" or interfere with the natural course of transit trade. . . . . It is to little " purpose that the Imperial Government reduces or abolishes Customs duties in " the interests of trade, if municipalities are permitted to levy duties on articles " of commerce passing through their limits." MUNICIPALITIES.

The most direct means of effecting the desired object is the establishment of bonded warehouses, and the grant of refunds on re-exports, but this system is very generally reported to have proved ineffectual, the merchants usually not taking the trouble to claim the refunds.

It appears by the reports received from the Punjab and the North-West Provinces that a system has latterly prevailed in the municipalities in that part of the country of taxing at a reduced rate the whole of such imports into a town as are subject to octroi duties, leaving the incidence of the tax to adjust itself by a natural commercial process. The tax is reduced in the same proportion to a full rate as the local consumption bears to the import. This method can only be adopted when the local retail trade and the wholesale export trade are in the same hands, and it is not sanctioned unless the municipal committee believe that such is the case. There can then, it is urged, be no injury to trade, for the octroi must either be passed on to the consumer, or be borne by the trader himself as a deduction from the profits of trade. Assuming the former to be the case, so far as it falls as a transit duty, it cannot be passed on to the customer in the town where it is ultimately consumed, for the market rate there is dependent on competition from other quarters. It must, therefore, be borne by the consumer in the municipality; that is, the merchant must recover the whole octroi rate he has paid out of the local retail prices; or, if he cannot do this, he must bear it as a deduction from his profits, and as his share in local taxation. If that share appears to him excessive, he will complain, or reduce his operations, and thus its effect upon the local trade is the true test by which the system of rateable reduced duties must be tried. And as to this, there is, in the opinion of the North-West Provinces Administration, every reason to be satisfied with the judgment of the merchants themselves, upon whom, either as members of the committee, or through their representatives in the committee, devolves the primary responsibility of the tax and its rate of incidence, and who are altogether in favour of it.

While this practice has been instituted by the Local Governments with the express object of guarding against the danger above referred to, it is, nevertheless, opposed to the principles laid down by the Government of India; and the Secretary of State has pointed out to that Government that, if it be thought desirable to continue it, the greatest scrutiny and vigilance will be required to prevent its practically defeating the purpose which it is designed to accomplish.

Another plan adopted during the year in the Punjab, and previously in general use throughout the Central Provinces, is collection under direct management. It was ordered by the Punjab that in any town where the incidence of taxation exceeds 1 *s.* per head per annum, the duty should be collected directly instead of being leased to contractors. The result has been, as was anticipated, a financial success, while the measure has also conduced to secure more accurate statistics, and to prevent improper taxation of through trade, chiefly by ensuring refunds. The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces believes that the probable effect of this system will be such that "it cannot be long before muni- " cipal taxation comes to rest on a thoroughly sound foundation."

In the Madras Presidency yet another expedient has been resorted to, namely, the division of the proceeds of the municipal tolls between the municipalities and the Local Fund boards, on the ground that the through traffic is indebted to the boards for the maintenance of the roads. The proportions in which the proceeds should be shared would depend on local circumstances.

The Chairman of the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta reports that during 1874 there was complete harmony in the relations between himself and the justices. Of the latter there were altogether upwards of 100, of whom about 25 took an active part in the administration of the affairs of the city. Bengal.

The ordinary income of the Calcutta Municipality during 1874 was 266,839 *l.*, and that of 184 townships in the interior of Bengal aggregated 181,000 *l.* Both figures were an improvement on the previous year. The municipal system has now been extended to all the principal places in the province. The local objects for which taxation is raised are becoming more and more appreciated by the educated classes. The attention of the auth[illegible]ly

219369.

MUNICIPALITIES.

drawn in the Native newspapers to the need of this or that municipal or sanitary work. Complaints of the pressure of taxation are very rare. The Native members of the municipal committees are generally appointed by selection, the elective principle having been introduced but to a small extent; they usually perform their duty with a fair degree of public spirit. The exercise of municipal functions is stated to be undoubtedly raising the character of the upper and middle classes of the people.

The consolidation and amendment of the law relating to the Calcutta Municipality belongs to a later period than the year under report. The main object of the measure is, in concession to demands made by many classes of the ratepayers, to introduce a representative system, whereby, instead of the present justices, a body of municipal commissioners would be established, the majority of whom would be elected by the ratepayers and the remainder would be appointed by Government.

A reorganization of the provincial municipalities is likewise in progress. The Bengal Municipalities Bill of 1872 was vetoed by the Viceroy, mainly on the grounds that it would comprehend many classes of people not prepared for it, and would lead to a sensible increase of local taxation. But Lord Northbrook observed, at the time, that the Bill contained many useful amendments of the existing law, and that it was not his desire to interpose an obstacle to improvements, provided they were not accompanied by any material increase of taxation, or by such extensive changes as those embodied in the Bill. Legislation has now been taken up once more with a view to consolidate and amend the several municipal laws, avoiding any provision which would be open to the above objection.

Madras.

The Madras Municipality having requested the sanction of the Government for the appointment of Commissioners by election, the Government authorised the holding of elections on the occurrence of vacancies until half of the entire number should be elected by the ratepayers. The right of election of non-official members was, as a tentative measure, also conceded to ten other towns in the Presidency.

The aggregate revenue of all Madras municipalities was 106,438 *l.*, in addition to an opening balance of 17,465 *l.*

Bombay.

The municipal finance of Bombay was unfavourably affected by the fall in the valuation of rateable property, which had been steadily proceeding since 1867, and continued in 1874. This circumstance, however, is not considered to furnish cause for dissatisfaction. Property in 1867 had acquired an exchangeable value far in advance of anything warranted by its value in use or by the purchasing power of its possessors, and that that valuation should now have descended to the legitimate worth of the commodity is not unnatural. The assessment is still considerably in excess of what it was in 1864, and it is considered probable that a natural level has now been reached. As the city recovers from the prostration of mercantile activity that followed losses occasioned by abnormal excitement, the replacement of capital will, it is hoped, lead to greater elasticity in the corporate income.

The diminution of income in 1874 would have been still more serious but for certain windfalls. As it was, it amounted to 298,132 *l.*, against 332,411 *l.* in 1873. The town duties amounted to nearly 60,000 *l.*; and as refunds reached over 16 per cent. of the collections, as compared with 12½ in 1873, and 2 per cent. in 1870, it is inferred that they are now allowed to the full extent permitted by law, and that the dues are divested of the character of transit duties.

During the year the new Municipal Act (VI. of 1873) was extended to all parts of the Presidency, except the capital and Sind. The aggregate receipts of the 168 "mofussil" municipalities, including an opening balance of 104,354 *l.* were 317,863 *l.*, of which octroi constituted 125,792 *l.* The incidence of taxation averaged 15 *a.* 11 *p.* per head.

In the Punjab the municipal system was extended to 63 towns, making a total of 191. The aggregate income was 213,525 *l.*; octroi formed the sole source of income in 52 towns.

In five large municipalities in which there is a considerable English population the members are appointed wholly or in part by election; in others they are nominated from amongst the leading men of the principal classes of inhabitants.

MUNICIPALITIES.

That the system of election has not been further extended has not been owing to unwillingness on the part of Government to concede the privilege; on the contrary, the Lieutenant Governor has frequently expressed his readiness to grant an elective system to any municipality in which there is a *bonâ fide* desire for its introduction, and a reasonable prospect of the privilege of the franchise being honestly and intelligently exercised; but, in truth, save in localities where the inhabitants have been indoctrinated with the ideas of Europe, the system of election by a majority of votes is opposed to the wishes of the people, who prefer that the selection of their spokesman should be left to disinterested authority rather than to the capricious or corrupt action of numerical majorities.

North-West Provinces.

There were 81 municipal towns in the North-West Provinces, and their united revenue was 197,220 *l.* The proportion of octroi to the total income was 89·28 per cent. In many instances, where the system of refunds did not suffice thoroughly to protect the transit trade, the octroi was abolished or modified.

Ajmere.

The municipalities of Ajmere and Beawur are reported to have shown much energy and activity, and the careful discharge of their duties by the non-official members is stated to have been very creditable to their public spirit.

In both those towns every facility has been given for bonding goods in transit, but hitherto without any success, as the traders prefer paying the small tax, which permits them to take their goods to their own shops, to leaving them in a common warehouse. It is, however, firmly believed by the Commissioner that, so long as the rates remain low, there is no fear of trade being injuriously affected.

Central Provinces

In 42 out of 56 municipalities in the Central Provinces octroi was the principal, if not the only, source of income. The total receipts from all sources amounted to 82,129 *l.*; those from octroi reached 49,733 *l.*, being an increase of 4 per cent. on the previous year.

British Burma.

Under an Act passed at the close of the preceding year, the first municipalities (in the proper sense of the term) in British Burma were established in the seven most important towns, the committees being selected among the official and non-official residents in different proportions in the different towns, and a president being appointed by the Local Administration. Sufficient time had not passed to show any decided results, but the committees generally are reported to have taken considerable interest in their new duties. The octroi tax has been nowhere imposed; the principal source of income is a land assessment rate, the entire proceeds of which at the close of the year were, as a tentative measure, made over to the committees for expenditure on the improvement of the several towns.

The receipts of the newly-constituted municipalities amounted to 79,461 *l.*; those of all municipal and town funds in the province aggregated 101,898 *l.*, against 65,513 *l.* in the previous year.

LEGISLATION. Government of India.

There were altogether 22 Acts passed in 1874-5 by the Legislative Council of the Government of India, some of which were of considerable importance.

Two enactments were passed to provide for the exercise in Assam and Sylhet by the Chief Commissioner of the powers heretofore exercised by the Government of Bengal.

Two measures related to salt. The Government having resolved to abolish the southern section of the Inland Customs line, it became necessary to make a slight increase in the salt duty in the Ganjam district, to lower the duty in Orissa, and to provide for a different mode of levying a lower rate of duty in the Central Provinces. The other Act has for its object the equalisation of the salt revenue throughout the Madras Presidency. An Act was also passed to consolidate and simplify the law relating to Inland Customs duties generally.

One Act has for its object certain amendments in the Code of Criminal Procedure. And another is designed to regulate the procedure of the High Courts in the exercise of their original criminal jurisdiction by the same law as that which applies to the other criminal courts of India.

In cases where a ship has been lost or abandoned, the Local Government, under the law heretofore in force, has appointed two persons to make a formal investigation, one of whom must be a magistrate, and the other a person conversant with maritime affairs. The principal object of the Indian Merchant

LEGISLATION.

Shipping Act of 1875 is to strengthen these tribunals by the addtion of a member conversant with mercantile affairs. Other objects are to provie greater facilities for the attendance of witnesses, and to clear up some ambiguity in the previous law.

The rules for the regulation of the Burma fisheries have been embodied in a legislative enactment. By the custom of the country the exclusive right of fishing in British Burma belongs to the Government. It is not, however, intended to insist on the right of the Government to anything approaching its full extent. The right of angling with a rod and line is conferred on the public in all fisheries, except when for some special reason its exercise may be suspended. Powers are, moreover, taken by the Act to declare fisheries open to the public, and to grant rights of fishing free of all charge; and an examination of the fisheries has been set on foot with the view of determining what waters should be so released from the claims of the State, the intention being to set apart as free in every case sufficient waters for the use of such of the villagers as choose to fish to supply their own wants.

Acts were also passed during the year relating to the disposal of European vagrants, the local extent of certain Acts and Regulations, and the regulation of ports and port-dues.

Bengal.

Of four Acts of the Bengal Legislative Council only one is of sufficient importance to be mentioned here, namely, the Act for the better regulation of markets in Calcutta, which gives further power to the justices to acquire land and to borrow money for the establishment and maintenance of municipal markets in that city.

Mad Madras. Bombay.

No Acts were passed in Madras, and three in Bombay. Among the latter was one for the regulation of jails and the enforcement of discipline therein.

II.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

STATE OF CRIME. Bengal.

AFTER allowing for improved reporting, and for a change in the classification of certain offences by the amended Code of Criminal Procedure, there was still shown a decided increase of crime in Bengal. This unsatisfactory feature is ascribed by Sir R. Temple to insufficiency of supervision over bad characters, the low degree of efficiency in the village police, and the chances of escape which our judicial system affords to the guilty, while all these causes combined induce unwillingness on the part of the people to search out offenders and bring them to punishment.

There was a decrease in serious offences against the person only, but those of a serious character against person and property rose from 1,202 to 2,010. Dacoity is still carried on; the attention of the police has been called to the discreditable fact that some of the old gang leaders remain at large.

Madras.

Much attention has been recently given in Madras to improved detection and repression of crime. During 1874 more precise rules were introduced for the registration of known depredators and suspected persons, and, as a consequence, the number of the former class included in the returns was reduced from 47,762 in 1873 to 21,245 in 1874, and that of the latter from 12,337 to 8,074. There was a slight increase in the number of dacoities, which was due to an unexpected outbreak of this crime in the districts of Tanjore, Madura, and Trichinopoly. The detective success of the police in dealing with dacoity was more marked than in any previous year.

There was a great number of re-convictions, which, it was apprehended, was indicative of the growth of a distinct criminal population in the Presidency.

Bombay.

In Bombay there was a general decrease of crime in 1874, which was no doubt partly due to increased police efficiency, but was mainly ascribed to the effect of plentiful harvests. Accordingly the decrease was chiefly in offences against property, and in minor offences against the person; in fact, there was a decided increase in the more serious offences under the latter head. In the Konkan, where drunkenness is not uncommon, Rutnagherry shows a decrease, but Canara, Tanna, and Colaba, an increase of crime. It is said that the inhabitants of 60 villages in the Alibagh taluka have taken the pledge to abstain from liquor.

In Sind, the statistics were not so satisfactory, but the apparent increase is probably due to the criminal classes being brought under stricter control. Several offences in former years did not come to light through being compounded. Sanitary regulations also have been more stringently enforced.

There was an unsatisfactory increase in the proportion of re-convictions and of habitual criminals. The Government has called attention to the necessity of making the imprisonment of such persons sufficiently arduous and irksome.

The year was marked by the presence in the Poona and Tanna districts of armed robber gangs; in the former district 16, and in the latter 31 dacoities occurred. Bodies of men entered villages with the utmost effrontery, and, owing to the terror they inspired, there was the greatest difficulty in obtaining information against them. An armed police force of 175 men was detailed to operate against these dacoits, and rewards ranging from 100*l.* downwards were announced for the capture of their leaders. A great deal of hard work and exposure was undergone by the parties in pursuit, the ghâts being an inclement country during a monsoon; but the gang was only once surprised and then unsuccessfully. But though the leaders escaped, eight of the robbers were captured and sentenced to penal servitude for life, and a check was given to the restlessness excited.

Punjab.

The Punjab statistics show a steady decrease of serious crime; and there was also a diminution of minor offences against property. To this satisfactory result many causes have contributed, but no small share is due to the improved working of the police. The per-centage of convictions to cases reported rose to 43, from 38 in 1872, and 40 in 1873. Minor "bailable" offences increased, but this was simply the result of multiplied local laws, and increased attention paid to their enforcement.

STATE OF CRIME.

In the criminal courts there was a marked increase in the severity of punishments. The number of re-convictions diminished from 2,306 in 1873 to 1,761 in 1874.

North-West Provinces.

The returns of crime for the North-West Provinces showed a large increase both in petty and serious offences. Dacoities rose from 99 to 120. There was also a large increase in the jail population; this had continuously risen for three years, but in 1874-75, a year of comparative prosperity, the numbers went up to an unprecedented extent. The crime statistics are always influenced by prices, which were high in the year under review notwithstanding that the crops were good. The Lieutenant Governor thinks, however, that the apparent increase is due in great measure to improvement in reporting. A circumstance which partly explains the large number of prisoners is the exercise by magistrates of the power conferred on them by a recent Act to imprison or commit for trial persons of dangerous character who cannot give security. With the increase of cases, there was a satisfactory increase in the proportion of convictions.

Oude.

There was a large decrease in the number of criminal offences in Oude. The falling off was general throughout the province, and was not confined to any special class of crime; but it was most marked in cases of housebreaking or trespass for the purpose of theft. Cases of culpable homicide fell from 79 to 59; on the other hand, dacoities rose from 32 to 41.

Assam.

In the Garo Hills district there was very little crime, and the cases that occurred were not of a serious nature. The administration of justice is carried on in the simplest form, and with very satisfactory results. The Deputy Commissioner was enabled, during the year, to bring to a satisfactory and peaceable conclusion many blood feuds of long standing.

Ajmere.

There was a material increase in almost all classes of crime in Ajmere, coupled with a falling off in detection, and also in the success of prosecutions. Thefts and burglaries are, and always have been, the normal crime of the district. There appears to be a steady annual increase of crime, pointing apparently to inefficiency of police action.

Central Provinces.

The statistics for the Central Provinces show a great improvement on the preceding year in the amount of crime; the only unfavourable point of comparison is that some crimes of a more serious nature were committed. These good results are due mainly to the cheapness of food consequent on prosperous harvests, but also to the successful action of the police in proving former convictions, and in using their legal powers to prosecute bad characters.

The Chief Commissioner has impressed upon magistrates the ineffectiveness, if not harm, of the inadequate punishments frequently awarded. Too short terms of imprisonment, he observes, serve neither to reform the criminal nor to deter him from the commission of fresh offences.

Berar.

In Berar there was a satisfactory decrease in serious crime, as in fact had been the case during the past few years, special surveillance being exercised over criminal tribes.

British Burma.

In the British Burma Report for 1873 a satisfactory decrease of violent crime since 1870 was shown. In 1874, murder increased from 60 to 72 cases. Dacoity continued to decline, not only in the number of cases, but in the character of the crime; since the close of the official year, however, the daring operations of the Pyagalay gang, the suppression of which cost the life of the officiating Inspector General of Police, pointed to the need of special police vigilance at a time when excitement is fostered by political events.

There appears to be a tendency on the part of magistrates and judges to undue leniency in awarding punishments for crimes of violence.

There was a large rise in the number of offences cognizable by the police, and an unsatisfactory decrease in the proportion of convictions obtained, though, with regard to the latter point, the proportion is said to compare favourably with that in other provinces. The classes of crime in which the increase occurred were minor offences against the person and against property. There is stated not to be in British Burma that connection which is observed in other provinces between the prevalence of theft and dearness of food. The year

STATE OF CRIME.

under review was one of remarkable prosperity. The increase in cases of theft is explained on the theory that those who formerly indulged in the more violent crimes have become more timid, and content themselves with minor breaches of the law. There were also special temptations during the year in the transit through the country of large sums of money in connection with operations in paddy.

The per-centage of re-convicted prisoners increased from 17 to 18·57. This is mainly attributed to a system of classification which has been adopted by the jail department, and does not altogether, if at all, point to an increase in the number of habitual offenders.

INFANTICID Bombay.

An interesting report has been drawn up by Mr. H. R. Cooke, of the Bombay Civil Service, on the repression of female infanticide in the Bombay Presidency. He introduces his report with the following remarks on the origin of the crime:—

"Its origin is obscure. Infant sacrifice is not required by the Shastras, nor "tolerated by Hinduism. The murder of a female infant is indeed declared to be "a sin above all sins; a man may be freed from the guilt of killing a Brahman, "but nothing can remove the taint of infanticide; and yet, contrary to the voice "of religion, contrary indeed to the voice of nature, it is to be feared thousands "of this Presidency have not only been guilty of the crime, but have habitually "and systematically practised it, until it became a custom which they openly "avowed; a custom so deeply-rooted that, after years of perseverance and patient "endeavour, it is yet doubtful whether the last trace of it has been eradicated. "Yet, though the origin be obscure, the reasons which perpetuated the crime "are very clear, and divide themselves into: (1) such as render the marriage "of a girl a source of great difficulty and expense; (2) such as render "her non-marriage a calamity; and (3) such as tend to a lack of parental "affection."

In 1821 Government authorised the throwing of all fines levied on Kattywar Chiefs, for other offences as well as for infanticide, after indemnifying the sufferers by each, into a fund to be distributed in portions to female children preserved. In 1825 the Gaekwar readily agreed to give up his share of the fines to the same purpose, and thus originated what has since been known under the name of the Infanticide Fund. It has been used to encourage and protect informers, to reward the preservation of female offspring, and to assist the indigent to marry their girls.

Thus matters remained until 1834, the success attained being very partial and delusive. In this year, however, Mr. J. P. Willoughby awakened fresh interest in the undertaking. He began by obtaining returns of the Jadeja population from the Chiefs, and suggested (1) the taking of a more accurate census in the following year; (2) that the Chiefs be required to send half-yearly registers of births, betrothals, marriages, and deaths, each of his own clan; (3) that the annual report be made with greater regularity; (4) that a fresh proclamation be issued to all the Chiefs to remind them of their engagements and warn them of the alertness of Government; and (5) that a circular be sent to all the other Rajpoot tribes of Kattywar, asking them to refuse to give their daughters in marriage to Jadejas except under a stipulation that the female issue of the marriage be preserved. These measures were approved by Government, and forthwith adopted.

The diffusion of education was also looked to as a potent counteracting agency.

The result of the repressive measures adopted in Kattywar has been that the practice has ceased as a custom; the last conviction having taken place so long ago as 1854, and no cases of suspicion even having been recently reported. The proportion between the sexes in 1872 was 10,461 males to 9,513 females.

In Kutch the measures adopted were substantially the same as those resorted to in Kattywar.

A census was at first objected to by the Chiefs, but in 1840, at the Rao's request, they executed a deed, binding themselves (1) to render annually a correct census; (2) to report all premature and still births; (3) to give early information of all cases of crime, and in default to submit to a penalty; and (4) to allow all fines inflicted to constitute a fund in aid of the marriages of indigent Jadejas.

The reports from this State are by no means so favourable as those from

INFANTICIDE.

Kattywar. The number of Jadeja females compared with that of males was in 1873 as 4,272 to 8,371, a proportion far below what it should have been, though in 1840 the proportion was only 335 females to 4,912 males. The Resident, however, expresses his opinion that death now only results from neglect after birth; and he suggests that a fresh proclamation be issued, drawing the serious attention of the tribe to the unfavourable results shown in the returns, and that increased vigilance be displayed, and an example made of one or two suspected villages.

It should be mentioned that the operations for the repression of the crime in Kutch are conducted wholly by the Durbar, whereas elsewhere they are under the direct control of the Political Agents. The Rao has expressed his determination to continue unrelaxed his efforts to eradicate the practice within his territory.

The results accomplished in Pahlunpore and Mahee Kanta are on the whole satisfactory. The returns from the latter show the number of females belonging to the infanticide tribe to be steadily on the increase.

But Mr. Cooke points out that in all the above territories the success attained cannot be regarded as permanently secure so long as it continues to be considered a disgrace to own a maiden daughter of mature years. The only solution of the difficulty appears to be to persuade the Rajpoot chiefs to enter into an engagement that they will not give their daughters to any tribe who will not give them their daughters in return.

The repression of infanticide among the Kunbis of Gujerat has been a much more easy task, and they have, by certain customs recently instituted among themselves, removed from themselves every inducement to a return to former evil practices.

North-West Provinces.

The measures for the suppression of infanticide in the North-West Provinces progressed satisfactorily during 1874-5. The proportion of girls to the total number of infants rose from 28·9 per cent. at the beginning of that year to 30·9 at its close. The great prevalence of the crime is demonstrated in the Administration Report by various tests, of which the most important is the following. It is deduced from a comparison with English rates, after making allowance for the different birth-rates in the two countries, that the per-centage on the total infantile mortality ought to be, for boys 24·65, and for girls 20·41; whereas the rates in the proclaimed districts actually are, for boys 22·57, and for girls 22·38. It is thus clear that many girls are murdered, and that of those who survive their birth, many die through violence or neglect. It has been established that the crime has no existence in the Goruckpore district.

Oude.

The statistics show that infanticide is not at all generally practised in Oude.

MAGISTRATES.
Bengal.

The rule of the Code of Criminal Procedure by which a magistrate may, in petty criminal cases, hold a summary trial, and pass a sentence of short imprisonment or fine, from which sentence there can be no appeal, was at first regarded with disfavour and apprehension by the upper classes in Bengal. This dissatisfaction is stated, however, to be decreasing, as the rule is seen to be worked in a considerate manner, without undue haste, and without any disposition to deal harshly with respectable persons. On the other hand, the rule affords to the poor complainant a better chance than formerly of obtaining redress, tends to check personal oppression, and conduces to the enforcement of social order. The Government have from the first arranged that trials under this rule should be held by honorary magistrates sitting together with the ordinary magistrates, such a course being likely to win the public confidence. The benches thus formed have disposed of a considerable number of these cases, apparently in a satisfactory manner.

The rapid disposal of cases has promoted the public convenience, and the relief afforded to judicial officers has been considerable.

The policy of associating honorary magistrates in the administration of criminal justice has been fully recognised and acted upon in Bengal, where more than 6,000 cases were decided by them during the year under report.

Madras.

The powers of the magistracy in Madras were extended in several ways. The power of summary trials was conceded to magistrates in certain positions, and in 36 towns the experiment was made of appointing benches of honorary magistrates,

with a salaried magistrate as president, who should be nominated by the magistrate of the district. MAGISTRATES.

In the North-West Provinces the same system of appointing honorary magistrates for the disposal of petty criminal work was inaugurated during the year, and there was every reason to anticipate its success. North-West Provinces.

There were 124 stipendiary and 80 honorary magistrates in the Central Provinces; 33·9 per cent. of the work was performed by the latter. The Chief Commissioner, while fully appreciating their services, particularly in the determination of petty disputes, cases of assault, defamation, and similar matters, hesitates to multiply the number of honorary magistrates without sufficient guarantees that the persons selected for the office shall be in every respect qualified. Central Provinces.

Except in the matter above referred to of inadequate sentences, the magisterial work in the Central Provinces is stated to be well performed. Cases are promptly disposed of, the procedure is correct, and appeals are comparatively few.

The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal having made special inquiries as to the estimation in which the police are held by the Native public, the result was not so favourable as might have been hoped; in some quarters they are more complained of than any other institution in the country. At the same time most of the thoughtful and well-informed Natives regard the organisation introduced in 1862 as a step in the right direction, and would regret any retrogression from its principles. The most conspicuous need at present is the raising of the status of the lower grades of the Native officers. POLICE. Bengal.

The number punished in the Bengal police was somewhat less than in the previous year; but the large number of men dismissed shows that the discipline of the force was far from satisfactory. Complaints of torture and oppression were however infrequent.

The conduct of the Bombay police continues to improve. In Bombay city, the dismissals numbered 37, and the resignations 3, as compared with 55 of the former and 9 of the latter in 1873; and these favourable returns are borne out by the testimony of both the late and the present chief magistrate, to the efficiency and good behaviour of the force. Bombay.

The per-centage (throughout the Presidency) of convictions to persons brought to trial was 74, of convictions to persons arrested 62, and of stolen property recovered 64. The per-centages were especially good in the Kaira district, viz., 95, 63, and 69, respectively. The police are not usually so successful in tracing up gang and other robberies as in other serious crime; special measures appear to be required to check the depredations of wandering and criminal tribes in the southern districts, and an inquiry into the whole subject has been directed.

Excluding the Bombay town police, about 28 per cent. of the force could read and write, or 560 more men than in the previous year.

The conduct and working of the police in the Punjab were satisfactory. The per-centage both of dismissals and of resignations was decidedly lower than in the preceding year. A measure was carried out which, it is hoped, will tend to still further improve the efficiency of the police. They had been formerly divided into separate bodies, the members of which were not interchangeable, owing to differences in rates of pay. These various sections have now been merged in the general force as regards pay and promotion. Punjab.

In the police force of the Central Provinces, 90 per cent. of the officers, and 31 per cent. of the men, were able to read and write. There were no cases of very serious crime, but the number of both officers and men departmentally punished was considerable. Absence without leave was a frequent offence in some districts. Central Provinces.

The general conduct of the police towards the people is commended, and the confidence of the people in them has increased.

In Berar also the conduct of the police is reported to have been generally satisfactory, a decidedly fewer number having been punished or dismissed. Berar.

Among the police of British Burma, whose aggregate force was 6,552, British Burma.

POLICE.

655 men were discharged for misconduct, and 1,124 resigned. Special difficulties arise from the national temperament of the Burman police; they have impulsive energy, but are deficient in perseverance and patience. The number of men promoted for specially meritorious service was 122, as compared with 41 in 1873. The frequent changes in the force prevent much being done in the way of education.

JAILS. Bengal.

Continued attention has been given in Bengal to the object of making prisons not only deterrent but a means of reforming the criminal. It is sought to raise the low character of the convicts by judicious rewards for good behaviour; to carry out instruction in reading and writing, and to enforce the classification of prisoners, both in the workshops and in the sleeping wards. Numerous substantial improvements and important reforms were effected, and discipline is reported to have been greatly improved.

The mortality in the Bengal prisons is very unsatisfactory, especialy considering the efforts that have been made of late years to improve their sanitation. The general death-rate in 1874 was 5·59, but, high as is this figure, the real extent of the evil is only seen by looking at particular jails. In one, for instance, the rate was 27·02 per cent.; in another, 17·68; and in another, 12·86. No satisfactory explanations of this state of things have been afforded by the medical officers, but the Local Government is apparently alive to the importance of searching inquiry being made into the causes.

Madras.

In the prisons of Madras the system of "marks," for earning by good conduct and industry the remission of a portion of the sentence, was found to answer well.

Of 14,554 convicts admitted in 1874, only 1,106 were well educated. Of the whole number in jail during the year (23,665), 1,254 were taught to read and write fairly, and 2,598 to do so a little.

The health of the prisoners in general was good, the death-rate having been 2·68 per cent. on the daily average strength. In some jails, however, the mortality was unusually high.

Bombay.

The jail accommodation in the Bombay Presidency appears to be far more deficient than in the rest of India. In buildings constructed for 6,845 prisoners, although even that allowance is apparently inadequate, there was a daily average of 8,068.

The Bombay Government advocate the use of the reward and mark systems, leading to remissions, which afford a valuable means of strengthening the hands of the prison officers, and raising the status of the prison inmates, and not the least as distinguishing the hardened from the first offender.

Much care appears to be taken with regard to juvenile offenders. The working of the Poona Juvenile Prison was very satisfactory; the health and conduct of the boys there was good. Their education is both scholastic and mechanical, and, on their leaving the prison, means are taken to ascertain their future career, without, however, permitting any police surveillance. Here the year passed without any re-convictions, but among juveniles generally in the district and central jails the proportion to the total imprisoned was as high as 10 per cent.

The importance of segregation of juvenile prisoners has been pressed upon the jail superintendents.

Punjab.

Satisfactory progress was made during the year in the construction and alterations of jail buildings in the Punjab, but still much remains to be done before the jail accommodation of the province can be considered as sufficient. Of 19,518 prisoners admitted during the year, 19,000 were quite illiterate (including all the females), 362 could read and write a little, and 156 could read and write well. During their confinement 1,180 males and 13 females are reported to have learnt to read and write well, and 7,618 males and 120 females to have made slight progress.

The death-rate in the Punjab jails fell from 4·87 to 3·25 per cent. Although this rate is high, the Lieutenant Governor does not think it can be said that the state of the prisons in the Punjab is generally insanitary, for a considerable proportion of prisoners are shown to have benefited in health. The mischief chiefly arises from outbreaks of infectious disease in a few jails, and no efforts are spared to guard against the occurrence of such outbreaks.

JAILS.

Arrangements are being made, as funds permit, for the segregation of newly-arrived prisoners; elaborate rules are in force for securing cleanliness and preventing overcrowding; the scale of diet and clothing allowed is very liberal, and in the event of its being considered inadequate in the case of any individual or class by the medical officer of the jail, he has only to represent the matter to the Inspector General, and on his concurrence the necessary increase is at once allowed.

North-West Provinces.

There was a terribly high death-rate in the Goruckpore and the Meerut Central Jails, being in the former 20·14, and in the latter 12·83 per cent. of the average strength. This was owing to the unhealthiness of the districts, to combat which drainage works on a large scale and at a great cost have been undertaken. At Goruckpore there was an epidemic of cholera. There were also high death-rates in other jails, which are to a great extent attributed to the effects of the scarcity.

Oude.

Although the average daily strength in the Oude prisons was 1,381 above the proper accommodation, the death-rate fell from 2·51 to 1·64 per cent.

The results of jail instruction in this province showed a slight falling off on the preceding year. Of 12,535 persons imprisoned, 146 could read and write well, and 213 a little; during the year, 377 were taught to read and write a little, against 258 in 1873, but only 10 were taught to do so well, against 66. A system was introduced on 1st April 1875, under which certain prisoners in the central jail will be selected, educated, and trained under free teachers, and, when qualified, will be transferred as schoolmasters to the district jail; and eventually every prisoner will be taught for one hour daily.

Ajmere.

The administration of the Ajmere Jail is reported to have been thoroughly successful; the health of the prisoners was good, and their general conduct satisfactory; there was no overcrowding; the diet was ample; and restrictions and measures were taken to provide a more systematic education for prisoners below 50 years of age.

Central Provinces.

The conduct of prisoners in the Central Provinces was on the whole good. The short sentences usually passed are a great hindrance to educational benefit being received by the prisoners. Of 6,931 males and 938 females incarcerated during the year, the numbers totally unable to read or write were 6,523 and 931 respectively.

The death-rate in the jails taken together was 3·6 per cent. of the average strength. Ulcers and dysentery were the causes of most deaths, but in all cases these diseases are stated to have been brought into, and not contracted in, the prison. Increased sickness, as compared with the previous year, prevailed among the free population also. There are no jails in the province which can be called unhealthy.

British Burma.

Owing to the fertility of Pegu attracting population in preference to the other divisions of British Burma, the jails in that part of the province were overcrowded, while those in Arakan and Tenasserim were comparatively empty; and this circumstance necessitated frequent transfers of prisoners. The jail at Thyetmyo was enlarged, and a similar measure was in contemplation for that at Bassein, while a further remedy has been applied in the establishment of lock-ups for short-term prisoners. The jails generally maintained their reputation for healthiness; the death-rate was only 2·98 per cent. on the average strength.

The per-centage of convicts employed as jail officers to the average daily number of prisoners was 3·38. It has been decided that long-term prisoners shall be eligible for jail appointments; the prospect of this indulgence will, it is hoped, operate beneficially on the character of such convicts.

Of 8,396 prisoners, 1,216 could read and write well, and 2,785 a little. Contrary to the experience in other provinces, it was found that 31 out of 355 women had received some education.

CIVIL LITIGATION. Bengal.

The business of the Civil Courts of Bengal, which had increased rapidly during recent years, remained nearly stationary in 1874. The great majority of the cases relate to small money claims, or to rent of land. The working of the Courts gives satisfaction to the people and secures their confidence in the main, though there are frequent complaints of delay in the disposal of cases. The Courts are looked up to by them as a palladium of their rights and privileges.

