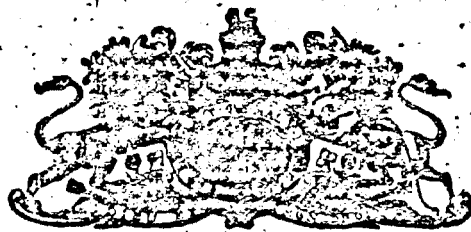


POST  
ROOM A.

REPORT  
ON THE  
EXCISE REVENUE  
OF THE  
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1917-18



Agpur

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS

1918

## APPENDIX III.

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STATEMENT A.

Statement showing the country spirit consumption, license fee demand, duty rates, incidence of taxation and the rates of retail price for the different areas under the supply system in each District of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1917-18.

District.	Name of area.	Consumption in proof gallons.	License fee demand.	Incidence of license fee demand per proof gallon.	Duty rate per proof gallon.	Total incidence of taxation per proof gallon for the year		Rates of retail price (in annas) per bottle (one-sixth of a gallon) of 60° U. F. in the year 1917-18.	
						1916-17.	1917-18.	Urban.	Rural.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. r. p.	Rs. a. p.	Annas.	Annas.
Nagpur Division.	Nagpur and Kamptee towns with Shop at Pardi.	52,748	47,715	0 12 11	10 15 0	11 13 2	11 12 11	14	14
	Nagpur ...								
	Ramtek Tahsil ...	5,653	13,440	2 6 0	8 7 0	10 8 2	10 13 0	13	13
	Rest of the Nagpur District ...	15,946	48,182	3 0 4	9 1 0	11 5 2	12 1 4	14	13 and 14
	Bhandara ...								
	55 Shops in the Bhandara Tahsil.	17,008	52,735	3 1 7	5 15 0	8 9 6	9 0 7	12 to 14	10 to 14
	56 Shops of the Gondia Tahsil.	14,082	45,673	3 3 11	5 15 0	8 0 4	9 2 11	13 and 14	10 to 14
	11 Shops of the Gondia Tahsil.	2,007	4,505	2 4 5	4 1 0	5 13 5	6 5 5	...	8 to 10
	59 Shops of the Sakoli Tahsil.	23,438	52,970	2 4 2	4 1 0	5 8 10	6 5 2	...	7 to 10
	5 Shops of the Sakoli Tahsil.	1,530	2,130	1 6 3	1 4 0	2 5 11	2 10 3	...	5 to 6
	Chanda and Warora Town shops.	7,501	10,525	1 6 5	9 2 0	9 13 8	10 7 5	12	...
	Rest of the Warora Tahsil and shops round Chanda Town.	10,976	45,320	4 2 1	5 15 0	9 10 3	10 1 1	...	10 to 12
	Rest of the Chanda Tahsil and the whole of the Brahmपुरi Tahsil.	31,079	80,365	3 13 0	3 13 0	7 4 0	7 9 0	10	8 to 10
