than marriage), -47, litigation, $\cdot 06$, miscellaneous, 1.03. These figures do not reprosent the sequence in every society; but it isin totals and averages that tendencies are observed. They show that most of our societies are in a rudimentary stage; but they also prove what useful work they are doing. If we accept the division of purposes into directly productive, indirectly. productive, and unproductive, over 56 per cent of the loans belong to the first class, 40 per cent. to the second, $\because$ hile a little over 2 per cent. are unproduc. tive. The figures are encoureff ${ }^{\prime}$. They show that a society can safely be trusted to apply its capital usefully aid profitably.
37. Period of Loans.-The ordinary rule is that except in special cases loans are granted for one year, and renewals allowed only in cases of famine, drought, pestilence, \&c. This hardly conforms to the Raifeissen principle that loans are repayable from the profits made. In rural societies, oultivation expenses excepted, very few loans can be repaid within a year from the profits earned, even when combined with the saving in interast due. In Darbhanga the difficulty is met by the division of the capital into ordinary, which is strictly repayable every year, and special, which is repaid in regular kists. In other districts this system is hardly possible yet; and some general rule bas to be laid down. It cannot be determined on purely business principles; for the tendency to laxity and improvidence and the. necessity of enforcing thrift and prompt repayment have to be considered. The twelve months' rule has therefore been adopted with permission to fix longer kists in special cases up to a limit of five years. It is laid down that the date of repayment must be determined with careful reference to the 'borrowers' circumstances, and that when once it has been decided punctual repayment must be rigidly insisted upon.
38. Security.-Personal security is the rule almost invariably. For ordinary loans it is quite sufficient.: But when a society undertakes the complete liquidation of'a member's debts to other creditors, it is occasionally found advisable to secure the bond by a mortgage over the member's land. Such loans are often large; and it is necessary to guard against the possible weakening of security by re-mortgage:
39. Repayment of loans.-Repayments have not on the whole been all that one could desire. The principal reason is the poverty of the seasons. When people live on the margin of subsistence, their whole economy depending on the character of the crops, a failure naturally makes it impossible for them to pay their dues. This year scarcity has been fairly general and our societies have suffered. Ignorance and misconception are other reasons. I have noticed quite a widespread confusion between the terms of loans granted to members and of those granted to societies. The society is told that it need pay only interest for three years and thereafter repay the principal by instalments. Some of them apply this to the society's loans to members and consider that the payment of interest comprises their whole duty. This misconception has been corrected wherever found. In areas where crops were good the payment of dues was as a rule punctual; and given a good season this year, there is every reason to expect that repaymont will be satisfactory.
40. Action against defaulters.- Cases of deliberate default are rare. Bad seasons, the fixing of impossible dates of repayment, and the inaction of the Mnnaging Committces, explain most of the overdue loans. The remedy lies in a better arrangement of kists and a fuller appreciation on the part of societies of their own interests. Only in the Purnea Central Baniz is defaulting sorious: there suits for recovery will be necessary. In ordinary cases the pressure of the community is a sufficient guarantee against default.
41. Grain Societies.-So far I have not had time to go carefully into this natter. It is surrounded by difficulties regarding storage, peculation, dusturi, \&c. Our experionce is not yet sufficient to indicate definite conclusionso But I doubt whether the futuro holds any great possibilities for Grain Societies. All the work which they do can be done and better done by Cash
societies.

In Bankura, the Sonthal Parganas, Ranchi, Balasore, Cuttack, Puri, Darblanga and clsewhere we have a few isolated Grain Sociotics. It is impossible to give statistics of their transaction as the retums submitted were inaccurate and there was no time to have them corrocted. Thoy are, however, doing quite good work. Their capital is turned over with fair regularity, and within circumscribed limits, the members aro benefited. But the district which will prove the possibilities of this form of co-operation is the Sonthal Parganas, where there are large grain golas in the Sankara and Damin estates and in the Deoghur subdivision. I shall confine my remarks to the work in Deoghur with which we are specially concerned.

The golas of Deoghur are situated at Rohini and Punasi. In their rannagoment, there is no element of co-operation. They are conducted by panchasats of local banias, who get $12 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on collections-ss remancration. The books are clearly kept and the collections are good, but the management is very expensive, and there is great danger of peculation. Orginally grain was lent to individuals and the labour of account keeping was enormous. Two years ago, on Mr. Gourlay's suggestion, lending to groups of villagos was with great advantage substituted for individual borrowing. Last cold weather a further step was taken when the Subdivisional Ufficer, Mr. MacGavin, persuaded about 35 villages to form village societies. These borrow their capital from the Central gola, collect 30 per cent. interest, retain half, pay 15 per cent to the Central institution, and repay their principal by instalments.

