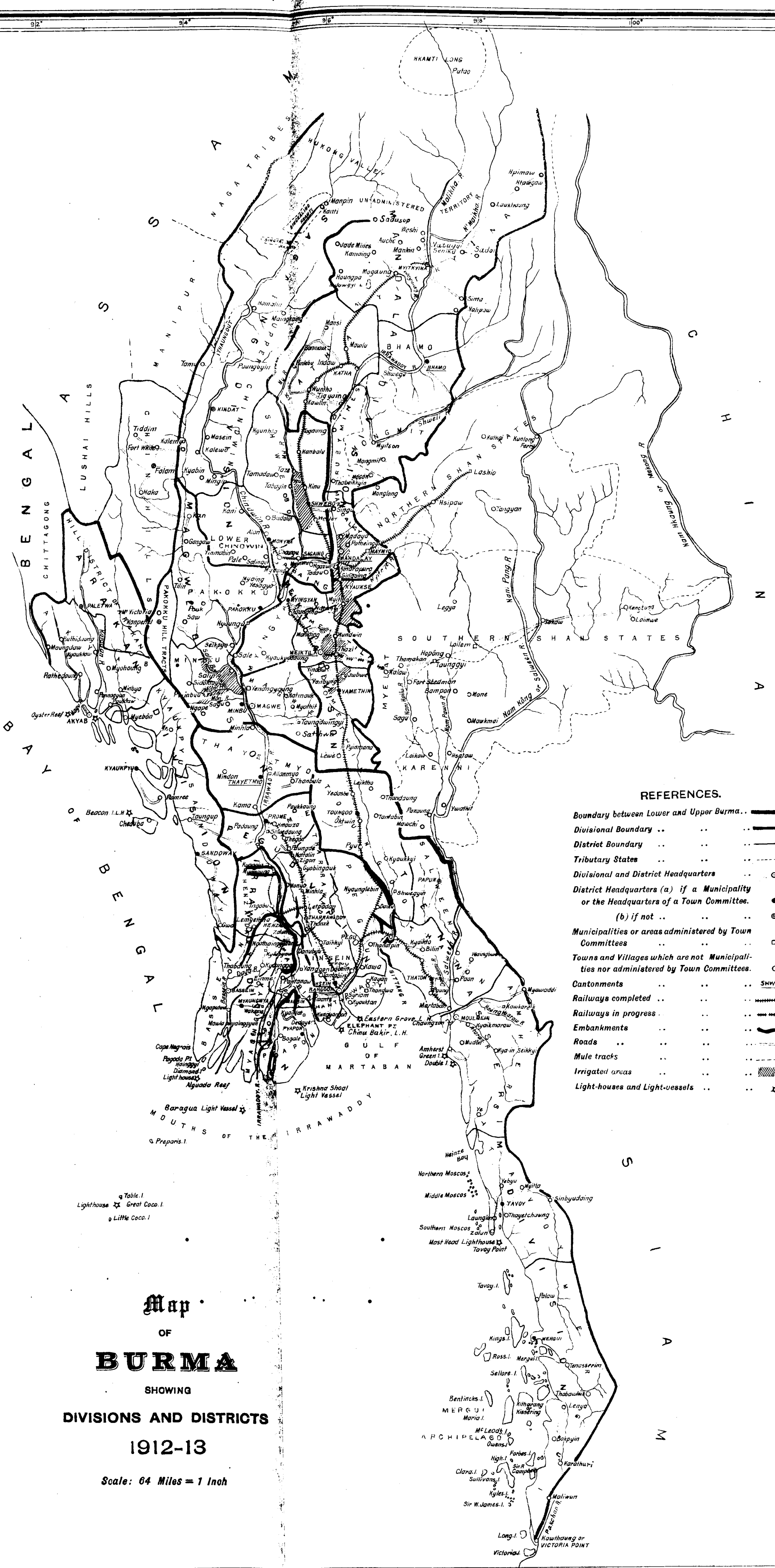




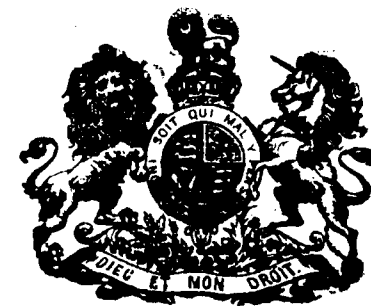
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- Boundary between Lower and Upper Burma ..
- Divisional Boundary ..
- District Boundary ..
- Tributary States ..
- Divisional and District Headquarters ..
- District Headquarters (a) if a Municipality or the Headquarters of a Town Committee. (b) if not ..
- Municipalities or areas administered by Town Committees ..
- Towns and Villages which are not Municipalities nor administered by Town Committees. ..
- Cantonments ..
- Railways completed ..
- Railways in progress ..
- Embankments ..
- Roads ..
- Mule tracks ..
- Irrigated areas ..
- Light-houses and Light-vessels ..

Map
OF
BURMA
SHOWING
DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS
1912-13
Scale: 64 Miles = 1 Inch



REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA
FOR THE YEAR
1912-13



RANGOON
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, BURMA

1914

[The maximum length of the Summary is from 20 to 30 pages, and of Part II (excluding the red-letter chapters) 150 pages.]