	Chanda ...								
Southern portion of the Garchiroli Tahsil and the Zamindaris in Garchiroli Tahsil.	9,389	8,800	0 14 0	0 15 0	...	1 13 0	...	4	
Rest of the Garchiroli Tahsil ...	11,619	30,375	2 9 10	1 4 0	3 10 5	3 13 10	6	5 to 6	
The Kalsa of the Sironcha Tahsil and the Ahiri Zamindari under supply system.	14,151	28,937	2 0 8	0 15 0	2 10 11	2 15 8	6	4 to 5	
Wardha ...									
Wardha District ...	24,659	1,29,345	5 3 11	6 14 0	10 4 6	12-1 11	16	14	
Balaghat ...									
Balaghat Tahsil ...	10,621	40,238	3 12 7	3 2 0	8 3 9	6 14 7	12	6 to 10	
Rampail Tract of Waraseoni Tahsil.	2,067	5,912	1 14 3	5 15 0	...	7 13 3	...	8 to 11	
Rest of the Waraseoni Tahsil.	11,949	13,538	1 2 2	3 2 0	5 8 4	4 4 2	...	8 to 12	
Baihar Tahsil ...	30,103	37,005	1 0 6	0 15 0	1 12 7	1 15 6	...	3 to 4	
Jubbulpore ...									
High duty area ...	49,626	61,815	1 3 11	7 3 0	7 3 7	8 6 11	10 to 12	10 to 12	
Intermediate duty area ...	10,834	16,472	1 8 4	3 2 0	4 0 11	4 10 4	...	6 to 8	
Low duty area ...	5,483	4,326	0 12 7	0 15 0	1 10 10	1 11 7	...	4 to 6	
Saugor ...									
Saugor Town group ...	11,220	20,144	2 11 0	5 0 0	8 5 6	7 11 0	10 to 11	...	
Bina, Etawab, Kburai Towns ...	1,825	14,175	7 12 3	4 1 0	9 3 0	12 13 2	12 to 13	...	
Rest of the Saugor District ...	5,290	10,775	2 0 7	2 8 0	3 8 2	4 8 7	6 to 8	6 to 8	
Damoh ...									
Damoh Town Shop ...	3,327	7,060	2 1 11	5 0 0	6 6 1	7 1 11	9	...	
Rest of the Damoh District ...	4,267	4,680	1 1 7	2 2 0	2 15 4	3 9 7	7	6	
Seoni ...									
Seoni Town Shops ...	2,063	2,425	1 2 10	7 3 0	8 7 5	8 5 10	10	...	
Rest of the Seoni Tahsil except 9 Shops.	18,337	28,419	1 8 10	3 2 0	4 14 10	4 10 10	...	6	
9 Shops of the Seoni Tahsil and the whole of the Lakhnadon Tahsil excluding 7 Shops.	16,554	27,220	1 0 8	1 9 0	3 0 7	2 9 8	...	4 to 5	
7 Shops of the Lakhnadon Tahsil.	2,646	1,435	0 8 8	0 15 0	0 2 2	2 7 8	...	2	
Mandia ...									
High duty area ...	6,923	14,675	2 1 10	1 14 0	4 2 4	3 15 10	5	4	
Low duty area ...	39,256	28,922	0 11 10	0 15 0	1 11 4	1 10 10	...	3	
Free duty area ...	10,451	4,080	0 7 2	Free.	0 6 4	0 7 2	...	2	