If grain credit co-operation is to be a success, it will be along thoso lines. The tendency I think will be towards decentralisation and tho ultimate elimination of the Central gola. Centralisation is not necossary as in the case of Cash societies. Their transactions are not at all complicated: loans are given for only two objects-seed and maintenance. Soch simplo institutions hardly require to be linked to a central controlling and financing agency. The village with its determinable requirements is the best unit, and grain dealings are safe only on a limited scale. The Central gola will be usoful until the village societies acquire enough capital; thereafter it will probably disappear. The small societies will qaickly accumulato resorves, and when their capital exceeds their yearly requirements the balance will be turned into cash. When that stage is reached cash credit annexes might be vory usefully formed. This is prophecy, but it is the development whioh I think should be encouraged. I am convinced that grain co-operation will bo successful only when confined to narrow limits. Meanwhile tho Deoghur village societies are very young and must be carefully watchod. It will be possible, I hope, to come to some definite conclusion after next harrest.
42. The custody of Funds.-F ew societies, I Gind, have any great difficulty regarding the custody of funds. In the majority the cash in hand is usually small. A large balance is never held for long, as the noney is always wanted for loans. When necessary; the Post Office Savings Bank is employed. The postal authorities by altering their rules have this year made the Savings Bank a more convenient place of custody. The only remaining difficulty would bo removed, and incidentally the popularity of the Suvings bank with the publio increased, if the forms, \&c., connected with a publicuccount were issued in the vernacular. In time, as our societies grow larger, the custody of surplus funds will become an important question. But by that time the existenco of Central Unions will, I hope, have obviated auy difficulty.

## IV.-Tife Resirve Fusds.

43. The Reserve Fund is invariably used as working capital. The time for setting it rigidly apart has hardly yet arrived. In a society which is not liable to sudden calls on its resources, and which can with fair accuracy determine beforehand the yearls requirements of its members, the necessity of a separately invested reservo fund as a protection against time of need is not paramount. As things are, it is probably more uscful to incriase the
reserve rapidly by using it as working capital than to place it in the Post Office Savings Bank at a nominal interest. Separation will of courso be necessary before long: the resorve will then be deposited with the Central Banking Union.

## V.-Audit and Inspection.

44. The supreme importance of inspection is not open to question. That is the principal lesson of last year's work. Europe learned it long ago, and Indian conditions emphasize its importance. Inspection ensures a searching enquiry into details, corrects mistakes, detects misconduct, prevents stagnation and gives confidence to the members. No society can afford to do without it at any stage of its history, and in infancy it is indispensable. It is not too much to say that the future of the movement depends more upon an adequate provision for inspection and control than upon any other single factor.

Audit and inspection differ only in the degree of minuteness and formality. Inspection refers to the periodical visits of the Registrar and his Assistants, audit to the formal annual examination at which the figures for the annual report are collected. The latter could be made in any month; but until the societies become sufficiently educated to submit accurate returns this formal audit required by law must take place at a stated time each year. For ordinary inspections I have prepared a set of detailed instructions for our clerks: and an attempt has this year been made to carry out a scientific audit. Mr J. S. Chakravarty, Examiner of Local Accounts, has very kindly drawn up instructions which provide not only for an arithmetical audit of books and balance sheets, but for a minute enquiry into a society's knowledge of co-operative principles and methods. Our auditors were trained under his supervision, and the books of every registered society have been locally examined. I find that in most cases the audit is welcomed, especially by the better societies. The season is the only drawback. As the financial year ends on 30th June, the audit has to be carried out in July and August during the height of the cultivating period. Societies naturally grudge the time they have to give to us then, and it is very difficult to collect the members. If the year ended on 31st March, not only would it be more convenient for our auditors, but the utility' and effectiveness of this most important inspection of the year would be greatly enhanced.

## VI.-Work done bx Supebvisors, Committees, Officers and Members.

45. On the whule it may be said that the panchayats genuinely manage the societies collectively, although there are many glaring instances of monopoly of power by individual meubers. The supervisors, except in the matter of checking the applications of loans, are not, as a rule, effective officers. The attitude of the members also leaves something to be desired. Even in the best societies general meetings are very seldom held, aud the members exercise little real control. The less instructed a society is the less they realise their responsibilities as members of an institution which is their own. This is another argument for supervision. Members must be taught to take an individual and collective in terest in their society's work.