CIVIL LITIGATION. Universal opinion attests the integrity and probity of the Native judges, though as to their competency there is more hesitation. Those, however, who have been appointed of late years are men of superior stamp and education. The Native bar, also, is fast rising in position.

Sir R. Temple has used his influence to encourage the registration of deeds and assurances, which can nowhere be more important than in Bengal, where so large a portion of the people come within the category of borrowers or lenders, where landed property is undergoing much subdivision, and where land is constantly being leased temporarily or permanently, or being transferred by every form and variety of transfer. The system is being adopted by the people more and more, in the case not only of compulsory but of optional registration, although the small proportion which the latter bears to the former shows that the system admits of being still further popularised.

Madras. In Madras there has been noticed of late years a gradual falling off in the proportion of suits instituted in the superior courts.

Registration is stated to have steadily increased in this Presidency during the last few years.

Bombay. There was, during 1874-5, a general decrease of civil litigation, and 99 per cent. of the suits instituted were for sums of 50 *l* and under. Connected with this circumstance is the important subject of the indebtedness of the cultivating class, on which remarks will be found in the chapter on LAND ADMINISTRATION (p. 28).

Punjab. A reference to the returns of other provinces shows a comparatively large amount of litigation in the Punjab, but this is explained by (1) the wide diffusion of property and credit, there being upwards of three million proprietors of land, beside other petty capitalists; (2) the legal limitation of sales of property compelling creditors to limit their advances and to enforce prompt adjustment of accounts; and (3) the cheapness and accessibility of the courts, and expeditious disposal of suits. On the whole, the Lieutenant Governor thinks that the statistics may be accepted as indicative of healthy progress, continued prosperity, and increasing confidence in the courts.

North-West Provinces. A decrease of litigation in the North-West Provinces is chiefly due to a new regulation by which many suits formerly cognizable by the civil are now heard in the revenue courts. It is also attributed partly to the unwillingness of creditors to press for their money during the early part of the year when prices were unusually high, and partly to the abundant khureef harvest, which assisted many debtors to come to terms with their creditors without the intervention of the courts.

Oude. In Oude there has been annually a falling off since 1872 in the number of civil suits instituted. In 1874 the decrease was in suits of a value not exceeding 2 *l.*, while there was an increase in those for higher amounts. The suits are said to be comparatively few in which the defendants conduct their own cases.

Ajmere. There is comparatively an enormous amount of civil litigation in Ajmere, and the number of arrests and imprisonments for debt is extraordinary. No satisfactory explanation has been afforded, but the increase in 1874 was probably connected with the good harvests, which created property from which creditors might realise decrees.

Central Provinces. The total number of civil suits instituted in the Central Provinces was 76,639. They were of a petty nature, chiefly for the recovery of small debts. In connection with the large amount of litigation, the attention of the Local Administration has been drawn to the fact that not one-half of the decrees passed are executed. It is believed that a very large proportion of decrees are, immediately on being obtained, superseded by fresh bonds, and thus the deciding of a suit and the passing of a decree are not by any means the end of a transaction, but only one stage of a debt case which is for ever before the courts. The Code of Procedure lays down that a payment on a decree must be made through the court, and if not so made shall not be recognised by the court. If therefore, after such private arrangement, the creditor were to sue the debtor on a fresh bond, the court would not give to the latter the benefit of any payment he

had made. If the creditors were to use their power to the uttermost (which it is believed they do not do as a rule), their debtors might be reduced to a state quite as hopeless as slavery; and the more so as, although our law does not regard the son as responsible for his father's debts, Hindoo custom, which the people have not yet ventured to break through, maintains the opposite view. CIVIL LITIGATION

British Burma. The administration of civil justice in British Burma is stated to have been on the whole satisfactory, and, as far as can be judged, acceptable to the people. Most of the work is disposed of by Native judges. In the present year a second Court of Small Causes had been established at Rangoon, presided over by a Burman judge, and the use which was made of this court showed in a remarkable manner the confidence which the Burmese have in a competent judge of their own race. Additional evidence of the popularity of this judge has resulted in his being attached permanently to the court.

There is no evidence of any increasing appreciation by the Natives of the advantages afforded by the registration of contracts. The people in the interior live in a most simple manner, seldom borrowing large sums of money, and whatever private transfers of land or immovable property are effected do not often end in litigation.

Civil suits in Northern Arakan increased during the year from 41 to 79, showing a greater willingness on the part of the tribes to substitute a recourse to our courts for their own arbitrary appeals to force in satisfaction of their disputes.

III.

FINANCE.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following is a statement of the Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure in India and England, compared with two preceding years: —

	1872-3.	1873-4.	1874-5.
	£.	£.	£.
Revenue - - - - - - -	50,219,489	49,598,253	50,570,171
Expenditure - - - - - -	46,343,316	49,968,569	49,006,412
Guaranteed Interest, less Net Traffic Receipts - - - - - -	2,110,501	1,437,352	1,244,562
£.	48,453,817	51,405,921	50,250,974
Surplus - - -	1,765,672	—	319,197
Deficit - - -	—	1,807,668	—

The principal heads of Revenue are shown in the following summary:—

	Land Revenue, including Fisheries.	Opium.	Salt.	Excise.	Customs.	Stamps.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
India (General and Political) - - -	61,559	- -	70,138	17,194	- -	19,081
Madras - - -	4,635,487	- -	1,331,569	605,892	321,025	492,878
Bombay - - -	3,688,076	2,953,804	797,122	378,099	739,068	463,936
Bengal - - -	3,645,725	5,602,825	2,676,363	563,467	1,091,077	895,452
Punjab - - -	2,004,595	- -	841,253	97,685	86,387	240,381
North-West Provinces -	4,259,179	- -	476,612	203,606	35,901	355,492
Oude - - - -	1,355,025	- -	1,688	73,047	2,346	92,894
Assam - - -	333,503	- -	- -	137,869	- -	48,488
Central Provinces -	584,919	- -	18,524	128,629	10,402	92,309
British Burma - -	728,425	- -	14,032	140,655	392,273	57,131
TOTAL - - - £.	21,296,793	8,556,629	6,227,301	2,346,143	2,678,479	2,758,042

Under Expenditure, the Army absorbed 15,375,159 *l.*, and Interest on Debt 4,834,003 *l.* On Ordinary Public Works 2,504,230 *l.* was spent, and on Railways 239,277 *l.*; if to these two items be added the Extraordinary Expenditure of the year (4,249,571 *l.*), the total outlay on Public Works amounts to 6,993,078 *l.* The amount spent on Famine Relief was 2,237,860 *l.*, which added to the expenditure on this account in the previous year makes a total of 6,102,533 *l.*

The Extraordinary Expenditure was divided as follows: Irrigation, 1,235,391 *l.*; State Railways, 3,014,180 *l.*

OPIUM AND EXCISE. Bengal.

The net revenue of the Opium Department in Bengal was 3,264,530 *l.*, against 3,584,766 *l.* in 1873-4. There were sold 45,000 chests of provision opium, being an increase of 2,250. The price realised per chest was *Rs.* 1,207. 0. 4, against *Rs.* 1,265. 13. 4.

OPIUM AND EXCISE.

In consequence of memorials received from European and Native gentlemen, expressing their apprehension that the consumption of spirits and drugs is increasing to a harmful extent among the people, and is indirectly encouraged by the excise system, the matter has been fully investigated by the Bengal Government, with the result that the amount of consumption per head of the whole population is found to be infinitesimally small, and that the excise system, whatever it may have done in past times, now offers no encouragement to intemperance, but rather tends to impose a check upon the consumption. The prohibition altogether of production and consumption would be quite futile.

In his answer to the memorialists Sir R. Temple thus expressed himself:—

"The memorialists may be sure that the Government entirely agrees with "them in thinking that any general excess in the consumption of liquors, spirits, "or drugs, is really a national evil; that, so far from encouraging its existence "or its growth for the sake of the revenue, the Government already does, and "will willingly do, everything in its power to impose a check or to exercise "repression upon any excess; and that the efforts of Government in this direc- "tion are only limited by considerations of the practicability or otherwise of "attaining actual success in such repression.

* * * * * *

"The result of the fiscal regulations of Government now is to render liquors, "spirits, and drugs dearer than they would otherwise be; to place some artifi- "cial restrictions on the production and sale of these articles; and *pro tanto* to "impose a check on consumption. It is impossible to doubt that but for these "fiscal regulations the consumption would be greater than it is; and that, if the "present system of taxation upon these articles, and the consequent interfer- "ence on the part of the State, were to be abandoned, there would be an in- "crease in the consumption. If it be an object morally (as I quite admit it to "be) to do all we properly can to prevent the consumption exceeding reason- "able limits, then that object is in some degree effected by the fiscal interfer- "ence, without which, indeed, even this degree would not be attained. In "making its arrangements, the Government is not influenced by the desire of "fiscal advantage, nor by the fear of fiscal loss. If any measure or proceeding "of this nature could be demonstrated to be capable of checking excessive con- "sumption, the Government would not be deterred from introducing it by the "prospect of diminution in the revenue. If such measure or proceeding should "promise an enhancement of the revenue, the Government would refrain from "adopting it if there were reason to fear that an excessive increase of consump- "tion would be a concomitant result.

"But it must not be forgotten that, in making its arrangements, the Govern- "ment is never free from the question as to how far it is possible to check the "consumption. It is not possible to stop the consumption altogether, nor "even to attempt to check it in any very great degree, without introducing a "fresh class of evils. Nothing would be easier, in the first instance, than to do "all that is recommended in the memorials, to shut up public distilleries, to "close shops, to withhold licenses for production and vend, to pass prohi- "bitory regulations; but all this would utterly fail to stop, or even check, "manufacture. One main result would be that the manufacture, which is now "licensed and controlled, would continue, though illicit, and would be without "any really practical control. While, on the other hand, new evils, namely, "inquisitorial proceedings on the part of Government officials, and persistent "evasion on the part of the people, both circumstances directly conducing to "demoralisation, would be introduced.

* * * * * *

"Similar remarks may be made regarding the drugs opium and ganja. The "opium, though not universally produced, is yet grown over a very extensive "area. If there were to be anything like prohibition of the local consumption, "the temptation to illicit practices would be so great that they would spring "up to a degree beyond our power of prevention."

While sobriety still distinguishes the mass of the people, the vice of drinking is ascertained to be on the increase among some sections of the educated classes at Calcutta and at other large centres, especially among young men, and even youths. The Government is considering how its influence can be exerted to check the incipient mischief.

Opium and Excise. Bombay.

The Bombay Government have frequently intimated their aversion to any increase of the liquor revenue which is the result of increased consumption; but, aware as they are of the many illicit practices by which the revenue is now defrauded and the public are imposed upon, they have long seen the necessity of seeking a remedy, and are considering the advisability of legislating on the subject.

The opium revenue in Bombay exhibited a marked increase. The receipts from passes amounted to 2,952,703 *l.*, being nearly 212,000 *l.* in excess of those for the previous year, which then were the highest that had ever been reached except in 1862–3. From Malwa, where there were exceptionally large crops, there was an increase of nearly 5,000 chests. The quantity exported to China was 48,845 chests. The revenue was collected without default, and at a cost of less than ¼ per cent.

It is believed that smuggling prevails to a considerable extent.

Oude.

The receipts from the sale of excise opium in Oude showed a slight advance. It is believed that much smuggled opium is used, the plant being extensively cultivated near the places where there is a considerable demand for the drug.

There was also an increase in the excise revenue from spirits. The consumption of native liquor equalled about one-eighteenth of a gallon per head of the population.

Central Provinces.

In 1874–5, as in the previous year, there was a large increase in the revenue from opium in the Central Provinces, which was consequent on the extension of the system of supplying Government opium to retail contractors, cultivation being entirely prohibited. The advantage of this system is that it makes it possible to ascertain the exact consumption, and fix a higher rate of duty should consumption increase. Under the system which permits auction purchasers to supply themselves with opium, the price of the drug is but little controlled. The object of the contractors is to sell as large a quantity of opium as they can, and this object they attain by offering the drug at the lowest possible price, thus stimulating consumption.

The excise revenue of the Central Provinces is steadily increasing; in the year under review it made a large bound of about 14 per cent. This was partly owing to a change in the mode of taxation, and it does not indicate a corresponding increase of consumption. The Chief Commissioner remarks, however, that, as the year was a prosperous one, and as marriages were more than ordinarily numerous, it is probable that the people had more money wherein to purchase luxuries, and that more liquor was consumed.

He also states that the population of the province is generally more a spirit-drinking than a drug-consuming one.

With a view to check the consumption of ganja in the Central Provinces, cultivation of the hemp plant without a license has been prohibited, and the drug can only be sold by cultivators to licensed vendors.

British Burma.

The net revenue derived from excise opium in British Burma was 83,699 *l.*, against 73,536 *l.* in 1873–74. Of that sum, 54,338 *l.* was derived from the sale of Government opium, and 29,361 *l.* from licenses to vendors. There was also a considerable increase in the excise on spirits. Much of the yearly increase in this branch of the revenue is considered to be due to the growing prosperity of the people, but it is also in great measure consequent on the improved working of the department.

Salt. Bengal.

The salt revenue in Bengal, which had shown some falling off, fully recovered itself in 1874–5. The net revenue amounted to 2,671,768 *l.*, or if, in addition to charges of collection, refunds and drawbacks be deducted, to 2,643,766 *l.* Both the quantity of salt which paid duty and the amount of the revenue were larger than in any year since 1864–5. There was an increase both in the local manufacture and the importation, pointing to the material progress of the poorer classes. The extent to which the indigenous salt holds its position, notwithstanding the importation of foreign salt, is very satisfactory. But although there was a considerable increase in the quantity of excise salt manufactured and sold, the reduction in the duty led to a falling off in the revenue under this head; and the increase of revenue, therefore, occurred entirely in the receipts from duty on imported salt.

The importations are mostly derived from Great Britain and from Indian ports,

and importations from other countries show no tendency to increase, with the exception of those from Italy, which advanced by more than 10,000 maunds.* In round numbers it may be said that 59⅓ lacs of maunds came from Great Britain, 11 from Indian ports, and 6⅔ from all other ports together. Salt.

Consequent on the abolition of the Customs line between Orissa and Madras (by Act X. of 1874), the selling price of salt in Ganjam was raised from *Rs.* 2 to *Rs.* 2. 4., and the duty in Orissa, which had previously been *Rs.* 3. 4., was fixed at a graduated scale, rising from *Rs.* 2. 4. on the Ganjam frontier to *Rs.* 3. 2. on the northern boundary of the Balasore district. The effect has been, not only to stimulate production in the northern parts of Orissa, but also largely to increase the importation of Ganjam salt into the southern districts of that province. The ultimate extinction of the Pooree manufacture is anticipated, for, in spite of the reductions in duty, the manufacturers of Orissa are still at a disadvantage in competing with those of Ganjam, the former being weighted with charges for preventive police and warehousing, from which the latter are free; while the labour employed in making salt is also cheaper in Madras than in Orissa. Some measures of relief to the Pooree salt were in contemplation.

In Orissa salt is used for exchange and barter, and forms a very important item in market transactions. The amount manufactured in Balasore in 1874–5 was 189,479 maunds. In Pooree salt is made by solar evaporation; it is coarser in grain and more pungent, but is preferred by those accustomed to consume it; 356,657 maunds of salt were manufactured in that district during the year. In the whole of Orissa 558,438 maunds of salt were manufactured, and 381,638 maunds were sold for consumption, yielding a revenue of 107,188 *l.* to Government.

Bombay.

The salt revenue in Bombay amounted to 899,053 *l.*, which exceeded that of 1873–4 by 169,439 *l.*, and the average of the five years ending with 1873–4 by 227,867 *l.* The increase of revenue is accompanied with enlarged consumption and better quality of salt.

For many years past the system of exporting salt from Bombay to the other Presidencies without pre-payment of duty, in addition to the facilities it afforded for smuggling, had entailed a very serious sacrifice of Imperial revenue. After much consideration the withdrawal of the privilege was determined on, and from the 1st October 1874 pre-payment of full duty became compulsory.

The Bombay Salt Act of 1873 came into force on the 18th May 1874. Under it the manufacture of salt without license is prohibited; the owners of salt works are obliged to superintend, either in person or by duly-appointed agents, the removal of salt from their works, and are rendered responsible for all irregularities committed in the removal of salt; and salt officers are vested, with respect to offences against the Act, with powers similar to those exercised by the police in cognizable cases. The Act gives the Government power to frame rules for regulating the manufacture, storage, and removal of salt, and the import and export of salt by sea and land; to punish licensees, whose servants may be detected in fraud or breach of rule, by fine or withdrawal of their licenses; to regulate under licenses the storage of salt for purposes of sale at all places within ten miles of a salt-work or sea-port; and generally to control the operations of all persons transacting business at salt-works, whether as manufacturers or exporters.

Many of the salt owners of the Konkan, who are the persons chiefly affected by the Act, are men of influence, and it was only to be expected that the imposition of new responsibilities would be resisted. With the exception of two, the whole body of proprietors of the 256 works in the Northern Konkan declined to take out licenses, but after a time they all yielded and resumed manufacture. On the whole, the opposition met with was less than anticipated, and it has now been successfully overcome. It was the desire of Government that the Act should be worked with moderation. The Collector of Salt Revenue reports that this desire has been strictly acted up to by the department, and that those concerned begin to see that the Act does not harass manufacturers nor hamper legitimate trade, while it offers a decided check to malpractices which previously prevailed. Since the Act came into force no complaints have been

* A maund (which contains 40 seers) is equal to 82⅔ lbs. avoirdupois.

SALT.

made to Government on the score of its harshness or stringency, and it has not been found necessary in a single instance to put its penal clauses into action in order to enforce compliance with any of its new provisions. As regards the revenue, the measure has proved a decided success.

In the preceding year the Kharagora salt-works were finally opened. When the railway was completed to Ahmedabad, it was determined to close the works which supplied the country between Cambay and Bassein, five of which were on the Runn of Kutch and fourteen on the sea coast, and to open one large work on the Runn. It was anticipated that the result would be a large saving in establishments and a great diminution of smuggling. To enable this scheme to be carried out a branch railway had to be constructed from Viramgam to Kharagora.

More than a million of maunds of first-class salt were made and stored at Kharagora during 1874-5, although the season was an unfavourable one. The sales of this salt amounted to 610,092 maunds in 1873-4, and 668,815 in 1874-5. It is exported to Malwa and Central India and to the Central Provinces. The first branch of trade has been for some time diminishing, being unable to compete with Rajpootana salts, which pay no tax to the British Government. On the other hand, the exports to the Central Provinces are on the increase. The marginal table shows the progress for a series of years in the exports to the Central Provinces and Berar.

Years.	*Indian Maunds.*
1869-70 -	- 7,843
1870-71 -	- 26,584
1871-72 -	- 73,137
1872-73 -	- 140,439
1873-74 -	- 189,455
1874-75 -	- 269,789

al Provinces.

Salt reaches the Central Provinces from three directions. That coming from Madras, in consequence of the Customs line from Burhanpur eastwards having been abolished, now bears a duty of only *Rs.* 2. 4. per maund, which is levied at the coast, instead of *Rs.* 3. (*i.e.*, *Rs.* 1. 14. at the coast and *Rs.* 1. 2. at the Customs line) as formerly; that from the Rajpootana salt lakes is taxed *Rs.* 3. per maund at the Customs line at Saugor and Hoshungabad; while that from Bombay is charged a mileage rate, which reaches to *Rs.* 2. 8. per maund at Nagpore, and *Rs.* 3. at Jubbulpore. The aim kept in view in these arrangements was so to modify the duties on the western salt as, on the one hand, to enable it to cope with the lighter taxed eastern salt, and, on the other, to restrain it from too forcibly interfering with the Rajpootana salt on which the full duty per maund was retained, and the mileage scheme seemed likely to meet the difficulty. The result has, however, somewhat disappointed expectations, for in the very first year the Bombay salt drove back the Rajpootana salt to almost half its dimensions. That portion of the former which passes up the Nerbudda Valley stops about 100 or 150 miles of Jubbulpore, so as to pay less than the maximum duty, and thence spreads itself over the field formerly occupied by the lake salt. To add to the complications, there were found, immediately the Customs line was removed, vast quantities of salt stored in depôts outside or south of the line which had only paid the coast duty, and which now flooded the markets, competing severely, and at a considerable advantage, with the legitimate trade from both the eastern and western coasts. The uncertainty as to the magnitude of these accumulations appears to have seriously affected the importations at Nagpore.

The Chief Commissioner observes that the year was, in respect to this matter, one of transition, and that the circumstances cannot be regarded as certainly indicative of the ultimate effects of the measure. But, he further remarks, whatever the fiscal effects may be, the measure cannot be regretted. The feeling was very strong against the Customs establishments throughout the country, and the situation in Sumbulpore particularly was anything but easy. The removal of the line under these circumstances was a political gain, and the local authorities bear witness to the popular gratitude in town and country at the freedom of intercourse with the coast now open to them, and at the reduction in the duty which enables them to obtain one of the necessaries of life at smaller cost and in their own way.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sumbulpore states that the facts prove "that "the salt line simply checked traffic along all the most important trade routes of "the country, and no measure could consequently have been better calculated "to advance the general prosperity of the people than its abolition."

SALT.

A prolific inducement to crime has also been withdrawn, in the shape of smuggling, and of the conflicts with Government establishments consequent thereon.

British Burma.

In British Burma there was an increase of 1,458 *l.* in the receipts from imported salt, and a large decrease in excise on that locally manufactured. Taking the total realisations of the two years together, they were nearly balanced, 13,554 *l.* against 12,028 *l.*

PROVINCIAL ASSIGNMENTS.

The allotments to the several Administrations on account of provincial services are shown below:—

	£.
Madras - - - - - -	853,854
Bombay - - - - - -	982,727
Bengal - - - - - -	1,104,160
Punjab - - - - - -	542,044
North-West Provinces - - - -	648,984
Oude - - - - - -	218,266
Assam - - - - -	175,512
Central Provinces - - - -	278,894
British Burma - - - - -	307,000

BENGAL ROAD CESS.

The road cess is being extended throughout Bengal, excepting the hill tracts; its imposition is not felt to be burdensome by any of the classes who pay it. The zemindars are ceasing to object to it now that they see their rights will not be in any way encroached upon.

The advantage of having a fixed income at the disposal of the local committee in every district for roads and communications is very great, and fresh life has been infused into district work all over the country. The registration which has to be made for the purposes of the assessments contributes much towards that knowledge which used to be so defective, and which is so essential to enable Government to devise benefits for the people at large.

Out of a total demand on this account in 1874-75 of 74,213 *l.*, the actual collections were 57,635 *l.*; demands to the extent of 8,918 *l.* were remitted. The cess will ultimately yield an income of at least 300,000 *l.* per annum.

CURRENCY. Government Pa in Bengal.

The circulation of the Government paper currency has considerably increased in Bengal. The notes are largely used by the mercantile classes for purposes of remittance, and the proportion remaining in circulation increases, indicating the growing confidence of the people in the Government, and especially in its financial credit.

Depreciation of Silver.

The Bombay Administration Report contains the following remarks on the depreciation of silver:—

"The year under report has been remarkable for the enormous and "unprecedented influx of silver, the imports exceeding those of the previous "year by upwards of a million sterling. The German Government, which has "since the war been converting its silver currency into a gold one, sent us "alone 47 lacs. That and the fear of further shipments had a marked effect "on the exchange. The value of Council bills kept down the cost of silver, "and, when they were nearly on a par, silver was often bought at once as a "means of remittance to avoid the risk of an extra demand, forcing up the "price of Council bills. The extra export of cotton was greatly the cause of "the extra import of silver and of gold. The cheapest medium of laying down "funds immediately available was generally made use of. The fact that an "unknown quantity of disposable silver was always hanging over the market "reduced the value of silver to a lower price than was ever before known. It "touched as low as 55⅝ per ounce. But, besides this, the production of silver "has of late years increased largely, while there has been a decrease in the pro-"duction of gold. Hence gold has risen in price. Almost all the English "gold imported was sold before shipment, and yielded a known exchange. "Why gold was in such demand during the year under report is not clear, "unless it was owing to the depreciation of silver, and larger transactions in "cotton with the interior, where gold still continues to be hoarded."

IV.

LAND ADMINISTRATION.

rveys. ngal.

The professional village survey of Bengal was almost completed. It proves very valuable for the administrative changes and improvements which are being carried out in the interior of the districts; but it is considered by some competent authorities to be deficient in not having provided for the establishment of permanent boundary marks, and also in affording no details of cultivation and waste land.

There still remain to be effected some important survey operations. The continual changes caused by the great rivers of Bengal necessitate the periodical re-survey of the alluvial tracts in their basins.

The distribution of canal water among the irrigable lands in Orissa and in south-west Behar renders it very expedient to survey each field, or each subdivision of a field marked by permanent limits, so as to prevent all questions hereafter as to how much canal water has been taken and how much land irrigated by each husbandman; this work is now being carried on with minute precision by professional surveyors.

A detailed survey of the hill tracts of Darjeeling and British Bhootan is also required, in order to determine disputes as to the boundaries of tea-gardens and other settlements, of new cultivation, and of State forests.

adras.

The Revenue Survey Department in Madras had been in active operation for 22 years, and was continuing to do efficient work. The system of survey in force in Government lands is described as follows:—

"The village boundaries are first settled, every turn of the line being per-
" manently marked with stone; then disputes are disposed of, irregular boun-
" daries are adjusted, very small villages are amalgamated, and very large
" villages are sub-divided. After these preliminaries the field boundaries are
" permanently marked with stone, and every holding is registered. Main cir-
" cuits of from 50 to 100 square miles are carried out by the theodolite, the
" regular work being checked by azimuth observations at about every 50
" stations; village boundaries are also surveyed by theodolite, and check lines
" within the village, forming minor circuits of from 100 to 200 acres. While
" the boundary work is being set up by traverse and plotted, the fields are
" being measured by chain in triangles, so that, when the measurement books
" are received in office, the map with traverse lines and offsets is ready to
" receive the fields; after correction of any errors that may be found to exist,
" the area of each field is taken by computing scale, and the sum of the area so
" obtained is compared with the traverse area. The village map is then sent
" out for insertion of topographical details."

ombay.

The Topographical Survey in Bombay mapped 8,919 square miles during the year, making a total of 36,514 square miles. One party was employed in the wildest and most rugged part of the Satpura Range between Bhusawal and Khargun. Scarcely a habitation was met with over hundreds of square miles, although the sites of numerous villages still distinguishable prove that an attempt was once made to populate these hills by aborigines driven from the plains. Either the deadly climate, impure water, and the ravages of wild animals, compelled the abandonment of so inhospitable a shelter, and induced a movement towards Khandesh or Holkar's territory, or the unhappy settlers succumbed in the effort to prolong existence. The surveyors with difficulty secured the necessary supplies, and once or twice were savagely attacked by bears. In no part of the range was the compass found to work, which led to the inference that iron ore was present.

The establishments of the Revenue Survey Department surveyed 2,028,541 acres, and classed 1,500,146 acres.

Punjab.

Revenue surveys were in progress in three localities in the Punjab. During the year 6,262 square miles were surveyed.

The field maps framed and periodically corrected by village draftsmen, who are trained to the use of the plane table and supervised by the settlement establishments, though less finished and mathematically accurate than those of the Survey Department, are found to answer all practical requirements; and the Lieutenant Governor, on the ground of cost and for other reasons, deprecates a proposal which has been made for the introduction of a scientific village survey.

Surveys.

Central Provinces.

The Revenue Survey of the Central Provinces has been completed. The total area surveyed amounts to upwards of 55,000 square miles.

Berar.

The Survey Department in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts classed 590,229 acres of land. The acreage of the whole of the villages in the province, numbering 6,665, has now been measured. The survey has brought to light an immense extent of what is called surreptitious cultivation; that is, cultivators were paying rent to the State for land supposed to be very much less in area than it was actually proved to be by measurement.

British Burma.

Survey work progressed rapidly in the Henzada district of British Burma; 13,167 holdings, with an area of 63,503 acres, were surveyed during the year. In the Rangoon district the survey and measurement of about 90,000 acres were effected.

Statistical Survey of India.

Dr. Hunter has recently submitted to the Government of India his Quinquennial Report on the Statistical Account of India. During the 10 years subsequent to the transfer of the direct Government of India to the Crown the attention of the Government had been frequently directed to the absence of any trustworthy statistical account of that country. In 1869 Dr. Hunter was instructed to visit the various Local Administrations to ascertain what had been done in the past in this respect, and in 1871 he was appointed Director General of Statistics, with a view to the organization of a statistical survey, the compilation of the results in the provincial statistical accounts, and the subsequent condensation of these provincial accounts into the Imperial Gazetteer of India.

Dr. Hunter reports that, as regards British India, the successful completion of the work may now be said to be secured, while in Native and Feudatory territories the operations are still in a very backward state. He expects the Imperial Gazetteer to be commenced on the 1st February 1877.

Land Revenue. Bengal.

The land revenue demand in Bengal realisable within the year (including arrears) was 3,921,450 *l.*, of which 92·36 per cent. was collected. The steady growth of the land revenue indicates a very satisfactory development of the agricultural wealth of the country.

Madras.

The collections of land revenue in Madras amounted to 4,632,063 *l.*, being an increase of 185,369 *l.* as compared with the preceding year. This increase is ascribed to the more punctual realisation of current revenue and the recovery of a large amount of arrears in some districts, and to extension of cultivation in others.

Bombay.

In land revenue collections in Bombay there was a falling off in the Northern Division, due to less acreage under grain crops, but this was more than compensated for by an increase in the Southern Division consequent on revision of rates. In Sind also there was a falling off, owing to floods in the early part of the year. The total revenue for collection in 1874–5 was 2,887,858 *l.*, and the total realisations up to 31st July 1875 (the end of the revenue year) were 2,865,224 *l.*

The revenue was collected without difficulty, and the pressure which it was necessary to exercise was considerably lessened by regulations which were introduced for inflicting a fine, and forfeiting the privilege of payment by instalments, in cases of default.

The result of the Revenue Survey operations was an increased assessment to the extent of 18,263 *l.* The increases were carefully considered, and are believed to be moderate. Remissions were also made, chiefly in the Poona and Sholapore Collectorates, in consequence of the fall of prices having occasioned to the cultivators a difficulty in meeting the claims upon them.

While recognising the necessity of continued caution and moderation in the revision of assessments, the Bombay Government entirely dissent from the views of those who would advocate a permanent settlement. On the one hand, it is considered that the Government must never pass from its position as a share-

LAND REVENUE.

holder to that of a landlord; but, on the other hand, the conditions of the increasing value of the land are too uncertain to admit of the Government binding itself down to a fixed share for a large number of years.

That the settlements are of the greatest advantage to the land itself is shown by the following description of a taluka in the Deccan:—

"The original survey settlement was introduced in 1839 and 1840. At that "time the condition of the taluka was represented as most deplorable. 'I am "'at a loss,' says Lieutenant Nash, the Settlement Officer, writing in 1838, 'to "'convey the idea of poverty and ruin which I have received during my resi-"'dence here.' Several causes,—the ravages of Holkar's army in the beginning "of the century, the dreadful famine which followed that campaign, and was "repeated two or three times in the next 20 years, the violent epidemic of cholera "which raged about 1820, the heavy fall of prices after the introduction of "British rule, and the consequent oppressive weight of the old Mahratta rates of "assessment,—were assigned by the settlement officers as having all contributed "to produce this lamentable result. More than half the arable land of the "taluka was waste, and much of it covered with thick thorny jungle difficult to "eradicate. The average rate of Government assessment was about 13½ annas an "acre, in addition to 'haks' and illicit exactions to a considerable amount; but "so utterly pauperised were the people that the realisations of revenue averaged "hardly half of the nominal assessment. In the 10 years immediately pre-"ceding the settlement, the actual annual collections averaged only *Rs.* 26,661; "not less than *Rs.* 13,567 were annually remitted, and, in addition, nearly a lac "of rupees were outstanding, and were finally written off, on the introduction of "the settlement.

"The effect of the settlement (which gave an average rate of seven annas per "acre, and relieved the people of direct 'haks'), both financially and on the "condition of the people, was most satisfactory. Nearly half the waste land "was taken up in the first year, and the actual annual collections for the first "decade of the term averaged *Rs.* 43,407, for the second decade *Rs.* 57,850, "and for the last decade *Rs.* 72,588, against *Rs.* 26,661 for the decade imme-"diately preceding the settlement. The assessment of cultivated lands in the "last year being *Rs.* 81,475, the effect of the settlement has been to more than "treble the Government revenue.

"The condition of the people improved equally with the Government revenue. "In 1838, more than 50 per cent. of arable land was waste; in 1871, only "1 per cent. Population increased during the term of the settlement 39½ per "cent., agricultural cattle 19 per cent., ploughs 22½ per cent., carts 270 per "cent., and wells 40 per cent. Government land was unsaleable in 1838; "during the last five years of the settlement, examination of the registration "records showed that it fetched from 10 to 52 times its assessment. Thirty "years ago there were no made roads, and communication was costly and "difficult; the taluka is now traversed by the railway and by several excellent "roads, and the increase in the number of carts indicates the extent to which "the people avail themselves of the new facilities of communication with "markets."

Similarly it is reported that during the 30 years of the first settlement of a portion of the Kaladgi Collectorate the better class of houses increased 85 per cent., cattle 45, carts 1,360, ploughs 220, and wells 106 per cent. And in Dharwar, houses of the better sort increased 74 per cent., cattle 9·8, carts 494, and wells 42 per cent.

As a proof that the present rates are as moderate as is consistent with Imperial interests, it is stated that the value of land in the Poona and Sholapore Collectorates is computed at from 8 to 12 years' purchase of the revised assessment as originally introduced.

Settlement operations were in progress in 14 districts of the Punjab. They were completed in Dehra Ghazee Khan and Hazara, in the first for 20 and in the latter for 30 years.

The collections of land revenue for 1874–5 amounted to 1,897,585 *l.*, being 15,527 *l.* more than those for 1873–4. The assessments in all the districts were extremely moderate, and in border villages nominal; they were readily accepted by the people, and collected with the greatest ease. A still more important advantage than the fiscal one is the security of tenure conferred by the pre-

LAND REVENUE.

paration of a record of rights. In each of the districts where operations have been concluded there has been a great increase of cultivation and a rise in the value of land.

North-West Provinces.

The collections of land revenue in the North-West Provinces (besides outstanding balances, 8,323 *l.*) amounted to 4,165,494 *l.*, against 4,130,102 *l.* in the previous year.