STATEMENT A.

Statement showing the country spirit consumption, license fee demand, duty rates, incidence of taxation and the rates of retail price for the different areas under the Supply system in each District of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1917-18.—(Contd.)

District.	Name of area.	Consumption in proof gallons.	License fee demand.	Incidence of license fee demand per proof gallon.	Duty rate per proof gallon.	Total incidence of taxation per proof gallon for the year		Rates of retail price (in annas) per bottle, (one-sixth of a gallon of 60° U. P.)	
						1916-17.	1917-18.	Urban.	Rural.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
Betul	The Badnur head-quarter Circle of the Betul Tahsil except the Gochl and Maradwani shops.	9,124	13,947	1 8 5	4 1 0	5 3 8	5 9 5	8	6 to 8
	Multa Tahsil except the Rotera, Danawa and Bordehi tracts.	14,365	25,289	1 12 1	4 1 0	5 9 0	5 13 2	8	6 to 8
	The Bhainsdehi Tahsil except Tapli Valley and the Khomai shops.	17,092	24,588	1 7 0	4 1 0	5 5 11	5 8 0	8	6 to 8
	The Dabka and Khomai shops...	296	485	1 10 3	6 14 0	7 8 3	8 8 3	...	12
	Rest of the Betul district	53,934	25,168	0 7 6	1 14 0	2 6 4	2 5 6	...	4 & 5
Chhindwara	The Bhatodia tract and the Tekadhana, Bhakra, Itawah, Batakhaps, Dhanora, Gangal, Linga, Chindi and Harrai Budhona tracts in the Jagirs.	15,000	13,675	0 14 7	0 15 0	1 15 6	1 13 7	...	4
	Newly converted area	2,961	2,205	0 11 11	0 15 0	Outstill system.	1 10 11	...	4
	Ambara tract and the Khalsa area of the Amarwara Tahsil.	5,124	14,585	2 13 0	3 2 0	4 7 6	5 15 0	...	8
	Rest of the Chhindwara Tahsil, the Pagara and Lahpadwa tracts of Jagirs and the Khumarpani tract.	10,312	39,500	3 13 1	3 2 0	6 3 3	6 15 3	10	8
Hoshangabad	Rest of the Sausar Tahsil	7,794	31,895	4 1 6	5 0 0	7 12 8	9 1 6	12 & 14	10 to 12
	Hoshangabad and Harda Town groups.	10,872	33,420	3 1 2	4 1 0	7 3 10	7 2 2	10	8
	Bori Range	635	175	0 4 5	1 14 0	2 0 6	2 2 5	...	5
	Pachmarhi Town	1,093	5,500	3 3 3	10 0 0	13 1 7	13 3 3	16	...
Narsinghpur	Rest of the Hoshangabad District.	15,060	21,415	1 6 9	3 2 0	4 5 9	4 8 9	...	6 to 8
	Narsinghpur Town Shops	1,054	5,100	3 1 4	3 2 0	9 4 4	6 3 4	8	...
	Gadarwara Town Shops	1,344	4,800	3 9 2	3 2 0	7 3 4	6 11 2	7 to 8	...
Nimar	Rest of the Narsinghpur District.	6,623	10,365	1 9 0	3 2 0	3 9 0	4 11 0	...	6 to 8
	Khandwa Town Shops	7,123	10,696	1 7 10	10 0 0	10 15 11	11 7 10	13	...
	Burhanpur Town Shops and adjoining shops.	9,683	10,422	1 1 3	7 3 0	7 15 1	8 4 3	10	...
	Shops bordering on the Bombay Presidency and the Dhertalal, Dhaoti and Tukaitar shops.	2,976	10,200	3 6 10	5 15 0	6 12 5	9 5 10	...	12
	Sulgaon-Banjari and Garangaon-Piplod and Jalegaon tracts.	2,495	9,720	3 14 4	5 15 0	5 14 1	9 13 4	...	11½ to 12
	Khar and Bhigwan Tracts	290	2,725	9 6 4	5 15 0	5 4 7	15 5 4	...	11 to 12
	Rest of the Khandwa and Burhanpur Tahsils.	26,168	77,288	2 15 3	5 15 0	6 0 5	8 14 3	...	12
	Rest of the Hareud Tahsil	4,562	16,349	3 9 4	3 2 0	4 8 10	6 11 4	...	9 to 10
Kanapur Beria (a)	1,122	3,430	3 0 11	2 8 0	4 10 0	5 8 11	...	9	
Kanapur Beria (b)	1,416	3,330	2 5 8	3 2 0	4 10 0	5 7 8	...	9	

(a) Relates to the period from 1st April 1917 to 30th September 1917.

(b) Relates to the period from 1st October 1917, to 31st March 1918.

STATEMENT A.

Statement showing the country spirit consumption, license fee demand, duty rates, incidence of taxation and the rates of retail price for the different areas under the Supply system in each District of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1917-18.—(Concl'd.)

