

Report on the Judicial Administration in the Central Provinces & Berar (CIVIL)

for the Calendar Year 1933

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Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar year 1933

General.—During the year under report there was a considerable increase in original institutions, particularly in Berar, and a smaller but still noticeable increase in appellate institutions all over the province. The cadre of the Subordinate Judges which had been reduced in the previous years was increased by four during the year, but this was barely sufficient to cope with the increased institutions. The congestion in pending files tended to increase at several places in spite of the opening of additional Courts whenever possible. The Central Provinces Courts Act. 1917 (I of 1917), was amended by Act No. I of 1933 whereby the Small Cause Court powers of the Courts of the Subordinate Judges of the First and Second Class were extended to Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500, respectively. duration of cases affected by this measure is likely to be reduced to a small extent: 19 Courts of Second Class Subordinate Judges were invested with powers to deal with insolvency petitions in which the debts alleged did not exceed Rs. 2.000. This will give some relief to the First Class Subordinate Judges who deal with insolvency cases. The passing of the Central Provinces Debt Conciliation Act (II of 1933) is likely to affect civil litigation, but it is too early to say to what extent.

## A.—TRIBUNALS

2. Judicial Commissioner's Court.—The number of Statement Judges of this Court continued to be five throughout the year. Sir Robert Macnair, Kt., I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner, proceeded on leave from the 19th June 1933, and Mr. F. L. Grille, I.C.S., Officiating Additional Judicial Commissioner, was appointed to officiate in his place. Mr. F. H. Staples, Additional Judicial Commissioner, was on leave from the beginning of the year till the 21st January, and on his return Mr. Grille proceeded on leave till 13th April. Mr. R. E. Pollock officiated as Additional Judicial Commissioner from the 1st January to the 13th April and again from 19th June till the end of the year. Mr. Vivian Bose, Government Advocate. officiated as Additional Judicial Commissioner during the absence on leave of Mr. G. L. Subhedar from the 24th November to the 23rd December and of Mr. M. B. Nivogi from the 24th December to the end of the year. Mr. R. J. Jackson, I.C.S., Additional Judicial Commissioner, was on leave throughout the year.