## Vil.-Disputes and Liligation.

46. There has been no case of litigation. It may be neceseary to institute a few suits this year. Disputes which the societies fail to settle are decided by the honorary organisers, or by myself and by my Assistant when on tour. They are not numerous.

## VIII.-Act, Rules and Byelaws.

47. The Act has worked very well. But it has one great defect in that it does not provide for the combination of societies in Unions. Eren the desible section 29 refers only to persons. It is proposed to get round the
difficulty by making all members of affiliated societies members of the Union, while regarding the society as the unit of membership. But the Act requires amendment. Our rules and model bye-laws are under revision.

## IX.—General.

48. Summary.-It will serve to correct possible misconceptions if I briofly summarise our progress up to date and our plans for the immediate future. There are now nearly 400 societies in Bengal, most of which promise success. The development has exceeded expectations. But there is a danger of exaggerating the real progress made, and we must guard against an excess of confidence. There is a certain confident optimism which speaks of the religion of co-operation, which thinks that its principles have only to bo enunciated to carry conviction, and that a society when once instructed can safely be left to its own devices. This attitude, so far as rural societios are concerned, is almost as dangerous as the pessimism which denies to the Indian cultivator those modest qualities of mind and character which are necossary to successful combination. - A helpful optimism shuts its eyes to no defects and faults, bat profits by them and leaves nothing to fortune. In the preceding pages I have been careful not to understate the deficiencies of our societios. Very few can be called fully co-operatire in the true sonse. But in the infancy of the movement we can expect nothing more. Co-operation is not mastered in a day or a year. Thrift, self-help and common action imply a prior educational development of years. In spite of all defects (and they are many) I have every confidence in the future of the movement. I am convinced, however, that until the co-operative idea takes firmer root, the societies will require constant nursing; for many years to come they must be assisted along tho path of progress. But when all allowance for shortcomings has been made much has still been accomplished. Most of the societies have fairly well grasped the fundamental principles. Within limits they are doing uscful work. And this important fact we have proved, that given sound instruction and reasonable supervision a co-operative credit society can be manared by cultivators themselves with profit and advantage to all concerned. The cardinal importance of combination has been taught and success is now only a question of time and organisation. The evil of agricultaral indebtednoss is still far from being cured, but everything points to co-operation as a practical remedy.
49. Having solved the question of individual combination, we are facod by another difficulty. If our work is to have any general effect, there must be a society in practically every village. But unless some scheme for organising the scattered and isolated societies can be devised, there can be no safo advanco beyond a certain stage. We require organisation for purposes both of financo and control. The point has already been passed bey ond which the Registrar's individual supervision ceases to be effective. If Government were preparod indefinitely to finance the machinery of control, much might be done. But that solution can be regarded only as a last resort. The machinery, in order to be effective and to respond automatically to an indefinite expansion, must bo supplied by the societies themselves, as in Europe. An adaptation of the German system has accordingly been devised by whith societies will be combined in local Unions for purposes of finance and control. The Union will have a share basis and the credit of an affliated society will be deternined by its shares and solvency. A double security is thus offered to the money market; and it is hoped that local capital will be attracted. The central body will control its affiliated societies by means of inspecting clerks. It is reasonuble to expect that a Union whose success depends on the stability and prosperity of its affiliated societies will carry out an effective supervision. The scheme will not of course come into full working order at once. Combination of socicties will be much barder to teach than combination of individaals. But several unions will, I hope, be established in skeleton daring the cold weather. We can only learn by experiment. It may take years before a union exactly suited to Indian conditions is evolved. But,-as the idea is simple and the principles sound, the scheme will not, I trust, fail of ultimate success.-
50. Future plans.-Our efforts for the immediate future will therefore take two dircctions. In districts where we have honorary organisers and many societies our aim will be consolidation rather than extension. In these districts the movement has taken firm root, and the number of societies could be very largoly increased; but if the structure is to be permanent, the foundations must be very surely laid. At the same time, besides perfecting existing societies, a serious endeavour will be made to combine them into unions. While hoping all things, I do not expect to accomplish very much this year. If we can teach the societies the importance of combination and the rudiments of common action we shall bave accomplished a great deal. That will be our work in the advanced districts. But they are still few. A large part of Bengal remains untouched, and other areas are very backward. In these our duties will still be propagandist. The object is to have in each district a demon. stration area which will form the starting point for future development. But local helpers are wanted. The futility of forming isolated societies without making local provision for their control has been amply proved. What we principally require is nore voluntary assistance like that of our present honorary organisers. There are now eight organisers who are doing excellent work ; others are coming forward; and I have no doubt that in time we shall have at least one in each district.
51. Other forms of co-operation.-This report has dealt exclusively with cooperative credit societies. It is acknowledged that the soundest development is from cash credit to other forms of co-operation. But I recognise that our work touches only the fringe of co-operative possibilities. In agriculture and industry there is a very large field which will ba entered on in time. For the present attention must be directed principally to cash socisties. But other forms will not be neglected. I hope that during this year some simple experiments will be made in co-operative sale, production and distribution.