District.	Name of area.	Consumption in proof gallons.	License fee demand.	Incidence of license fee demand per proof gallon.	Duty rate per proof gallon.	Total incidence of taxation per proof gallon for the year		Rates of retail price (in annual) per bottle (one-sixth of a gallon) of 60° U.F.		
						1916-17.	1917-18.	Urban.	Rural.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
CENTRAL PROVINCES DIVISION.	Raipur	Raipur Town ...	5,084	8,840	1 7 8	8 2 0	9 2 9	9 9 5	11	...
		Four rural shops adjoining Raipur Town.	227	360	1 9 4	5 0 0	5 9 2	6 9 6	...	8
		Bhatpara and Dhamtari towns and shops within their radii of 8 and 10 miles respectively.	6,971	17,960	2 9 3	1 14 0	4 10 2	4 7 3	8	5 and 6
		Kauria, Suarmar, Narra, Phuljar and Deori Zamindaris and the Northern portion of the Rindranawagath and Khariar Zamindaris.	16,966	7,713	0 7 3	0 10 0	0 15 11	1 1 5	...	3
		Phingshwar Zamindari and rest of the Raipur District under supply system.	24,497	21,688	0 14 2	0 15 0	1 13 9	1 15 2	...	4
	Bilaspur	Bilaspur Town ...	3,553	6,400	1 12 10	9 1 0	10 5 8	10 13 10	12	...
		The tract comprising the shops of Polmi, Kui, Kamthe and Ghogra in the Pandaria Zamindari.	1,355	450	0 5 4	Free duty.	0 4 10	0 5 4	...	2½ to 5
		Area newly converted in the Bilaspur and Katghora Tahsils.	1,885	1,740	0 14 9	0 10 0	...	1 8 0	...	4
		Rest of the Bilaspur District under supply system including the area newly converted in Janjgir Tahsil.	25,736	25,657	0 15 11	0 15 0	1 12 10	1 14 11	...	4 to 7
		Drug	Drug Town ...	914	4,450	4 13 11	4 1 0	8 3 3	8 14 11	10
Amraoti	Drug high duty area ...	602	238	0 6 4	3 2 0	3 15 0	3 8 4	...	6	
	Shops from Balod to Dhamtari.	3,979	4,950	1 3 11	1 14 0	4 2 8	3 1 11	...	6	
	Rest of the Drug District under supply system.	18,685	13,253	0 11 4	0 15 0	1 14 7	1 10 4	...	4	
	Free duty area ...	14,402	7,164	0 8 0	No duty.	0 9 9	0 8 0	...	3	
	Amraoti	Amraoti town shops and the Badnera and Balgaon shops.	10,139	40,800	3 15 5	12 13 0	14 0 5	16 12 5	16 to 18	...
BERAR DIVISION.	Akola	Ellichpur town shops ...	3,503	15,200	4 5 5	10 15 0	11 15 6	15 4 5	14 to 16	...
		Shops within a radius of 10 miles of Amraoti and Ellichpur towns.	6,584	25,825	3 14 9	7 13 0	10 6 8	11 11 9	...	14 to 17
	Buldana	Chikaida and Dharni tracts ...	5,311	14,190	2 10 9	5 15 0	5 12 10	6 9 9	...	10 to 16
		Katkumb and Churnee shops ...	1,293	2,350	1 13 1	2 8 0	4 2 8	4 5 1	...	8 to 10
		Rest of the Amraoti District ...	35,981	1,89,115	5 4 1	6 14 0	10 12 3	12 2 1	...	10 to 16
Yeotmal	Akola, Akot, Balapur and Murtizapur Taluqs.	45,665	1,52,599	2 14 6	0 6 0	11 11 0	12 4 6	10	14	
	Basim and Mangrul Taluqs ...	17,956	49,507	2 14 6	7 8 0	10 5 10	10 6 6	14	12	
Yeotmal	Malkapur, Khomgaon and Jalgaon Taluqs.	37,102	1,35,993	3 10 8	9 6 0	0 15 8	13 0 8	12	13 to 16	
	Chikhli and Mebkar Taluqs ...	22,232	75,997	3 6 8	7 8 0	8 15 3	10 14 8	14 to 16	12 to 15	
	Yeotmal Taluq and 37 shops of the Jarwa Taluq.	27,516	1,87,860	6 13 3	5 15 0	8 9 6	12 12 3	13 and 18	10 to 14	
Yeotmal	Shops within 6 miles of Yedlabad border.	10,081	41,110	3 11 11	3 8 0	5 12 1	6 13 11	...	8 to 10	
	Rest of the Yeotmal District ...	45,303	2,34,654	5 2 10	5 0 0	8 2 2	10 2 10	13 to 16	10 to 14	

STATEMENT B.

Statement showing convictions for drunkenness in the Municipal areas during the year 1917-18 and two previous years.