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CHAPTER VIII

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA
FOR THE YEAR 1912-13.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

(1) The Administration ; The Frontier States ; and the People.

1. The Honourable Sir Harvey Adamson, M.A., LL.D., Kt., K.C.S.I., I.C.S., was Lieutenant-Governor of Burma throughout the year. A new District was created and the changes in boundaries and personnel necessary on its creation were introduced. Administration.

2. The Southern Shan States enjoyed peace during the year on their border, and internally with the exception of but a few States, the administration of the country was satisfactorily conducted. There was no increase in violent crime, though ordinary crime increased slightly in some of the States. The approach of the Southern Shan States Railway is having a disturbing effect on the Hsa Mông Hkâm Statè, and the usual concomitant of a new railway—an increase in crime—must be expected. The total revenue of the States increased. The agricultural year was on the whole favourable, and the rice crop was good. Trade expanded and the forests yielded a better revenue. Expenditure on public works increased. In Karenni the Council of the State of Kantarawadi was abolished, and a *Sawbwa* was installed in its stead. Crops were good and the timber trade revived. The construction of the Ngwedaung-Loikaw Canal was completed, and large extensions of paddy cultivation resulted from it. In the Northern Shan States the frontier remained quiet during the year, and the internal administration was satisfactorily, if uneventfully, carried on. Crime decreased, but the volume of it is in any case small. The rainfall was sufficient: the rice crop was up to the average, and other crops fared well though tea suffered from an abnormally hot season. The forest revenue fell owing to accidental and temporary causes. The expenditure on public works increased, the amount contributed from the revenues of the States being over four and a half lakhs of rupees. The total revenue of the country increased and the finances of the various States were generally in a sound condition. In the State of Mông Mit and the two small Shan States of Thaungthut and Kanti in the Upper Chindwin District, the year was again one of peace and prosperity. The Shan States and Karenni.

The Chin Hills.

3. No events of note happened in the Chin Hills. The unadministered tribes practically gave no trouble and crime was insignificant. Rats again devastated the crops in certain parts, but there was no famine. An attempt was made to combat the spread of leprosy in the northern parts of the hills and further measures are in contemplation. An outbreak of dysentery in the Haka Subdivision caused serious mortality. In the Hill District of Arakan it was found possible to withdraw the Military Police outposts from Pengwa and Sami.

The North-Eastern Frontier.

4. On the north-eastern border explorations were the principal feature of the year. Expeditions were made through Hkām̄ti Lōng to the headwaters of the Malikhā and into the 'Nmai and Mekh valleys. Relations with the Chinese authorities and transfrontier tribes continued satisfactory. Hpimaw was occupied and a post established there. There was a slight decrease in crime. The reservation of some new forest areas in the Bhamo, Myitkyina and Katha Districts was proceeded with. Progress was made in the construction of roads, a mule track from Htawgaw to Hpimaw being almost completed and over thirty miles of new road being made in the Bhamo District.

Condition of the People.

5. The harvests of the year 1912-13 were excellent and prices were maintained at a high level. All classes of the agricultural population benefited from these happy conditions. In Upper Burma the expansion of groundnut cultivation and of irrigation and the enhanced values of upland crops are proving a source of wealth.

(2) The Administration of the Land.

Realization of the Land Revenue.

6. The year was marked by a combination of unusually favourable conditions. The rainfall was excellent both in Lower and Upper Burma, there were but slight floods in Lower Burma, and the price of rice that prevailed in the early part of the year was extremely high and stimulated the extension of cultivation. The assessment reflected these conditions, and receipts showed a large increase over those of the previous year. In some Districts enhanced rates introduced after settlement also contributed to the increase. The total amount of land revenue remitted was less than two lakhs of rupees. The comparative ease of its collection was shown by a substantial decrease in every kind of coercive process.

Surveys.

7. Topographical survey operations were carried out during the year by the Imperial Department of the Survey of India in the Myitkyina and Tavoy Districts. A revisional survey was undertaken by the Provincial agency of the Land Records Department for revenue purposes in the Akyab District, and the surveys in the Bassein District begun in the previous year were completed. A small special staff was entertained to survey accretions of land on the Sittang estuary. Lack of funds curtailed town and fishery surveys. Applications for land for various agricultural and mining purposes necessitated special surveys in some Districts, the cost of the survey being recovered from the applicants.

8. Six Settlement parties were at work throughout the year and were engaged on thirteen settlement circuits. The settlements of the Rangoon Town District, and of circuits in the Amherst, Myaungmya, Yamèthin and Insein Districts were completed. Sanction was accorded to the settlements in the Yamèthin, Amherst and Insein Districts; the resulting eventual enhancement of rates will amount to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the current assessment. The operations in Myingyan, Toungoo and Pegu were continued, and fresh operations were started in four Districts.