## X,-Attitude of the public, assistance receiped, official and NON-OFFICIAL.

52. Interest amongst the ganeral public is growing slowly but steadily. There is still a good deal of scepticism, but it is gradually giving way to more confidence as is evidenced by the fairly frequent letters of enquiry I receive from prospective investors. The number of honorary organisers has increased this year from three to eight. These are-Mr. R. S. King. (Darbhanga), Mr. C.Finch White (Chitarpur), Dr. J. A. Graham (Darjeeling), Mr. J. E. Rutherford, (Champaran), Mr. E. M. Wheeler (Berhampore), Babu Sital Das Roy (Ghatal), Mr. H. R. Lonsdale (Ranchi), and Babu Nolini Kanta-Roy Chowdhuir (Khulna!, Some of these gentlemen have already done invaluable work, and the movement owes a very great deal to them. Similar organisers in every district are urgently wanted. Other nonoflicials who have done good service are-Dr. Hearn of Hazaribagh, Mr. J. Keid of Jessore and Mr. C. R. MacDonald of Dawlutpore in Darbhanga. Anongst officials who have been of great assistance are Mr. E. L. Tanner, I.C.s., the Subdivisional Officer of Bettiah, Mr. A. MacGavin, the Subdivisional Ollicer of Dooghur, Babu Balmukund Kanungo, Maulvi Abdus Salik, Babu Profulla Chandra Gliosh, Babu Srish Chandra ©hosh and Babu Jitendra Nath Sircar, who helped in the audit. To Mr. J. S. Chakrvarty, Examiner of Local $\Lambda$ ccounts, thanks are due for the excellent instructions for audit which he drew up.

To my Assistant, Babu Jamini Mohan Mitra, I wish to record my most cordial acknowledgments for the very great assistance he has given to me. $H_{0}$ is tactful, persunsive, and specially qualified for the work; he Las a sound knowlodgo of principles and is ulways thorough. He has been indefatigable and, as a Personal Assistant, invaluable. It is very much in the interests of the moroment that his services should be retained in the department for some time to come.,

W. H. BUCHAN,<br>liegistrar, Co-operative Credit Societies, Bengal:

## APPENDICES

STATEMENT I-B.
Grikatr Progress.
Urban Societies.

| $: 0$ <br> Distriot.' | Kind of Society. | Numbre of Socibtipg. |  | Numbrr of Membrra. |  | Workina Oapital. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\xrightarrow[\text { beginning }]{\text { At the }}$ of the jear. | At the end of the year. | $\underset{\text { beginning }}{\text { At the }}$ of the year. | At the end of the уеаг. | At the beginning of the yoar. | At the ond of the ycar. |
| $\therefore 1$ | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| $\therefore$ |  |  |  |  |  | Rs. | Rs. |
| 24-Parganas... | Cash unlimited ... | ... | 1 | ... | 10 | ..' | 240 |
| Murshidabad ... | Ditto ... | ... | 1 | $\ldots{ }^{-}$ | 10 | ..' | R5s |
| Midnapore ... | Ditto | ... | 1 | ... | 10 | ... | 210 |
| Haxáribagh ... | Ditto | 4 | 7 | 60 | 186 | 1,300 | 3,715 |
| , | Total ... | 4 | 10 | 60. | - 186 | 1,360 | 1,415 |
| Bankura .... | Cash limited ... | ... | 1 | ... | 73 | ... | 1,000 |
| Caloutta ... | Ditto .. | - 1 | 1 | 368 | 338 | 12,000 | 16,245 |
| Midaapore ... | Ditto ... | 1 | 1 | 155 | 101 | 845 | 2,050 |
| Khulna | Ditto ... | - 1 | 1 | 44 | 50 | C50 | 1,295 |
| Champaran ... | Ditto | 1 | 1 | 98 | 83 | 3,495 | 0,445 |
| Darbhanga ... | Ditto ... | ... | 3 | ... | 190 | ... | 3,095 |
| Purnea :.. | Ditto ... | ... | 1 | .. | 164 | ... | 7,625 |
|  | Total | 4 | 9 | 665 | 999 | 16,900 | 37,825 |