District.	Name of Municipality.	Population as per census of 1911.	1915-16.		1916-17.		1917-18.		
			Number of persons convicted for drunkenness.	Proportion to 10,000 of population.	Number of persons convicted for drunkenness.	Proportion to 10,000 of population.	Number of persons convicted for drunkenness.	Proportion to 10,000 of population.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
NAGPUR DIVISION.	Nagpur	134,008	100	7.5	71	5.3	58	4.3	
	Kamptee	23,992	21	8.7	42	17.5	9	3.8	
	Ramtek	9,806	1	1.0	2	2.0	2	2.0	
	Umrer	17,630	1	0.6	..	..	1	0.6	
	Katol	6,269	..	..	1	1.6	..	..	
	Mowar	4,719	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	Saoner	6,636	2	3.0	..	..	..	..	
	Kalmeshwar	5,575	2	3.6	1	1.8	..	..	
	Khapa	8,233	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	Bhandara	Bhandara	13,728	..	..	1	0.7	..	..
		Tumsar	6,547	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Powni	10,222	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Gondia	5,847	..	..	2	3.4	1	1.7
	Chanda	Chanda	19,866	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Warora	6,174	..	..	1	1.0	..	..
	Wardha	Wardha	12,540	7	5.6	6	4.8	2	1.6
		Hinganghat	14,943	1	0.7	1	0.7	..	..
		Arvi	11,902	2	1.7	..	..	1	0.8
		Deoli	5,575	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Pulgaon	5,466	1	1.8	1	1.8	4	7.3
Balagnat	Balaghat	7,400	..	..	..	..	..	..	
JUBBULPORE DIVISION.	Jubbulpore	79,009	27	3.4	36	4.6	72	9.1	
		Jubbulpore Cantonment.	21,642	26	12.0	108	49.9	76	35.1
		Sihora	5,432	..	..	4	7.4	..	..
		Murwara	15,812	1	0.6	12	7.6	3	1.9
	Saugor	Saugor Town and Cantonment.	45,908	8	1.7	11	2.4	9	1.9
		Khurai	6,868	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Deori	5,739	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Etawah	8,968	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Daroh	Damoh	17,042	..	..	5	2.9	5	2.9
	Seoni	Seoni	13,839	7	5.0	4	2.9	4	2.9
Mandla	Mandla	9,379	..	..	2	2.1	3	3.2	
NERBUDA DIVISION.	Betul	5,473	..	..	..	..	..	..	
		Badnur	7,454	8	10.7	6	8.0	3	4.0
		Multai	3,808	..	..	1	2.6	..	..

STATEMENT B.—(Concl'd.)

Statement showing convictions for drunkenness in the Municipal areas during the year 1917-18 and two previous years.—(Concl'd.)

District.	Name of Municipality.	Population as per census of 1911.	1915-16.		1916-17.		1917-18.	
			Number of persons convicted for drunkenness.	Proportion to 10,000 of population.	Number of persons convicted for drunkenness.	Proportion to 10,000 of population.	Number of persons convicted for drunkenness.	Proportion to 10,000 of population.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NERBUDA DIVISION.—(Concl'd.)	Chhindwara ... Chhindwara ...	12,872	6	4.7	3	2.3	5	3.9
	... Sausar ...	5,442	1	1.8	...	...	...	...
	... Pandhurna ...	7,058	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Hoshangabad ... Heshangabad ...	12,099	...	...	6	4.9	1	0.8
	... Harda ...	15,558	...	...	12	7.7	8	5.1
	... Seoni-Malwa ...	6,568	...	...	3	4.6	...	...
	... Sohagpur ...	7,239	...	...	...	...	4	5.5
	... Itarsi ...	4,430	...	...	...	...	...	...
	... Pachmarhi town and Cantonment.	3,822	22	57.6	4	10.5	6	15.6
	... Piparia ...	2,406	...	...	...	...	...	...
Narsinghpur ...	Narsinghpur ...	10,630	...	...	...	...	...	...
	... Gadawara ...	8,573	...	...	2	2.3	...	...
	... Chhindwara ...	3,404	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nimar ...	Khandwa ...	21,604	9	4.1	2	0.9	1	0.5
	... Burhanpur ...	30,435	7	2.3	15	4.9	9	2.9
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.	Raipur ... Raipur ...	35,335	9	2.5	32	9.0	6	2.3
	... Dhamtari ...	10,460	5	4.8	...	...	1	1.0
	Bilaspur ... Bilaspur ...	19,850	7	3.5	7	3.5	9	4.5
Drug ... Durg ...	7,048	2	2.8	3	4.3	...	...	
Amraoti ...	Amraoti Town ...	24,270	13	3.8	4	1.2	1	0.3
	... Amraoti Camp ...	6,340	...	...	...	...	...	...
	... Ellichpur City ...	24,435	1	0.4	...	...	...	...
	... Ellichpur Civil Station.	6,962	3	4.3	...	...	...	...
Akola ...	Akola ...	27,183	23	8.5	22	8.0	10	3.7
	... Akot ...	14,830	...	...	...	...	1	0.7
	... Basim ...	11,217	4	3.6	4	3.6	...	...
	... Karanja ...	12,852	2	1.6	2	1.6	4	3.1
	... Murtizapur ...	8,724	...	...	9	10.3	8	9.2
Buldana ...	Buldana ...	3,820	2	5.2	1	2.6	1	2.6
	... Malkapur ...	13,906	2	1.4	3	2.2	...	...
	... Khamgaon ...	13,171	...	...	3	2.3	2	1.5
	... Shegaon ...	11,962	...	...	1	0.9	1	0.9
Yeotmal ... Yeotmal ...	13,525	...	...	...	...	...	...	
GRAND TOTAL ...		1,011,481	333	3.3	456	4.5	333	3.3

