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REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY DURING THE YEAR 1934.

1. This Report and the Statements appended to it relate to the Presidency proper and not to Sind.

2. Judicial Staff (Statement No. 1).—The Judicial staff employed in the Presidency on 31st December 1934 and available for civil cases consisted of 10 permanent High Court Judges and 1 temporary Additional Judge, 17 District Judges, 11 Assistant Judges (including 4 Assistant Judges under training), a Chief Judge and 5 Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, 2 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges, 22 First Class Subordinate Judges and 91 Second Class Subordinate Judges. In addition, the Registrars of the Small Cause Courts of Poona and Ahmedabad exercised the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge. There were also 3 Inamdars and Jagirdars exercising the powers of a Subordinate. Judge under Regulation XIII of 1830 and 91 Village Munsiffs appointed under the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, XVII of 1879.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

The Honourable Sir John W. F. Beaumont, Knight, presided over the High Court from 1st January to 17th June 1934 and from 20th July to 31st December 1934. His Lordship was on leave from 18th June to 19th July 1934. During the interval the Honourable Mr. Justice S. J. Murphy, I.C.S., officiated as Chief Justice.

PUISNE JUDGES.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Mirza Ali Akbar Khan, from 1st January till His Lordship's death which occurred on 8th March 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice C. P. Blackwell, from 1st January to 17th June 1934 and from 24th August to 31st December 1934. His Lordship was on leave from 18th June to 23rd August 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice S. J. Murphy, I.C.S., from 1st January to 17th June 1934 and from 20th July to 31st December 1934. His Lordship officiated as Chief Justice from 18th June to 19th July 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice S. S. Rangnekar, from 1st January 31st December 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice R. S. Broomfield, I.C.S, from 1st January to 17th June 1934 and from 22nd October to 31st December 1934. His Lordship was on leave from 18th June to 21st October 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice K. W. Barlee, I.C.S., from 1st January to 25th June 1934 and from 22nd October to 31st December 1934. His Lordship was on leave from 26th June to 21st October 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice B. J. Wadia, from 1st January to 31st December 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice H. J. Kania, from 1st January to 31st December 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice N. J. Wadia, I.C.S., from 1st January to 31st December 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice H. V. Divatia, from 1st January to 31st December 1934. His Lordship acted as an Additional Judge from 1st January to 11th June 1934 and was a Puisne Judge from 12th June 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice F. B. Tyabji acted as an Additional Judge from 18th June to 31st December 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice J. D. Davar acted as a Puisne Judge from 18th June to 23rd August 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice A. S. R. Macklin, I.C.S., acted as a Puisne Judge from 18th June to 21st October 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice K. C. Sen, I.C.S., acted as a Puisne Judge from 13th July to 21st October 1934.

HIGH COURT.

I. ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

- 3. Original Suits for disposal (Statement No. 3).—The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of the year 1933 was 2,593 including 54 suits received by transfer from the Bombay Court of Small Causes. The number instituted during the year 1934 was 1,896 including 12 suits received by transfer from the Bombay Court of Small Causes and 171 restored during the year. The above totals 2,598, 1,896 and 171 make an aggregate of 4,665 for disposal in 1934 as against 5,051 in 1933.
- 4. Original Suits disposed of (Statement No. 5).—The number of suits decided was 2,326 including 23 suits received by transfer from the Bombay Court of Small Causes. The number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 2,339 including 43 suits received by transfer from the Bombay Court of Small Causes. This number is 259 less than the corresponding number at the end of the previous year. Of these 2,339 suits, 1,406 were ready for trial and in arrear, a decrease of 525 suits over the figure of the previous year. There were 1,306 suits whose hearing had been pending for over one year. This is a decrease of 349 suits on the figures of the previous year.

The average duration of suits disposed of during the year under report was as shown in the table given below:—

Number of suits disposed of.	Manner of disposal.					Average duration (in days).
546 833	Without trial	•••	414	***		1,11 7 298
17 497 433	Ex-parte On admission of claims Compromised After full trial	***	***	***	•••	54 576 762

5. The number of 2,339 suits left undisposed of at the end of the year 1934 is made up of the suits filed in the following years:—

3 suits of the year 1926.
6 suits of the year 1927.
31 suits of the year 1928.
102 suits of the year 1929.
243 suits of the year 1930.
271 suits of the year 1931.
287 suits of the year 1932.
488 suits of the year 1933.
908 suits of the year 1934.

- 6. Suits instituted and disposed of under the Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction.—The number of suits pending at the end of the year 1933 was 4. The number instituted during the year 1934 was 19. Of these, 11 were decided and 12 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the suits decided—
 - 2 were compromised, the average duration being 151 days;
 - 9 were decided after full trial, the average duration being 214 days.

There was 1 suit pending over one year at the close of the year.

- 7. Suits instituted and disposed of under the Admiralty and Vice-Admiralty Jurisdiction.—Three suits were pending at the close of the year 1933. One was instituted during the year under report. One was disposed of during the year, without trial, the duration being 80 days and of the 3 suits which remained pending, 2 were pending over one year at the close of the year.
- 8. Suits instituted and disposed of under the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Jurisdiction.—There were 5 suits pending at the end of the year 1933 and the number instituted during 1934