## ENT II-B.

ISBCRSEMENTS.
cities.

iv

## STATEMENT III-B.

## Profit and Loss Account.

Orban Societies.



## MENT IV-B.

янгвт.
Soritics.


General Proaresb.
Rural Societies.


STATEMENT IIO.

J.
sbcbgengnts.
:exties.


ncld.




## STATEMENT III C.

## Profit and Loss Arcount.

Rural Socicties.


## STATEMENT III C-concluded.

Profit and Loss Account-concluded.


idics.



## xix

-concludd d.
ET.


Statement ehowing tar
Registered Urban

| Dibirict. | Number of Societien. |  | Oultivation expensen. |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 8 | $s$ | 4 | 8 | 6 | 7 | B | 0 |
| Cash-Onlimited. |  |  |  | Re, A. Pr, | Ro. 4. P. |  | Re. A. P. | R.s. 4. p. |
| 1. 24-Parganas me $\quad$ - | 1 | 18. | ** | $\cdots$ | ** | $\cdots$ | ** | $\cdots$ |
| 2. Murshidabed ..' ... | 1 | 10 | $\cdots$ | 3000 | ** | ** | 2200 | -m |
| 3. Lidnapore ... • .es ... | 1 | 10 | ** | ". | ** | ** | ..* | ... |
| 4 Eatarlbagh me $\quad$ - | 7 | 181 | 23800 | 18100 | 5100 | $\cdots{ }^{\circ}$ | 67800 | 480 |
| Total ... | 10 | 817 | 2880 | 15100 | 880 | $\cdots$ | 69800 | . 480 |
| Percentage ... | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | 6'38 | $4 \cdot 48$ | 138 | as | 24:25 | 1'29 |
| Cosh-Limited |  |  |  |  | - |  |  |  |
| 1. Bankuim m mem | 1 | 10 | " | * ... | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | -0 | 4000 |
|  | 1 | 328 | ". ${ }^{\circ}$ | ** | *'0'0 | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | 01500 |
| 3. Midaspore ... ... ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 1 | 47 | 5000 | ** | 20000 | $\cdots$ | ** | 1070.0 |
| 4. Xhulne me mer | 1 | 40 | $\cdots$ | ** | 11100 | ** | $\cdots$ | 11000 |
| b. Champaras ... ... | 1 | 174 | 728 00 | 10500 | 7060 | * | $\cdots$ | 1,760 00 |
| b. Darbhaga | 8 | 69 | -** | " | 18500 | "' | 750 | 6000 |
| 7. Pupaes os ... | 1 | 23 | ** | ** | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | 60000 | ** |
| Total .0. | $\bigcirc$ | 607 | 7760 | 10500 | 1,202 00 | ** | 8750 | 2,628 00 |
| Percentage ... | $\cdots$ | 108 | 1:1 | $\cdot 16$ | 198 | $\cdots$ | -89 | $4 \cdot 06$ |

## xxi

PURPOSES OF LOANS.
Societies.