STATEMENT C.

Statistics of retail vend and consumption of foreign spirits and ferment ed liquors in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year 1917-18.

District.	Sold under shop licenses.				Sold under Hotel or Dāk Bungalow licenses.				Sold under Railway refreshment room and Restaurant licenses.				
	Number of licenses.	Sales thereunder.			Number of licenses.	Sales thereunder.			Number of licenses.	Sales thereunder.			
		Wines.	Spirits.	Beer.		Wines.	Spirits.	Beer.		Wines.	Spirits.	Beer.	
		3	4	5		7	8	9		11	12	13	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
		Gals.	Gals.	Gals.		Gals.	Gals.	Gals.		Gals.	Gals.	Gals.	
NAGPUR DIVISION.	Nagpur ...	9	467	6,162	6,426	1	...	89	...	1 <sup>*2</sup>	10	94	380 26,050
	Bhandara ...	2	40	258	326	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chanda ...	1	12	130	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Wardha ...	3	10	951	17	...	...	...	...	1	6	157	58
	Balaghat ...	1	1	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
JUBBULPORE DIVISION.	Jubbulpore ...	9	660	4,100	5,179	1	12	51	99	3	...	...	89,600
	Saugor ...	6	88	689	242	...	...	...	...	1	24	206	342
	Damoh ...	1	7	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Seoni ...	1	...	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mandla ...	2	38	248	250	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CHHATTISGARH NERBUDDA DIVISION.	Betul ...	1	8	60	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chhindwara ...	1	6	114	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Hoshangabad... ..	8	117	1,519	1,697	3	...	6	43	1 <sup>*1</sup>	2	32	121 8,507
	Narsinghpur ...	1	2	66	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Nimar ...	4	81	991	1,144	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Raipur ...	3	48	349	202	...	...	...	...	1	1	12	...
CHHATTISGARH NERBUDDA DIVISION.	Bilaspur ...	1	43	328	185	...	...	...	...	1	102	853	1,080
	Drug ...	2	31	335	538	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total for Central Provinces ..	56	1,659	16,499	16,275	5	12	146	142	12	145	1,354	126,138
BERAR DIVISION.	Amraoti ...	6	201	3,356	203	...	...	...	...	1	5	90	159
	Akola ...	4	20	717	82	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Buldana ...	3	32	761	78	...	...	...	...	1	...	34	111
	Yeotmal ...	1	21	172	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total for Berar ...	14	274	5,006	386	...	...	...	...	2	5	124	270	
GRAND Total ...	70	1,933	21,505	16,661	5	12	146	142	14	150	1,478	126,408	

\*These licenses were granted to canteen tenants.



**REPORT**

**ON THE**

**EXCISE REVENUE**

**OF THE**

**CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1917-18**

*Agents for the Sale of Books published by the Central Provinces Administration.*

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# Central Provinces Administration

## SEPARATE REVENUE DEPARTMENT

*Nagpur, the 28th October 1918.*

**READ—**

Report on the Administration of the Excise Revenue of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1917-18.

**READ ALSO—**

The District Reports.

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### RESOLUTION.