The result of the revision of assessments in 1874–5 was an increase of 30,307 *l.* to an expiring demand of 298,231 *l.*

In the revision of settlements great stress has been laid on the accurate preparation of village records, from which will result correctness and economy in future settlements, and confidence and method in dealing with drought or famine, while the present advantage to a large class of the community is obvious. The possession of trustworthy agricultural statistics may also, Sir J. Strachey observes, reveal the possibility of establishing agricultural banks and freeing the small landowner or cultivator from the hereditary money-lender.

Oude.

The land revenue demand in Oude was 1,435,278 *l.*, of which 1,260,625 *l.* was collected, and 98,719 *l.* was remitted in consequence of the effects of a series of bad seasons.

Ajmere.

The revision of the settlement of the land revenue in Ajmere was brought to a conclusion during the year under review. The gross demand fixed was 19 per cent. less than the previous settlement, which had unduly pressed on the people and impoverished them since 1857.

Central Provinces.

The amount of land revenue collected in the Central Provinces was 591,480 *l.* Inquiries were brought to a close during the year into the alleged undue pressure of the Government demand in two tracts. In one case, the impoverished villages were found to be held by thriftless Brahmans and Mussulmans, who expect to realise gains without labour, while certain large villages, which had been put down as heavily assessed, were found to be in good condition, and in no need of a revision. In the other case, the cause of suffering was not the land revenue demand, but the famine of 1869, when many persons were carried off by disease, and a murrain fell upon the cattle. Considerable advance had been made in recovering from the effects of that and subsequent bad seasons.

Berar.

The land revenue demand in Berar rose from 596,599 *l.* to 606,450 *l.* The increase of revenue is due to the operations of the Survey Settlement, which resulted in the settlement during the year of 455 villages, comprising an area of 454,824 acres, and a consequent increase in the assessment, amounting to rather more than 10,000 *l.*

British Burma.

The demand in British Burma was 440,704 *l.*, exceeding by 11·1 per cent. the assessment in 1873–4. This was in consequence of the exceptionally large area brought under cultivation in anticipation of a repetition of the profits of the famine year.

The result of the Henzada survey work was an addition to the revenue from that district of 1,994 *l.* per annum. Cultivation is so rapidly extending in Henzada that it has been deemed expedient to defer any settlement of the land, even for a short period.

RELATIONS BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT.
Bengal.

There is stated to be a general concurrence of opinion as to the marked improvement within the last few years in the condition of the ryots of Bengal proper, both in respect of their material comfort and of their rights and status. In some localities their social progress is said to be quite remarkable.

The rent laws of 1859 and 1869 raised up a class of middlemen with an occupancy status, that is, of men who, having held for 12 years or more, would not be liable to ejectment while they paid their rent, nor to enhancement of rent save by decree of a court of justice.

It is believed that the great majority of cultivators have now acquired the occupancy status, and that mere tenants-at-will are comparatively few. In Berar and Orissa also occupancy rights are gradually growing up.

The relations between landlord and tenant have, however, not improved, continual disputes arising as to enhancement of rent. The rent laws, while doing so much for the status of the cultivators, did something also for the land-

RELATIONS BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT.

lord, inasmuch as they asserted the principle that even from occupancy ryots he should be entitled to increase of rent under certain conditions. Of these conditions, the most important was this, that the value of the produce, or the productive powers of the land, must have been increased otherwise than by the agency or at the expense of the ryot. The growth of the export trade in agricultural produce has greatly augmented the profits of cultivation to the cultivator. The zemindar considers himself entitled to a share in this improved income, and he founds his demand on the condition above cited. The ryot hesitates to comply altogether; he will pay something additional, but he will not accept the arbitrament of the zemindar, and he is disposed to join issue at law. He will withhold payment of rent altogether if he cannot come to terms with the landlord.

Combinations are often formed on both sides, especially by the ryots, who subscribe to a general fund for law expenses. Whenever it is found that the ryots are only opposing attempts at rack-renting or other oppression, they have the sympathy of Government officers, so long as they keep themselves within the limit of the law, but sometimes they are in the wrong.

The issue of the Pûbna disturbances has been that both sides claim the victory, but it is believed in the main to have been favourable to to the ryots. Similar disputes which arose in Dacca early in 1875 were referred arbitration, and the decision appeared to be rather in favour of the zemindars.

At the same time influences of a higher kind are at work among the zemindars. They recognise the justice of allowing to the cultivator a good share in the increased produce of his toil, and the expediency of maintaining with their tenantry those friendly relations which ought to spring from community of interest in the soil. Though far from doing all that they ought, still they evince a growing disposition to help their tenantry in time of need.

They displayed much kindly feeling in connection with the famine; and in Sir R. Temple's last Report it is stated that in all parts of the province signal instances of active and comprehensive benevolence and of munificent liberality for all sorts of useful objects on the part of zemindars frequently occur, which would be deemed honourable to the landlord class in any country.

The agrarian troubles are partly attributed to the process of "sub-infeudation," which has greatly developed itself in many districts. In most of such cases the zemindar becomes a merely nominal landlord, with a very limited income, and the temporary leaseholder, having no abiding interest in the land, may be tempted to resort to extortion.

From various causes, the subdivision of ownership throughout the country is much increasing. Such partition of the proprietary title in land is held by some to tend to the creation of a helpless class, who have neither enough capital for good husbandry, nor the habits of manual industry which belong to peasant proprietors. It appears, however, that in Bengal such petty landlords betake themselves to other professions, and this intellectual activity and spirit of self-help which pervades the landowning community is considered by Sir R. Temple as a circumstance full of hope for the future of Bengal.

Illegal cesses in Orissa.

As to the cesses imposed by zemindars in Orissa, it has been ascertained that some have undoubtedly been very generally levied which were unauthorised by law, and that in some cases they have been exacted in an oppressive manner. The Lieutenant Governor, however, stated last year that, from recent reports of the local authorities, and from what he himself observed during a visit to the province, it appears certain that the ignorance and timidity which formerly characterised the people are steadily, though it may be slowly, giving place to a spirit of intelligence and independence, and that there has been latterly a marked absence of complaints of oppression on the part of zemindars towards their tenantry.

While those cases which were oppressive are believed to have been stopped, others remain which have the sanction of long prescription, and which, though not recoverable by law, virtually form a part of the rent. Such cesses the ryots themselves prefer to the payment of a similar amount as regular rent, while the zemindars appear anxious that some more precise rules than those at present in force should be laid down as to the rents which they may demand. A voluntary composition of the cesses would apparently be a desirable arrangement, and would strengthen the relations between landlord and tenant. The whole of this difficult question is under the special consideration of the Lieutenant Governor.

RELATIONS BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT. Punjab Tenancy Act.

On a review of the working of the Punjab Tenancy Act, the Lieutenant Governor shows that the measure has not, as had been apprehended, resulted in any wide-spread contention between landlord and tenant, and the excitement which attended the discussion of its provisions is said to have completely subsided. In 1874-5 only one landlord in 1,180, and only one tenant in 1,160, were sued, and the number of suits instituted is decreasing.

Central Provinces.

The question of the tenure created by the settlements of the Chanda and Nimar districts in the Central Provinces has been before the Government of India since 1871. By those settlements the malguzars were made proprietors of their villages, the older ryots were made occupancy tenants, and the other ryots were left unprivileged. The position of the ryots was believed to have been injuriously affected by the change. After much discussion, the Government of India have laid down the principle on which they desire to see the settlements carried out. The position of a malguzar must, they say, be so defined as not to trench on the rights of other classes, who by custom have claims which at first were not sufficiently understood. It must be an established principle that the tenure of all cultivators is a fixed and permanent one so long as the revenue or rent is paid, and that the payments, as a general rule, are not to be liable to enhancement, except at the time of settlement.

The effect of the Government decision generally may be said to be that it places the various classes of persons who derive their subsistence directly from the soil on as nearly as possible the same footing as they were before the settlement proceedings were undertaken, without, however, withdrawing the gift of proprietary right which had been made.

INAM TENURES IN MADRAS.

The work of the Madras Inam Commission is gradually drawing to a close, and only a few cases remain to be dealt with by the Board of Revenue. It is considered that the proceedings of the Commission have been very successful. Landed property, in which not less than 2½ million persons are in some measure interested, and extending to nearly 5½ millions of acres in area, which had heretofore been held on defective and doubtful titles, and which paid to the revenue less than one-tenth of the regulated land assessment, has now been confirmed to the holders on indefeasible Government titles, and the measure has resulted in a clear gain to the revenue of about 80,000 *l.* per annum. The alienation of State revenue has been considerably reduced, and, at the same time, contentment has been diffused throughout the whole body of the Inamdars, a class which numbers probably upwards of a million individuals in the Presidency.

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CULTIVATING CLASS. Bengal.

Inquiries in Bengal as to the indebtedness of the cultivating class show that it is not so serious there as it once was, although it still exists very largely. The amount of debt is for the most part not excessively burdensome. The ordinary rates of interest are believed to be as high as 37½ per cent. per annum, and on rice advances 50 per cent. The creditors are generally the village bankers, but often the zemindars. The loans are contracted partly for the purchase of cattle and implements of husbandry, to some extent for law expenses, and largely for marriages.

Madras.

In Madras, the increase of coercive processes for the recovery of land revenue has attracted the attention of the Government, as it appeared to indicate that the agricultural class was becoming impoverished. In many individual cases, men who have not sufficient capital take up waste land when seasons and prices are auspicious, and then are driven to ruin by a fall in prices, or an unfavourable season. This ambition to rise in the social scale, though it injures the few, is, however, regarded as beneficial to the community at large, as the land-holding class thus gains to its ranks the thrifty, enterprising, and industrious.

But besides this and other minor causes, the principal one appears to be the substitution of law for arbitrary usage in the collection of the revenue. The actual statistics do not seem to furnish any matter for alarm, for 95 per cent. of the revenue is collected with ease and regularity, and 4 per cent. more with only the trouble of formally demanding it. Many ryots do not pay up till the last moment. The rate of interest charged by Government is much below the market rate, and the ryots know to a day when the law can be put in force, while the mere attachment of property carries with it no humiliation to them.

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CULTIVATING CLASS. Bombay.

The causes assigned for the indebted state of the ryots in Bombay were referred to in last year's "Statement" (p. 5). The Administration Report for 1874-5 enters into an argument to prove that low prices are not the direct cause of the indebtedness referred to. As far as agricultural distress is concerned, the present is, in fact, a period of recovery. Taking Khandesh as an example, it is pointed out that 1871-2 was a year of marked scarcity, and that the floods of September 1872 caused much temporary misery. Money was consequently required, and was largely borrowed. The money thus lent to meet temporary necessity has now been to a great extent recovered; and it would be incorrect to describe a period of general recovery from a condition of over-active lending and borrowing as a time of national impoverishment; although it is true that the ryots parted with most of their savings, and even with their ornaments, to satisfy their creditors, rather than lose their ancestral holdings. But so far as low prices, by diminishing agricultural profits, induce money-lenders to withdraw capital lent, the present period, otherwise prosperous, may be regarded as a period of depression. The "Limitation Act," reducing the time for the recovery on money bonds from 12 to 3 years, came into force in the Deccan at a most unfortunate crisis, when there was a great deal of floating debt, securities were rapidly falling in value, and demand for commodities was gradually subsiding. The result was that the money-lenders found it for their interest to recall advances, while the borrowers found a difficulty both in obtaining silver and in disposing of their grain. In the present state of the law, the courts are successfully used by money-lenders for purposes of extortion, and they find this the most easy and profitable way of collecting their debts. Nearly all plaintiffs are money-lenders. During 1873, no less than 57 per cent. of cases disposed of were decreed *ex parte*, only 15 per cent. were contested, and of the latter only 17 per cent. were decided in favour of the defendant; and the proportions only very slightly improved in 1874. The number of cases in which immovable property is attached and sold is very large, and imprisonment is freely resorted to. In the Deccan the ryots combined and rose against the oppression, and openly destroyed bonds which, though good in the eye of the law, were grossly extortionate The whole question of the action of the courts is now being thoroughly inquired into. The fault is in the state of the law, not in the judges who, as a body, are distinguished for their industry and intelligence. The courts must act in accordance with the law and rules in force; but it is the almost unanimous opinion of district officers that the manner in which the rapacity of the money-lenders is aided by the civil courts is an evil which Government ought to attempt to remedy, though the question is one beset with difficulties. On the one hand, there is the danger of interfering with free trade in money; but, on the other, there is the necessity, when the contest is between a shrewd class and an ignorant one, of taking some measures for the protection of the latter. Whether the Government can permanently preserve the independence of the peasantry, can protect land against capital, is a disputed question, but one occupying constant and earnest attention.

While to permit frequent transfers of land for debt is generally held in India to be impolitic, the Bombay Government are not oblivious of another aspect of the question. The rise of a class of monied landlords is not to be regretted provided they attain their position by fair purchase, and not by abuse of the law. Such owners will be more capable of undertaking a superior style of farming, and will eventually, it is to be hoped, be able to experiment in agriculture.

Punjab.

The favourable view taken in the previous year by the Punjab Government of the transfers of land in that province is confirmed in the year under review The Lieutenant Governor expressed his conviction on the former occasion that the transfers which are taking place do not exceed, or indeed nearly equal, the number which may safely accompany the development of wealth in a country which is in backward circumstances. The Financial Commissioner of the province was of opinion that a natural and healthy process was going onwhich should on no account be interfered with. Further special inquiries have been made into the matter, from which it appears that during 1874-5 there were 5,952 cases of sale, of which all but 341 were voluntary; in other words, that only one proprietor out of 540 parted with his land. The

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CULTIVATING CLASS.

aggregate area of land sold was 79,750 acres, being 13,895 acres less than that sold in 1873-4; the amount was in the proportion of about four-fifths of an acre per square mile of assessed area, and about 2½ acres per square mile of land actually cultivated.

Moreover, the bulk of the land sold passed into the hands, not of money-lenders, but of agriculturists, at an average price of 27 years' purchase of the Government land revenue. The total area under mortgage at the close of the year did not exceed 13 acres per square mile of assessed area. In the Mooltan Division, where the greatest proportion of cultivated land is in mortgage, 85 per cent. of the cultivated area was unencumbered.

Another advantage as regards this province is that the impolicy of permitting too rapid or wholesale dispossession from hereditary lands has from the first been recognised by the Administration, and special restrictions exist which are not common to other parts of India. The Lieutenant Governor is of opinion that to increase those restrictions, while it would fail to teach prudence to the improvident, would operate to depreciate the value of land as a security, and to raise still higher the rate of interest, while it would also tend to destroy the habit of self-reliance and industry which characterises many of the cultivating races of the Punjab, and which is one great cause of its agricultural prosperity.

In a "Report on Current Rates of Interest on Loan Transactions in the Punjab," the Financial Commissioner makes the following remarks:—

"The rate of interest charged to agriculturists is generally higher than that "charged to other borrowers. It is stated in some of the reports, and it is "no doubt generally true, that the rate of interest varies according to the social "position and respectability of the borrower and the nature of the security "offered. This general assertion does not, however, apply to cases where the "security of land is taken. The returns of transfer of lands submitted with "the Annual Revenue Report show that the value of land is steadily increasing, "and it is a matter of notoriety that there is a general desire among all classes of "the people to acquire land. Notwithstanding this the interest charged upon "loans granted on the security of land does not decrease with the increasing "value of the security.

"The Deputy Commissioners of Lahore, Mooltan, and Rawulpindee ascribe "the high rate of interest charged on loans made on the security of land to the "difficulty of obtaining possession of the land if the loan is not repaid. This is "no doubt one reason, and another may be found in the general poverty and "improvidence of agriculturists. To these reasons must be added the absence "of competition among village money-lenders. The Financial Commissioner "believes that an agriculturist who has dealings with a village money-lender "(and this is universally the case) cannot open an account with another money-"lender, and transfer his dealings to him, however much he may desire to do "so. It would be contrary to the custom of the money-lenders to compete in "this way for clients, and to do so would cause bitter animosity.

"If another class of money-lenders could be induced to enter into business of "this kind, the Financial Commissioner believes that the rate of interest to "agricultural borrowers might be lessened, while at the same time the lenders "might obtain very good interest on the money lent."

Central Provinces.

In the Central Provinces there was a decrease in the number of compulsory registrations, as compared with the previous year, from 8,044 to 7,663. This points to the satisfactory circumstance that indebtedness among the agricultural classes was not spreading. From most districts it is reported that, owing to two successive good harvests and to a large export of produce, agriculturists have been less pressed for money, and have not been forced to raise money on bonds in which they mortgaged their holdings as security for the loan.

Berar.

In the Hyderabad Assigned Districts land paying revenue to Government was brought under attachment in execution of decrees in 1,042 cases. Of these, in 261 cases alienation was effected; in 166, sale of land was recommended; in 72, land was actually sold.

The Resident thinks that the number of cases in which actual sale followed attachment is not such as to inspire anxiety, especially as possession of land in

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CULTIVATING CLASS.

Berar "partakes more of a mercantile speculation than of a sentimental "attachment to the soil."

It is also noticed that in this province the money-lenders, owing to difficulties in the execution of decrees, are becoming more cautious in granting loans, a fact which is not to be regretted, considering how much borrowed money is wasted in marriage and other ceremonies.

GOVERNMENT AND WARDS' ESTATES. Bengal.

The Government estates in Bengal, which from various causes are constantly being added to, amounted in 1874-5 to 8,164 square miles, representing a rental of about 186,000 *l.* In these estates the Government endeavours to illustrate the principles which it impresses on other landowners. Tenant rights of all degrees are recorded and respected, and $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. of the rental is set aside for current improvements.

So also in the case of Wards' estates. The ward, on taking possession, generally finds that the income has been augmented, and often that debts and encumbrances have been cleared off. The amount of land under this management was nearly 3,300 square miles, with a rental of nearly three-quarters of a million sterling. The care of Government extends to the wards themselves, for whom a good education is provided at Calcutta.

Madras.

In Madras there were 29 Wards' estates under management. With a few exceptions the behaviour of the minors was good, and their educational progress fair.

Bombay.

There are no Government estates in Bombay. The Wards' estates numbered 56, none of them of any great value. Most of the minors are receiving a suitable education; their estates are being released from encumbrances, and a balance is usually accumulated which is paid over on the heirs coming of age.

Punjab.

The estates in the Punjab of which the proprietary right is vested in the Government amount in area to 15,763 square miles, and yield a revenue of 67,542 *l.* There are also private estates in which the Government collects its revenues direct from the cultivators. The number of estates under the Court of Wards was reduced from 34 in 1873 to 31 in 1874.

North-West Provinces.

There is a large number of estates in the North-West Provinces held by Government as confiscated properties, or escheats. About 120 villages, or portions of villages, have come into this category, chiefly through the rebellion of the proprietors in 1857, but in some cases by order of the criminal courts. The number of the former is constantly diminishing, as they are sold or given as rewards whenever a fitting opportunity occurs, and in the course of the year as many as 30, with an income of nearly 1,900 *l.*, passed out of the hands of the Government, but it will probably be very long ere the whole of them are disposed of.

Besides the above, other estates come temporarily under Government management, on account of arrears of revenue, and in other cases it devolves on the Government to assume the duties of landlord in the absence of any person with a sufficiently clear proprietary title.

Sixty-seven estates, yielding a gross income of 179,545 *l.*, were managed by the Court of Wards during the year. Of these estates, 44 were encumbered with debts, amounting in the aggregate to 385,481 *l.*, when they were first placed under its charge. By the close of the year 1873-4, debts amounting to 187,712 *l.*, besides interest, had been paid off, and 13 had been entirely freed from their encumbrances. The expenditure during 1874-5 on improvements amounted to 6,831 *l.*, and that on wells, tanks, embankments, and other works of irrigation was 5,485 *l.* All the minors who are old enough are being educated.

The practice of farming villages to resident cultivators in preference to strangers, which was at one time confined to the Benares and Allahabad Divisions, has been extended to other parts with marked success, and with no less advantage to the estates than to the peasantry, for while the latter are protected, the former escape the deterioration that must result from the depression of a rack-rented tenantry.

GOVERNMENT AND WARDS' ESTATES. Oude.

In Oude, there were in all 78 estates under direct management, with a gross rental of nearly 400,000 *l.* Most of these estates came under Government supervision owing to the proprietors, after years of extravagance and mismanagement, finding themselves hopelessly involved; and it has been a work of great difficulty to introduce anything like order into them. At the close of the year the prospects of the greater number of them were promising. Advantage has been taken of the legal right of the Government in some villages to create an occupancy right in favour of some of the resident cultivators, who are secured in their holdings subject to the payment of rent, which is fixed for the period of settlement.

V.

AGRICULTURE.

SEASONS AND CROPS. Bengal.

The rainfall of 1874 in Bengal was moderate, but was happily distributed, and the out-turn of the crops was, generally speaking, above the average.

The rubbee, which was being reaped when the year 1874–5 opened, was a deficient crop over all the northern districts, but after this the seasons were propitious. The rains set in early in June, and were eagerly taken advantage of, people leaving the relief works in thousands to prepare the ground for the rice crop. The rains continued to fall freely up to the middle of July, and by that time a good autumn crop was secured.

But the winter rice, the main staple of North and East Tirhoot, was far from being safe. August is the month during which this rice is transplanted, and without heavy rain transplanting is impossible. The rains, which had begun so propitiously, ceased suddenly about the middle of July, and from then right through August and up to the beginning of September no rain fell in Tirhoot, and very little in Sarun and South Chumparun. Towards the end of August the prospect seemed very gloomy. The seedlings were beginning to wither in the nurseries, and in another week or ten days transplantation would have been impossible. Happily the rain came in time, and only just in time, to save the crops. A heavy and universal downpour in September made everything safe, and it became obvious that the famine was over; and accordingly, in October, orders were issued for the breaking up of famine establishments and closing all relief operations.

There are in Behar and Northern Bengal very large areas of culturable waste land which would be available for the surplus population of parts of the former province. Statistics have been called for to show the proportion of cultivated to waste land, and whether the population, allowing for a normal rate of increase, can be supported for some time to come by bringing waste lands under cultivation.

Madras.

The season in most parts of the Madras Presidency was decidedly favourable, although the rains were not as evenly distributed as usual. Some damage resulted from the occurrence of heavy floods.

Bombay.

In Bombay the rainfall of 1874 was unusually heavy, but the season was, upon the whole, favourable, and in many parts crops were above the average. The area under cultivation in the Presidency proper showed a tendency to contract, while in Sind it was very largely extended. The ground which has been abandoned is comparatively unproductive, and it is believed that the cheap prices at which the commoner grains sell do not leave a sufficient surplus to the cultivators. High prices, in former years, stimulated the desire to secure large crops, without sufficient attention being paid to the manuring of the land.

Punjab.

There was a splendid spring harvest in the Punjab, following on the seasonable rains of 1873, but in the autumn harvests there was, in most parts of the province, a considerable falling off, the rainfall of 1874 having been generally very scanty.

The area annually brought under cultivation during the last few years is shown in the following table:—

	Acres.
1871–72	17,928,140
1872–73	19,771,986
1873–74	19,724,540
1874–75	19,968,976

There was an universal fall of prices, partly resulting perhaps from increased cultivation, but chiefly from the cessation of demands from Bengal for food grains.

North-West Provinces.

In the North-West Provinces the rainfall was nearly three inches less than that of any year since 1868-9. The year began with fears of serious scarcity,

SEASONS AND CROPS.

which happily were not realised. In the Benares and Allahabad Divisions cotton and indigo suffered from the ill-timed distribution of the rain, and the autumn sowings of 1873 were below the average; but in the central and upper districts the spring harvests were unusually good, in the former owing in great measure to irrigation from the Ganges Canal, in the latter to seasonable rains.

Oude.

The northern parts of Oude suffered from the unseasonable rains of the former year, and remissions of revenue and relief works were found necessary. The distress was to some extent counterbalanced by the brisk demand from Bengal for food grains, and the consequent high prices. The rains of 1874–5 were much more propitious; they commenced early, were abundant, and were equally distributed throughout the season.

Central Provinces.

The Central Provinces being a purely agricultural country, their prosperity, each year, depends on the monsoon. This, in 1874, set in early in June, after three months of exceptionally hot weather. Rain continued to fall in abundance through July and August, and in a less degree in the two following months. The fall for the whole province exceeded the average, but it was unequally distributed. In most of the rice-growing districts a good harvest was secured; in Chanda there was promise of a good crop, but it was damaged by an insect. Jowari and cotton generally suffered from excess of moisture, but oil-seeds and other spring crops turned out well. On the whole, the year was one of plenty, and prices were lower than for several years past.

The cereals occupy 86 per cent. of the total area; and of that portion rice appropriates 31, wheat 26, and all other food grains 43 per cent. Wheat is grown universally, but mainly in Hoshungabad, where it is of the very highest quality, and in Saugor and Jubbulpore. Oil-seeds are the next principal crop, and are produced more or less in all districts of the province.

The decision to construct a railway from Chutteesgurh to Nagpore, the necessity for which had been strongly urged by the Chief Commissioner in the previous year, was not taken till after the close of the year under report. Chutteesgurh is the granary of that part of Central India, but there is at present no outlet for its resources except by cart and pack bullock carriage. In the present circumstances agricultural development in this district is said to be next to impossible; and the comparative difficulty of access to its wealth of surplus food prevents any larger area in the valley of the Wurda being put under cotton, for which it is eminently fitted, and for which a demand would spring up which would make its production highly remunerative. What it has been possible to do in improving the road communication has been done by the Local Administration, as will appear in the section on PUBLIC WORKS (p. 46.)

Much attention has been paid to horticulture in the Central Provinces. The attempts to acclimatize foreign plants have resulted in partial success. Rhea grass is found to be suited to this part of the country. During the year the first flower-show took place in the Horticultural Society's Garden. The prizes awarded were liberal enough to tempt a large competition, but the ignorance of the object aimed at in such shows was marked by the total absence of exhibitors on the part of the Native public, and competition was therefore chiefly confined to the European community. There were several very good specimens of flower and vegetable growths exhibited. The show was to be repeated in the following year.

Berar.

The crops in Berar were, on the whole, very fair. In the Buldana district, where the rainfall was partial, the rice crops were a failure, and in 78 villages there was almost a total loss of crops.

The area under cultivation in this province increased during the year by 187,743 acres. In Akola 95·5 per cent. of the culturable area is now under the plough. Of the total cultivation, dry crops cover 98·5 per cent.

The two chief products are jowari and cotton. The cultivation of tobacco and of opium was on the increase, though still of small dimensions.

Coorg.

The rainfall in Coorg was an unusually heavy one, and caused some damage to the "ragi" crops in the north of the province, and to the coffee crops; the paddy crop, however, was a good one, and the rise in the price of rice, as well as the abundant rain, led to a large extension of this cultivation.

SEASONS AND CROPS. British Burma.

In British Burma, the rainfall, though below the average of the previous five years, was evenly distributed throughout the monsoon months, and the harvest was a very good one.

The area brought under cultivation during the year showed an increase of 10·77 per cent. In the area under rice the increase was 240,005 acres, or 11·64 per cent. The abnormal demands of the previous year from Bengal both stimulated cultivation and raised prices, and much difficulty was found in the year under review in bringing the latter down again to their proper level. In the cultivation of tobacco, sugar-cane, and cotton there was a decrease.

The crops in the Karen country had since 1870 suffered annually from the ravages of rats. In the commencement of 1874 it was found that the scarcity had become serious, and relief in money and paddy was distributed. Every inducement was held out to the people to proceed to Tonghoo for employment, but with little success, until they were compelled to yield to necessity. The rats had not returned during the last season, and it is estimated that, with immunity from further ravages, 10,000 *l.* will cover the total expenditure. No deaths from actual starvation were reported, although the mortality was excessive, owing to innutritious diet before the migration to Tonghoo.

MODEL FARMS. Bengal.

The experimental farms established in Bengal during recent years have not answered their expectations, and it has not been found possible to maintain them. The real need in this direction is believed by Sir R. Temple to be the gradual education of the rising generation in all that relates to scientific agriculture, agricultural chemistry, &c., and with this object it is in contemplation to found an agricultural college in Behar.

Madras.

The model and experimental farms at Sydapet are the only Government institutions in the Madras Presidency for the development of agriculture. At the latter, various experiments were made during the year in the breeding of live stock, and with much promise of success. The working of the model farm was financially a failure.

It was in contemplation to inaugurate a school of agriculture at Sydapet, as it is found that example is not sufficient to influence the race of agriculturists, and that practical training is necessary for this purpose.

Bombay.

The Bombay Government have come to the conclusion that model farms are of much service in improving materials at hand, and in furnishing statistics with reference to the cost of production of different varieties of crops and the profits of the cultivator, and collecting information that may eventually form the basis of a popular manual for general circulation; but that experiments involving any considerable outlay of capital are difficult of success. Such crops as are capable of being produced in this Presidency do not repay extraordinary labour or the use of expensive manures, and machinery requires considerable modification before it can be profitably worked with bullock power on a small holding.

Central Provinces.

The operations at the Nagpore Model Farm were not productive of any very valuable results, and though some experience may have been gained, it was acquired at considerable cost. A small irrigation project was nearly completed, and it was confidently hoped that better results would be obtained another year.

AGRICULTURAL STOCK. Bombay.

Successful efforts have been made in Bombay by the agency of Government stallions to improve the breed of horses. A great difficulty to contend against is the constant deterioration caused by the number of miserable but entire animals found all over the country. The farmers are quite alive to the value of the stud horses provided by Government, and resort to them freely. Seven shows were held during the year, which were well attended and fully appreciated. Cattle shows were less successful, owing to the cheap value of cattle generally, and the little use they are put to. The stock of cattle, sheep, and goats has steadily increased. But numbers are by no means a satisfactory test, and often where animals are most plentiful they are most neglected and valueless. The limitation of the grazing area of late years has led to a better style of feeding; but cattle disease was, as usual, very prevalent; sheep and cattle receive little attention, and the breeds have sunk to the lowest possible point.

Animal food is hardly at all used by the Natives in Bombay; and the value

set upon agricultural stock is not sufficiently high to encourage much expenditure in the direction of rearing a better class of animal. AGRICULTURAL STOCK.

In Dharwar, where formerly numbers of nearly useless animals were allowed to roam at pleasure, they are now very usually stall-fed, and none are kept beyond actual requirement. It is hoped that the natural enhancement of the price of stock that will probably follow will draw more attention to cattle breeding, and to the systematic preparation of manures.

Punjab.

Efforts were made in the Punjab to improve the breed of both horned cattle and sheep, by the introduction of bulls and rams of superior breeds from the Hissar Cattle Farm.

Three new cattle fairs were started during the year with some success, making with those previously established, 15 such fairs, at which the total number of cattle brought for sale was 186,315, against 174,773 in the previous year, and 121,754 in 1872-3.

British Burma.

In British Burma both live and dead stock of every kind increased, especially the former, and this notwithstanding the prevalence of cattle disease, which in the Rangoon district alone carried off 11,661 head of cattle. The veterinary surgeon who is specially employed in the province says that mortality among the cattle will always be great until the people learn the importance of taking care of them. There was a remarkable advance in the number of ploughs from 253,472 to 383,976.

Exhibitions took place at the head-quarter stations, and upwards of 600 *l.* was distributed as prizes.

An agricultural show was held during the year in Northern Arakan, at which prizes were competed for by chiefs of savage tribes. Two of the principal Khamie chiefs were on the committee for awarding prizes. In almost every class there were several exhibitors.

COTTON. Madras.

The area cultivated with cotton in Madras, as compared with the preceding year, was diminished by 189,366 acres; the decrease was chiefly due to the falling off in the price of the article.

Bombay.

The area under cotton in British territory in the Bombay Presidency increased by 51,101 acres, but in Native States (principally Kutch) it decreased by 87,655 acres.

There was an increase of 46,447 acres in the area under indigenous cotton, while that under exotic cotton was less by 83,001 acres.

In the former, the area and the estimated out-turn exceeded the average of the four preceding years by 396,559 acres and 97,661 cwts. respectively.

The largest increase in the acreage and in the yield was in the Hyderabad Collectorate, where the latter is said to have reached 287·19 lbs. per acre. In other parts of Sind there was a considerable falling off, owing to heavy floods in the chief cotton-growing districts.

Dharwar-saw-ginned cotton was on the whole of approved quality, although complaints have been made of the injury to the fibre arising from want of proper attention to the state of the gins. In Khandesh cotton a decided improvement was noticed, while that of Broach continued to hold the highest place in the market.

Some successful experiments in growing cotton were made on the Government model farms. At Salaru (in Sind) a yield of 473 lbs. per acre of clean cotton was obtained; much of this success was considered to be owing to the use of the English plough, and the deeper moving of the soil. American cotton also produced a heavy yield, but at a financial loss; it is believed, however, that its cultivation, if extended, would prove remunerative, as the superior staple would ensure its finding a better market.

Punjab.

In the Punjab, the area under cotton cultivation increased during the year but the out-turn was poor, and the prices realised were low.

Central Provinces.

The only cotton in the Central Provinces having any commercial reputation is raised in the champaign country of Nagpore and Wurda; inferior qualities are produced in other districts.

Berar.

The area under cotton in Berar increased by 82,912 acres.

COTTON. British Burma.

Cotton is grown in considerable quantities on the Kooladan and Pee rivers in Northern Arakan, and is largely exported to the Akyab district. Its cultivation was being extended. The ordinary hill cotton is inferior to the Egyptian in staple, fibre, and texture, but it yields a much larger crop, and it has been reported by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to be somewhat superior to ordinary Bengal cotton. It is a hardy annual, and requires little cultivation.

RICE. Bengal Rice Statistics.

The following are extracts from an interesting Note on the cultivation of rice by Lieutenant Ottley, Assistant to the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Branch, Bengal:—

NOTE ON RICE STATISTICS.

* * * * * * * *

Rice is grown more or less in many countries; in America, in the south of France, in Spain, Piedmont and Lombardy, in Egypt, on the west coast of Africa, in the Islands of Bourbon, Mauritius and Madagascar; but the rice continent of the world is Asia, and in Asia, British India is pre-eminent as the territory where rice cultivation most prospers.

The largest crop ever known to be raised in America was in 1847, when it reached 51,893 tons; since then it has decreased, and in 1873 was only 14,294 tons, of which 10,932 tons were exported. Italy in 1867 exported 85,191 tons, and Spain in 1866 exported 8,975 tons; but these amounts are insignificant when compared with the exports of Asia generally and especially with those of British India.

* * * * * * * *

American rice, from the careful cultivation to which it has been subjected, has acquired a quality far finer than that of any other rice. Persistent efforts have been made by the Indian Government to introduce the Carolina varieties into India, but hitherto with only moderate success. On this point Sir George Campbell, in his Administration Report for 1872-3, writes thus:—"For Carolina rice cultivation an artificial supply of "water is necessary, and instructions have now been issued that the seed should be sown on "our canals, and duly irrigated. Carolina rice is much more highly priced in the market "than ordinary rice, and it may be that with command of water we shall be able to realise "from the cultivation of Carolina rice much that is now sunk on canals."