Statement showing the
Registered Rural

| Dietrict． | Number of Societies． |  |  |  | 这 | Improvement of land． | 号 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7. | 8 | 8 |
| Cash－Unlimited． |  |  |  | Rs．A．P． | RS．4．pr | Rs，A，P． | Rs．A．P． | R．s．4．p． |
| 1．Burdman ．．．．．．．．． | 1 | 27 | 920 | 2300 | 10000 |  | 2400 | 23000 |
| 2．Biruhum ．．．．．．mi | 2 | 101 | 1，063 00 | 705180 | ＊＊ | 21000 | －．＂ | ．．． |
| 3．Eankura ．．．．．．．．． | 8 | 8 | 5000 | $\cdots$ | ＂ | －＊ | －．＊ | ＊＊ |
| 4．Mldnapore ．．．－．．${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 83 | 1，103 | 10,36000 | 3，971 8 0 | 1，374 00 | 848180 | 2，342 0 | C88 00 |
| B．e\＆Parganas ．．．．．． | 9 | 01 | 1，603 19 | 3000 | ＊＊ | ＊＊ | 23600 | ．．．＂ |
| 8．Nadia ．．．me ．．． | s | 44 | 75080 | 2500 | ＊＊ | ＂ | －．． | 700 |
| 7．Murshidabar $\quad . \cdot \begin{aligned} & \text {－．}\end{aligned}$ | 19 | 228 | $318.0 \cdot 0$ | 2，835 00 | 8850 | ．．＇ | 2，395 00 | 12000 |
|  | 11 | 840 | 3，089 58 | 824113 | ＊＊ | ＊＊ | 1500 | ．．． |
| 9．Kbulan．．．．．．．．．－ | 43 | 889 | $4,002 \leqslant 0$ | 1，961 8 O | 1，262 00 | 1500 | 1，671 000 | 2800 |
| 10．Graja ．．．$\quad . .9$ ．．－.. | 8 | 111 | 02200 | 6900 | 6f 00 | ＊＊ | $-8000$ | ．．． |
| 11．Barran | 3 | 4 | BS 00 | ＂＇ | ＂＇ | ＊＊ | ＊＊ | ．．］ |
| 19．Champaran ．．．．．． | 19 | 268 | 2,375 | 63748 | 2100 | ＂＇ | ＇＊＊＇ | ＂ |
| 13．Darbhange ．．．．．． | 18 | 728 | 2，023 90 | 3，623 00 | ＊＊ | ．．． | 1,31900 | 4000 |
| 16．Monghyr ．．．．．．0 | 8 | 24 | ＊＊ | 328120 | 3500 | ＊＊ | ＊＊ | ．．．． |
| 2B．Bhagalpur | 1 | 20 | 28900 | －＊ | ＊＊ | － | －0， | ＇${ }^{\text {．}}$ |
| 16．Purnos ．．．．．．．．． | 4 | 43 | 92780 | ，60s 00 | 1300 | ＊＊ | ＊＊ | ．．． |
| 17 Darjoeling ．．．．．．．．． | 4 | 29 | 日f 8 8 | 805117 | ＊＊ | 1500 | $\cdots$ | ＊＊ |
| 13．Sonltal Parganas ．．． | 0 | 90 | 68800 | 3550 | ＂＇ | －0 | ＊＊ | ＂．＇ |
| 10，Cuttack ．．．．．．．．． | 7 | 77 | 67000 | 16400 | 45900 | 3000 | 8000 | ．．． |
| 20．Balasore ．．．${ }^{\text {a／．}}$ ．．． | 1 | 4 | 18880 | 1100 | ＊＊ | ．＂ | ＂＇＊ | ＊＇ |
| 31．Puri ．．．．．．．．．．．． | 3 | 100 | 50800 | 21200 | ．． | ＊ |  | ＊ |
| 29．Hazaribath ．ce ．．． | 118 | 8，148 | 7.79516 | 10，402 08 | 1，941 1 f | 1，034 00 | 1，474 18 0 | 22700 |
| 2s Ranohit ．．．．．．．．． | 8 | 89 | 23000 | 4550 | 2900 | $\begin{array}{rl}1 & 258 \\ 258 & 0\end{array}$ | 1400 | 2500 |
| 24．Palamay on in ． | － 1 | 87 | $3300$ | 15000 | 1500 | 2020 | $\cdots 3$ | 0 |
| 28．Manthum on momer | 9 | 100 | 48700 | B26 00 | $87000$ | 1020 | ＊．．．． | 85800 |
| Tolal m | 326 | 8，108 | 38，56s 18. | 87，761 84 | 6，081 16 | 2，500 18 O | 0，651 00 | 1，717 00 |
| Purcentage ... | $\cdots$ | ＂ | 20：37 | 19＇08 | \＄11 | 178 | $6 \cdot 64$ | 118 |

pirposes of loans.
Societics.


Statembnt beowina tha
Unregistered

pURPOSES OF LOANS.
Rural Sicteties.

ssaileble.

| "- | $\cdots$ | .7  <br> .614  |  |  | ". |  | ... ${ }^{\circ}$ | 1400 48280 | $1611$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\cdots$ | 18 | 46146 | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | ... | .. | 26 | 2,126 86 | 1820 |
| " | $\bullet 88$ | $\cdots$ | ** | $\cdots$ | $\cdots$ | "' | 128 | $200 \cdot 0$ | $\cdots$ |

LAND REVENOE.