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A satisfactory feature of the Excise Administration of the Province during the year was the general decrease in the consumption of intoxicants which was accompanied by a rise in the gross Excise revenue. The Departmental receipts rose by 3·6 per cent, *i. e.*, from 111 lakhs in the previous year to 115 lakhs in the year under review, the revenues from country liquor, from opium and from ganja each contributing a share of the increase. On the other hand, the consumption of country liquor declined by 2·2 per cent, that of opium by ·5 per cent and that of ganja by 3 per cent. As the Commissioner of Excise points out, this is not an isolated achievement. During the preceding quinquennium the consumption of liquor in the fifteen districts under the supply system fell by 18 per cent, and that of opium and ganja by 13·3 and 20·5 per cent, respectively, over the whole Province. The results of the year were thus another indication of the success which is gradually attending the efforts of the Department to raise the maximum revenue from the minimum consumption.

2. The fall in the consumption of country liquor was most noticeable in the cotton districts where the heavy and protracted monsoon of 1917 proved most unfavourable to the cotton harvest, and seriously reduced the purchasing power of the liquor-consuming public. The wheat and rice tracts fared better, and it is to them that the increase in revenue is due. The Excise Commissioner expresses the opinion that the fall in liquor consumption is not merely a direct consequence of the comparative failure of the crops, but reflects to some extent a permanent change in the habits of the people, greater moderation being observed among the drinking classes. This is doubtless correct in so far as a constant effort is being made to raise the price of country spirit to the highest point compatible with sound administration. But it is doubtful whether the result, which is thus emphasized in a year of moderate prosperity, would still be apparent after a series of anything like bumper harvests. This doubt receives some confirmation from the figures of the Chhattisgarh Division, which have risen very noticeably since the previous year as a direct result of successive rice crops of unusual abundance. It must suffice to say that the figures for the year under review indicate a tendency in the right direction. The incidence of taxation per head of population rose during the year. The old area under the supply system, with a decreased consumption of 24,316 proof gallons, yielded an enhanced revenue of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs.

3. There was a further fall from 3,622 to 3,560 in the number of country liquor shops, and each shop in municipal areas supplied on an average 6,319 persons as against the scale of one shop per 5,000 persons suggested by the Excise Committee of 1904. In 1905-06 the number of shops was 6,580. The Chief Commissioner is satisfied that the efforts of the Excise Department to keep the sale of drink away from the doors of the people have met with success.

4. The experimental "fixed fee" method for the vend of country liquor was in force in four districts, *viz.*, Akola, Buldana, Nagpur and Betul. The Chief Commissioner is not yet convinced that the system will be of permanent advantage in these Provinces, and it has been decided to watch the experiment for another year. The practical experience of the districts where it is in force is bearing fruit, and a certain unanimity is gradually being reached as regards the defects and advantages of the system. It would be premature to express a definite opinion before the Commissioner of Excise has had an opportunity of passing his final verdict on the scheme, but it is already sufficiently apparent that the fixed fee system is unsuited for universal adoption as the accepted Excise system in these Provinces. Special circumstances must exist and special reasons must be adduced to justify its introduction or retention in particular localities. The want of elasticity in an assessment based on official estimates, the temptations it places before the subordinate staff, and the probable development of vested interests in the liquor trade as the result of the system, appear to be the main objections to an arrangement which in other respects has much to recommend it.

5. There was a moderate decrease in the number of Excise offences in regard to liquor. In the case of hemp drugs the increase was as marked as the fall in the case of offences regarding opium, but in neither instance was the variation due to any special cause. The campaign against illicit liquor distillation was continued with energy in the plateau districts, Mandla, Chhindwara and Betul being responsible for the great majority of the prosecutions and convictions. The problem in these districts is an extremely difficult one. And as was apparent from the speech of one of the non-official members in the Provincial Legislative Council last July, its peculiarities are little understood. It is primarily a question of fixing prices at just that pitch which will place liquor within the reach of the customary consumer without driving him to illicit distillation, and which at the same time will set a positive restriction upon the amount which he consumes. The least variation in either direction leads to trouble. If the price is too high, illicit distillation becomes rife. If the price is too low, the drinking classes are encouraged to increase their consumption. The selection of the happy mean is obviously a matter in regard to which the Deputy Commissioner must accept responsibility. In all probability the problem will never be completely solved until, as Mr. Nelson suggests, the price of the raw *mahua* acquires a commercial value which will tempt the Gond and Korku to sell it rather than convert it into liquor. Meanwhile, the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that the Excise Department fully realizes the difficulties of the position and is working on the right lines to meet them. It remains for the District Officers to co-operate with the Department in devising means (as in the instance quoted from the Chhindwara District) for forwarding the present policy. Where this is done, there can be no doubt but that the best possible results will be secured.