* * * * * * * *

The following figures may be useful as showing the immense importance of rice cultivation. Rice is the principal article of diet over Bengal proper, and among Bengalees is often the only food eaten; pulses, fish, vegetables, oil, salt, spices, and other condiments are only added to give the rice a relish. It is generally admitted that the consumption varies from ⅜rds to ¾ths of a seer per head per diem. The population of Bengal and Orissa amounts to 44,913,305 souls; this number therefore at ⅜rds of a seer per diem, or six maunds per head per annum, require nearly 270 million maunds of rice. In Behar, rice is still the principal food crop, though among the poorer classes, and especially in the district of Sarun, maize and barley are in a great degree the food of the people. * * The population of Behar is 19,736,101 souls, and allowing 3 maunds of rice per head per annum, we require nearly 60 million maunds of rice. Bengal and Behar together, therefore, consume about 330 million maunds of rice yearly, or say 12¼ million tons of rice; add to this an export of half a million tons, and two million tons for seed grain and waste, and the total requirements amount to nearly 15 million tons of rice per annum, or say 574 million maunds of paddy. An article in the "Indian Economist," taking the consumption at ¾ths of a seer per head per diem, and allowing that amount for Behar, as well as Bengal and Orissa, arrived at a total requirement of nearly 20 million tons of rice, or say 765 million maunds of paddy. Both these calculations exclude the reserves which must be stored, and deal only with the actual yearly hand-to-mouth consumption. Taking the lower of the two estimates, the area yearly under rice probably amounts to from 30 to 40 million acres, or say from 60 to 80 thousand square miles; unfortunately, there is no reliable information obtainable on this point in any district, so that it is difficult to arrive at even an approximation to the area under rice cultivation.

* * * * * * * *

Rice being the staple food crop of Bengal, it is important to ascertain as nearly as may be the average out-turn per acre. Regarded also from a canal officer's point of view, it is important to ascertain the average out-turn of each description of soil, so that he may be able to estimate, more or less correctly, the influence of irrigation on the out-turn.

* * * * * * * *

The conclusions which I draw from a very careful study of a mass of statistics on this subject are as follow:—

1st. That *very good land in very exceptional years* will give an out-turn of 48 maunds per acre, and in such exceptional places as Hidgellee even as much as 54 maunds.

2nd. That the out-turn of the *same land in an ordinarily good year* may range from 36 to 40 maunds per acre. RICE

3rd. That the out-turn of *ordinarily fair low land in a really good year* may range from 30 to 36 maunds.

4th. That this *same land on an average of say ten years* will give a yearly out-turn of from 18 to 24 maunds.

5th. That *poor or high sandy land* will give in a *good* year 18 maunds.

6th. That the *same land on an average of say ten years* will give a yearly out-turn of 12 or 13 maunds.

7th. That the *average out-turn for a number of years of all classes of land* will be about 15 maunds per acre.

These conclusions have reference only to crops depending on the rainfall or irrigated from sources the supply of which is not assured, and it appears to me that a never-failing supply of canal water would eliminate the unfavourable years, and would thus raise the average yearly out-turn of the irrigated crops from 15 maunds to between 24 and 30, according as the lower or higher estimate of a favourable out-turn is accepted.

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Doubts having been frequently expressed as to the value of, or necessity for, irrigation for rice crops, a great number of experiments to ascertain the out-turn of irrigated and unirrigated crops were carried out in 1873 by Mr. Apjohn in the Midnapore district. The results may be here briefly stated thus. The unirrigated lands gave an out-turn of about one-fifth of a bumper crop, lands irrigated in October and November gave nearly half a bumper crop, and lands irrigated from June and July gave six-sevenths of a bumper crop. The crops irrigated from the beginning of the season exceeded in value the altogether unirrigated ones by *Rs.* 16 per acre, the value being obtained from the selling price of the paddy and straw on the ground.

Now, inasmuch as the year (1873) in which these experiments were made was one of deficient rainfall, the comparison is decidedly favourable to the canals and unfavourable to the unirrigated crops, and this proportion of out-turn, viz., 4½ to 1, cannot, and will not, hold in ordinary years.

This much, however, may be safely inferred—*firstly*, that in bad seasons the canal irrigated crop will be say 4½ times better than the unirrigated one; and *secondly*, that in ordinary years the canal irrigated crop will compare with the unirrigated one as 6 to 5 at least; this increase may not appear great when merely one acre is considered, but becomes of vital importance when the area of cultivation is reckoned in hundreds of thousands of acres.

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The experiments made in Bengal with Carolina rice were not more successful than in the preceding year, and it is not proposed to repeat them, except under experience and scientific supervision. Only two officers speak favourably of the culture of this rice. They are of opinion that Carolina rice can be grown successfully in any ground, and that it will give as good a return as any of the more hardy native varieties, but that, until by repeated trials a course of cultivation suited to the soil has been fixed, the cultivators are not likely to take to it. An important feature noticed in the cultivation is that this rice takes less time to come to maturity than any other kind, and that, if sown broadcast in an average soil, it will be the first to shoot into ear, and will be ready for cutting before any other kind; but that, when it is transplanted, this quality does not become so apparent as when sown broadcast early in the season. Carolina Rice.

Carolina rice was again grown with success in Rutnagherry in Bombay. The Natives prefer it as yielding a larger and heavier grain, and occasionally a second crop. Arable land being scarce, these qualities are appreciated.

Seed was distributed to the rice-growing districts of the Punjab, and the crops produced were very fair, but the complaint made by the people is that the grain, though large, is brittle, and that, as it breaks in the husking under the Native process, it is useless for sale.

Carolina rice succeeds well in the North-West Provinces, and does not require so much irrigation as the indigenous kinds. The difficulty of removing the husk is however an objection prominently pointed out by Native cultivators.

Chinchona operations in Sikkim continued to be very successful. The number of trees planted out during 1874-5 was 385,000 (of which 310,000 were the red bark variety), bringing up the total number in the permanent plantations to 2,765,000. The red bark trees were in good condition. Though CHINCHONA. Bengal.

CHINCHONA.

this bark is not so rich in quinine as the yellow variety, it apparently yields a greater quantity of alkaloid, which is an equally efficacious febrifuge.

Some experiments were made during the year in taking bark by Mr. M'Ivor's mossing process. Sufficient time had not elapsed for reporting decidedly, but it did not seem to promise well. The result of coppicing, on the other hand, was quite satisfactory.

The inquiries of the Government quinologist have resulted in a cheap and efficient method of extracting the febrifugal alkaloids from chinchona bark.

Madras.

The area of land in the Nilgherry Hills under chinchona is about 3,000 acres, and of this a large portion consists of Government plantations, but there are also extensive private plantations. The manufacture of amorphous quinine having ceased in August 1875, all the bark is now dispatched for sale in the London market. During the year 28,659 lbs. of mossed bark were shipped to England, and the prices averaged about 4 *s.* per lb.; in the previous year the average was below 3 *s.* per lb.

Bombay.

After a 10 years' trial it has been decided to abandon the attempt to raise chinchona plantations on the Mahableshwar Hill, the climate being unsuitable for such cultivation.

Mysore.

There are two plantations in Mysore. One of them was reported to contain 30,526 trees of different ages; the bark, however, was of an inferior kind, although it was found efficient in checking ordinary mild cases of intermittent fever. The other plantation, extending over 49,000 square yards, contains entirely *C. succirubra* plants, the bark of which has been favourably reported on by Mr. Broughton.

British Burma.

The cultivation of chinchona in the Sittang Division of British Burma was carried on with success. There were at the close of the year 19,234 plants growing well; a further area of 30 acres, to receive from 20,000 to 25,000 seedlings, had been prepared; and the nurseries contained 46,823 plants. The Government of India have decided not to manufacture quinine in British Burma, and also prefer that the extension of the cultivation should be carried out through the agency of the Karens, and they have accordingly suggested that four Karen youths should be sent to the Sikkim plantations to be trained in the work.

TEA.
Bengal.

The cultivation of tea is rapidly spreading in those districts of Bengal which are suited to the cultivation of the plant. The amount of the out-turn, though falling far short of the sanguine expectations of the first days of tea planting, is now amply remunerative, and the prices obtained in the market show that the average quality is good. The industry is indeed in an infinitely better and safer position now than it was 10 years ago. The cultivation has enormously extended, and the gardens are, as a rule, well filled with plants, highly cultivated, and carefully managed.

The Native labourers are well treated by the European planters, and are generally contented; the best of them come from Nepal, and bear a good character for industry and aptitude.

There were 26 new gardens opened in the Darjeeling district; the increase of area under cultivation was 3,193 acres, and the increase of out-turn was 971,201 lbs. The average yield of an acre was about 325 lbs.; in 1872 it was about 256 lbs. The average quality of the Darjeeling tea was inferior to that of some other districts, but it is believed that this fact has been recognised by many of the leading planters, and that improvement may be looked for.

The field for expansion of tea cultivation is stated to be indefinitely large in the long tract at the foot of the Darjeeling Hills, and there is also still room for increase in the Chittagong Hills and in Chota Nagpore.

No soil that has yet been explored appears to have proved better adapted for the growth of the tea plant than that of the Western Dooars.

Madras.

The tea plant was introduced on the Nilgherry Hills about 40 years ago, but it is only during recent years that any real progress has been made in the cultivation, which now covers nearly 2,000 acres. The China variety, with which the oldest estates are planted, is the most hardy, but grows slowly, and produces very little leaf; the Assam variety, on the other hand, grows rapidly,

and is a large producer of leaf, but it requires a sheltered situation on a rich fertile soil. The cross between the two is the most generally useful. TEA.

The private cultivation of tea in the North-West Provinces progresses; the out-turn for the season was 1,217,975 lbs. North-West Provinces.

Not less than 13,000 acres of land on the Nilgherries are now under coffee plantations, whereas 20 years ago the area did not exceed 500 acres. This great increase is entirely the result of private enterprise, and the industry is a benefit to the neighbourhood by the large employment of labour which it involves. COFFEE. Madras.

Allusions to the coffee crops of Mysore and Coorg will be found at pages 90 and 33 respectively. Mysore and Coorg.

Tobacco is grown extensively throughout Bengal. The Poosah farm is now being utilised by the Government for experiments in the cultivation of tobacco and coffee; and it was intended to obtain the services of an experienced curer, practically acquainted with the Manilla method of manufacture, to cure the crop of the next season. TOBACCO. Bengal.

The tobacco grown in Madras is of inferior quality, owing mainly to the great demand for the coarse article. This must apparently remain so until the Native growers can be convinced that the production of a better article secures higher profits. The existing defects in curing arise from want of capital. The Government have determined, while giving publicity to all that has been written on the subject, to leave the matter entirely to private enterprise. Madras.

The relinquishment of the Government Stud lands at Ghazeepore in the North-West Provinces afforded an opportunity for an experiment, on a large scale, in the cultivation of tobacco, and an arrangement has been entered into with a private firm for the conduct of operations under the supervision of a skilled American curer. North-West Provinces.

The cultivation of tobacco is carried on almost all over the Central Provinces in small richly manured patches near village sites. The quality of the indigenous varieties is considered inferior, especially by foreigners. The distribution of foreign tobacco seed has had no satisfactory results. Few agriculturists will undertake the cultivation owing to the risk of failure in the after-process of preparing the leaf for market. Central Provinces.

An experiment in the Model Farm was made with Virginian and Burma seed. The returns were 390 and 340 lbs. respectively per acre, and the quality of the leaf apparently good, but the Superintendent reported that to Native taste the flavour was weak, and this was attributed to the plants being cultivated on cotton soil.

Tobacco is grown throughout the Arakan Hill Tracts. There is no tax there on land under tobacco cultivation, and, owing to the tranquillity of the district, new land is being gradually taken up on certain streams, where, a year or two ago, people dared not live for fear of raids. The export is therefore increasing every year; but the actual quantity is not known. It is stated that during 1874 there were 4,000 acres under tobacco cultivation, and that each acre yielded from four to five maunds, which would give a total crop of 16,000 to 20,000 maunds. British Burma.

Several experiments appear to have been made in former years with different varieties of American tobacco seed, but until 1874 with no success. In that year some Manilla seed was obtained from Rangoon, and turned out exceedingly well, the leaves measuring three feet by one. Some seed was obtained from this crop, and sown again the next year with equal success. It is hoped that, with care, this industry may become a most valuable one.

The indigo crop of 1874 in Bengal was one of the worst on record, which was chiefly owing to the drought in Tirhoot, Sarun, and Chumparun. The discontent which once prevailed amongst the ryots in connection with indigo cultivation has much abated, though it has not wholly ceased. In Bengal proper the area under cultivation is much reduced; in Behar, on the other hand, it has increased, and the average annual out-turn is hardly less than it was 30 years ago. The Native zemindars have taken of late years to indigo planting. INDIGO. Bengal.

INDIGO. Madras.

The area under indigo in Madras was 231,454 acres, or 53,431 less than during the previous year. The decrease occurred chiefly in the North and South Arcot districts; in the former it was due to untimely rain, and in the latter to the lands ordinarily planted with indigo having been cropped with cereals.

FORESTS. Bengal.

On the separation of Assam from Bengal, only about 120 square miles of forest remained under the latter Administration. During 1874-5, additions were made to the reserved area amounting to 1,347 square miles, of which 885 were in the Soonderbuns, and 347 in Chittagong.

In determining the boundaries of these reserved forests great care was taken to avoid any infringement of private rights.

The sâl timber, for which Bengal has been so famous, exists largely in most of these forest areas. In past days there was much unnecessary destruction and irreparable waste of these trees, and it may be doubted whether the timber resources of the country are now equal to its prospective demand.

In the Darjeeling Hills the tea industry demands a large consumption, not only of timber, but of wood for fuel. There, also, the waste of timber has been considerable. Even within the tea estates the forests are cut down for fuel, without sufficient forethought being exercised for the preservation of some trees at least for the purposes of reproduction. But many fine sorts of trees, besides the sâl, namely oaks, maples, laurels, magnolias, toons, and some sorts of firs, still remain.

The soondri trees in the Soonderbuns furnish the best wood for the boats which are built in such great numbers throughout Eastern Bengal, and if the wholesale destruction of this wood had proceeded, great inconvenience would have been the result. Although the tree is of rapid growth, the best descriptions have for many years been cut down in so reckless a manner that the western parts of the Soonderbuns have already been exhausted to a large extent, and complaints are made that soondri logs of good quality are becoming scarce in the market. The Bengal Government have laid down regulations that in the reserved tract no soondri trees of less girth than three cubits shall be permitted to be cut, while trees of three cubits girth and upwards will be allowed to be cut on payment of half an anna per maund for the timber, and firewood and other forest produce will be charged for at half the above rate.

These regulations have been sanctioned by the Government of India, on the understanding that the change of system will be introduced gradually, and at first with much consideration for those who have hitherto been in the habit of using the forest without interference or control. Great care will be taken to prevent oppression on the part of the subordinate officials, and the rules will be made widely known. The fisheries are not to be interfered with, and increase of revenue is not to be regarded as the main object of the scheme. The Government has also directed further inquiry into the question whether some portion of the area might not be made available for reclamation, with a view to the growth of population in the neighbouring districts.

Sir R. Temple personally urged on the Minister of Sikkim the expediency of checking the reckless destruction by the people of the magnificent sâl and pine forests of that State. Thousands of these trees are cut down, and replaced by comparatively worthless crops of maize or hill rice; and it is a common practice with the cultivators to burn the forests of sâl and pine in order that the soil may be fertilised by the ashes, and the labour of ploughing be saved.

The suggestions of the Lieutenant Governor were received in an intelligent and friendly spirit, and arrangements are now in progress for the conservation of forests in particular localities. It is believed that, with care, they may become a considerable source of wealth to the State, by enabling it to supply the markets of Darjeeling and Northern Bengal.

In course of time there will probably arise in Darjeeling, when the local supply is exhausted, a great demand for fuel for the drying of tea products.

The work of selecting and demarcating forest reserves made considerable progress in all parts of the Bombay Presidency. In the Southern Division, excepting in Canara, the work was nearly complete. In Sind there was a gain of 17,120 acres of sand and mud, and a loss of 7,204 acres of land covered with forest of more or less value. Measures have been undertaken with a view to render these encroachments of the Indus as little injurious as possible

FORESTS.

Some difficulty is found in preserving forest lands from undue encroachment by cultivation; while, on the other hand, the utmost care is taken to prevent the rapid advance of forest conservation causing distress, and gradual are preferred to sudden measures.

The plantations were doing well in all directions. In Surat nearly 200,000 seedlings were planted out. In Canara upwards of 9,000 seedlings were transplanted, but the season was not favourable for the work. In the Deshnoor plantation about 50,000 teak, mango, and other trees were firmly established, and about 40,000 in the Dharwar reserves.

Punjab.

Forest demarcation progressed in the Punjab, and much was done in the way of sowings, and of extension of the plantation area. Arrangements were made for the transfer in the Kangra district, under agreement with the landowners, of 19,650 acres of forest land as the absolute property of Government.

Assam.

The Assam forests may be divided territorially as follows:—

1. The Brahmapootra valley, comprising the districts of Goalpara, Kamroop, Darrang, Nowgong, Seebsaugor, and Luckimpore.
2. The Surma valley, comprising the Sylhet and Cachar districts.
3. The regions under political control only, viz., the Garo Hills, Khasi and Jynteah Hills, and Naga Hills.

The Brahmapootra valley consists of rich alluvial plains, comprising the deposits of ages, as washed from the Himalayas on the north, and the lower mountains, as the Garo, Khasi and Jynteah, and Naga Hills, to the south. These alluvial plains are either but little elevated above the flood-level of the Brahmapootra and its tributaries, or so low that large extents of them are flooded for three or four days once or twice in the year. Large areas are annually washed away, through the Brahmapootra changing its course, and are re-formed in different localities; and, as far as forests are concerned, they cannot, if occupying the banks of the Brahmapootra, be depended on.

The Surma valley is very similar, the whole district of Sylhet consisting chiefly of a large alluvial plain, formed by the deposits washed from the surrounding mountains, and even more subjected to inundations than the plains of the Brahmapootra valley. The Surma and its tributaries have, however, more permanent banks, the shifting of which is trifling compared with that of the banks of the Brahmapootra.

The whole province, except the cultivated area, may be designated as forest, if the grass lands with trees scattered over them more or less abundantly be included in that term. The sâl forests are met with chiefly in the Garo and the Khasi and Jynteah Hills, and in the Goalpara, Kamroop, and part of the Nowgong and Darrang districts.

The supply of timber and other forest produce, as well as grazing grounds for ryots, are so abundant that they are granted free, and without any necessity of permitting access to the reserves; and this fact, together with the docility of the people, obviates the necessity, for the present at least, of any strict forest rules.

What is however required is that none of the better forests should be given up for cultivation until the Government forests, both reserved and open, are demarcated, and that this work be carried out with as much expedition as practicable, since without this there is always great danger in Assam of encroachment on the forests by temporary cultivation and alienation of Government forests by sale or lease, according to the views the respective Deputy Commissioners take of the necessity for forest conservancy, and their knowledge of the forests in the districts.

Owing to the comparatively exhausted state of the Cachar forests, the small extent of the Sylhet forests, and the absolute non-existence of forest in the Bengal districts beyond Sylhet, it will require the greatest possible vigilance and care to keep up the supply of timber at the rate at which it is at present being removed by the very extensive trade which exists.

The denudation of forests on the Khasi Hills is to some extent attributable to the extensive manufacture of charcoal used for iron-smelting.

Sufficient time has not yet elapsed for much to be reported in the way of forest operations under this new Administration.

Central Provinces.

The area under the charge of the Forest Department in the Central Provinces increased during the year from 1,902 to 2,323 square miles, through the transfer

FORESTS.

of promising tracts of jungle land, a process which it is intended shall continue until the reserved area is considered sufficiently great to supply the wants of the population. Such additions will be made gradually and not suddenly; an opposite course would necessitate immediate increase of establishment, besides creating discontent and distrust among the people.

The financial results for the year in this province are the most favourable of any since the formation of the department. It is chiefly from the reserved forests that the increased income has been obtained.

Experiments which have been made in the propagation of lac have turned out so far very satisfactorily. In a selected part of the Satpura reserve the seed lac was applied to 1,174 trees, and the insects had taken well, but the crop was not due till November 1875. Another experiment was tried in the southern forest, but unfortunately failed through fire getting in and sweeping under the trees. In the central forest division it is intended to gradually extend the area now occupied by the insect up to four or five square miles. The Conservator looks forward with tolerable certainty to raising from this source in the course of a few years a very considerable revenue.

The cost of collecting lac in the forest averaged *Rs.* 4. 1. 11. per maund, and the price realised in the nearest market was *Rs.* 20 per maund. Eventually, if the propagation succeeds, the cost of collection will be merely nominal, as the lac would be gathered in one situation, instead of being searched for over large forest areas as at present.

Berar.

The area of forest plantations in Berar was increased during the year by 2,390 acres. There were altogether 661 square miles of State forests, and about 3,600 square miles of unreserved forest, which is controlled by the civil officers in charge of districts.

The Deputy Conservator makes the following remarks in regard to the results derived from the protection of forests from fire:—

"As year after year fires continue to be excluded from the above forests, the "beneficial effects are becoming more and more apparent. The grass on the "better wooded hill-sides is gradually disappearing, and the surface of the soil "becoming covered with leaves and other vegetable matter in various stages of "decay. In the more open portions of the forest natural reproduction is "making steady progress; and it is satisfactory to observe that teak increases "almost as rapidly as other trees of less value.

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"The effects, however, of the exclusion of jungle fires are not confined solely "to the vegetation of the reserve. Climatic and other changes are also taking "place, of which the following are examples popularly recognised.

"The extreme heat of the hot weather is modified by increased moisture, "diminished radiation, and other effects of a dense and extensive undergrowth; "whilst in open tracts, during the cold season, frosts are becoming common.

"Water is now much more plentiful throughout the reserve than it was a few "years ago. There is scarcely a nullah of any size that does not contain a few "pools of water in the hot weather, whereas formerly it was the exception to "find water anywhere after February, except in the main streams.

"In former years, sudden floods used to occur regularly in the Seepna, "Kapra, and Kandu rivers at the commencement of the rains. Since 1871 "these floods have occurred later, and with less severity year by year, which is "attributed to the effect of the unburnt vegetation in retarding surface "drainage.

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"There is less mortality at the commencement of the rains among the cattle "in the reserve than in the unreserved forests. The cattle are, moreover, in "better condition. This is attributed to the cattle not being able to gorge them-"selves with young green grass as they do in burnt jungles."

On the other hand, it is noticed that the climate of the reserve appears to be becoming more unhealthy every year; fever and dysentery are prevalent at all seasons, but more particularly at the end of the rains and commencement of the cold weather. The plantations also suffer extremely from the depredations of field rats, whose increase is no longer checked by annual fires.

British Burma.

There were 282 square miles of forest reserved during the year in British Burma, making a total of 563 square miles. It is proposed to extend the area

FORESTS.

considerably. Teak cultivation was extended by 623 acres. The out-turn of the Government forests was 37,990 tons of teak, and 4,665 tons of other woods. The net profit of the department was 41,216 *l.* It is expected that stricter conservancy of teak trees will, in future years, considerably modify the revenue, unless it can be made up from other sources. The system of "permits," under which the best and most easily worked logs were got out in large numbers year by year by private persons, has, with very few exceptions, been stopped, and the forests are to be worked by direct Government agency.

Lac breeding was carried on successfully in the Rangoon Division. A nursery of three acres was established, and an additional area of 19 acres was stocked with several thousand transplants of three to five years old, 61 per cent. of which succeeded. From the Sittang Division 91 lbs. of lac were sent out; 54 lbs. were subsequently obtained, and applied to 117 trees, on all of which lac had formed.

The successful plantations of teak and cultivation of lac in the Northern Arakan Hill Tracts show that that district is capable of considerable productive power.

VI.

PUBLIC WORKS.

IRRIGATION. Bengal.

As regards irrigation works in Bengal, the year was one of inquiry rather than of rapid progress. The Soane works progressed fairly. The area irrigated from the Orissa Canals increased from 12,571 to 22,459 acres; that from the Midnapore Canal from 36,349 to 72,318 acres. The navigation returns of the latter are very promising. It is, however, unfortunate that this canal is unable to maintain a constant and regular supply of water, which is most liable to fail at the time of the year when it is most wanted; while, on the other hand, the canal is also exposed to very serious injury from the violent floods which come down from the river Cossye.

The engineering works of the Soane and Orissa Canals are stated by the Lieutenant Governor to be excellent in all respects, creditable to the Government service, and honourable to British skill and science. He has submitted, at the request of the Government of India, a scheme for the completion of the Orissa system, by which the Cuttack district would be fairly protected from drought, the means would be afforded of protecting a part of the Balasore district, and a through canal navigation between Cuttack and the Hooghly below Calcutta would be opened. A portion of the proposed outlay has received the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Sir R. Temple has further recommended a scheme whereby the five principal streams which permeate the Sarun district, running from the river Gunduk to join the Ganges, should be improved so that their waters might be made available for irrigation. This project, and a similar one for North Tirhoot, met with the approval of the Government of India, and are being matured.

An extension of the Gunduk embankment was carried out in Chumparun, and a smaller one also in Tirhoot. These works gave employment to some 45,000 labourers in a very distressed part of the country.

The admission of a supply of fresh water from the river Damooda into the bed of the Kana Nuddee, which was mentioned in last year's Report (p. 10), has conferred very great benefits on the people of the district. They have found themselves for two consecutive years in the enjoyment of a stream of fresh water, valuable alike for domestic use and for irrigation.

Madras.

The following is a statement of the "extraordinary" capital outlay during the year on new works in the several districts of the Madras Presidency:—

	£.
Godavery - - -	30,926
Kistna - - - -	10,688
Nellore - - - -	4,298
South Arcot - - -	2,000
Tanjore - - - -	458
Tinnevelly - - -	5,187
	£. 53,557

The "ordinary" expenditure on new works amounted to 26,927 *l.*

Bombay.

The progress made with irrigation works in Bombay was satisfactory, but no new work of any magnitude was undertaken, except the Kusmore and Begari embankment in Sind. By the end of the year 38 miles of this work were completed.

Punjab.

The total area irrigated by canals in the Punjab was 1,208,073 acres. On the Baree Doab Canal the excavating of the Kasur and Sobraon branches was nearly finished, and the remodelling of the canal was put in hand. The new headworks and distributaries of the Western Jumna Canal were pushed on, and the Sirhind Canal made steady progress. A large embankment for protecting the district of Moozuffergurh from devastations by the Indus was nearly completed.

A remarkable development of irrigation was effected in the Ferozepore district by the energy of Captain Grey, the Deputy Commissioner, by means of inundation canals from the Sutlej. In the space of a few months 10 canals were constructed, with an aggregate length of 213 miles, and with capacity for watering an area of 100,000 acres; and this work was accomplished by the district establishments without any cost to the State.

IRRIGATION.

North-West Provinces.

The capital sunk on irrigation works in operation in the North-West Provinces up to the end of 1874-5 was 3,191,455 *l.* (of which 154,642 *l.* was expended during the year), not including the Agra Canal, on which 644,864 *l.* has been sunk, and which only began to irrigate in the last half of the year under review. The profits on the works in operation during the year are computed at 6·5 per cent. on the capital. The per-centage of net direct profits from the Ganges Canal is stated at 3·78, and from the Eastern Jumna Canal, 18·6; including indirect profits, the per-centages are 5·29 and 26·39 respectively.

On the Lower Ganges Canal there was an expenditure during the year of 303,716 *l.*, principally upon the weir and headworks, the massive foundations of which were nearly completed. Steady progress was made in several works connected with the remodelling of the old Ganges Canal. Revised estimates were sanctioned for the completion of the Rohilkund Canals.

RAILWAYS. East Indian Railway.

The East Indian Railway is reported to be fairly successful as regards its traffic both in passengers and in goods, though in the latter respect it has a formidable competitor in the river. The diversion line between Ghogah and Bhaugulpore was completed, and was officially opened for traffic on the 13th April 1874. This line was severely tried by unusually high floods during August and September, and a large quantity of rubble stone had to be used to protect the slopes.

Bengal Railways.

The traffic of the Calcutta and South Eastern Railway made but little progress during the year.

The Northern Bengal line was rapidly pushed on. It was commenced in 1874 as a relief work, and a good portion of it was to be opened during the current year.

Bombay Railways.

There was much discussion during the year with reference to the important subject of improving the third class passenger traffic on the Bombay Railways by making the service more popular with the classes who avail themselves of it. There has been considerable improvement in the treatment of passengers of the lower classes in recent years, but there are still many points in which improvement is needed. The traffic in the "mofussil" showed little or no tendency to increase. On many parts of the Great Indian Peninsula line there were fewer travellers than there had been in previous years.

The Nizam's State Railway, 120 miles in length, was opened on the 9th October 1874. It is worked by the Great Indian Peninsula Company, but is maintained by the Hyderabad State. It returned a net profit of 679 *l.*, the gross receipts amounting to 11,464 *l.*

Punjab Railways.

On the Sind, Punjab and Delhi Railway, the Sutlej Bridge was repaired, and was re-opened for traffic in May 1874.

On the Punjab Northern (State) Railway all the great bridges over the Ravee, Chenab, and Jhelum approached completion.

The Sutlej Bridge works on the Indus Valley line were being pushed on with vigour; it is hoped that they will be completed in 1878. Some delay has been caused on this line by want of funds, and by the necessity of preparing revised estimates for the broad gauge.

North-West Provinces Railways.

The Hathras and Muttra Light Railway in the North-West Provinces is the first of a series of projects for facilitating communication with large centres of trade or population lying off the main lines of railway. The construction of this line was vigorously carried on in 1874-5.

The branch railway from Moradabad to Ramnuggur was surveyed and sanctioned, but the work was stopped at the instance of the Oude and Rohilkund Railway Company on a question of economy. The statistics collected during 1873 and 1874 show an improving traffic between the hills and the plains in the direction of this line, and the Government of the North-West Provinces strongly urges its prosecution.

Rajpootana State Railway.

On the Rajpootana State Railway various extensions were successively opened for traffic during the year, aggregating 237½ miles. In one direction the line was carried on from Bhurtpore to Sambhur, and in another from Rewaree to Bandikeen.

RAILWAYS. Wurda Valley Railway.

The Wurda Valley Coal Railway was opened on 1st February 1874; and during the year under review an extension of this line to Wurrora was proceeded with.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The total outlay on communications in Bengal amounted to no less than 1,321,589 *l.*, consisting of 327,794 *l.* from provincial and 993,795 *l.* from local funds. Of this amount, 1,046,706 *l.* was on account of relief works.

Bengal.

The Hooghly Floating Bridge was satisfactorily completed and opened to the public in October 1874.

Bombay.

A large amount of useful work was done in Bombay in connection with roads.

Punjab.

A commencement was made during the year in metalling the roads connecting Sealkote with Wuzeerabad, Kohat with Bannu, and Peshawur with Badabir.

The Hindostan and Thibet Road was extended for about six miles, widened in some parts, and was open for traffic along its whole length from April to December.

The Kangra Valley Road was completed, and opened for cart traffic from Pathankote to a point opposite Dhurrumsala; and considerable progress was made in its continuation to Pahlunpore.

The important work of re-aligning and greatly improving 12½ miles of difficult mountainous road on the Kullu route, from the banks of the Tsarap river, to and over the Lachalang Pass, was effected, with the cordial consent and assistance of the Maharajah of Cashmere. This work, which was to be vigorously proceeded with, will have the effect of removing obstacles to the traffic and free intercourse between British India and Turkestan, while, by not only facilitating transit, but also cheapening and increasing the supply of carriage, it will have the desirable result of checking the present cruel practice of overloading animals.

Rajpootana.

The portions of the Agra and Ahmedabad Road which lie between the Bhurtpore and Jeypore States were reported by the Superintending Engineer to be in a very creditable condition. They are metalled and bridged, except at the larger rivers, and are entirely maintained by the States. From the Jeypore boundary to the south-western boundary of the Ajmere district the road is maintained from Imperial funds. Beyond this point it runs through Marwar, and afterwards enters the Serohi State at Erinpoora, and is metalled as far as Serohi. The Ajmere and Mhow Road, for the first 41 miles, is in British territory; this portion is metalled and bridged, and is in a fair state of repair. It then enters the Meywar State, through which it runs for some 80 miles, the first 40 miles of which are metalled. The total distance from Ajmere to Neemuch is 148 miles, of which 81 are metalled. From Neemuch towards Mhow the line runs for 70 miles through different States of Central India. It is metalled throughout, and is supplied with culverts for minor drainages. The main rivers are not bridged. The whole cost of maintenance and construction has been hitherto defrayed from Imperial funds.

Central Provinces.

The Eastern Road, in the Central Provinces, over which the vast grain traffic with Chutteesgurh passes, was pushed on towards completion. When the two last sections have been finished, a metalled road will exist from Nagpore to Raipore, a distance of 179 miles, and except at the very large rivers the road will be bridged. These large rivers can, however, be without difficulty forded in the dry weather, and where, owing to the nature of their beds, they present difficulties to traffic, they will be provided with temporary bridges.

Work was vigorously prosecuted on the Saugor Road, which connects that station with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and opens up the most direct route by which the produce of the Saugor District may find its way to the railroad. This road is said to satisfy a long-felt want. For 75 miles it was so far completed as to admit of wheeled traffic at all seasons except for a few days after heavy floods.

Another important road in the Central Provinces is one to connect Mandla and Jubbulpore, and this also progressed during the year.

VII.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

COAL. Bengal.

The coal mines of Burdwan generally did a good business during the year. It is said that the Madras railways are likely to be supplied with coal from Bengal, which will tend to develop the mines still further.

In the Sonthal Pergunnahs coal, iron, copper, and lead are known to exist; and coal of a fair quality is found in many places close to the surface.

Experiments with some coal from the Talchere field are favourably reported on. The prospect of utilizing on any large scale the coal fields of Orissa depends, however, on the discovery of coal in places which are accessible by a water route, and with this object the Government of India has sanctioned the employment of an officer of the Geological Survey to explore the Talchere coal field.

There are indications of coal at Narage, near Cuttack, and also in Dhenkanal, on the banks of the Brahminee river.

Central Provinces.

Considerable progress was made at the Wurrora coal mines. Some more powerful machinery was obtained to keep the pits dry, and a second shaft was in course of being run down. Until this shaft was complete, the pits would not be in full work. Two bore holes put down during the year resulted in a discovery of superior coal, and in materially increasing the ascertained areas of the seams. The supply of available coal at Wurrora is now estimated to be 40 million tons, or sufficient, at 500 tons a day, to last for 260 years. Some trials on the railway with ordinary Wurrora coal showed a consumption only about 13 per cent. more than that of English coal; with selected coal, still better results would be obtained.