# DARJEELING, tar 28th SEPTEMBER 1903. RESOLU'IION-No. 1616T.-R. 

Read-
The Report No. 956C.O.S., dated the 11th September 1918, on the working of
the Co-operative Credit Societies for the year ending 30th June 1903 .
Read again-
Government Resolution No. 3521, dated the 18th November 1907, on the Registrar's Report for 1906-07.
The report deals with the twelve months from 1st July 1007 to 30th June 1908. During the first part of that period Mr. W. K. Gourlay, i.c.s., held the office of Registrar, in addition to his duties as Magistrate and Collector and as Director of Agriculture. On 4th January 1908, Mr. W. II. Buchau, I.c.s., was appointed Registrar, and was in charge till the end of the year. The Director of Agriculture has recently been appointed Director of Co-operative Credit Societies. He retains control of the general policy of the Department, while the Registrar is in full charge and responsible for the detailed working.
2. The report shews a great and encouraging development. The number of urban societies with limited liability has increased from four to nine; their share capital from Rs. 8,666 to Rs. 19,000 ; deposits from Rs. 6,889 to Rs. 12,950 ; and reserve funds from Rs. 1,760 to Rs. 4,246 . Besides these, there are ten so-called urban societies with uulimited liability. The number of rural societies has been almost doubled, having risen from 165 to 326. Their membership has grown from 6,903 to 11,076 ; assets from Rs. 85,740 to Rs. $1,05,409$; members' depositis from Rs. 11,167 to Rs. 21,246; and reserve funds from Rs. 11,029 to Rs. 20,000. Grain societics show practically no exteusion. The possibilities of this form of co-operation are doubtful, and experience is not sufficient too warrant definite conclusions. For the present the attention of the Department to development in this direction is principally concentrated on a system of village societies attached to central golas which is on its trial in the Sonthal Parganas,
3. In Bengal there are two main types of society-the urban, with limited liability which is based on the Luzzatti model; and the rural, with unlimited liability, which follows Raifeisson principle. It is to the latter, as forming the basis of all successful work in rural Bengal, that attention is mainly directed. The chief feature of the year has been the attempt to deal with rural societies on an organised system. The supreme importance of inspecting and controlling societies at all stages of their growth, and especially in infancy, is the principal lesson of the last three jears' work. In this respect Bengal is merely repeating the experience of every pther country. With nearly 400 societies the Registrar can give only a very small portion of his time to each, and his isolated periodic inspections cannot bo very effective: Continuous local control is required. In this matter the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to observe that the honorary organisers have reodered the greatest assistance. Their number has risen from three to eight, and it is hoped that others will come forward in every district. Also ten local inspecting clerbs have been appointed in the more important areas. At present they are paid by Government, but in time they will become a charge on the societies. T'bey supply the Registrar with a useful cbannel of communication aud control.

- His Honour recognises that wherever the movement shews signs of spreading, tho appointment of a local clerk for that area is essential. But much more is required. In the Registrar's opinion the number of socicties could be
enormously increased in a very short time. But unless some means is devised of controlling and organising the societies as they come into existence all safe advance beyond a very narrow limit is barred. That Government should indefinitely finance the machinery of control is a possible but not a very sound solution. As is pointed out in the report, "the machinery, in order to be effective and to respond automatically to an indefinite expansion, must be supplied by the societies themselves as in Europe." $\Delta$ scheme for combin. ing societies in local unions for purposes of finance and control is now before Government, and in the coming cold weather a serious attempt will be made to initiate it. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that the future of the rural movement depends very largely on the solution of the problem of control. While recognising that societies are hardly educated up to mutual control, and that it may take years to evolve a union suited to Indian conditions, His Honour thinks that the scheme should be tried experimentally as soon as possible.