6. A common feature of Indian Excise statistics is the disparity between the number of cases where drunkenness is the offence and of those in which the illicit manufacture of country spirit is complained of. Though no fewer than 1,551 persons were prosecuted for offences against the Excise Law, of whom about one-third were convicted of the offence of illicit distillation, cases of drunkenness were extremely rare. In municipal towns, for which alone statistics are available, only one person in every 3,000 out of a total municipal population of over a million was convicted on this account, and the same degree of moderation characterises the mass of the people in rural areas also, if we except the aboriginals on occasions of special festivity. It is this spontaneous avoidance of intoxicants which lends a certain unreality to the temperance movements in India to which constant reference is made in the annual reports. They are in the majority of cases not directed towards temperance as such, but towards the suppression of the drinking habit altogether, this being in the Hindu social system a condition precedent to the social elevation of the community

concerned. The Commissioner of Excise has very rightly emphasized the fact that temperance, if not total abstinence, is already a recognized standard of social conduct which is fairly rigidly observed. This, and the absence of that inter-connection between intemperance and crime of which Mr. Hughes-Hallett's testimony quoted in paragraph 22 of the report is a valuable indication, are factors of prime consideration in all Excise administration in this country, and must especially be borne in mind when comparisons are drawn between the temperance organizations of the United Kingdom and those which exist in India.

7. In connection with the *tari* industry, the tree-tax system was extended to a portion of the Warora Tahsil in the Chanda District, to the remainder of the Amraoti District (except the Melghat) and to the Murtizapur Taluq of the Akola District. Its success in the Wardha District is now established. The contractors have accepted it, and the object with which Government has been encouraging the *tari* sellers has been achieved in so far as the liquor is now reported to compete seriously with country spirit. The Chief Commissioner is glad to observe that the arrangements for assessing the tree-tax are working satisfactorily, and that there are no complaints of trouble being given to the people. Steps should certainly be taken, as the Commissioner of Excise suggests, to ensure the submission of accurate statistics showing the consumption of *tari*. Unless reliable figures are forthcoming, it will be impossible to recognize the measure of success or failure with which the system is attended.

8. To meet the difficulty of securing a fair price for the cultivators of ganja in the Nimar District, certain modifications were proposed in the existing system of ganja supply by substituting a Government monopoly for the present wholesale vend. These proposals have recently received the approval of the Government of India. Under the scheme Government will purchase the ganja crop direct from the cultivator and transport the drug to warehouses for issue to retail vendors without the intervention of the wholesale vendor. While the system will ensure the cultivator a fair price for his produce, it will divert to Government the wholesale vendor's profits. The Chief Commissioner believes that the new arrangements constitute a considerable advance upon the old and will help to remove the difficulties so long experienced by the Excise Department in regulating the local production of ganja, keeping the cultivators contented, and improving the control of the quality and price of the finished product.

9. As anticipated in the Resolution on the preceding year's report, the closure of two shops in Jubbulpore and of all the shops in Nagpur, combined with the enhancement in the rate of duty from Rs. 20 to 30 per seer, resulted in an appreciable reduction in the consumption of charas. The number of licenses for the sale of cocaine also fell from 7 to 3, and its consumption from 466 to 285 grains. Although extensive smuggling of this drug is complained of in other Provinces, no complaints on this score have yet been heard of in the Central Provinces and Berar.

10. Mr. Nelson, in his annual report, displays a clear appreciation of the Excise problems with which he has had to deal. His work has been effective as well as expeditious. He has for the benefit of his Department prepared a new Excise Manual, a handy book of reference, of which the main volume has already been published. The Chief Commissioner has much pleasure in congratulating him on his excellent report and on another year's successful administration of this important Department.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the Government of India in the Commerce and Industry Department and that a copy be forwarded to the Commissioner of Excise, Central Provinces, for information and guidance; also, that it be published in the Supplement to the *Central Provinces Gazette*.

H. C. GOWAN,  
*Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner,  
 Central Provinces.*

[Maximum limit—20 pages.]

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