From the Mhowpani mine some 15,000 tons of coal were delivered to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Attempts to discover a continuation of the Nerbudda coal field have so far been unsuccessful, but they will be continued.

Berar.

The exploration of the Pisgaon coal fields has been completed, with the following results. The extent and capacity of the fields are found to be considerable; the analysis and practical testing of the coal have determined it to be of the same quality as that of the Wurrora fields; and data have been collected to enable a site for a colliery to be fixed on at once, when the time arrives for opening those fields. Meanwhile they will remain undisturbed until the Wurrora field, on the other side of the river, is no longer able to supply the demand from that part of India.

British Burma.

Coal exists in British Burma on the banks of the Tenasserim river and in other parts, but it has never been worked to any extent. It was discovered during the year in small quantities in the hills of Northern Arakan, but is inaccessibly situated, and is not likely to be of much practical value.

IRON. Bengal.

At Raneegunge, on the East Indian Railway, iron, coal, and limestone have been found in abundance. An important company has been established, under the title of the Bengal Iron Company, for the opening of iron works in this district.

At Narainpore, in the western division of Moorshedabad, there is a newly established iron-smelting business. The ore is obtained chiefly on the confines of the Sonthal Pergunnahs. There are six different establishments in existence, and they are reported to have smelted about 200 maunds each during the year. The manufacture thus far would, however, seem to be not very profitable.

Mines are believed to exit in South Bhaugulpore, but they are not worked. The small quantity of iron that is smelted in the district is pronounced by workmen to be superior to the imported metal.

Iron of excellent quality is found in many parts of the Orissa hills; it is smelted by the native process, and finds a ready sale. In Ungool and Talchere iron and coal are found together.

North-West Provinces.

The question of utilizing in India the iron resources of Kumaon has been the subject of very much discussion. Mr. Bauerman, who was deputed to examine and report on the iron works, submitted a preliminary report in 1873, in which he did not speak favourably of Kumaon as a site for iron manufacture. On the other hand, the Commissioner of the district (General Ramsay) thinks that

IRON.

"there is a vast field of profitable industry lying at the foot of these hills un-"developed, and the continued neglect of it is a wrong to the country." It has recently been determined, by an agreement between the North-West Provinces Government and the Kumaon Iron Works Company, to set this important question finally at rest. By this agreement the Government is allowed, without payment of rent for three years, the use of the whole of the company's works, with all block and stock now existing; the Government may surrender the works to the company at any time that it pleases before the expiration of the three years, on giving six months' previous notice; the Government agrees to restore the works to the company in a condition no worse than they were when the Government took possession; a fair allowance will be made for depreciation by use, after taking into account the value of any additional works or improvements made by the Government; but if the total value of the works be increased by the operations of the Government, no claim will be made against the company on that account.

Central Provinces.

The experiments which were sanctioned in the previous year for the production of pig iron at the Lohara field, in the Chanda district, and for its conversion into steel, had not been commenced in the year under report.

Iron manufacture is an important industry in the Jubbulpore district. For some years back certain of the mines have been worked by Mr. Olpherts, a district engineer on the East Indian Railway; and with the application of capital and European appliances a considerable development has already been attained. Mr. Olpherts was recently granted a 10 years' lease of these mines for the sum of 200 *l.* per annum for the first five years of the lease, and for a royalty of 5 per cent. on the out-turn for the last five years.

Mysore.

Iron is the only metal found in any considerable quantity in Mysore. The amount manufactured in 1874-5 was 23,468 maunds.

GOLD. Madras.

An examination was made in the year under report of the auriferous rocks in part of the Wynaad district. Gold has long been obtained in this district from alluvial deposits, but in such small quantities as to prevent the operations being very profitable. The question has recently arisen whether quartz-mining may not prove more productive, most of the quartz-reefs being more or less auriferous. Preliminary experiments have given an average proportion of 7 dwts. of gold to a ton of quartz. Several applications have been made for land in the Wynaad, ostensibly for coffee-planting, but really for gold-mining, but the Government have determined to act on the principle that land known to contain mineral wealth should be removed from the category of cultivable land, and be granted on special agreements only.

Mysore.

Gold has been long known to exist in the Kolar district of Mysore, where Natives have been in the habit of obtaining small quantities by washing. During the year under review mining operations were commenced by an European whose attention was attracted to the prospect of extracting the ore from the quartz by proper appliances, and certain privileges were granted to him by the Chief Commissioner for prospecting the ground and holding a lease of selected parts for a definite period. The result of the experiment is still uncertain.

TIN.

Tin exists over a large extent of country in the Mergui and Tavoy districts of British Burma, but until lately had only been obtained from alluvial deposits; now, however, lodes or veins of the mineral have been discovered in the Malewoon township. The right of mining there has been leased for 30 years to a firm of Rangoon merchants, who are carrying on operations vigorously, and have discovered in the neighbouring hills a large lode containing tin in valuable quantities.

VARIOUS MINERALS.

The whole of Chota Nagpore is full of mineral wealth, and it only requires to be thoroughly opened up by roads and other communications, if possible, to render all this hidden wealth available to the country at large.

There are valuable quarries near Balasore where a description of chlorite, or black marble, is obtained, from which plates, dishes, cups, and other household utensils, are made; these obtain high prices, and are much sought after.

In the Hazareebagh district there is a talc mine, from which 5,000 maunds of talc yearly, valued at 2,500 *l.*, are distributed.

VIII.

MANUFACTURES.

COTTON. Bengal.

THERE is no immediate probability of cotton manufacture in Bengal rising any considerable proportions; some factories near Calcutta, however, are understood to be prospering.

Bombay.

The only manufacturing industry on a large scale in the Bombay Presidency which is remunerative is the spinning and weaving of cotton. There were 28 companies in the capital, besides 12 in the interior; fears are entertained lest over-speculation should check the healthy development of this desirable industry. The complaint is very general among Native manufacturers that their goods are being pushed out of the market by machine-made European articles. As association of capital and labour rarely exists among the Natives, they are placed at a great disadvantage as against united effort intelligently directed. On the other hand, besides the advantage of the raw material being produced on the spot, they enjoy the additional benefit of the cheapness of Native labour; and the result is apparent in regard to the heavier and coarser descriptions, which are now rarely imported. The Native products are stated to be finding a ready sale in Russia, America, and China.

There were 2,379 steam gins at work, being an increase of 93 over the previous year. All these are in the Northern Division, except six which were started in Dharwar during the year under review.

The use of machinery is extending in Kattywar. The prospects of all the presses in this agency are considered good, but those of the ginning factories more doubtful. The staple is said to be broken by the machinery more than by the country gins.

Central Provinces.

The manufacture of cotton cloth is an industry diffused all over the Central Provinces; hand-looms may be found at work in any considerable village. The agricultural and labouring classes prefer their home-made stuffs to any other. The produce of the looms in a few towns is of a superior quality and finish, and much of this is exported to Western India, and elsewhere. The gradual increase of foreign importations, and the growing taste for English piece-goods, and latterly for the productions of the Bombay mills, have materially affected this industry, and many of the weaving class have taken to other pursuits; as yet, however, the manufacture of the coarse strong stuffs for the labouring classes, and of some kinds worn by the better classes, are left wholly to the village hand-looms. A first-class cotton-mill, designed, it is believed, to meet the very humblest demand for cheap clothing, has recently been set up at Nagpore, to be worked by English machinery and under European supervision; and it remains to be seen what effect this will have on the struggling Native industry.

SILK. Bengal.

The manufacture of silk in Bengal has so fallen off that it can no longer be sold at a remunerative price. The work of the tussur silk-weavers is so indifferent, and even the pieces are so unequal in quality, &c., that the Calcutta merchants are unable to do business with them. If a better and more fairly-priced article were produced, it is believed that it would find an European market. It is hoped that a better future may be in store for this manufacture if European capital is applied to it.

North-West Provinces.

Towards the end of 1874-5, the Government of the North-West Provinces resolved to open a silk farm in the Doon, but the details were not settled until nearly six months after the close of that year. A plot of 90 acres, planted with mulberry trees, has been leased for five years; silkworm eggs have been sent from Cashmere and Japan; and skilled silk-reelers are expected from the latter country. The annual cost of the operations is estimated at about 3,000 *l.*

Central Provinces.

Silk cultivation, and its manufacture into silk pieces for Native wear, is an industry of moderate dimensions in the Central Provinces, but one that is capable of indefinite expansion.

The tussur worm thrives on the leaves of trees which grow in nearly every district of the Central Provinces, and succeeds well in the hands of the castes

SILK.

who make sericulture either their sole occupation or, as is more common, an additional employment. The *modus operandi* is rough, but it is so far effectual that the worms are raised and cocoons of silk produced in quantities proportionate to present demands. With a view to stimulate a larger foreign demand, experiments are being carried on for the improvement of the silk in its cocoon stage, and it is attempted to produce finer cocoons by a stricter domestication and different feeding of the worm.

It is hoped that it may be possible to introduce the Chinese silkworm into Sumbulpore. Should this prove feasible, it is intended to establish mulberry gardens at different places, and to make a systematic effort to establish the industry in the district.

VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.* Bengal.

Manufacturing industry appears to be at present in a state of decadence in Bengal, though there are signs of its rallying in the future. While the old indigenous industries have declined, various new manufactures, worked by machinery, are springing up, in particular those relating to jute fibre, cotton, and sugar. These are already affording employment to many thousands, and the Natives are said to show great aptitude for mechanical work.

In Orissa there was a largely increased import of materials which were worked up into local manufactures, in particular, of metals, and cotton twist. Skilled labourers are generally in great demand, and receive excellent wages.

In Dacca, muslin of a very fine quality, but very expensive, is made. Formerly this was in great demand, but of late years it has much declined in commercial value, and is now only made to order.

It appears that in the Patna Division the import of foreign goods has not led to the decadence in the trade of the country-weaver that it has in some other parts. The stout class of cloths which they weave there is still in great demand.

The principal manufactures in the Presidency Division are gunny-bags, indigo, goor (molasses), and sugar; also cotton cloths of a superior description, and brass utensils. The manufacture of gunny-bags has been much on the increase.

In the Rajshahye Division indigo† is an important manufacture, but, except in the districts of Moorshedabad and Rajshahye, the business is now wholly in the hands of the Natives, and carried on apparently with but little appliance of capital, and in a very small way. The article is manufactured entirely for export; in Rungpore only an inferior class of indigo is made for sale to traders from Bhootan.

Punjab.

The aggregate value of the out-turn of manufactures in the Punjab showed a satisfactory increase of 190,174 *l.* The chief increase was in the production of gold lace, brass and copper vessels, woollen, cotton, and leather goods. In silk and oil, and some other articles, a falling off appeared.

British Burma.

Weaving is carried on throughout British Burma, silk and cotton goods being manufactured in large quantities, chiefly for home use. English yarns are largely employed in these manufactures.

Goldsmiths' and silversmiths' work, and ivory carving, are stated to be improving in quality and finish, as well as in price, owing to the increasing demand for specimens by the European community.

* Information connected with the manufacture of salt has been included in the chapter on FINANCE.

† With regard to indigo in Tirhoot, &c., *see* p. 39.

IX.

TRADE.

FOREIGN TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA.

The total Foreign Trade of British India (exclusive of Government Stores and Treasure) during 1874–5 was as shown below:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Merchandise.	Treasure.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Bengal	17,369,447	2,887,728	22,014,048	758,170
Madras	3,311,543	501,304	6,536,638	258,300
Bombay	11,514,053	4,695,465	23,647,221	566,086
Sind	289,841	1,643	1,076,847	4,837
British Burma	2,160,352	54,906	3,037,492	5,328
£.	34,645,236	8,141,046	56,312,246	1,592,721
	£. 42,786,282		£. 57,904,967	
	£. 100,691,249			

Compared with the two preceding years, the results are as follows:—

	1872–3.	1873–4.	1874–5.
IMPORTS:			
Merchandise	£. 30,473,069	£. 31,644,697	£. 34,645,236
Treasure	4,556,585	5,792,534	8,141,046
TOTAL IMPORTS £.	35,029,654	37,437,231	42,786,282
EXPORTS:			
Merchandise	55,227,495	54,960,778	56,312,246
Treasure	1,273,979	1,879,071	1,592,721
TOTAL EXPORTS £.	56,501,474	56,839,849	57,904,967
TOTAL TRADE £.	91,531,128	94,277,080	100,691,249

The trade was divided as follows among the different Continents:—

	Imports.	Exports.	TOTAL.
	£.	£.	£.
Europe	35,102,772	35,505,546	70,608,318
Asia	6,518,469	18,622,775	25,141,244
America	193,506	2,177,418	2,370,924
Africa (including Mauritius and Bourbon)	737,901	1,463,692	2,201,593
Australia (including New Zealand and Tasmania)	233,634	135,536	369,170
TOTAL £.	42,786,282	57,904,967	100,691,249

Of the European trade more than six-sevenths was with the United Kingdom, and the latter exceeded by upwards of four millions sterling the corresponding trade of the previous year.

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FOREIGN TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA.

The value of the trade with China is compared below with that in the two preceding years:—

——	1872–73.	1873–74.	1874–75.
IMPORTS:	£.	£.	£.
Merchandise - - - - - -	1,347,875	1,412,765	1,520,114
Treasure - - - - - - -	1,022,241	1,725,618	1,436,887
TOTAL IMPORTS - - - £.	2,370,116	3,138,383	2,957,001
EXPORTS:			
Merchandise - - - -	12,137,397	11,494,172	11,648,189
Treasure - - - - - - -	121,739	12,460	102,613
TOTAL EXPORTS - - - £.	12,259,136	11,506,632	11,750,802
TOTAL TRADE - - - £.	14,629,252	14,645,015	14,707,803

A full review of the foreign and interportal trade of British India accompanies the Trade and Navigation Statement for 1874–5, which has been presented to Parliament.

TRADE. Calcutta

The value of the trade of Calcutta with foreign countries and with ports in other Presidencies, so far as it relates to merchandise, is compared below with that of the preceding year:—

——	1873–74.	1874–75.
	£.	£.
Imports - - - - -	15,967,530	19,729,843
Exports - - - - -	27,056,457	26,974,414
TOTAL - - - £.	43,023,987	46,704,257

It will be seen that there was a considerable improvement in the imports, while in exports there was a decline.

The importations of rice on Government account (not included in the above figures) reached in value 1,226,016 *l.*

The imports of bullion and specie amounted to more than four millions.

The exportation of jute fibre, though large, was still checked by reason of over-production, and of the foreign market having become overstocked, and also owing to inferior brands having got into the market under the influence of high prices. Jute manufactures, on the other hand, show an increase of 17 per cent., mainly in exports to Singapore and China. Bombay, Madras, and Burma, take by far the largest portion of the exports under this head; the foreign trade is mainly with North America, the Straits Settlements, and Australia.

The indigo crops in Tirhoot and the neighbouring districts affected by the drought having been only one-third of those in the previous year, the short production proportionately affected the export. Since 1868–69 the value of this trade has regularly increased in comparison with the quantity. The United Kingdom takes about three-fifths and France about one-eighth.

The increase in the exports of tea from Calcutta steadily progresses, and the trade will probably soon rank second to opium. The value in 1874–75 reached nearly two millions sterling. The use of machinery in the manufacture of tea is extending.

There was a still further fall in rice exports, attributable to the scarcity. Much of the exported rice goes to Bombay, and a good deal to the Mauritius.

TRADE.

In exports of raw cotton there was a decrease amounting to 38 per cent.; this is to some extent attributed to the circumstance that supplies which formerly went by Calcutta are now attracted to Bombay. The whole of the produce exported from Calcutta comes from Northern and Western India, not from Bengal. The decrease in 1874–75 is entirely in exports to China, those to other countries showing rather an increase. There is, however, little prospect of improvement, as the short-stapled cotton of India cannot compete successfully with the American article.

Cotton goods represent the value of about half of the whole imports. The import trade in English piece-goods does not make the progress that might have been expected, partly owing to the goods not being quite cheap enough, and partly owing to occasional faults in their quality during late years. It is said that the quantities imported have been too great for the demand, and that there is always a heavy stock on the market; in 1874–75 there was an increase of 1,556,798 *l.* in the value of grey cotton goods imported, and a large increase of 43 per cent. in twist and yarn. The trade is thought to have passed the point at which it could be profitably carried on with due regard to the actual requirements of the part of India which draws its supplies from Calcutta. On the other hand, in printed and coloured goods there was a decline, as there had been also in the previous year. The latter circumstance would be satisfactory if it could be traced to any extension of the native industry, but this can hardly be the case, considering the increased import of piece-goods generally. Although the use of English goods by the people of Bengal may not be increasing as fast as might be expected, Sir R. Temple considers that there is no immediate probability of effective competition springing up. The consumption, if not rapidly progressive, is yet well sustained.

The exports of raw silk fell off 32 per cent. The steady decline in this trade is attributed by some to the languishing condition of the manufacture, and by others to the obstinate demanding of too high prices in the face of competition from other countries. The imports under this head, principally from China, showed an increase.

The tobacco trade, as was stated in the last Report (p. 15), is fast rising into importance. The exports showed an increase of 93 per cent. over those of 1873–74.

Hides and skins have during recent years assumed a prominent place among articles of export. Sir R. Temple observes that the facilities which Bengal affords for cheap breeding and rearing of cattle render this trade capable of boundless expansion, but he also states that the practice of poisoning cattle for the sake of their skins is becoming common.

In the exports of oil-seeds there was an increase of 38 per cent.; in the previous year also there had been a large increase.

The export trade in saltpetre has suffered in consequence of the heavy duty imposed upon it some years ago; it has never recovered itself, although the duty was removed in 1866. Whereas in 1862–63 the value reached nearly 840,000 *l.*, in 1874–75 it was 491,338 *l.* The latter figure shows, however, a slight advance of 7 per cent. on the preceding year.

There is a fairly steady trade between Calcutta and North America. The imports average in value about 50,000 *l.*, and the exports about two millions sterling. The former consist of gums, ice, oil, and timber; and the latter of hides and skins, jute, linseed, indigo, lac, saltpetre, and india-rubber. In 1874–75 there was an increase both in exports and imports; under the latter head, chiefly in cotton goods and mineral oils.

In the total number of vessels which entered the Calcutta Port there was a slight decrease, accompanied by a slight increase in the total tonnage. In the number of steamers there was a decided increase, which was due in the first instance to importations of Government rice, but also to increasing traffic through the Suez Canal. The following figures represent the value of Calcutta trade through the Canal for three years:—

	£.
1872-73 - - - -	16,556,519
1873-74 - - - -	18,849,585
1874-75 - - - -	21,611,525

Chittagong.

The export trade from Chittagong consists almost entirely of rice. This trade was disorganised by the famine, and showed a further falling off in

TRADE.

1874-75. There is a steady increase in exports of tea. The Commissioner of the district reports that Chittagong is conveniently situated, with abundant and commodious anchorage, and that the trade is clearly capable of expansion. The one drawback is its comparative inaccessibility to Native craft, the remedy for which would appear to be to shorten the passage for boats from the north by opening out the Moishkhally Canal.

Orissa.

The progress of the trade of the Orissa ports has recently been rapid. New ports have been opened, existing ones improved, and inland communication extended. A trade by sea is fast springing up with other ports of India, and with foreign countries. The trade resources of Orissa are derived, not only from the deltaic tracts between the seashore and the hills, but also from extensive hill tracts, the products of which are coming more and more to the markets of the plains. During the previous year the famine in Behar and Northern Bengal gave an unusual stimulus to trade in Orissa, and there was some apprehension lest the next year's returns should exhibit a reaction. On the contrary, however, it showed a still further advance. The total value of the trade for the two years was as follows:

	1873-74.	1874-75.
	£.	£.
Imports - - - - - -	289,127	358,384
Exports - - - - - - -	300,716	439,103
TOTAL - - - £.	589,843	797,487

Rice is the most important of the exports. In consequence of a favourable harvest, the value of the exports in 1874-75 advanced from 68,249 *l.* in 1872-73, and 231,042 *l.* in 1873-74, to 311,208 *l.* There appears to be every reason for believing that the trade of Orissa is now established upon a sound and permanent basis. There was nothing abnormal in the occurrences of the year 1874-75; it was not a season of marked agricultural prosperity, and the extraordinary demand for rice for export which had been caused in the previous year by the famine in Bengal no longer existed. That under these circumstances the trade of the province should have exhibited so remarkable an expansion affords a good ground for hoping that it will continue to show a steady development in the future. It is noteworthy that the increased value of the imported goods is very large, although not so large as that of the exports.

Bengal Inland Trade.

The boat traffic on the rivers of Bengal is, for its magnitude and variety, quite unique. The number of craft of all sizes must amount to hundreds of thousands, and the navigation is remarkably skilful. This river traffic has not, as was expected, been diverted to the railways. Native merchants are apt to complain of the detention of their goods at railway stations whenever there is a press of traffic, and there seems to be a prevalent opinion that the railway rates for goods of the commoner and heavier descriptions are too high, and that the ordinary amount of rolling-stock kept up is not sufficient to meet great and emergent demands. The water route which competes with the Eastern Bengal line is 250 miles in length, as compared with 156, and yet the traffic ordinarily follows this old circuitous route, when immediate despatch is not required.

A comparison of the traffic borne on the Matabhanga (one of the Nuddea rivers) and the Eastern Bengal Railway shows that the latter attracts to itself jute, oil-seeds and tobacco, while rice, food grains and salt still prefer the river route.

About half of the whole Ganges-borne traffic consists of rice (which, coming into the Bengal markets in December and January, is sent up-country during the dry season for consumption in Behar and Benares), and oil-seeds (which, coming into the Behar and Benares markets in April and May, are sent to Calcutta in the rainy season for exportation). After rice, the next most important item of up-stream traffic is salt. The quantity sent by river is in this case, however, only half of the amount sent by rail, and the latter is steadily increasing.

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It is believed that a complete system of registration of the river traffic, as well as of that of the railways, and of some of the principal roads, has now been established. The following statement indicates the number of boats (excluding empty boats and passenger boats) that were registered on the principal river and canal routes:—

	1873.	1874.
Ganges - - - - - - -	35,865	30,045
Nuddea Rivers - - - -	32,887	27,242
Calcutta Canals - - - -	101,777	77,096

Registering stations have now been established on the Brahmapootra, the Pudda, and the Megna.

Endeavours were made to establish a fair at Selbal, but they proved a failure. On the Bengal side traders were discouraged by the want of good communications, and by the ravages of a tiger; while the Garos were disappointed that slightly higher prices for goods were demanded than prevailed at the markets in the plains, and were also not ready to part with their cotton except at the same price that obtained in the plains some 25 or 30 miles off. This cotton is too coarse and too short in staple for the home market, and is believed to be entirely consumed in the neighbouring districts.

Madras.

The total private trade of Madras was as follows, compared with the preceding year:—

	1873-74.	1874-75.
IMPORTS:		
Merchandise - - - - - - -	£. 5,464,525	£. 5,656,923
Treasure - - - - - - -	846,929	960,162
TOTAL IMPORTS - - - £.	6,311,454	6,617,085
EXPORTS:		
Merchandise - - - - - - -	8,524,541	8,681,840
Treasure - - - - - - - -	1,840,918	975,997
TOTAL EXPORTS - - - £.	10,365,459	9,657,837
TOTAL TRADE - - - £.	16,676,913	16,274,922

Exports of merchandise (not including re-exports 280,406 *l.*) exceeded imports by 2,744,512 *l.*

There was an increase of 75,628 *l.* in the value of imported paddy; but this was accompanied by a decrease in the imports of rice to about the same extent. In exports of rice there was a falling off to the extent of about 160,000 *l.*, which is accounted for by the demand from Bengal having given a special stimulus to the trade in the preceding year. There was also a decrease of about 11,000 *l.* in the exportation of indigo, owing to the fall in the price of the article in the London market. In cotton wool exported to France, Italy, and the Mediterranean ports there was a very large increase, the total value being 1,626,878 *l.*, against 1,283,399 *l.* The export of food grains to the United Kingdom and the

TRADE.

Mauritius increased, while there was a considerable decrease in that to Bengal, Bombay, and Ceylon.

Bombay.

The trade of the Port of Bombay (exclusive of Government Stores) was better than in the preceding year by 4,277,930 *l.* There thus continued to be a steady recovery from the depression of 1872-73, as will be apparent from the following comparative table (which does not include the trade with other ports within the Presidency) :—

	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
IMPORTS:				
Merchandise - - -	14,819,377	14,180,678	14,860,168	15,149,228
Treasure - - - -	6,888,899	2,868,494	3,436,010	4,730,339
TOTAL IMPORTS - - £.	21,708,276	17,049,172	18,296,178	19,879,567
EXPORTS:				
Merchandise - - -	23,629,280	19,109,139	19,873,499	22,765,502
RE-EXPORTS:				
Merchandise - - -	3,221,563	3,474,379	3,461,343	3,455,902
Treasure - - - -	1,433,977	1,666,545	1,253,120	1,061,099
TOTAL EXPORTS - £.	28,284,820	24,250,063	24,587,962	27,282,503
TOTAL TRADE - - £.	49,993,096	41,299,235	42,884,140	47,162,070

In imports the increase of value was close upon 290,000 *l.*, and in exports 2,892,000 *l.* Under the former head the increase was chiefly in coffee, spices, jute, metals, machinery, &c., raw cotton, silk, twist and yarn, and petty articles of apparel. On the other hand, owing to the over-stocked state of the market, the importation of cotton piece-goods fell from the abnormal excess of 1873-74 to a more natural position; and the Bengal famine occasioned a decrease in grain and pulse. There was a large increase in exports of raw cotton, notwithstanding the continual decline in prices in the home market. The popularity of Indian cotton on the Continent is said to be increasing. The export of wheat, which in 1873-74, owing to the abolition of the export duty, advanced from 50,730 *l.* to 254,203 *l.*, showed a further advance in 1874-75 to 317,126 *l.* The Indian wheat is stated to be of very fine quality, which may account for its keeping its place in the market against the disadvantage of long transport. France took an unprecedented quantity, and an important trade is springing up with Trieste.

The private imports of treasure, compared with the previous year, were as follows :—

	1873-74.	1874-75.
	£.	£.
Gold - - - - - - -	1,017,549	1,259,991
Silver - - - - - - -	2,418,461	3,470,348
TOTAL - - - £.	3,436,010	4,730,339

TRADE.

The comments of the Local Government on the large importation of silver have been already quoted (p. 21).

There was an increase of 251 in the number of vessels entered at the Port of Bombay, and of 82,211 tons in the aggregate tonnage. The proportion of steamers to ships was 10 to 17.

Sind.

The private trade of the Sind ports amounted to 3,405,623 *l.* Of this, the value of imported merchandise was 1,604,659 *l.*, and of exported 1 771,174 *l.* The imports were better than in the previous year by 97,811 *l.*, but the exports showed a falling off of 357,792 *l.*, principally in wheat to the United Kingdom, under which head there had been in 1873-74 an advance on the average of the five preceding years of 165,216 *l.* It appears that in exports to France and the Mediterranean ports there was a considerable increase.

Aden.

The trade of Aden amounted to 3,329,204 *l.* against 2,844,276 *l.* in 1873-74. The condition of this settlement is reported to be highly prosperous; it is the emporium of a large and growing traffic with Zanzibar and the interior of Arabia.

Punjab.

An improved system of registration, which had been worked out with great care, was introduced in the Punjab at the beginning of 1874-75. It consists in the registration, at selected posts on or near the frontiers, of all trade passing those posts to and from adjacent countries and provinces; at the same time returns are obtained of the railway traffic, of the boat trade on the Indus, and of the amount of timber floated into the province from the north.

The weight and value of the external trade registered during 1874-75 under this system are as follows, compared with the preceding year:—

	Maunds.	£.
1873-74 - - -	6,641,549	4,512,615
1874-75 - - -	15,635,619	16,951,961

The figures for 1874-75 do not include the traffic of the Indus Steam Flotilla (valued at upwards of 2½ millions), nor several items of which statistics were not forthcoming, so that the comparison is really much more striking. It is roughly estimated that the total value of the external trade may be set down at 20 millions sterling.

The principal articles of import are "charas," opium, silk and silk manufactures, flax, metals and metal manufactures, "ghee," tobacco, wood, and European cotton cloths; and the chief articles of export are saltpetre, indigo, cotton, wool, horns, hides and leather manufactures, oil-seeds, and Indian cotton cloths. In food grains and salt there is a large import as well as export trade, but the latter is far in excess; and the exports of tea also exceed the imports.

One remarkable instance of the effect of the new system of registration is the enormous apparent rise in the imports of European cotton cloths. The largest formerly recorded were those for 1872-73, amounting to 65,587 maunds, which were valued at 735,116 *l.* In 1874-75 they reached 341,474 maunds, valued at 7,406,646 *l.*

North-West Provinces.

A special statistical department was formed in the North-West Provinces towards the close of 1874-75. As a result of this measure, at a statistical conference held at Allahabad in March 1875 a scheme of frontier registration of traffic was devised, a classified list of articles for registration was compiled, registration posts were indicated, forms of registers and returns were drafted, and the general basis was laid of a system which will, it is hoped, ensure the collection of accurate and valuable information regarding land trade.

Oude.

There have been curious fluctuations in the trade of the province of Oude. In 1868-69* the exports exceeded the imports by 50 lacs of rupees, and in 1869-70 by 10 lacs. In the latter year and the two following it the trade declined; in 1872-73, and again in 1873-74, it improved; but, although the improvement in 1873-74 was far greater in exports than in imports, the value of the imports exceeded that of the exports by 379,136 *l.*; and an excess of imports has prevailed more or less since 1870-71.

* These trade years are up to September in each case.

TRADE.

The principal articles of export are food grains and oil-seeds; and of import, English piece-goods, cleaned cotton, and salt.

Central Provinces.

The trade of the Central Provinces is mainly with the Western Coast. Agricultural produce is the principal staple of export, and the demand for this in 1874–75 was diminished, owing to universal good harvests.

The exports of oil-seeds showed a very large increase. There was also an increase in the quantity of raw cotton exported, but a decrease in the value. There is stated to have been a persistent decline in the value of Indian cotton of late years, following on the abundant supply of the English markets with longer-stapled cotton from America and other countries.

The imports were chiefly of salt, sugar, metals and hardware, and English piece-goods, and these had generally declined. The decrease in the last-mentioned item was very considerable, and the Government of India have directed that an inquiry should be made into its causes.

British Burma.

The value of the trade of British Burma (including the provincial trade), as compared with the preceding year, is shown in the following table:—

	1873–74.	1874–75.
SEA-BORNE TRADE.	£.	£.
Imports:		
Merchandise	4,288,535	4,718,516
Treasure	3,591,810	931,120
Total Imports	7,880,345	5,649,636
Exports:		
Merchandise	5,909,953	5,242,934
Treasure	989,576	844,883
Total Exports	6,899,529	6,087,817
TOTAL SEA-BORNE TRADE	14,779,874	11,737,453
INLAND TRADE.	£.	£.
Imports:		
Merchandise	957,729	1,097,609
Treasure	334,450	359,963
Total Imports	1,292,179	1,457,572
Exports:		
Merchandise	1,168,649	1,260,147
Treasure	128,996	210,114
Total Exports	1,297,645	1,470,261
TOTAL INLAND TRADE	2,589,824	2,927,833
TOTAL TRADE	17,369,698	14,665,286

The decrease in the value of merchandise exported was mainly caused by the delay in shipments of rice, owing to the merchants at the chief ports having agreed not to pay more than a certain rate for the grain brought to market, while the producers attempted to keep up the high prices of the previous year. There was also a falling off in hides, through a large decrease in the supplies, and in lac, consequent on the king of Burma having made the trade in that article a monopoly. But apart from these disturbing causes, the trade continued to show a satisfactory tendency to development, and there was a large increase in the exports of cotton, cutch, india-rubber, jade, spices, precious stones, timber, &c.

A comparatively large trade in india-rubber has sprung up within the last two or three years; the value of the shipments in 1873–4 was 3,195 *l.*, and in 1874–5,

12,549 *l.* The whole was drawn from Upper Burma, but it is hoped that, in course of time, the exertions of the forest and other officers in seeking out and cultivating trees which produce this gum, and which are believed to be numerous in the forests of British Burma, will enable a much larger export to be made. TRADE.

The large amount shown under imports of treasure in 1873–4 was connected with the Government purchases of rice.

In the trade with Upper Burma, the Shan States, and Western China, *viâ* Bhamo, there was a considerable increase in both imports and exports. That with Upper Burma is, however, hampered by the king's monopolies. The export trade improved mainly in piece-goods, rice, salt, and raw silk; in the imports the most marked increase was in cotton, which was more than doubled in quantity, and almost trebled in value.

The square-rigged vessels which entered the four principal ports in 1874–5 numbered 1,751, being 30 less than in the preceding year, and exactly the same number as in 1872–3; the aggregate tonnage, however, as compared with 1872–3, had increased by 124,609 tons. In clearances there was a decrease both in number and tonnage, which was due to the late commencement of the rice trade; but in comparison with 1872–3, while there was a considerable decrease in numbers, there was an increase in tonnage.

The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company had a splendid fleet of nine steamers and 19 flats, and are still making additions. Besides the steamers, 8,203 boats passed up the river, and 8,819 down, with goods.

There is a remarkable development of trade in the Northern Arakan Hill Tracts. The chief imports are rice, salt, cattle, piece-goods, copper pots, &c.; and the exports, cotton, tobacco, sesamum seed, ivory, and bamboos.

TRADE WITH THIBET.

The question of improving communication with Thibet has received the further consideration of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, who is decidedly of opinion that the best and shortest route is that over the Jeylup Pass. This pass is open all the year round, and is the lowest in the Chôla range, which again is one of the lowest sections of the Himalaya. It leads into the Thibetan territory of Choombee; and the journey from the pass to Lhassa is said to be from 250 to 300 miles over a not very difficult country. The distance to Jhansu Jong, the principal mart of Eastern Thibet, is only 150 miles, and to Tashilumbo, on the great Narichoo river, where one of the best tracts of Thibet is situated, it is 200 miles.

From Darjeeling to Fedong (37 miles) the route is tolerably good, except where it crosses the Teesta, where a cane bridge has been provided for foot passengers, and a raft for the passage of laden animals, which, however, is useless in the rains. From Fedong to Jeylup (56 miles) the trade is carried on the backs of men. The construction of a suspension bridge over the Teesta has been ordered by the Bengal Government, as also the survey of the route; but the improvement of the road from Fedong to the Jeylup Pass has been deferred for the present for want of funds.