4. The analysis given in paragraph 33 of the sources from which the capital of rural societies is drawn shows that public confidence in the movement is growing. No less than 45 per cent. of the total has been supplied by investors. The societies themselves have provided 13 per cent. It is less gratifying to notice that local capital amounts to only 2 per cent. This capital will be attracted only when societies gain the confidence of the lacality, as is the case in Midnapore. The rates offered must also bear a reasonable relation to those prevailing in the neighbourhood. The comparison given in paragraph 34 of the report shows that in the more important districts the interest offered is not too low; but the Registrar will submit a further report on this point when the returns of the recent provincial survey of rates of interest have been received. The union scheme, if it proves practicable, will do mach to gain the confidence of local capitalist.. It is hoped that the double security provided by the limited liability of the union and the unlimited liability of each affliated society for its own funds will attract that local capital which the isolated societies have failed so far to secure.
5. The appendix giving for all rural societies full statistics of loans and their objects is interesting. These numbered 8,195 , and amounted to, Rs. 145:468. The average loan per member was therefore just under Rs. 18. The average is higher than last year's, owing to the more adequate financing of the societies. The purposes are not as a rule varied. They shew that most of the societies are in the rudimentary stage when necessity, rather than considerations of profit, determines the objects of loans. Thus 75 per cent. of all loans was applied to the repayment of old debts, cultivation and the purchase of cattle-the three primary needs of the poor agriculturist. It is only as members free themselves from their loan of debt that they become able to apply their loans to other profitable, but less essential, objects. Over 96 per cent. of the loans was employed for purposes either directly or indirectly productive, while a little over 2 per cent. was unproductive. These statistics indicate that the societies are really benefiting their members, and that. they can be trusted to apply their capital usefully and profitably.
6. Urban societies have made considerable progress. That they are not more numerous is due to the fact that the whole energy of the Registrar and his staff has been devoted to the work in rural districts. Urban societies, being composed of more or less educated and responsible members, require much less supervision than the rural type, and can hardly fail of success. More attention will be given to them next year. A pamphlet explaining the benefits of, and giving instructions for founding, such societies will shortly be issued. It is hoped that the larger firms in Calcutta will take up the scheme, and that it will be possible to form amlas' societies in most of the districts of the Province.
7. In summing up the progress made, the Registrar points out that, although statistics indicate a remarkable development during the year under report, there is a certain danger of excossive confidence. Most of the societies approciate the fundamental principles and the cardinal importance of combiuation; and it has been proved that a co-operative credit society can be successfully managed by the cultivators themselves, But very few of the societies can be called fully co-operative in the true sense. Much supervision
and assistance along the path of prorross is still necessary. Tho LicutenantGovernor considers that while the progress has been mere than encouraring and defects aro only to be expected, the socicties will requiro constant nursins. until the co-operative idea takes firmer root. Ilis Honour also arrees that, while the work in backward and untouched districts should bo developed as far as possible, consolidation and combination rather than extension ehothi be the policy in districts which have honorary organisers and a largo number of societics. Tho future of the movement now dopends chiclly upoa organisation.
8. The Licutenant-Governor desires to placo on record his appreciation of the zeal and sympathy with which Messrs. Gourlay and Buchan performal their duties. The former officer has been identified with the co-operativn credit movoment sinco its first iuception in Bongal; and to his intinato and sympathetic acquaintance with the necessitics and difficultics of the India: agriculturalist, and to the completo study ho has made of tho systems on which such societies aro managod in other countries, the successful applicution of the principle to Indian conditions must be attributed. A point has, however, now been reached when Government officers can only give a general supervision and control, and the further succoss of tho movement must depent on the assistance which they may receive from outside. For this reason tho Lieutenant-Governor is specially indebtod to the honorary orgimiecrs in particular, and also to the other gentlemen named in paragraph 52 of tho report. The good services of Babu Jamini Mohan Mitra, tho Personal Assistant to the Registrar, will be noted in the $\Lambda$ ppointment Department.

By order of tho Lieutenant-Governor of Bencral,

> F. W. DUKE,
> Ofig. Chief Secy, to the Gout. of Bengat.

$$
\text { No. } 4117 \mathrm{~T} .-\mathrm{R} .
$$

Copy, with a copy of the Report, forwardod to the Appointment Department of this office for information, with special reference to pararraph 8 of the Resolution.

$$
\text { No. } 4118 \mathrm{~T} .-\mathrm{R} \text {. }
$$

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to tho Board of Revenue, Lind Revenuc, Department, for the information of the Board and for favour of communic:ation to the Registrar, Co-operative Credit Socicties, Bengal.

By order of the Licuienant-Governor of Benral,

> A. H. LEY,
> Under-Sicy. to the Goot. of Boms!!.

[^0]
[^0]:    Darjeeling,
    The 9th Oitober 1908.