The present annual exports from Darjeeling to Thibet consist of broadcloth, flannels, chintz and cottons, American drill, tobacco, indigo, catechu, umbrellas, iron hooks and pots, brass utensils, looking glasses, goor, hookahs, &c., and amount in value to 16,455 *l.*

The exports from Sikkim to Thibet comprise millet, rice, oranges, madder, &c.; value 675 *l.*

The imports from Thibet into Sikkim and Darjeeling consist of ponies, blankets, salt, jewellery, yak's tails, China caps, musk, silk, tea, sheep; value 7,505 *l.*

The total value of all the ascertained exports from Darjeeling and Sikkim to Thibet being 17,130 *l.*, while the value of the imports amounts to 7,505 *l.*, there remains a balance of 9,625 *l.* due by Thibet. This balance is said to be paid in British rupees, which the Thibetans obtain by selling their cattle, salt, and other produce in Assam and Nepal.

There are other items of merchandise which enter the trade route at various points, and which are believed to bring up the total value of the trade to nearly 43,000 *l.*

Dhumsong has been selected as a site for an annual fair. The Government of India, in expressing their approval of this selection, observe that it is a fine open plateau, and that, if connected with the plains by a fair and easy

TRADE WITH THIBET.

road, it will doubtless, in time, become the depôt of trade between the hills and the plains. The indigo and tobacco of Rungpore are much appreciated by the Thibetans, whose intercourse with the plains is, however, restricted, owing to their dread of cholera and fever, and of the heat.

TRADE WITH EASTERN TURKESTAN.

There was an apparent large increase in the year's trade with Eastern Turkestan, but this was due to the experimental despatch of a caravan to Yarkund by an English company under the enterprising direction of Mr. Russell. Including this abnormal addition, the value of the trade passing through Leh was about 125,000 *l.* Mr. Russell has come to the conclusion that the circumstances are not favourable for direct commercial dealings by Europeans. The trade is in the hands of the Ameer, and the merchants appear to be so entirely under his influence that, unless he allows them to buy and sell, they cannot trade. Mr. Russell has proposed that, in lieu of sending caravans, wholesale depôts of European, Indian, and Central Asian goods should be established at Leh, Srinuggur, and Peshawur, and a prospectus has been issued for the formation of a new company to carry out this object. The demand for English goods, however, is apparently small, and the fact that payment has to be received by barter must limit the transactions considerably.

POVINDAH TRADE WITH CENTRAL ASIA.

The origin and nature of the Povindah trade were explained in the Progress Report for 1872-73 (p. 113). Inquiries were made during the year under review into the best means of removing existing difficulties in the way of the development of the trade passing from Ghuznee through the Gumal Pass to British India. It was found that the two great obstacles were the existence of internecine feuds between Povindah tribes, and the fact that the trade route lies for upwards of 100 miles through a country inhabited by various sections of Wuzeers.

Endeavours were made to induce the Povindah traders to settle their disputes, or, failing this, to agree to abstain from tribal warfare along the trade route; and advantage was taken of a great gathering of the representatives of the Wuzeer tribe, who assembled in unprecedented numbers to pay their respects to the Lieutenant Governor, to sound them as to their willingness to undertake the protection of the route in consideration of an annual subsidy. It is hoped that, as our relations with this tribe become more cordial, and the value of our trade with them increases, they may be induced to accept and carry out the proposals of the Government.

TRADE WITH KHORASSAN.

A great improvement was effected in the trade route between Khorassan and British territory *viâ* the Sanghar, Sori, and Sakhi Sarwar Passes; the value of the trade has risen during the past few years from nothing to 35,000 *l.*

X.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

EUROPEAN ARMY.

THE statistics of sickness and mortality in the British Army in India during 1874 were most satisfactory, mainly owing to the almost complete absence of cholera. In no year of which there is any record have the troops suffered so little from this disease.

The death-rate in each Presidency was lower, in Madras very much so, than that of any previous year. The rate for the whole Army of India was 13·58 per 1,000 of strength.

NATIVE ARMY. Bengal.

What little cholera there was in the Bengal Native Army occurred mostly in the Assam regiments. There were only 55 cases of small-pox, of which 13 were fatal. Malarial fevers were the chief cause of sickness.

Madras.

In the Madras Army malarial fevers produced by far the largest amount of sickness. There was no cholera or epidemic of any kind.

Improvements have been effected in the lines of some corps, and the authorities bestow much care and attention on their conservancy.

Vaccination was very carefully and effectually attended to, and there was in consequence a very small number of cases of small-pox among the troops as compared with the civil population.

Bombay.

Only one case of cholera occurred in the Bombay Army, and that was not fatal. Of small-pox there were only a few isolated cases, with one death, showing how well the troops are protected by vaccination, as in some parts the disease prevailed extensively in the neighbourhood.

Conservancy and sanitary arrangements are reported to be good at most stations of the Presidency. The dry-earth system is very generally employed, and is found to answer well.

HEALTH OF GENERAL POPULATION. Bengal.

The late Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, Sir G. Campbell, considering the apparent hopelessness of obtaining accurate vital statistics over the enormous areas of the province, with their vast population and uneducated agencies, inaugurated a plan for perfecting the system on a smaller scale in certain small selected areas. At least one town and one country area was selected in each district. Over these areas special pains are taken to secure accuracy in registration; and although it cannot be said that the returns are yet altogether reliable, they are more so than any which had been previously furnished.

Some of these areas lie now within the new province of Assam. Those in Bengal during the year under review numbered 139, of which 76 were urban, and 63 rural, comprising a total population of 2,686,428.

The death-rate per 1,000 was as follows, compared with the previous year:—

	1873.	1874.
Towns - - - -	26·84	28·51
Rural - - - -	23·27	21·20
Combined - - - -	24·85	24·72

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

There was a marked improvement in the registration of birth statistics.

In Calcutta, where registration is better organised and more carefully supervised, the recorded death-rate was 28·26 per 1,000. This rate cannot however be accepted as correct, owing to the census of Calcutta not having at that time been accurately taken.

Cholera occurred in every district of Bengal, but less extensively and less severely than in 1873. The deaths during the year are given as 56,876.

Deaths from small-pox numbered 12,056. It appears to have been present in some part or other of all the districts throughout the year. It prevailed with the greatest intensity, as usual, in the hot season, April and May being the most fatal months.

HEALTH OF GENERAL POPULATION.

The registered deaths from fevers amounted to 324,156. The amount of fever, and the mortality caused by it, were much lower than in the preceding year.

Bowel complaints were the assigned cause of 31,240 deaths. On the whole, this class of disease prevailed with greater severity than in 1873. The most prominent cause is climatic influence acting on the poor population, who for the most part sleep on the ground, wear wet and insufficient clothes, and drink impure water.

Madras.

The registration of deaths in the Madras Presidency is extremely imperfect; the rate given for 1874 was 17·1 per 1,000. In the capital the mortality was returned as 36·6 per 1,000.

Deaths from cholera only amounted to 313; in Ganjam alone was the mortality serious. The disease was very irregular in its diffusion, attacking only 124 out of 55,421 villages, and exempting many groups of population. Small-pox deaths numbered 48,343; and 226,220 deaths were ascribed to fever.

Bombay.

Registration in Bombay is making steady but slow progress. The death-rate arrived at in 1874 was 17·17 per 1,000, a figure which obviously is grossly incorrect. In Bombay city it was 24·04, against 24·31 in 1873, and a mean of 25·86 during the five past years.

There were in this Presidency 63 attacks from cholera, and 37 deaths. The small-pox deaths were only 3,903. The fever deaths were stated as 183,717, being to the total deaths from all causes in the proportion of 66 per cent.

Punjab.

The accuracy of registration in most towns of the Punjab is believed by the Sanitary Commissioner to be yearly improving, and in not a few cases to be already perfectly reliable.

Only 78 deaths were registered under cholera, and in only two towns did the disease appear in at all an epidemic character.

There was a very marked decrease in the mortality from small-pox, the total deaths numbering 12,026; in 1873 they amounted to 25,699.

The number of fever deaths was 190,631, or 60 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. They have never been so few before, and the per-centage also was below the average.

North-West Provinces.

There was very little cholera in the North-West Provinces. It prevailed in the epidemic form only in Goruckpore and Bustee, which, with other eastern districts, appear to be the home of cholera in the province.

Small-pox was prevalent and very fatal in the plains. The hill districts continue to testify to the perfection of the vaccination practised there.

Fever was less prevalent than in either of the two preceding years, but 67 per cent. of the total mortality was ascribed to it.

Oude.

Registration in Oude, instead of advancing, appears to be becoming more defective every year.

Only 68 deaths were put down to cholera, against an average of 17,000 for the previous five years. The deaths from small-pox were fewer than usual by about 2,000. This apparent decrease was probably due in some measure to defective registration; it certainly was not due to the effect of vaccination, the mass of the people not being thus protected.

Assam.

In most of the districts of Assam proper, and in the Khasi Hills, the registration of deaths appears to be on a tolerably satisfactory footing.

There are 17 selected areas in the province, nine rural and eight urban. The average death-rate in the whole of these areas for 1874 was 37·3 per 1,000; in the Brahmapootra Valley it was 40·9, in the Surma Valley (Sylhet and Cachar) 31·8, and in the Khasi and Jynteah Hills 28·0.

Cholera caused more deaths than any other single disease; 16,478 fatal cases, accounting for 38 per cent. of the total mortality, were registered. This number is largely in excess of the average of the two previous years.

There were recorded 1,370 fatal cases of small-pox, against 569 in 1872. A large portion of the apparent increase is clearly due to improved registration.

Under fevers, 15,910 deaths, or 37 per cent. of the total mortality, were registered.

HEALTH OF GENERAL POPULATION.

The great majority of fevers are of a malarious nature. The exuberant vegetation, large amount of rice cultivation, and extensive tracts of swampy and uncultivated lands, render the climate essentially malarious.

Central Provinces.

The ratio of deaths registered in the Central Provinces was 23·49, while the birth rate was 34·93 per 1,000. Both rates vary very considerably in different districts. The Chief Commissioner perceives some little improvement in the registration of life statistics, but urges the importance of constant attention being given to the matter. The public health was fairly good, though not equal to the preceding year. Fever and bowel complaints showed an increase. Cholera occasioned only 14 deaths. Small-pox was more virulent than for several years past, and was fatal in 17,696 cases.

Berar.

The birth-rate in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts is given as 36·1 per 1,000, against 27·1 in 1873, and the death-rate as 27·9, against 22·8. These ratios give evidence of improvement in registration, and it is hoped that, with continued care, better results will in time be obtained.

There was only one death from cholera. The deaths from small-pox fell from 8,326 to 1,112. The credit for this great decrease cannot be given to vaccination, but the severe epidemic of 1873 had left a very large proportion of the population as well protected against another attack as if they had been vaccinated. Fevers accounted for 26,732 deaths, as compared with 19,242 in 1873; while there was also a rise in the mortality from bowel complaints from 11,112 to 18,693.

British Burma.

In British Burma the recorded number of deaths fell from 41,154 in the previous year to 32,937. The decrease was mainly due to the comparative absence of cholera, from which there were 960 deaths. There was a marked diminution in fatal cases of small-pox. Fevers caused more than half the total mortality; and the deaths from bowel complaints were also numerous, and are attributed to the injudicious use of fruits and to impure water.

VACCINATION. Bengal.

The number of operations effected during 1874–5 in the Lower Provinces by circle and dispensary vaccinators, as far as returns had been received, was 959,673, against 791,634 in the preceding year. The aggregate cost was 10,207 *l.*, of which Government bore about 90 per cent. The Government of India comment with disapproval on this latter point, being of opinion that the support of vaccination should be made more a matter of self-government, as is already the case in other parts of India.

The general results are considered satisfactory as compared with former years, but they fall far short of the requirements of the population.

Madras.

In the Madras Presidency there was an increase of 69,736 in the number of operations, which amounted altogether to 428,162. The average per-centage of success was 95·88. Of children under one year old 36,444 were vaccinated, showing an increase of 4,750.

Several Superintendents in this Presidency concur in opinion that nothing short of compulsion will induce the people generally to submit to the operation.

Bombay.

The total number of operations in Bombay was 732,624, being an increase of 80,401 on the preceding year.

There is now no real opposition to vaccination anywhere in the Presidency, but there is shown in some communities a great deal of apathy and carelessness.

Punjab.

The operations in the Punjab numbered 511,425; much less opposition was met with than formerly. The Native Chiefs and the more influential people generally afforded very ready help. The municipal committees, with some exceptions, gave effective aid, while the masters of schools invariably opposed the work.

The Sanitary Commissioner, during a tour in the districts of Umritsur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur and Jullundur, had almost daily illustration of the immense progess that vaccination had made in the estimation of the people. They laughed at their former fears and suspicions, and brought their children with the greatest thankfulness to be operated on.

North-West Provinces.

The number vaccinated in the North-West Provinces in 1874–5 was 494,928, 445,901 of which cases were primary, and 128,080 were those of children under

VACCINATION.

one year. The Natives dislike their children being operated upon when very young.

It is estimated that within the next two or three years the North-West Provinces will have a body of vaccinators which will admit of each town and village being visited every second or third year. So far no very perceptible impression is being made upon the mortality from small-pox, but the work is being carried on in the right direction, and a continuance of the present system will make itself felt as the establishments grow in numbers, and the people become aware of the benefits resulting from the measure.

Oude.

The number of vaccine operations in Oude fell from 30,409 to 22,019. No satisfactory cause has been assigned for this circumstance. Of the operations performed an increased proportion was successful.

Assam.

Vaccination in the new province of Assam is in quite an incipient stage, but the question of its extension is engaging the serious attention of the Government, as small-pox is a terrible scourge there, and is specially fatal to the hill tribes living within and beyond our borders.

A'mere.

In the district of Ajmere-Mhairwarra 12,463 operations were performed. Compared with some of the Native States, British Rajpootana is stated to be backward in the matter of vaccination.

Central Provinces.

Up to the end of 1873-4 systematic efforts for protection from small-pox in the Central Provinces had been confined to the districts of Betul, Chindwara, Seonee, and Sumbulpore, and the favourable results in those districts pointed forcibly to the benefit of vaccination. In 1874 the Chief Commissioner sanctioned a scheme for the whole province, under which every Civil Surgeon is to be the Superintendent of Vaccination within his district, and there will exist a fixed establishment in each district, under a Native Superintendent, on rates of pay sufficient to attract a good class of men. Consequently on this measure, whereas in 1873-4 there were in all 103 persons employed in the work, the number in the ensuing year was 144.

To ensure the protection of the whole population, the present annual rate of vaccination must at least be doubled.

Berar.

The Resident at Hyderabad states, with reference to vaccination in the Assigned Districts, that "it is clear that more and better work has been done "during the year under review, and this is mainly due to the zeal and "judgment with which Dr. Abbott has superintended the work of his "subordinates."

The total of successful cases was 42,959, against 29,932 in 1873-4. The proportion of infants vaccinated increased from 31 to 38 per cent.

British Burma.

There were 21,154 vaccinations in British Burma (exclusive of those in dispensaries). Both the number and the success compared favourably with preceding years.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES. Bengal.

The charitable hospitals and dispensaries of the Lower Provinces numbered, at the close of 1874, 203; 23 had been added during the year, and two closed. These results, the Lieutenant Governor considers, speak favourably for the public spirit and benevolence of the Native community, by whom the necessary funds for the establishment of these new dispensaries have been for the most part provided. Of the total income Government still contributes somewhat more than one-third, not to mention the gratuitous supply of European drugs and other medical stores, the value of which in 1874 was 25,126 *l.* In the year under review there was, however, a slight improvement in the extent to which the Native subscribers came forward. The number of municipalities contributing towards the support of dispensaries also increased from 52 to 65, and the amount of their contributions ranged higher than before.

Excluding the Calcutta institutions and 102 special endemic dispensaries in Burdwan, the number of persons who received relief during the year either as indoor or outdoor patients was 660,131, of whom 23,842 belonged to the former class, and 636,289 to the latter. If all the institutions are included, the grand total is 1,840,822.

Dr. French's arrangements for provisional dispensaries in Burdwan appear

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

to have proved a great success. He reported on 23rd February 1875 that 29 villages had subscribed, and, with one exception, had paid their subscriptions for six months in advance. The object was to make the dispensaries self-supporting until those which are eventually retained are established on the guaranteed subscription system under one of the classes of the Government rules. In some cases Native doctors, who were good men, were appointed to the charge of the dispensaries at the express wish of the inhabitants.

Madras.

There were during 1874-75 nine public charitable hospitals in the town of Madras, at which there attended 9,396 indoor and 63,990 outdoor patients.

The number of dispensaries in the Presidency (in addition to the above) was 122, of which 12 were opened during the year. The readiness with which the people tax themselves to maintain these institutions is noticed with approval by the Government.

Bombay.

Out-patients at Bombay dispensaries showed a large increase, numbering 509,266. The amount of donations and subscriptions, which was small in 1873-74, was still less in 1874-75, but in contributions from local and municipal funds there was a satisfactory advance.

Punjab.

There was an increase of 16 in the Punjab dispensaries, making in all 136. The total attendance of patients exceeded that of 1873 by 68,382. This increase is the more satisfactory as the year under report was one of the healthiest ever known. There was a falling off in the subscriptions both of the Europeans and Natives, which is to be especially regretted in a time of prosperity and low prices.

North-West Provinces.

Although the year was a remarkably healthy one in the North-West Provinces, there was an increase of 1,718 in indoor, and of 4,604 in outdoor patients. The latter increase was entirely due to two new institutions.

The question of the expediency of maintaining branch dispensaries under the charge of Native doctors or hospital assistants has engaged the attention of the Local Government. Such men bring discredit on the European system of medicine, accommodating themselves to popular ideas, and throwing overboard all they have ever learnt in our schools. The result is that the abuses of the dispensaries are a constant topic in the vernacular press; that the Natives, while they fully appreciate the science of European surgery, only come to the dispensary as a last resource in medical cases; and that municipal committees are increasingly transferring their support to Native hakims. The Lieutenant Governor thinks it extremely questionable whether these establishments should be maintained for the sole cost of dispensing, through more or less ignorant men, medicines of which the use is as well known to the people as to themselves; and he has determined for the present not to increase the number of branch dispensaries under the sole charge of hospital assistants, except on very special grounds. To the extension of "sudder" dispensaries under regularly trained Assistant Surgeons he will, however, continue to give his warm support.

Oude.

In Oude four new dispensaries were opened; and the number of persons treated increased by 19,256, notwithstanding its having been one of the healthiest seasons which the province had enjoyed for several years.

Ajmere.

The number treated in Ajmere and Mhairwarra was 27,775. The Ajmere dispensary was maintained in its usual good order, and so was that of Beawur.

Central Provinces.

At 77 Government institutions in the Central Provinces there was an attendance of 9,558 indoor and 334,117 outdoor patients, giving a total of persons by whom medical relief was sought of 343,675. That the people appreciate these institutions is shown by the fact that in the larger towns applications are often made for branch dispensaries to be opened. The subscriptions by Natives rose from 1,813 *l.* to 2,112 *l.*

British Burma.

There were 17 civil dispensaries in British Burma, of which one was opened during the year. The Burman population are very slow in accommodating themselves to our system of medical treatment; in surgery cases, however, they believe implicitly in the skill of Government doctors.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS. Bengal.

A new medical school was opened at Patna in June 1874, and arrangements were made for opening another at Dacca in June 1875. There were altogether 1,185 students in Bengal training for the medical profession.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS. Madras.

The question of increasing the teaching staff of the Madras Medical College was considered during the year, the supply of medical men from the college having been hitherto short of the requirements of the country. The establishment of provincial medical schools was also in contemplation.

In consideration of a large proportion of the Indian female population being debarred by social custom from receiving skilled medical aid, measures were instituted during the year for the education of female students at the Medical College. In the case of various subjects which could not be conveniently studied in conjunction with male students, separate classes are held. Three female students had availed themselves of the privilege.

Punjab.

The Principal of the Lahore Medical School says that most of the students are doing very well, and that there is every reason to anticipate much good from the plan of sending young men for qualification as private practitioners in their several districts. The Inspector-General of Dispensaries hopes that it will not be very long before these men will entirely replace the hakims. He does not believe that much good comes from the latter practising medicine, although they are for the most part a well-behaved and intelligent class, and he thinks the best thing that can be done with them is to employ them for the diffusion of vaccination.

Oude.

The Bulrampur Medical School, which was opened in April 1873, and is endowed by the Maharajah of Bulrampur, is reported to have made a very good start, and to be in a fair way to become very popular. All the professors worked with zeal, and took great pains in teaching their various classes. The school had its full complement of students in the course of 1874. Among the candidates for admission were two Brahmans, of whom one had been formerly dismissed for insubordination, and the other had resigned on account of caste prejudices. These were afterwards reported to be among the best students. The aversion which was at first shown to dissection is being gradually overcome. All the instruction is given in English.

Central Provinces.

The general working and progress of the Nagpore School of Medicine during 1874-5 is reported to have been satisfactory, but the character and qualifications of the students, more particularly of the new admissions, do not appear to have been good. It is stated that some progress has been made towards carrying out the objects of the school, especially the object of supplying hospital assistants for Government service. Through the liberality of a few Native gentlemen, the principal was enabled to offer 21 prizes for learning and general proficiency, which were carried off by twelve students.

SANITATION. Bengal.

There was a very great advancement in the sanitation of municipal towns in Bengal. Dacca, Patna, Durbhunga, and Chittagong are noticed as special instances of this improvement, and in many other stations the relief works undertaken during the famine have been of a kind likely to have a good effect on the public health.

The famine is said to have largely extended, in a most practical manner, a knowledge of what is needed and how it can be done.

The underground drainage scheme which has been carried out in Calcutta has produced the most marked sanitary improvement, which appears to be well worth the great cost which the works have involved.

Madras.

The new water-supply from the Red Hill Lake is much appreciated by the residents in Madras, who attribute to it their comparative immunity from cholera in 1875.

Very satisfactory accounts have been received of the arrangements at Madras fairs and festivals during 1874 and 1875. Latrines were erected, sweepers entertained, cattle kept at a distance, drinking water guarded from defilement, and medicines and temporary hospital accommodation provided. The effects of these measures were in many instances very marked.

Bombay.

Increasing attention is given to conservancy in the Bombay head-quarter stations and municipalities, and a great deal has been done towards supplying wholesome drinking water.

The question of the provision of a system of drainage and sewerage in the capital is still in abeyance, but has been occupying much serious attention.

SANITATION. Punjab.

Not much advance was made with the great works of drainage and water-supply in the Punjab which have been for a long time under consideration. The injury to the public health which results from the continuance of the impure water-supply at Delhi was urged on the Government of India, and it was hoped that a loan would soon be granted, so that the work might be taken in hand and vigorously pushed on to completion. Works of minor but still very great importance, such as paving, guttering, latrine construction, and surface cleansing, were carried on.

North-West Provinces.

Municipal committees in the North-West Provinces continued to give attention to works of sanitary improvement.

The project for the drainage of the City of Saharunpur, which comprises 25 separate works, aggregating a cost of 11,164 *l.*, was nearly completed.

Oude.

The reports from Oude do not exhibit much progress. A great drawback in the municipalities is their extreme poverty. As a rule, the streets of all municipal towns are well swept, the latrines kept clean, and nightsoil removed; but the absence of drainage and of urinaries, conjoined with the practice of throwing ashes and rubbish into pits near the houses, has caused a deposit of salt and nitre in the soil in every old town, frequently in sufficient quantity to be extracted as articles of commerce; in consequence of which the water in most of the wells within the densely populated area is so contaminated as to be saline to the taste.

Central Provinces.

Some sanitary progress is reported in the towns of the Central Provinces. With a few exceptions streets have been opened out, surface drains constructed, and conservancy fairly attended to. The existing sources of water-supply are improved and preserved from pollution, but, except in Raipore, no municipality has in hand any comprehensive scheme for providing its population with a pure and safe supply of water. The great obstacle to bringing the villages into a better state of cleanliness is the practice of keeping the cattle at night within the village precincts, but reform in this respect will be most difficult to bring about. Improvement of the water-supply of villages would be more easy of attainment, but even in this matter the apathy and prejudices of the people impede progress. The fact of the intimate connection between cholera and pollution of the water-supply is, however, beginning to be recognised by the more intelligent classes.

Berar.

The poverty of the municipalities in Berar is a serious bar to sanitary improvements, but the matter is not neglected either in municipal or other towns. The establishments, after the cleansing operations of the day are over, are employed in various improvements, and in villages the people are stirred up to maintain cleanliness. A great hindrance to sanitation is the want of free spaces around villages; and this is an evil not very easy to remedy without infringing on the settlement rights of the proprietors.

British Burma.

Nothing important was effected in British Burma in the way of sanitary progress, but, as all the principal towns have now been brought under the control of municipal committees, it is hoped that there will be more to record under this head in future.

XI.

EMIGRATION.

EMIGRATION. To the Colonies.

THE general results of the working of the Emigration Department in Bengal during 1874-75, as contrasted with those of the previous year, are shown in the following table:—

	1873-74.	1874-75.
Number of emigrants admitted to the depôts	29,267	23,393
Absconded	4,362	1,178
Rejected		1,560
Died in depôt	336	79
Death-rate	1·14	0·33
Despatched to colonies	24,569	20,230
Died on ship-board	775	285
Death-rate	3·15	1·4
Number of emigrants who retuned from the colonies	2,481	3,534

There was thus a large decrease, amounting to 5,874 persons, in the number of intending emigrants admitted to the depôts, followed by a decrease of 1,881 in the number of persons rejected, absconding, or dying in depôt, and resulting in a net decrease of 4,339 in the number of persons actually despatched to the colonies. The decrease in mortality, both in depôt and on board ship, is satisfactory, as is also the large increase in the number of emigrants who returned to India with their earnings. Although, however, the general death-rate was small and considerably below the average of the previous year, on particular voyages it was lamentably high. In such cases the circumstances formed the subject of careful inquiry, and it was found that there had been no want of proper care and attention on the part of the responsible officers of Government in the selection and examination of the emigrants prior to their shipment. No satisfactory conclusions have been arrived at as to the causes of the outbreaks of sickness, further than that the coolies, before they are driven to emigrate, are in many cases much reduced by want, and that their constitutions are little fitted to withstand the hardships of the voyage to the colonies. Every precaution is taken by observation in depôt to provide against infection being carried on board the emigrant ships, yet instances are frequently occurring in which a disease in a latent form must have eluded detection. An emigration season has been prescribed for the various British colonies west of the Cape of Good Hope, such as will give the greatest probability of the voyages made being fair ones, and in addition it has lately been determined to provide that the bulk of the women and children, who are the most frequent victims of disease on the voyage, shall be shipped in the late months of the season, when the weather is fairest.

There was a large decrease in the shipments to Demerara, and a total cessation of emigration to Dutch and French Guiana. The requirements of the two latter colonies appear to have been fully met in previous years. In both the health of labourers has been far from satisfactory, and it was determined on this account to suspend emigration to Surinam for the present. There was a renewal of emigration to Natal, which is considered satisfactory, as the coolies have good prospects there of bettering themselves.

Although there was a large decrease in emigration as compared with 1873-74, the total number of emigrants despatched to the colonies exceeded that of 1872-73 by 3,059 persons.

Of the total number of 20,230 emigrants despatched to the colonies, 9,688 were natives of the North-West Provinces, 6,406 of Behar, 2,781 of Oude, and 1,041 only of Bengal proper and Orissa. The number elsewhere recruited (in the Punjab, Central India, and the Native States) amounted to 314 only.

There were 1,053 more return emigrants than in the previous year. The ships which conveyed the latter were found to be generally in a satisfactory condition. The coolies made no serious complaints as to their treatment either in the colonies or on the passage. EMIGRATION.

Not less than 500 persons re-emigrated during 1874-75; and besides these, many others, it is said, were willing to emigrate again to Trinidad, but were rejected in consequence of the enfeebled condition to which they had been reduced after their return to India.

Emigration from Madras is almost entirely confined to coolies proceeding to Mauritius, of whom there were 1,186 during the year under report. There arrived 1,231 return emigrants from the same colony, and 172 from Natal. Among the former only six deaths occurred, and two among the latter.

The Report of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal for 1874-75 gives some results of inquiries that have been instituted in pursuance of a Despatch from the Secretary of State (dated 24th March 1875), which dwelt on the importance of encouraging emigration to the colonies, and raised the question whether the Indian Government might not assume a more direct and responsible position in respect to this matter. The emigration agents have pointed out what they consider the difficulties in the way of emigration; some of the measures complained of were initiated or concurred in by the colonies themselves. The following rules, which are now objected to, the Lieutenant Governor is strongly of opinion should not be relaxed, viz.: (1) the modified regulations now in force for the survey of emigrant ships; (2) that in each ship there shall be a fixed proportion of women; (3) that a refund of fees shall not be allowed in the case of deserting emigrants; (4) that full railway fare to their homes shall be charged in respect of rejected applicants. On the following points the Lieutenant Governor held out hopes to the emigration agents that the inconveniences referred to would be obviated as far as possible: (1) delay in registering intending emigrants; (2) the charge of an uniform registration fee irrespective of age. With regard to the pecuniary loss stated to be sustained by the colonies through fraud on the part of those registering themselves, the Lieutenant Governor recommended that a substantial penalty be distinctly attached to the offence of any emigrant withdrawing, without due cause, from his engagement.

The Lieutenant Governor fully agreed with the view expressed in the above Despatch that, to enable the Government to carry out its proposed policy, it should possess more complete information and guarantees than it at present does as to the treatment of emigrants, and that, with this object, the colonial authorities should receive and pay for a number of qualified agents, to be appointed by the Government of India, who would furnish the Government with the fullest information, and also that all emigrants should be classified before their departure, so that specific wages might be guaranteed to each one.

Various measures were adopted during 1874 for the well-being of the labourers in the tea districts. To the Tea Districts.

The important experiment was adopted of opening the over-land route by Rajmehal and Doobree to the immigrants into Assam proper, a second emigration depôt being opened at the latter place, and the coolies being embarked from thence. The journey through Western Bengal, and the detention at Calcutta, where the coolies had often to wait for some days before departure, had, it was said, most disastrous consequences. It was during that journey and detention that the seeds of cholera were sown.

Another measure, which was sanctioned late in the year, was the provision of additional clothing and shelter to labourers during the winter months on their voyage up the Brahmapootra. This was suggested by a serious outbreak of cholera being attributed to cold from insufficient clothing.

Complaints had from time to time been received of the ignorance and inefficiency of Native doctors sent in charge of coolies; they were represented to be men picked up for the occasion, and paid by the trip. A regular staff of Europeans is now organised for this service, who, though not at all legally, are all much better qualified than the Native doctors.

In the famine year there was a great increase in the number of labourers despatched to the tea districts, and as the effects of the scarcity disappeared the

EMIGRATION.

flow of emigration somewhat abated. The latter circumstance is attributed, not to any decrease in the demand, but to a growing difficulty in finding persons willing to emigrate. The recruiters have considerable competition to encounter in the large demands from the colonies, and from British Burma, and terms will probably have to be raised to ensure the necessary supply.

The number of labourers imported during 1874 was 22,288; and at the end of the year there remained altogether 70,992 imported labourers, being 12,295 more than at its commencement.

The following table shows the various territories from which the labourers were supplied: –

	Males.	Females.
Bengal - - - - - - -	5,883	3,268
Chota Nagpore - - - - - -	4,272	3,397
North-West Provinces - - - -	2,201	1,241
Madras - - - - - - -	19	7
	12,375	9,913
	22,288.	

These statistics are not to be implicitly relied on, but they may be depended upon so far as showing that the sources of immigration are as much the thinly-peopled districts of Chota Nagpore and Sonthalia as the over-populated districts of the Ganges valley and delta.

The total number of deaths during the year was 2,540. The death-rate per 1,000 was as follows in the several districts:—

Kamroop - - - - -	93·7
Darrang - - - - -	36·9
Nowgong - - - - -	80·4
Seebsaugor - - - -	41·3
Luckimpore - - - -	45·8
Sylhet - - - - -	20·2
Cachar - - - - -	29·3
Total death-rate - - -	36·5

With the exception of Sylhet, the rates of mortality in all the districts compare unfavourably with those of the previous year. In Nowgong the rate is nearly double. The Inspector says the deaths were principally among new arrivals, and were mostly due to cholera and other non-preventable causes. The year was one in which the public health in Nowgong was far from good; cholera and small-pox were prevalent in an epidemic form, and, as coolies are generally careless about their health and what they eat and drink, the deaths among them were consequently more than usual. The Inspector for Upper Assam remarks: "The mortality during the past year has been higher than "that of 1873 in both the districts of Seebsaugor and Luckimpore, due in a great "measure to cholera, which was very prevalent in many of the gardens. The "rainy season was also exceptionally unhealthy, owing to the frequent and long-"continued floods. I am often told, in making inquiries on the estate as to high "death-rate, that it is caused by the state in which the coolies arrive on the "gardens, ill and debilitated from the voyage. This is quite true, as I have "often seen myself, but it is difficult to find a remedy."

The mortality in Kamroop would appear by the above figures to have been disproportionately high, but the number of labourers on which the per-centage is based was comparatively very small.

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The number of desertions was 2,955. It appears that desertions have been steadily increasing during the last few years. Its most fruitful cause is said to be the system of giving bonuses. Few of those who desert settle in the province or return to their homes, but they are tempted to other plantations by the offer of a bonus, employers finding this a cheaper plan than importing labourers on their own account.

Although there is no great disproportion of sexes, yet the birth-rate is only 2 per cent. No cause for this has been assigned, and it is regarded with some concern, as the welfare of the tea industry must depend to a great extent on the fecundity of the imported labourers.

To British Burma.

The system of State emigration from Bengal to British Burma was continued throughout the year, 7,397 persons having been despatched through this agency. The influx of this number of labourers led the British Burma Administration to regard the scheme as, on the whole, a success, but the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal was disappointed with the result of the efforts made to induce emigration of the surplus population, even from the most densely populated part of Behar, where the effects of the famine were much felt. The scheme was about to be merged in a much broader one contemplated by the "British Burma Labour Bill," under consideration of the Legislative Council.

Most of the immigrants were employed on the works of the Irrawaddy Valley (State) Railway, many were privately engaged as labourers and servants, and others found profitable work in cultivating and reaping the rice crops.

There is also a migration to British Burma from the Telugu districts of Madras, but the movement is voluntary, and unaided by the Government.

To Ceylon.

The greater part of the labour required on the coffee estates of Ceylon is furnished from Southern India. The number of coolies proceeding to Ceylon every year averages 70,660, and about 54,000 return annually. The arrangement works very advantageously on both sides; the planters can always obtain as much labour as they want, while the high wages received by the coolies enable them to save, and ultimately to take the position of small farmers in their own villages. The Ceylon Government undertakes to see that while they remain in the island they are properly housed, fed, and provided with medical attendance.

XII.

EDUCATION.

STATE OF EDUCATION. Bengal.

THE policy of Sir G. Campbell in regard to the extension of primary education has been steadily maintained by his successor. Notwithstanding the very great addition to the number of aided primary schools in the two preceding years, there was a still further increase in 1874 75 of about 1,000 schools.

The aim has been, not only to augment the quantity of this instruction, but also to improve its quality without making it too high for the purpose in view.

As it appeared that the education of the children of the poorer classes of Europeans and East Indians was being neglected, Sir R. Temple invited all those interested in the matter to co-operate in either enlarging the sphere of existing institutions or establishing new ones, promising them at the same time assistance from Government to the full extent authorised by the rules. These proposals had not, so far, evoked any marked effort.

The great majority of Bengal youths resort to two professions, the public service and the law, with the consequence that many cannot obtain employment, to their great discontent. With a view to open out other lines of employment, the Government is endeavouring to establish technical and industrial schools of a superior kind in many places. Funds are being raised among the Natives themselves for two such institutions, one at Calcutta, and one at or near Patna. The Civil Engineering branch at the Presidency College has not been very successful, owing apparently to its not being in sufficiently close relations with the Public Works Department of the Local Government. The School of Art at Calcutta is attracting some pupils. Sir R. Temple states: "There is a "great want of even the most rudimentary training in art among the Native "youth generally. The art culture, once indigenous in the country, has, for "the most part, died out in the course of ages, and nothing new has been "substituted."

Sir R. Temple discerns a healthy ambition among the Natives of Bengal to raise themselves by education; an increasing pride finds expression among them in respect to the achievements of the Hindoo mind; in fact, there is "a "sort of intellectual restlessness and mental fermentation" going on, which it is most important should be guided into a right direction. The number of young men who visit England to complete their education, or to study for a profession, is gradually increasing.

Almost every Bengalee youth who can afford the means aspires to English education as one of the main objects of his life; and there is a desire for learning English even among the poorer classes.

A result of education has been the formation all over the country of societies, having for their objects chiefly educational and social matters. There were at the close of the period under review about 60 of them, numbering about 2,000 members in all. The British Indian Association is one of the oldest and best known among them.

One satisfactory result of the visit of the Prince of Wales has been that the wealthier Natives of all classes are raising subscriptions to commemorate the event by founding educational institutions.

Madras.

The schools in Madras in connection with the Educational Department increased during the year by 936, and the number of scholars by 24,917. The number of lower-class schools was 8,306, showing an increase of 881, accompanied by an increased attendance of 22,106.

The Government have felt it necessary to intimate their wish that a larger portion of municipal funds should be devoted to education, and have specially enjoined on municipalities the duty of directing elementary education.

Bombay.

The number of schools in Bombay connected in any way with Government increased by 181, and the scholars by 10,125; the numbers being 4,334 and 238,686 respectively.

The returns for the Northern Division are reported to have been affected by the unusually large number of marriages which occurred during the year. In

Sind, too, the increase was small, owing to the disastrous floods, which for several months emptied many of the schools and seriously affected others in the district of Shikarpur. STATE OF EDUCATION.

Punjab.

Education made continued satisfactory progress in the Punjab. The number of Government and aided institutions increased during the year by 100, and the number of scholars by 9,876. The increase occurred principally in primary schools.

There are good reports of the working of the Lahore and Delhi Colleges. From the latter eight out of nine candidates passed the First Arts' Examination of the Calcutta University.

The development of education in the frontier district of Hazara has been very striking. In 1872 there were only three ill-attended schools in the district, and the district authorities considered there was no desire for education, and that it would be long before anything like progress would be made. There are now 25 schools, attended by 1,098 scholars, among whom are the sons of Atta Mahomed Khan and other local Chiefs, and some children from independent territory across the border. This remarkable advance is ascribed by the Deputy Commissioner partly to the fact that the settlement operations, now closed, while they have largely increased the value of property in land, have awakened the people to a sense of the practical value of instruction, and partly to the influence of the district committee and the extension of the municipal system. A similar change in the feelings of the people towards education is reported from the district of Peshawur.

Notwithstanding the above encouraging features, the fact remains that of children of a school-going age in the Punjab about 70 per cent. are receiving no instruction.

North-West Provinces.

The number of Government boys' schools in the North-West Provinces increased from 4,017 to 4,184, and scholars from 155,819 to 159,419. The "hulkabundee" schools (the lowest class of Government schools, which afford free elementary instruction to the village poor) increased by 161, and the pupils by 3,346.

Oude.

Government schools in Oude increased by 47, while private schools decreased by two. There were 1,059 village schools, of which all except five were supported and managed by the State. The course of study for these schools was revised by a committee, and it is hoped that the effect will be to make the schools more popular both with teachers and pupils.

Of 94 candidates presented for the Calcutta Entrance Examination, 45·7 per cent. passed, which is above the average, as, of the *total* number of candidates, the proportion passed was 43 per cent. The result was chiefly due to the success of the Government schools.

Assam.

In the northern Garo Hills education is entirely conducted by the American missionaries. Of 20 village schools five were closed during the year, but the falling off will, it is hoped, be only temporary. The future success of the schools mainly depends on an adequate supply of suitable teachers. In the southern part of the district, where education is supervised by the Deputy Commissioner, there was a fair average attendance of boys. Only the most elementary instruction is given. It was hoped that during the ensuing year several new schools would be opened in the interior.

Ajmere.

The year in Ajmere was, on the whole, marked by satisfactory progress in educational matters. The number of pupils increased; the experiment of a branch school in the city of Ajmere (the funds for which were provided by the municipal committee for one year) was attended with some success; while night schools established in Mhairwarra to accommodate the agricultural community also proved successful.

Central Provinces.

Although the number of schools in the Central Provinces decreased by 30, the average daily attendance increased by 4,051. This is regarded by the Chief Commissioner as a very healthy sign, for in India the value of each boy's labour, consequent on the poverty of the people, is always a serious drawback

STATE OF EDUCATION.

to the progress of education, while in this particular year the prevalence of small-pox in several districts further interfered with attendance. The eastern districts, especially Sumbulpore, have the largest number of scholars. Here it is believed that education has taken a firm hold on the people; much liberality is shown in the support given to the schools, and as this support has now been given for a considerable time, it is hoped that it is permanent.

The statistics of village schools, which are really the most important of all, are very favourable. The educational officers, in their inspection, found great internal improvements, better classification, and schoolmasters impressed with a more lively sense of their duties and responsibility.

Berar.

In Berar special attention has been directed to the diffusion of primary instruction among the lower classes of the community. Six middle-class schools were reduced to the lower grade, and 22 lower-class schools were added to the number previously existing, making the total number 380. There is a large number of indigenous schools in the province, which, beyond keeping the boys out of mischief, are useless, the teachers being wholly illiterate. The village schoolmaster is, however, generally a very popular institution, and the policy of the Government is to take advantage of this element of popularity wherever it exists by helping the schools with grants of books and of money, and to encourage the teachers and their pupils by friendly advice and visits from the Inspectors of the Educational Department.

Other measures of the year were the institution of 95 exhibitions, to enable the most promising pupils in the village schools to push on their education in the middle-class school of the neighbouring town; the employment of a restricted number of extra assistant masters in schools in which the average attendance exceeds the teaching power of the permanent staff; and a revision of the rates of school fees, so as to place primary instruction within the reach of the poorest classes. To render the Government schools popular, and to ensure regularity in attendance, instructions were issued for the formation of local school committees in all towns and villages in which schools are established.

Coorg.

Education made satisfactory progress in Coorg. The number of schools was increased by the establishment of three Government and seven private institutions.

A Coorg student at the Bangalore High School left the country to complete his education in England.

British Burma.

In the last Report (p. 23) an account was given of the remarkable progress effected in British Burma in matters of education, and especially of the successful attempts to bring into co-operation with the Government system a large number of the indigenous schools of the country. This year, again, was one of continued advancement. Considerable additions were made to the inspecting staff, on which the success of the whole system depends. Government schools increased from 21 to 24; aided missionary schools from 24 to 27; and other schools aided in one way or another by Government from 936 to 1,143. The number of children whose education is in some manner under Government supervision was 33,027, which, however, was only a little over 1·2 per cent. of the population. But this proportion is no indication of the extent to which education is carried on, as there are numerous monastic schools throughout the country which are unconnected with Government, and many of which firmly resent Government interference. From the indigenous lay schools which have been brought under the inspecting agency very gratifying results are obtained, and the educational authorities have been informed that they must look in this direction for the development of a sound system of primary instruction. The great difficulty at present is the want of qualified teachers, but various measures are being carried out with a view to supply this want.

There is reported to be an earnest desire among the Burman youths to acquire a knowledge, however superficial, of English.

UNIVERSITIES. Calcutta.

At the Calcutta University Entrance Examination of 1874 the system of setting papers in English without reference to text-books was introduced. There

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had been in 1873 an abnormally large accession of candidates, owing to an impression that the difficulty of passing future examinations would be greatly enhanced by the abolition of text-books in English; and the result of that examination showed that a large number of candidates had got admission to it who were not fit to appear. In 1874 the number of candidates fell from 2,544 to 2,254, but of this number 966, or 43 per cent., were successful, against a per-centage of 33 only in the previous year. Fifty-six candidates registered for examination did not present themselves, and of the 1,232 who failed, 789 were rejected in mathematics, and 724 in English. The number of candidates from Bengal was 1,717, or 76 per cent. of the whole.

Having passed the University Entrance Examination, students are admissible to colleges and high schools affiliated to the university in arts, in which they enter upon a course of study extending over two years. The subjects of this course are prescribed by the university, and form the standard of the examination known as the First Examination in Arts. After passing this examination, students enter upon a further course, extending over two years, the subjects of which are also prescribed by the university, and form the standard of the B.A. degree examination.

The number of students at the colleges is, however, small. The average number of graduates for the three years 1873 to 1875 was 232, and the number of graduates from the founding of the university in 1857 to 1875, a period of 19 years, is only 2,307. In general terms the fact is that not more than 12, perhaps 15, per cent. of those who have matriculated after examination ever proceed to take a degree. It is clear that the passing of the Entrance Examination has been too often regarded as being an end gained instead of being, what it ought to be, a step towards an end, namely, the taking of a degree.

Madras.

The Principal of the Bangalore High School, complaining of a similar abuse of the University Entrance Examination, makes the following remarks:—

"Many resort to the bad practice of seeking employment as soon as the Entrance "Examination has been passed, and yet striving to pass more examinations. "This is detrimental to themselves, and lowers the character of the institution "to which they belong. Many a poor student must, however, adopt this course "until Native liberality provides for such cases. But for founders and bene-"factors in our English seats of learning, the world would have lost much both "in literature and science."

The number of pupils who presented themselves for the Matriculation Examination at the Madras University was 1,911, against 1,704 in the previous year, and the number of those who pased was 784, against 626. The ratio of passed to examined candidates rose from 36·7 to 41 per cent; and in the number of first-class men there was an increase from 62 to 120. At the First Examination in Arts 183 passed, against 125 in 1873-74; and here also there was a satisfactory increase in the number of those who passed in the first class.

At the Presidency College the Sanscrit class was reported to be in a satisfactory condition, and a new chair was formed during the year, that of Professor of Physical Science.

The Free Church Mission Institution is the largest college in Southern India, and has besides a school department of nearly 800 boys. This college is very successful in its working. Of its 153 students in 1874-75, 38 passed the Matriculation Examination, 24 the First Arts Examination, and five took the B.A. degree.

The Doveton Protestant College had only 24 students, but of these more than half succeeded in passing the university examinations.

Bombay.

At the Matriculation Examination for the University of Bombay there was an increase of 90 candidates, but a decrease of 93 in those who passed.

In 1873-74 more than one third of the candidates passed, while in the year under report the number of successful candidates was reduced to less than one-fourth of the number presented. The falling off is most marked among candidates privately educated. In the higher examinations the results were satisfactory, but here too the proportion of successful candidates was slightly lower than in the previous year. In 1873-74 the total number of candidates in these

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was 297, of whom 121 passed; while in the year of review there were 392 candidates, of whom 150 passed.

Punjab University College.

The Punjab University College made good progress. It held during the year examinations for High Proficiency and Proficiency in Arts, for Proficiency in Law, Medicine, Arabic, Sanskrit and Persian; it expended 1,148 *l.* in scholarships held at various educational institutions, 569 *l.* on fellowships, and 1,660 *l.* on the Oriental College and on the translation of English standard works into the vernacular.

For the Entrance Examination held in 1874, 115 candidates presented themselves, of whom 59 passed.

The Oriental College maintained by the Punjab University College has been greatly improved in efficiency. Instruction is given in Sanskrit, Arabic, and Persian, whilst mathematics, history, and geography are taught through the medium of Urdu and Hindi. Recently classes have been opened for instruction in the English language and literature. A school department is attached to the college. Out of 24 candidates, eight passed the Entrance Examination of the Punjab University College, and eight candidates for the Proficiency in Arts Examination all failed. To the Arabic Examination, however, the Oriental College contributed 14 out of the 16 successful candidates, to the Sanskrit Examination 12 out of 29, and to the Persian Examination 21 out of 36.

MAHOMEDAN EDUCATION. Bengal.

Of a total of 436,098 pupils in Government and aided institutions in Bengal Mahomedans numbered 87,917. Of these, 87,087 were at institutions other than colleges for general and special instruction. The number in the lower primary schools was 74,644, being 86 per cent. of the whole number at school.

There was an increase of 24 per cent. on the previous year in the number of Mahomedans learning English; the per-centage was slightly below 6, about half that for Hindoos.

The number of Mahomedan students in colleges for general education increased during the year from 36 to 53, and in institutions giving instruction in law, medicine, and engineering from 79 to 115; while, owing to the opening of the Rajshahye and Chittagong madrassas during the year, the students attending madrassas increased from 314 to 657.

As the students at the Calcutta Madrassa show a desire to learn English, in addition to Arabic and Persian, the principal the considering a scheme for encouraging the study of English conjointly with was other languages.

Bombay.

The schools for Mahomedans in the Central Division of the Bombay Presidency do not present encouraging results, and the number of pupils shows a considerable falling off from the previous year. In the Northern Division, on the other hand, the Urdu schools increased from 31 to 38, and the results showed a marked improvement. In the Southern Division there are Mussulman masters and assistants in some of the ordinary Canarese schools, and many Mussulman pupils learning with the Hindoos.

Punjab.

An indication of the growing appreciation of education by the Mahomedans in the Punjab is the circumstance that of 1,026 boys attending the Lahore District School and its branches 554 were of that religion.

Oude.

The Mahomedans in Oude are, in proportion to their numbers, far more ready than Hindoos to accept the offer of State education. This fact is apparent in English as well as vernacular schools. If, however, the low caste Hindoos are excluded from the comparison, this superiority of the Mahomedans no longer appears.

FEMALE EDUCATION. Bengal.

Female education in Bengal, though not making as rapid advances as might be desired, is yet marked by steady progress. One of the most promising features of the new "patshala" system is the extension of primary female instruction in the mixed schools. Zenana education is believed to be making decided progress among the higher classes of society, but it is conducted quite privately, and it is doubtful whether it goes beyond reading and writing. The attempts to establish normal schools for female teachers have scarcely succeeded.

FEMALE EDUCATION. Madras.

During the year under review Municipalities and Local Fund Boards in Madras were relieved from all charges on account of elementary girls' schools, which were all made Government institutions.

The total number of girls' schools in this Presidency increased from 237 to 269, and the number of pupils from 11,193 to 11,906. The total number of girls under instruction in any schools connected with Government rose from 17,113 to 19,582. Among this number Hindoo girls increased by 780, while the number of Mahomedan girls more than doubled itself.

Bombay.

In Bombay there was a net decrease in girls' schools of 12, and in pupils of 150. Except in the Poona sub-division, the schools are generally promising.

Punjab.

The number of Government female schools in the Punjab rose from 101 to 128, and of pupils from 2,599 to 3,318. The aided female schools, however, decreased in number from 223 to 218, and the scholars from 6,444 to 6,284.

The aided schools comprise 53 mission schools, two sets of zenana classes, and 163 schools which are more or less under local officers and in some cases Native committees.

British Burma.

Female education in British Burma progresses satisfactorily, principally at missionary institutions. The social freedom which Burmese women enjoy gives them a great advantage in this respect. But there is a difficulty in obtaining thoroughly suitable teachers, combining a knowledge of English and of the vernacular.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS. Bengal.

The Bengalee literature chiefly excels in fiction, but an aptitude is also shown for history, and many books of this character have been prepared, which are sound and good as far as they go. There are also ethical and didactic works of some merit; and rudimentary books on science, derived from European sources, are beginning to be written.

A steady improvement is reported in the Native press. The circulation of the 20 principal papers is believed to amount to about 20,000 copies. The general tone is decidedly loyal and favourable to British rule. The confidence felt in the good intentions of the Government, and the gratitude of the Natives for external security, religious freedom, material prosperity, and English education are frequently expressed with the greatest warmth and impressiveness. At the same time, there is often much matter of a controversial character; a disposition is sometimes manifested to find fault with everything that is done or omitted, and an increasing jealousy is evinced regarding the bearing of British people towards the Natives.

Madras.

The Madras School Book and Vernacular Literature Society receives from Government a yearly grant of 200 *l.* The Society's report for the year is stated to contain interesting details of the efforts made to supply the masses with literature which, while instructive or amusing, is pervaded at the same time by a healthy moral tone.

Bombay.

Of 701 books registered in Bombay during 1874 (of which some, however, were printed before that year), 625 were written wholly or partly in one of the oriental languages, such as the vernaculars of India, and the sacred languages of the indigenous and naturalized races. The European languages were represented by 74 English and by two Portuguese works.

The grants for the encouragement of literature and the presentation of books amounted to 1,166 *l.*, or little more than half the amount of the previous year.

There were 55 vernacular newspapers in the Presidency.

North-West Provinces.

On a review by the North-West Provinces Government of the working of the Notification of 1868 offering rewards for the encouragement of vernacular compositions, it was found that from August 1868 to March 1874 no less than 1,164 specimens of authorship had been sent in, of which 125 had been rewarded. The Government concurred in the conclusion arrived at by the Director of Public Instruction that the time had arrived for gradually raising the standard by demanding more original thought, more research, and greater attention to con-

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sistency and practical usefulness; and it was determined in future to reject all works which were not deemed deserving of a prize of at least 30 *l.*

British Burma.

A periodical journal in the vernacular, entitled the "Education Gazette," began to be issued during the year by the Education Department in British Burma. Among its objects are the dissemination of general information, and the awakening of an interest in literature. The report of the editor at the end of the first six months was promising, upwards of 1,000 names being on the subscription list.

The "Rangoon Literary Society," which is aided by a small grant from Government, was reported to be in a very flourishing condition.

XIII.

NATIVE STATES.

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Munnipore.

In retaliation for a daring raid upon Munnipore territory by the Moombee Sooties, an expedition was despatched from that State against the offending tribe, which, however, appears to have left matters much as they were before.

On the northern boundary of the State the Angami Nagas gave much trouble by a succession of raids, which led to the loss of many lives and much valuable property. It was intended to put an end to this state of affairs by strong repressive measures against the villages implicated.

The Maharajah and two of his sons met the Viceroy and the Chief Commissioner of Assam in Cachar in August 1874.

The usual apathy was shown in this State in regard to vaccination, and the ratio of successful operations was very low.

In former reports complaints had been made of the failure on the part of the Maharajah to keep the road to the British frontier in the state of repair required of him by treaty, but in the year under review the obligation was faithfully carried out.

Trade was in a languishing state, that with Burma having been prohibited by the latter State, and that with Bengal having declined owing to the oppressive measures adopted in Munnipore. The latter circumstance, by inducing former traders to have recourse to robbery in order to fill the pockets of the authorities, has led to great and widespread discontent.

Hill Tipperah.

The Rajah of Hill Tipperah, owing to expensive litigation in which he had become involved, and to disputes with his farmers and ryots, was much straitened in funds, and consequently means were not available for initiating expensive improvements in the administration, or for supporting and carrying on some of the measures which have been already originated. But notwithstanding his embarrassments, the Rajah has always been ready to accept advice, and is said by the Political Agent to have on every occasion done his best to carry out recommendations made to him. The present Rajah is the first one who has been honoured with an interview by the Viceroy, and it is said that he is not likely to forget the occurrence. He had never seen a steamer, or anything worth the name of a river, and his delight as he was carried rapidly along the Megna river in a splendid barge was unmistakable.

He has introduced a marked improvement in the administration of the jails in his territory, and has established a new dispensary. He has afforded his co-operation in putting down any attempt to carry on an illicit traffic in arms through his dominions. The fact also that a new sub-division has been opened out in the southern part of the State would seem to indicate a desire on his part to improve the administration of justice.

Little progress is reported in the matter of education. With an estimated population in the plains and in the hills of nearly 75,000 souls, there were but 103 boys undergoing instruction at the two existing schools.

Cooch Behar.

The administration of Cooch Behar was carried on with very satisfactory results, and the people appeared to be in a prosperous condition. The fields were fully cultivated from end to end of the territory, and there was a remarkable increase in the production of jute and tobacco. There is a small but effective Public Works Department, with a good Native officer of practical training at the head of it. Communication by means of roads and bridges has been greatly extended.

The establishment of a Department of Education is producing good results. The number of schools and scholars rapidly increases; the proportion being educated was, however, only one per cent. of the population. There is a good library of English literature at the capital of the State. Money for a Sanscrit scholarship has been given by a Native gentleman.

Sikkim.

The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal paid a satisfactory visit during the year to the Sikkim State.

NATIVE STATES.

The present Maharajah is a boy about 16 years of age; he appears to be not wanting in intelligence, but is very retiring in manner. His mother is a native of Thibet. After the death of the late Maharajah, she married the Changzed or Minister of Sikkim, who may, in consequence of that position and his marriage with her, be considered the regent, and is *de facto* ruler of the State.

The young Maharajah expressed his gratitude for the kindness shown him hitherto by the British Government, and his hope that it would be continued; and the Maharance also represented very strongly that the management of the State and the guardianship of the young Maharajah had devolved upon her, who, being a woman, was ill fitted for the task, and that she relied on the protection of the British Government to accomplish it successfully. The Lieutenant Governor assured the Maharajah and his mother of the continued good will and friendship of the Government, and promised them his advice and support in any difficulty in which they might be involved.

Tributary Mehals.

Of the Tributary Estates in Chota Nagpore, 9 are under the Bengal Administration, and 15 under that of the Central Provinces.

In the former it is reported that an abundant harvest, added to the fact that the public health was good throughout the year, rendered the people happy and contented.

The returns of crime were somewhat heavier than in the previous year, the number of offences of all kinds reported having been 406 against 375. The increase was chiefly under the more serious heads of crime, while petty thefts and the like decreased. Considering, however, the great area of the country concerned, the amount of crime reported was comparatively small. The proportion of convictions was not quite so good as in 1873-74, but was not, on the whole, indicative of a want of discretion in the commitment of cases.

Colonel Dalton, the late Commissioner, states that during the whole period of his incumbency the Chiefs have generally distinguished themselves by a just administration of the territory under their rule, a benevolent policy towards their people, and thorough loyalty to the British Government.

With regard to the Mehals which are in relation with the Central Provinces, the Chief Commissioner observes that it has rarely been necessary to exercise any active interference in their affairs. The two estates of Khairagurh and Patna were transferred to British management in 1870 and 1871 respectively, and the condition of both has greatly improved in consequence. The former used to be a refuge for organised bands of robbers, who infested the road that runs from Nagpore to Raipore; now these bands have been broken up, and life and property are apparently as safe as in British territory. A considerable trade has been fostered, and the people enjoy the fruits of their own industry. In Patna, also, trade has greatly increased, agriculture has been extended, there is a good attendance at the schools, and the people are contented and prosperous.

In the year under report it became necessary to interfere with the Rajah of Sakti, who not only was tyrannical towards his own subjects, but was aggressive towards his neighbours, and even encroached on British territory to cut down crops and carry them off. Repeated remonstrances were only met with arrogance and obstinacy. The estate has now been taken under direct management; those of his subjects whom he has ruined or grossly injured will, as far as is possible, be compensated, and it is hoped that peace and quiet will soon replace anarchy and misrule.

The Lieutenant Governor of Bengal received in durbar the Rajahs of the 17 Cuttack Mehals of Orissa, and presented to them the patents signed by the Viceroy confirming them and their heirs in their titles and status. Satisfactory assurances were received of the peaceful condition of those hill states.

Rampoor. Gurhwal.

The only two States connected with the North-West Provinces are Rampoor and Gurhwal, of which no accounts have been received for the year under report.

Cashmere.

The depressed condition of the Cashmere shawl trade has induced the Maharajah to turn his attention to measures for extending the culture and manufacture of silk. Some progress in this direction has already been made; machines have been imported from Calcutta, and silk-reeling commenced; but the silk, though of good quality, does not command a high price in Europe, owing to its inferior reeling, and, to remedy this defect, an official has been sent to Europe, in order to acquire a knowledge of the silk business of Italy and France. Hop-growing has also been experimentally introduced.

NATIVE STATES.

With the object of providing shelter for travellers and traders, the Maharajah has constructed a *serai* at Srinuggur for Yarkund merchants; and he has given much attention to the improvement of communications.

Measures have been taken for the translation of English standard works for purposes of education.

In recognition of the assistance rendered by the Maharajah to the Yarkund Mission, and of the hospitality shown to the Lieutenant Governor during his tour in 1873, it was arranged to present him with a steam launch, which was constructed in England in pieces sufficiently small to admit of their transport over the mountainous roads and passes into the valley of Cashmere. The launch arrived at Lahore at the close of the year, was put together at Srinuggur, under the superintendence of an English mechanic, and was successfully launched in August, being named by the Maharajah "Victoria," in honour of the Queen.

In April 1875 the Maharajah proceeded to Simla to pay his respects to the Viceroy, and, after a stay of nearly a fortnight, returned highly gratified with the honour and cordiality of his reception.

Punjab Hill States.

There are 26 petty Hill States in relation with the Punjab, in regard to which nothing of importance is recorded for the year. Of Chamba (pop. 130,000) it is said that the people were contented, and that there was not a single case of violent crime.

Puttiala.*

The Maharajah of Puttiala was visited by the Viceroy in his own territory. In this State education has made considerable advance under the superintendence of Ram Chandra, the eminent mathematician; two youths educated at the Puttiala school have passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, and the foundations of a college for high education have been laid.

Kuppoorthulla.

The administration of Kuppoorthulla had in the preceding year, owing to the Maharajah's illness, been entrusted to a Native Council of Regency, but their dissensions made it apparent that nothing but the control of a British officer would secure tranquillity and good government. Since the appointment of Mr. Lepel Griffin as Superintendent, all has gone on well. The form of government has remained unchanged, but intrigue and faction have been checked, and vigour infused into every department of the administration.

Bhawulpore.

The Bhawulpore State continued temporarily under British management. Although the area of the land under cultivation was greatly reduced owing to the failure of the inundation of 1873-74, the income of 1874-75 increased from 181,094 *l.* to 187,203 *l.*, owing to the superior quality of the produce, the extended sale of fuel to the Indus Valley Railway, and increased receipts from other sources. Good progress was made in the construction of irrigation works; 44 branch canals, varying from 5 to 15 miles in length, 185 distributary channels, and 239 wells were made at the expense of the State. There was a diminution of crime, the police were successful, and the civil and criminal courts gave satisfaction; and a favourable report has been received of the progress of the young Nawab in education.

Khyrpoor.

Khyrpoor is a State situated in Sind, and was the only portion of that territory left independent after the battle of Meeanee. No event of importance occurred there during 1874-75.

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* The following constitute the group of Sikh Feudatory States:—

Puttiala.	Mallairkotlah.
Jheend.	Furreedkote.
Nabha.	Kuppoorthulla.
Kalsia.	

NATIVE STATES. Rajpootana States.*

In three of the Rajpootana States the Chiefs were minors, viz., Oodeypore, Ulwur, and Dholepore. Their education was carefully superintended; in the two first cases trustworthy Native guardians were appointed.

In four or five of the States it was in contemplation to make a survey and settlement of the land, but the accomplishment of the scheme would have to depend on the machinery and the funds available.

A measure of reform instituted in Marwar and Jeypore was the consolidation of Customs collections in substitution for the numerous local dues levied on traders. This measure had the entire approval of the Government of India, but it seemed to be somewhat doubtful whether it would effectually accomplish its object.

The means of information regarding crime are very defective, and considerable advantage arises to criminals from the diverse jurisdictions. The Courts of Vakeels were devised as a remedy for these obstacles to justice, but these are stated to be becoming more and more juries for award of compensation rather than criminal courts, as they seldom punish offenders, and the system is open to much abuse. The high roads are, however, now reported to be in a fairly safe condition. The policy of inducing marauding bands of outlaws to surrender and settle down to industrial pursuits on receiving pardon for the past has been very successful in the Marwar-Serohi territories.

There have during recent years been great improvements in the Rajpootana jails; those at Ulwur, Kotah, and Jeypore are especially well reported on.

The supply of food and water having been good during the year, the people suffered little from illness. Small-pox was mild, and cholera insignificant. Western Rajpootana is considered to be a particularly healthy country.

Oodeypore.

The Maharana Sumbhoo Sing, of Oodeypore, who was much beloved and respected by his subjects, died in October 1874, at the early age of 27. The succession was determined in favour of the young cousin of the deceased, Sujjun Sing; but the uncle, Sohun Sing, maintained claims of his own, and refused to recognise his nephew.

A decrease of crime in this State during 1874–75 was reported; and the administration of civil justice was efficient and gave general satisfaction.

Vaccination was vigorously prosecuted. The Political Agent induced the durbar to engage in the sanitation of the city, which had been somewhat neglected, with renewed energy. An abundant supply of good water now exists throughout the valley of Oodeypore.

The condition of the Bheels in the Meywar Hill Tracts is thought to be improving slowly. They are in every way more prosperous in this part of the country than in Malwa, which is probably due to their being engaged in cultivation to a much greater extent, and to food being cheap and plentiful. Their passion for drink, however, continues.

Crime was diminishing, and traffic consequently was increasing on the main road from Oodeypore to Guzerat.

A reformer, Soorjee, has for some years past been at work among his countrymen on the Meywar-Guzerat frontier. He preaches worship of one God, peace and good-will. His followers take an oath to abstain from all crimes and offences,

* The following is a list of the Rajpootana States:—

Meywar Agency:
- Oodeypore.
- Doongerpore.
- Banswarra.
- Pertabghur.

Jeypore Agency:
- Jeypore.
- Kishenghur.

Marwar Agency:
- Jodhpore.
- Jeysulmere.

Harrowtee and Tonk Agency
- Boondee.
- Kotah.

Harrowtee and Tonk Agency—*continued.*
- Jhallawar.
- Tonk.
- Shahpoora.

Eastern States Agency:
- Bhurtpore.
- Kerowlee.

Dholepore Agency:
- Dholepore.

Ulwur Agency:
- Ulwur.

Shoojanghur Agency
- Bikaneer.

Serohi Agency:
- Serohi.

from spirituous liquor, and from causing death to any living thing. They bind themselves to live by the produce of the soil and to bathe before eating. Soorjee has now a following of upwards of 1,000 "bhuguts," or believers, and three disciples, Gurus, ordained by himself to preach and convert. NATIVE STATES.

In Jeypore education was making the most encouraging progress, heinous crime was reported to have materially diminished, trade was active and prosperous, and there was a liberal expenditure on public works. Several important irrigation works were in hand. Sanitary reform, however, appears to be limited to the capital. The Maharajah liberally supports the medical institutions. Although small-pox prevailed, less vaccination work was done than in the previous year. Jeypore.

The Maharajah Jeswunt Sing, of Jodhpore, continued his vigorous administration. He exerted himself earnestly to put down violent crime, and attempted financial reforms. He intended to introduce some system by which the enormous number of liquor shops in Jodhpore shall be reduced, and the quality of liquor sold be improved. Jodhpore.

A thakoor who tortured to death some unfortunate women, on the suspicion that they had killed his son by witchcraft, was sentenced to imprisonment for life. For years past the thakoors of Marwar have considered themselves as supreme on their estates, and have cared little or nothing for the authority of the durbar; and the punishment awarded in this case is stated to have produced a good effect.

The Kotah State was being ably administered by the Nawab Faiz Ali Khan, who had great difficulties to contend with, owing to previous misgovernment and confusion, and to the want of trustworthy officials. Kotah.

In Bhurtpore, the working of the civil and criminal courts appears to have been satisfactory, and education made progress. Bhurtpore.

The education of the young Chief of Dholepore was progressing. The example does good, and nearly all the Sirdars were beginning to have their children educated at their own houses; but, generally, education is not much appreciated by the people. Dholepore.

The death of the Maharajah of Ulwur without leaving any lineal or adopted heir caused some difficulty in the succession, but it was decided in favour of a boy of 16, called Mungul Sing. The thakoor Lukdeer Sing, who was another candidate, refused to accept the choice, and he and his party held together as a faction, and showed plainly that they only wanted strength and opportunity to go much further. The estates of all the refractory thakoors were attached by the Ulwur durbar, and Lukdeer Sing was ordered to leave the territory and reside at Ajmere, an order which he obeyed reluctantly. Ulwur.

The effect of exacting school fees from non-agriculturists (who do not contribute to the one per cent. educational fund) was to reduce the attendance of that class at school from 3,403 to 3,145, while the number of agriculturists increased from 937 to 1,383.

The attendance at the dispensaries increased. The vaccination returns showed considerable progress; except among the thakoors, opposition had ceased.

The condition of the people in Serohi appears to be very backward; although several schools have been established at the instance of the Political Superintendent, they do not care to accept the advantage offered. To measures of sanitation the opposition is such that the people have threatened to vacate a village if obliged to attend to any sanitary rules. The belief in witches is universal. Serohi.

There has, however, been a marked decrease of crime in Serohi.

The reports received of the several States of Central India are in most cases favourable. In the States generally there was a slight decrease of crime as Central India States.*

* The Central India States may be classified as follows:—

- Gwalior.
- Indore.
- Bhopal.
- Rewah.
- Dhar.
- Dewas.
- Bhopal Agency (not including Bhopal)—9 States.
- Western Malwa Agency—4 States.
- Bhowapur (or Bheel) Agency (not including Dhar)—11 States.
- Deputy Bheel Agency—6 States.
- Goona Agency—7 States.
- Bundelcund Agency—30 States.
- Baghelcund Agency (not including Rewah)—5 States.
- Guaranteed Grassia Chiefs—16 States.

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compared with 1873-74, and especially in the number of dacoities. The diminution of serious crime was very marked in the Goona Agency, considering the predatory habits which are natural to the people, and the facilities afforded by a wild hilly country.

In school attendance there was considerable improvement. The Residency school had in it many young Chiefs and thakoors, both Rajpoots and Bheels. The Rutlam school was in a particularly flourishing condition. The Native States pay all the charges for the schools maintained in their territories.

Gwalior.

A Camp of Exercise was held by Scindia during the year, at which, the Political Officer remarks, the troops were well drilled, and the artillery steady and efficient.

The durbar used its utmost endeavours to put down the gangs of dacoits which infested its own and neighbouring territories.

Besides the college in the Lushkur, there were 93 district schools in the Gwalior State, affording education to nearly 4,000 children.

Indore.

Sir Madava Row, whose services were transferred to Baroda, was succeeded as Minister of the Indore State by his relative Ragonath Rao.

The revenue of this State showed a slight increase, reaching 500,000 *l.* The land revenue collected was 338,600 *l.*, nearly 8,000 *l.* more than in the previous year.

The expenditure on education (2,800 *l.*) was small in proportion to that on other objects. The Maharajah, however, sanctioned an increase of 1,200 *l.*, which is not shown in the accounts for the year.

The services of an English engineer (Mr. Carey) having been secured by the durbar, considerable advance has been made in public works. The streets of the capital are now drained and lighted, roads are metalled and kept in order, and measures are taken for preserving cleanliness.

The dispensary, under the supervision of an English physician, was largely attended, and is stated to be a real blessing to the inhabitants. The Maharajah has given 1,000 *l.* for the building of a new dispensary.

A new jail on the Government standard plan was being built outside the city, and in the meantime both the present jails and the treatment of the prisoners have been improved. The Minister states: "The internal economy "of the jails, and food and clothing of the prisoners, are now just the same as "in the jails of British India. The prisoners are very healthy; not more than "3 per cent. of them are, as a rule, on the sick list."

Bhopal.

The event of the year in Bhopal was the marriage of the only daughter and heiress of the ruling Begum to Mian Ahmed Ali Khan.

The waterworks were in full operation, and proved a great boon to the inhabitants of the city.

A survey carried out in this State resulted in an extraordinary increase in the classification of the best kind of soil, and the rates for each kind were also enhanced.

Rewah.

The administration of the Rewah State having gradually drifted from bad to worse, the Maharajah at length asked that the management of his territory might be undertaken by the Political Agent. The work had been commenced, but promised to be a very serious and complicated one, the accounts having been brought into great confusion after many years of extravagance and mismanagement.

Dhar.

A very gratifying account is given of the Dhar State, and of the Rajah's courtesy and liberality on all hands. The revenue for the year was reported to be 68,000 *l.* The road connecting Dhar with the railway at Mhow was approaching completion.

Baroda.

A full account of recent events in the Baroda State having been laid before Parliament, it will not be necessary to do more here than briefly recapitulate the leading points.

Mulhar Rao succeeded his brother in 1870. In March 1873, Colonel Phayre was appointed British Resident, and he soon brought to notice the serious maladministration of the State by the Gaekwar. In the winter of the same year, a Commission was appointed by the Government of India for the purpose of in-

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vestigating and reporting upon the general condition of the State; this Commission concluded their proceedings in February 1874, and their report substantiated to a considerable extent the charges against the Gaekwar. A period of 18 months was thereupon allowed to him for effecting the necessary reforms in his administration, and every assistance was offered him for that purpose. Not long after, Colonel Phayre was replaced by Sir Lewis Pelly, and while this arrangement was in progress, information was received of the attempt to poison Colonel Phayre, an attempt which that officer himself firmly believed to have been instigated by the Gaekwar. It was then determined by the Government of India to arrest the Gaekwar, and to assume the administration of the State pending the result of an inquiry. The Government felt that a public inquiry was more advisable than one conducted in private, which would have given occasion for suspicion and mistrust. The action of the Government being taken, not upon legal, but upon political grounds, the Commission was not constituted a judicial tribunal; its function was to report to the Government of India, with whom the decision would ultimately rest.

The Commission commenced their proceedings on the 23rd February, and closed them on the 31st March 1875. On the grave imputation of instigating the attempt to poison, Sir R. Couch, Sir R. Meade, and Mr. Melvill, found the Gaekwar guilty; the Maharajah of Jeypore considered him not guilty, while Maharajah Scindia and Sir Dinkur Rao thought the charge was not proved.

The Government of India carefully considered the reports and evidence, and, after due consultation with Her Majesty's Government as to the Gaekwar's general maladministration, issued a proclamation on the 19th April 1875 by which Mulhar Rao was formally deposed.

Kutch.

In the administration of Kutch there had been, in the preceding year, much confusion and many abuses, resulting from the want of any responsible Minister at the head of the State. A satisfactory selection has since been made by the Rao of an officer with some experience of Government service; and he will be assisted by a deputy who is also favourably spoken of.

During 1874-5 general progress was retarded by the Rao's disputes with his Bhayad or kinsmen of the blood, and with the neighbouring Chiefs of Kattywar. The finances were not in a flourishing position, and trade was depressed. There was, however, a diminution of serious crime. Out of an expenditure of 26,554 *l.* on public works, nearly 20,000 *l.* went to the construction of a new palace. On the other hand, a lighthouse was erected, the light of which is visible at a distance of 20 miles; and some other useful works were carried out, or in contemplation.

The dispensaries at Bhuj and Mandvi made progress. The prevalence of small-pox induced the Rao to adopt special measures for its prevention; 3,034 vaccinations were performed, or 558 more than in the previous year.

Five new schools were opened during the year, and the building for a Mahomedan school was completed. The Alfred High School succeeded in matriculating one boy. The Government Inspector, who examined several schools, expressed himself pleased with the acquirements of the Rao's son and daughter.

Kattywar.*

Progress in Kattywar is stated to have been very marked, both in administration and in development of material resources. The condition of the lower classes appears to be generally prosperous and comfortable, and the attitude of the Chiefs towards the British Government is, without exception, loyal and grateful. On the Governor meeting the chiefs in Durbar, they addressed him as follows:—

"Your Excellency,—The country, as you will yourself see, is in a state of "peace; justice is improved, factories are rising, roads and bridges are being "built, schools are multiplying. While we frankly own that the great change "since the days of our forefathers has been made under, and is due to, the "beneficent counsels of the British Government, yet we claim what credit

* The province of Kattywar consists of 86 separate talukas, of which 23 are of the four chief classes.

Native States.

"is due to Chiefs who have ever adopted those counsels with alacrity, and have "admitted their wisdom, even where their adoption was hard to reconcile with "the habits and associations of the past."

In his reply, the Governor fully accorded them the credit they claimed, particularly in regard to the establishment of the Rajasthanik Court (for the equitable decision of disputes between the Chiefs and their kinsmen), whereby they had yielded part of their most cherished prerogative. He also alluded with satisfaction to the practice of completing the education of young nobles by foreign travel, to the great attention paid to the suppression of crime and violence, and to the general development of national prosperity.

A centralised police was checking lawless tribes and mercenaries, and tracking outlaws. The Chiefs have agreed to subscribe a fund, amounting to 6,315 *l.* yearly, for ten years, to be spent on the great trunk roads, so far as they lie in the poorer districts, while the greater Chiefs have themselves undertaken the parts within their own boundaries. Works on these lines were in active progress, and several large bridges were being built.

Much improvement might be effected in education if some of the Chiefs would take a more lively interest in it. The practice of early marriages materially interferes with the course of study.

Five schools were added during the year, making a total of 399; but the number of scholars on the rolls showed a falling off.

A praiseworthy effort has been made by the Raj Saheb of Drangadra to educate the dangerous and predatory classes of his subjects by opening special schools for them.

Vaccination was largely resorted to; 77,311 persons were operated on, being 976 in excess of the previous year.

Kattywar has a flourishing trade, principally in exports of raw cotton. Those from Bhownuggur alone were valued at 1,313,796 *l.* The other exports are wool, common food grains, ghee, hides, oil, and bullion; and the imports (the value of which is much less than that of the exports) are cotton cloths, timber, metals, rice, cocoa-nuts, oil-seeds, and groceries. The excellent sand and lime stones of the province are very little exported, and the fine granite of Girnar is hardly known to its owners.

Cambay.

There was no noteworthy occurrence in the State of Cambay beyond the fact that the Nawab liberally promised an annual subscription of 50 *l.* for the support of the schools.

Pahlunpore.*

In Pahlunpore the reform of the judicial administration occupied attention, together with the reclamation of large tracts of waste land, the cultivation of cotton, and other local improvements.

The financial supervision exercised by Government over the affairs of the Pahlunpore State since 1817 was withdrawn in August 1874, and, a liquidation of the Dewan's debts having been arranged, the whole management was made over to him.

The petty States have now nearly all been ranged under the "thanadar" system, which superseded the defective police arrangements formerly existing. The measure at first occasioned much discontent and opposition. All the Chiefs, however, with the exception of the Tharad thakoors, after personal persuasion, consented to co-operate in the reforms so urgently needed, and to bear the expense of their introduction, and the irritation had in a great measure subsided. The whole of the primary civil and criminal business of the administration will pass through the hands of the thanadars. This beneficial change has been followed by the reorganisation or reform of the village police of the several estates in which the system has been established.

Mahee Kanta.†

The Maharajah of Edur being a minor, his territory is under direct management. He is being privately educated. The State debts were considerably reduced. There was a fair expenditure on public works. Vaccination was steadily on the increase.

* This Agency comprises 11 States, with other petty jurisdictions.
† In Mahee Kanta there are 12 larger and 47 smaller States; and in Rewa Kanta, 6 larger and 56 smaller ones.

Native States.

A school has been opened for the special benefit of Bheel children on the frontier, the Maharanee having consented that the first cost and the pay of the master should be defrayed from the revenues of the State. With this exception no new schools were opened in the State, but those in existence were kept up with efficiency.

In the Agency generally there was a very decided increase of reported crime, which is attributed partly to recent police reforms instituted by the Political Agent, and partly to the great number of liquor stills in the province.

Rewa Kanta.*

The intercourse of the Political Agent with the Chiefs of Rewa Kanta was satisfactory.

The results of the first year's working of the new system of police are very gratifying. Its origin was as follows. The wildness of some parts of Rewa Kanta, its proximity to Meywar, and the absence of any systematic protection of life and property so favoured the commission and impunity of crime as to attract in 1872 the attention of the Bombay Government. It was necessary not only to check the incursions of Bheels from Meywar, who in former times thought nothing of attacking a border village, setting it on fire, and harrying all the cattle, but also to overawe the Meywar villages, which claimed independence of all authority, to keep the roads free from marauders, and to protect the peaceable section of the inhabitants. To secure these objects a federal police was organised from the materials at hand, which the Political Agent describes as having been without subordination or discipline, the men being accustomed to live upon the country, to absent themselves from their posts, and to screen offenders for a consideration. This underpaid, over-worked, and badly-equipped body of men is now reported in a creditable state of efficiency, with a total strength of 63 officers and 323 men on foot, while in the mounted branch there are one officer and 47 men. The total area over which their operations extend is 1,595 square miles. Of 880 persons arrested in the year under report 70·34 per cent. were convicted. Property was stolen to the estimated value of 1,560 *l.*, of which 29·30 per cent. was recovered. Cattle-lifting is still a favourite pursuit amongst the Bheels; the carelessness with which animals are kept by their owners, both by day and by night, and the apathy with which their loss is regarded, favour the offence and hinder detection, whilst a great proportion of these thefts, being perpetrated by Bheels from Meywar and Wagud, have to be dealt with by the unsatisfactory system of international courts.

Measures are in progress to extend the benefit of the new police to the whole northern frontier. The States of Rajpeepla, Chota Oodeypoor, and Balasinore are organising special police services, but the Political Agent fears that, with the laxity prevalent in Native States, a policeman will never be employed exclusively on police duties, but will be expected to perform any service, however foreign to his proper office.

The vaccination department was carefully superintended; the number of operations was 14,078, against 13,600 in the previous year.

The number of schools was 65 (of which four were girls' schools), with an average attendance of 2,737. Only one English class was open, with an average attendance of nine pupils. The Mahomedan population of the towns appear to take more interest in education than formerly. The Urdu school at Lunawara has been re-opened by local effort, and another has been commenced in Baria, where the Mahomedans have shown their earnestness by erecting a school-room.

Surat.

The Surat Agency comprises three States. One of them (Sucheen) is under attachment. The other two (Dhurrumpoor and Bansda) are reported to be in a backward condition.

Narakote.

In the small State of Narakote there was an increase in the number of crimes, in regard to which, however, the Political Agent observes that the people, though simple and amenable to authority, are not free from the lax ideas as to minor injuries to person and property which are natural to half-civilised tribes, and that the increase of offences is probably an indication rather of increasing

* *See* last note on previous page.

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strictness of police and magisterial supervision than of any deterioration in the habits of the people.

Khandesh.*

The inhabitants of the Dangs in Khandesh are principally notorious for drunkenness, and this is necessarily accompanied by lawlessness and crime, though, in the absence of any supervision, little of what goes on ever comes to light. Petty cases are disposed of by the Chiefs; the ordinary punishment is believed to be that of fine only, and the rapacity of the Chiefs doubtless leads to great abuses.

Peint.

Deplorable accounts are received of the general condition of the people in the Peint State. They were poverty-stricken, and terribly afflicted by fever. They have not capital or energy to cultivate the hill-sides, otherwise than by putting in seed on ashes, which is seldom done in the same place during two consecutive seasons. Even fertile valleys, of which there are very few, are not cultivated as they might be. The result of the settlement, however, was an increase in the land revenue of 113 *l.*, chiefly on account of increased cultivation. An endeavour was being made by the Collector to improve the water-supply.

Jowhar.

Education was entirely ignored in the Jowhar State until within the last seven or eight years, and the bulk of the population consists of wild tribes. Considering these facts, satisfactory progress has been made. The young Rajah prosecutes his studies at Poona.

The forests of this State are said to be nearly worked out, and as they furnish the main source of revenue, their conservation is a matter of great importance.

Junjeera.

The administration of Junjeera was most satisfactory, and the progress in all departments is considered by the Government of India to reflect great credit on Mr. Larcom, the Assistant Political Agent, to whose exertions the favourable results are due. The Nawab was applying himself to the redres of abuses, although he had not freed himself entirely from unprincipled favourites. The success attending Mr. Larcom's efforts to establish superior schools is noted with special commendation. There were eight of such schools, and the gross income on account of them was 583 *l.*, against 77 *l.* in the preceding year, while the number of pupils was 517, against 373. These schools are becoming very popular, especially among the Mahomedans, and no difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable school-houses as gifts, or rent-free, from wealthy residents in the larger towns.

Two vaccinators performed 4,309 operations, as compared with 2,983 in the previous year.

The Political Agent, contrasting the present condition of things with that of 15 years ago, when no European life was safe in the country, observes that, on a tour through the Hubsan, he found a healthy, well-fed, contented, and orderly population, among whom serious crime is almost unknown, an efficient and respected police, good criminal administration, vaccination general, schools being established everywhere, postal and steam communication to important places, and Bombay traders engaging fearlessly in commerce with the inhabitants.

Sattara.†

The Rajah of Akulkote is a minor. In this petty State the police force was reported to be in much need of improvement, the revenue was not satisfactory, cultivation was in a backward state, and the educational returns showed retrogression, while the inefficiency of the teachers was complained of.

Kolhapore.

In Kolhapore, good progress was made in all departments. There was a satisfactory decrease in crime. The expenditure on public works amounted to 36,710 *l.*, and included a high school, which can accommodate about 400 students. Several important road bridges were being constructed; and a water-supply for the capital had received Government sanction.

The total area of culturable land in Kolhapore proper was 428,417 acres, of which 334,650 were under cultivation during 1873-74, showing an increase of 4,141 acres. The area of land under cotton cultivation was 12,072 acres, or about 3½ per cent. of the whole.

There were 9,507 patients treated at the civil hospital and dispensary. In vaccinations there was a decrease of 892, the number reported being 17,620.

* This territory comprises 23 petty States.
† This includes, besides Akulkote, 5 petty States.

The progress of education continued satisfactory. Of 25 [illegible] the Matriculation Examination 12 passed, and one of them obtained [illegible] scholarship. Great pains are taken with the education of the young Rajah.

In Sawunt Waree, while there was a considerable increase in the number of persons brought to trial, there was not a proportionate increase in the number of convictions.

There was an increase of 71 in the number of scholars on the rolls, yet the average daily attendance was less than in the preceding year. Education is stated to have been in a languishing condition in this State for some few years past. There appears to be no strong desire for it among the people, although the children themselves are painstaking and full of intelligence and emulation. Measures were being taken to bring the State schools under closer supervision.

The young Chief, and other youths belonging to his family, were making satisfactory progress in their education at Kolhapore.

A considerable trade in cotton and grain passes through Sawunt Waree from the Deccan to the sea-port of Vingorla. For local consumption, wheat, bájri, gram, and other grains of the upper country are imported; whilst cocoa and betel-nuts are sent above the ghâts in return. Statistics are not available, but it is stated that since the construction of the Amboli Ghât road in 1869-70 the traffic has largely increased.

The vaccinations numbered 7,003, against 5,181 in 1873-74. There were 32 deaths from small-pox.

Southern Mahratta States.

The affairs of the Sangli State were conducted by a British Administrator, and the Chief's antagonism to this arrangement led to much trouble. Since the appointment of a new Minister, however, the Chief has been more reasonable. There has been an improvement in the general administration; the liabilities of the State have been reduced; a sum of 3,495 *l.* was disbursed during the year on works of public utility; and the progress of education was satisfactory.

There are five other jaghiredars in the Southern Mahratta country, two of which are divided between elder and junior branches of the ruling families. The administration of most of those States is favourably reported on.

Savanoor.

Former Nawabs of Savanoor had done nothing to meet the requirements of the public in regard to communications, wells, &c.; but this want is now being gradually supplied. During 1874-75 no less than 585 *l.* was spent on the construction and repair of roads, and 906 *l.* on improving the water-supply. Education also progressed satisfactorily.

Hyderabad.

No account has been received for 1874-5 of affairs in the territory under the direct government of the Nizam.

Mysore.

There were in Mysore during the year under report 77 municipalities, of which 12 were worked by committees. Advantage is taken of any opportunities which may offer to entrust the more advanced municipalities with extended powers.

The total receipts of the municipalities were 52,285 *l.*, of which 15,792 *l.* was derived from octroi.

The year shows a general diminution of serious crime in Mysore, except under the head of dacoities, which rose from 34 to 39. Of the latter, 21 cases occurred in the Nagar Division, in regard to which the Judicial Commissioner remarks: "The circumstances of the Nagar Division appear to afford peculiar facilities for "the perpetration of this description of crime. The wild and sparsely populated "taluks of the Malnad, with isolated houses at great distances from each other, "and numbers of reputed criminals and nomadic tribes moving through them "more than half the year in quest of work or on the pretence of trade, account "in some measure for the prevalence of dacoities and highway robberies. "Such crimes are, however, very much fewer than they used to be, and every "endeavour is being made by the local and controlling authorities for their "suppression."

The working of the police department, although it showed some improvement, was far from satisfactory. The department is however in process of reorganisation, and it is believed that some time must elapse before a system approaching efficiency can be established. The functions of the police are beginning to be better understood.

of prisoners was on the whole good, except at the Bangalore of political jail, where there was a prevalence of scurvy, owing to the damp and cold during an unusually wet year. In this prison 588 convicts were taught the rudiments of reading and writing, against 496 in the previous year; and 186 learned to read and write well, against 141.

The demand on account of land revenue was 735,127 *l.*, showing an increase of 17,398 *l.*

There was an abundant rainfall, and the crops were generally good. The season was favourable for coffee.

The cultivated area, as compared with that of the preceding year, increased by 24,901 acres. The increase was principally under the heads of rice, sugar-cane, and dry grains.

There is a growing appreciation of the benefit of hospitals and dispensaries. The number of out-patients has steadily risen from 69,830 in 1871 to 105,550 in 1874.

Improvements which will considerably increase the water-supply of the town of Mysore were carried out during the year, and a commencement was made with works connected with the supply of water to Bangalore.

Education in Mysore made satisfactory progress. The year closed with 808 schools and 31,577 pupils connected with the department, being an increase of 34 schools and 4,279 pupils; but, as 28 of the new schools were established only in the last week of the year, this increase of 15·7 per cent. in the number of pupils is not due to the opening of fresh schools.

The "hobli" schools numbered 562, with 15,035 pupils, the increase in the latter being nearly 34 per cent. Of these primary schools the Inspectors reported 23 as very good, 146 as good, and 214 as fair. Applications for the establishment of schools of this class are of almost daily occurrence, and there is no doubt that the people as a whole appreciate the instruction imparted, which, elementary though it be, is yet superior to what was commonly obtainable in the formerly existing indigenous schools. But that consideration would probably not have sufficed to invest the hobli schools with the popularity they enjoy, had they not been established on the basis of the old country schools, and, to a great extent, under masters who had previously secured the confidence of their respective neighbourhoods.

As a preliminary measure, 37 of the purely vernacular schools, which had hitherto been graded in the lower class, and in which the standard of education was sufficiently high to justify the step, have been advanced a grade, and now rank in the middle-class schools.

It is stated that in Mysore not only is the number of schools sufficient, but almost all the children of a school-going age are actually under instruction.

With the view of preparing officers for the higher service in the Survey, Forest, and Public Works Departments, a special school of engineering and natural science has been opened in connection with the High School.

The Chief Commissioner is of opinion that there is unquestionably a disposition springing up in favour of female education, but both the attendance and the progress of the schools fluctuate very much.

Cochin. The revenue realised by the Cochin State during the year ending 15th August 1875 was 125,152 *l.* Increased energy was shown in the execution of public works.

Travancore. The revenue of Travancore was the highest on record, viz. 553,164 *l.*, and was larger than that of the previous year by 18,551 *l.* The increase occurred under various heads.

Poodoocottah. In the small State of Poodoocottah there was a net increase of revenue to the extent of 1,549 *l.*, owing to the favourable season, and to waste lands having been consequently brought under cultivation. There was a cash balance at the close of the year of 44,644 *l.*, and the question arose how to employ the increasing surplus revenue. The working of the police was not good, but a new force has been organised from which better results are expected. Of 32 cases of dacoity, 29 remained undetected.

XIV.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Foreign Relations. Siam. A TREATY had been concluded in January 1874 with the King of Siam with the object of affording protection and facilities to British subjects engaged in the timber trade with Zimmay. This treaty came into operation on 1st January 1875. It provided for the creation of a mixed tribunal for the adjudication of disputes between foresters who are British subjects and the Zimmay Chief, but, as far as the institution of this court is concerned, the treaty does not appear to promise success. The Native judge dreads any responsibility for proceedings which may make the Chief liable for large sums of money in favour of British subjects.

A raid occurred on the Amherst frontier; about 30 men (an offshoot of a large marauding band in Siam, numbering 300 to 400 Siamese, Shans, and Tongthoos) made an incursion into the Salween district, attacked a village, and carried off 1,300 *l.* and five captives. They had not since been heard of. It is supposed that they were part of a band of dacoits who infested the trans-Salween country in 1872. An investigation of the case was called for from the Siamese Government, but so far with no result.

Burma. Relations with the Court of Mandalay maintained a friendly character.

China. With a view to obtain accurate information and a scientific survey of the Bhamo trade route, an expedition was organised, on a scale which should furnish every guarantee for success. Negotiations to secure the unmolested passage of the party and their escort as far as the confines of China were concluded with the King of Burma. Mr. Margary, who had come overland through the Chinese provinces to meet the expedition, reached Bhamo in the middle of January 1875, and the party proceeded from that place on the 23rd. At Sawaddy they were detained by the obstructiveness of the Kachyens; and, after further delays, on 21st February they reached a spot within 12 miles of the town of Manwyne, where Mr. Margary had been hospitably received on his former visit. He accordingly preceded the party to prepare the authorities, but was treacherously murdered that afternoon in the town; and on the following morning the party was attacked by an armed Chinese rabble, and turned back to Bhamo. The measures taken to investigate into the conduct of the local authorities in this matter will come into next year's Report.

Thibet. Some information regarding our commercial relations with Thibet will be found under TRADE (p. 59).

Bhootan. A fair was established in 1874 for the promotion of trade between Bhootan and the plains, and was held at Santrabaree, near Buxa. From a mercantile point of view it was a failure, but it was successful as regarded the promotion of friendly intercourse.

The Lieutenant Governor interchanged visits with the Deb Rajah of Bhootan at Buxa. Everything possible was done to give a fitting reception to the Rajah and his followers, as it was the first time that a Rajah of Bhootan had agreed to meet a Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

The Deb Rajah, during the course of the interview, expressed the great pleasure he had experienced in coming to Buxa, and in making the Lieutenant Governor's acquaintance, his hope for improved communication and a lasting friendship between Bhootan and Bengal, and his desire in all matters to consult the Lieutenant Governor's wishes. The visits were visits of ceremony only, but nothing could be more satisfactory or cordial than the relations thus established.

North-Eastern Frontier. The relations with all the tribes on the Burmese frontier were peaceful throughout the year, with the exception of two attempts at raids by Shindoos, which were frustrated by the prompt action of the police.

Several important visits were paid to British territory during the year by Chiefs and deputations. Among the latter were representatives of four clans of

ss of poli[illegible], where[illegible]s, of whom the Chief Commissioner of British Burma [illegible]old durin[illegible]at their reputed skill in workmanship and superior *physique* would [illegible]ider them extremely desirable settlers within our frontier.

The continued efforts to tranquillise the frontier were attended with gratifying success. The Mro and Khyeng chiefs were invited to a feast, at which, to the number of about 60, they agreed to abstain in the future from raiding and from interfering with persons wishing to resort to our bazaars. In order to show the sincerity of their promises, they made a mutual interchange of captives taken in an intertribal raid in 1872-73, and four captives on the one side and five on the other were given up. Fighting was not renewed during the year between these tribes.

The following description is given of one of the tribes, which lies partly within and partly beyond the frontier:—"The Khyeng language is almost dis-"tinct from that of the other hill tribes. The dress of the men is confined to "the smallest possible strip of cloth, but the women dress more decently. "The Khyengs are the only tribe who tattoo the faces of their women, and "they themselves say the custom arose to prevent them being taken by the "Burmese rulers. The desire to mark their women so as to know them when "carried away by other tribes, or to conceal the women taken captive by them-"selves, may, however, either have given rise to the custom, or, at any rate, "helped to make it permanent. There is little hope of the custom dying "out, as the young girls look upon it as a disgrace not to be tattooed. "In their domestic lives there is little difference among any of the hill tribes, "and their social usages are much alike. With no caste distinctions, their "religion consists in a worship of the spirits, who require to be propitiated on "every occasion. Priests are unknown among them."

The trans-frontier Khyengs are even wilder and more uncivilised than those within the boundary.

The Shindeos do not differ very much in features from the other tribes of the district, and are probably of the same extraction. They are, however, rather better formed and more muscular, and both men and women are more decorous in their dress. They have a dread of water more than knee deep, which, it is said, may account for their extraordinary filthiness. Their religious and other customs differ little from other hill tribes.

With regard to the tribes adjoining the new province of Assam, the Chief Commissioner remarks that, although relations with them were not of the peaceful nature which he could have desired, yet much progress has been made in securing peace for future years.

The Kookie and other tribes surrounding the district of Cachar were friendly, the Looshai expedition being still in their recollection.

The Nagas gave serious trouble, both the eastern and western tribes.

In 1873 a survey party, under Lieutenant Holcombe and Captain Samuells, explored the eastern hills towards the Patkai range. Although the Nagas were somewhat suspicious and sulky, it was hoped that on more intimate intercourse with us they would be convinced of our peaceable intentions. No show of hostility was made during that year, but in the following year, and the beginning of 1875, the scene changed, and Lieutenant Holcombe and his followers were treacherously massacred.

In the western hills Captain Butler, in charge of a survey party, was attacked on the 4th January 1875 by the people of Wokha, under which village his camp had been formed. The attack was made in great force, but was promptly met by a counter-attack, and, as the night was very dark, the village was fired and quickly occupied. The ascertained loss of the Nagas was 18 killed, and all their property was captured. On the other side, four men were slightly wounded. Again on the 10th January the party was attacked in open day, but the Nagas, who numbered 400 or 500 men, were easily driven off with considerable loss. Both these attacks were entirely unprovoked.

The Chief Commissioner thinks that the work done by the eastern and western survey parties in the Naga Hills is very satisfactory, and the addition to our knowledge of this part of the country invaluable.

The Mishmis are a powerful clan, extending to the border of Thibet and China, and trading with the latter country as well as with British India. Formerly they gave trouble, but they are now very cordial in their relations with us. In order to promote good feeling with the Mishmis, Khamtis, Singphos, and

other tribes, a fair is held annually at Sadiya. The [illegible] 1874 far exceeded that of previous years, and everything passed [illegible] factorily, as was also the case in 1875. On the whole, this fair is very po[illegible] and its advantages can hardly be over-estimated. It is not only the resort of people anxious to trade, but is used as a rendezvous by all the tribes who have difficulties to settle, or who wish to see the Deputy Commissioner on any subject. There seems little doubt that Sadiya will become a place of considerable importance in the history of this remote corner of the world, and the Chief Commissioner of Assam thinks that, when the time comes for opening up the unknown tracks between India and China, Sadiya will be the starting point.

The Abors occupy the hills adjoining the Mishmis. It is not known how far to the north they extend, but it is probable that their remotest clans are in immediate contact with Thibet. This tribe has always been warlike, and more or less troublesome, but in 1873 and 1874 it behaved fairly well. In the first of these years it was at war with its neighbours, the Chulikata Mishmis. An endeavour to bring about a settlement by British intervention failed, but in 1874 they came to terms of their own accord. It is satisfactory, as showing the extension of our influence over these rude people, that peace was ratified at our station of Sadiya.

It has been clearly proved that there was no political motive involved in the Duffla raid on Amtola. The object of the raiders was simply to [illegible] number of slaves, as equivalents for some of their people who had d[illegible] disease which they believed, or pretended to believe, had been brought [illegible]es by persons living at Amtola. As soon as the raid was known to [illegible] the Tagin Duffla Duars were closed, guards of police being stationed [illegible] at all the principal point along the frontier. These guards were afterwards replaced by military. Notwithstanding that the blockade was kept up as strictly as is possible in such a jungle-covered country, and along so extended a line, the release of the captives was not obtained. The Dufflas believed in the inaccessibility of their hills, and laughed at the idea of our entering them. The result was that a large force was collected, and in the cold season of 1874-75 effected, without any opposition, the release of all the captives who had survived the hard treatment to which their temporary masters had subjected them.

It is believed that, although the raiders were not punished, except by fines, the effect of this expedition will be permanent. The expedition has shown the Dufflas and the neighbouring tribes, who were eagerly watching the result, that we can enter their remotest hills in large numbers, and stay there a long time. On the other hand, it has much increased our knowledge of the tribes.

Fairs have been held at a place called Udalgiri for a great many years back. The principal frequenters of it are the Thibetan Bhooteas of Towang. The inhabitants of Bhootan proper are prevented as much as possible from attending by the Thibetans, in order that the latter may reap the profits of the trade. In 1875 the imports were calculated at about 4,480 *l.*, and the exports at 3,540 *l.* The articles brought down by the Bhooteas are ponies, sheep, dogs, salt, blankets, yâk's tails, musk, chillies, spices, &c.; and they take in exchange English and Assam cloths, thread, rice, betel-nuts, cooking utensils, bar iron, &c. The fair, as usual, passed off quietly.

North-Western Frontier.

On the Agrore border the Akazai tribe gave much trouble, harassing the valley by keeping up a constant fear of raids, carrying off cattle and other property, and burning houses. As, however, they have made full submission, imploring forgiveness of the past, it is hoped that a resort to military coercion, which at one time appeared inevitable, may not be necessary.

In the autumn of 1874, compensation, amounting to about 100 *l.*, for various petty acts of plundering, was demanded from the Hassan Khel section of the Afreedies, and the tribe appeared disinclined to an adjustment; reprisals were made on the 20th October by seizing a large caravan of camels laden with grain, but it was not long detained, as security was at once tendered by the tribe, who satisfactorily adjusted all the claims within the following 15 days.

By a settlement of differences which was effected in the spring of 1874, two sections of the Orukzai tribe bound themselves as sureties for their future good behaviour. They have since given no trouble whatever.

... raid in the Bannu district, full reparation was ... two tribes concerned, and compensation awarded to the ..., aggregating 200*l*. After that, the frontier was undisturbed, the occupation of the two great sections of the Wuzeer tribe in internecine strife and feuds tending doubtless to withdraw their attention from plundering in British territory.

In Dera Ismail Khan two plundering raids were committed by sections of the Mahsud Wuzeers in the latter part of the year. For both full reparation has been demanded and partly obtained, the hostages of the offending tribe being committed to prison, and other members of the tribe, to the number of 50, being detained pending restoration of the property carried off, which consisted entirely of camels. The animals deported in the first case were quickly restored as a result of the measures taken, and the greater number of those carried away in the second raid have also been gradually recovered. All the property belonged to wandering tribes of Povindahs, who had exhibited extreme laxity of precaution on exposed parts of the border beyond immediate police control; and the raids are believed to have been promoted rather in the interests of particular factions than as evidence of hostility on the part of the Wuzeers.

With the above exception, the general state of this part of the frontier during the year was satisfactory. Several Hindoo boys, who had been kidnapped and carried away into the independent hills by small parties of marauders, were recovered through the influence of the tribal representatives, and restored to their fa... however ... nd one or two criminal refugees were delivered up to justice. The... make it ... ing results of the measures taken with one of the most fickle ... as the young ... e tribes on this frontier.

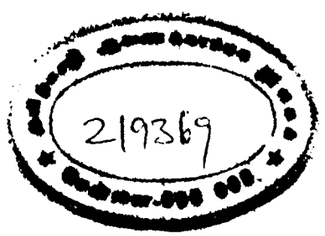
their domestic ... curred on the Dera Ghazee Khan border. One British subject was in their ... , but the offenders were delivered up to justice by the headmen of the tribe.

On the whole, the list of outrages on the Punjab frontier is not so favourable as that of the previous year, but the Lieutenant Governor forcibly contrasts the peace and security which now generally prevail in those parts with the state of things in days gone by.

A continuous policy of conciliation, a growing trade, and a wholesome fear of speedy chastisement for hostile acts, have combined to make the tribes amenable, and to render the frontier districts almost as tranquil as those of the interior. Where twenty years ago all was desolate, cultivation now presses the extreme limit of our territory, and rich crops are gathered in the very mouths of border passes.

India Office,
7th August 1876.

HENRY HILL.



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