9. The rural area under supplementary survey decreased by 205 square miles. The exclusion from the scope of land records work of parts of the Meiktila District on the introduction of a fixed system of assessments accounts chiefly for the decrease. In spite of it, however, there was a considerable increase in the assessed area, brought about by the excellence of the season. Urban expansion led to the introduction of town supplementary survey over an additional 9 square miles, the aggregate town assessments increasing by over one lakh of rupees, though it must be noted that in the figures for the year are included some items of which no account was taken in former years. In consequence of the increase in the revenue from urban and rural areas, the percentage of the cost of the Land Records Department to the total assessment fell considerably. The number of survey schools remained unchanged, but proposals were put on foot to close down the survey school at Prome. The number of pupils increased, but the results of examinations were not as good as in the previous year. Work was continued at the Survey Training camp for Superintendents of Land Records. In November 1912 the camp was moved from Yamèthin to Tavoy.

though in some Districts of Lower Burma they hold less than three-quarters of the land, while in the new Hanthawaddy (Syriam) District they hold only 58 per cent. In Upper Burma the percentage is very much higher. The area let at full rents rose, but the average rent per acre was slightly lower.

(3) Protection.

Legislation.

13. Only two Bills—the Rangoon Port Amendment Bill and the Rangoon Hackney Carriages Bill—introduced in the Legislative Council of Burma in 1912 passed into law during the year. The Rangoon Port Amendment Act is a measure of some importance. It raises the maximum limit of the river due, and grants certain rights to owners and occupiers of private lands on the foreshore of the river. It contains further a few provisions designed to facilitate the conduct of business. The Rangoon Hackney Carriages Act extends only to the Municipality and Cantonment of Rangoon, but power is taken to extend it to any other local area in Burma. This Act transfers to the Commissioner of Police the jurisdiction over hackney carriages which was vested in the Municipal Committee by Act XIV of 1879. Provisions have also been inserted for the control of rickshaws.

The Burma Land and Revenue Amendment Bill was introduced into the Council during the year, but did not pass into law until after its close.

Police.

14. The Police Administration of the year discloses some displeasing features. An unsatisfactory state of things exists in the lower ranks of the force. There was a considerable shortage of strength, and complaints are general of the difficulty of obtaining recruits and of their bad quality, when obtained. Additions were made to the sanctioned strength of the force, amounting to 205 men, and the cost increased slightly. The conduct of the force was unequal; punishments increased, but a large number of officers and men received rewards for good behaviour. The percentage of literacy shows no change, while the results of the training at depôts were good. The proper housing of the police is a question of much urgency; all is being done that the means of the Province permit. As in preceding years, the growth of crime continued steadily throughout the Province. The increase was in the more serious forms of crime, such as murder, hurt of a serious nature, dacoity and house-breaking. The standard of detection by the police varied but slightly. Good use was made in many Districts of the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the results achieved were especially happy in the Thatôn and Mandalay Districts. Punitive Police forces were imposed on the Tharrawaddy and Prome Districts owing to their disturbed condition.

The sanctioned strength of the Military Police remained unchanged, and the force maintained its reputation for efficiency and good conduct. It rendered good service in several operations in unadministered country on the north-east frontier.

An addition was made to the sanctioned strength of the Rangoon Town Police. The conduct of the force shows an improvement. No difficulty was experienced in recruiting, but it was found necessary to lower the physical standard. The town was free from riots and affrays and there was a slight decline in the more serious forms of crime. The percentage of detection was, generally speaking, the same as in the previous year.

15. The Village Act continued to be administered vigorously. The policy of breaking up large circles was pushed on, but the amalgamation of some village charges in which the policy of subdivision had been carried to excess is being considered. The total number of headmen in the Province decreased slightly. They were of the greatest assistance in the detection and suppression of crime, and in the adjudication of petty village disputes of a civil nature. The number of those invested with special civil and criminal powers further increased. Their collection of the revenue was, as usual, well and honestly done. Fines imposed under the Village Act decreased slightly in number, but rose somewhat in amount. The deportation of one village had a salutary effect on the Prome District, and the Track Law was satisfactorily administered during the year.

Village Administration.

16. The year again saw an increase in the number of original criminal cases tried by the courts and in the number of persons punished, corresponding to the increase of crime throughout the Province. It is noteworthy that the number of persons in proportion to the population who were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment in Burma was from three to four times larger than in any other Province of India. Violent crime such as robbery and dacoity again increased ominously in Lower Burma, while cases of hurt increased both in Lower and Upper Burma. Cattle theft also increased in Upper Burma. In both parts of the Province the Benches of Honorary Magistrates were actively engaged in dealing with a large number of petty offences. There was but a slight variation in the percentage of convictions, and the average duration of cases though worse in Lower was slightly better in Upper Burma. In Courts of Sessions in Lower Burma the average duration was no less than sixty-four days. Short terms of imprisonment again figure conspicuously in the list of punishments awarded

Civil Justice.

18. Economic prosperity brought grist to the Courts of the Province. The number of original suits instituted rose by some 800 in Lower Burma and by rather more than twice that number in Upper Burma. Their total value also increased; in Lower Burma the figure for 1911 was exceeded by fifteen lakhs of rupees and in Upper Burma by over five lakhs of rupees. Disposals kept pace more or less with the increase, and the number of pending suits declined substantially in Lower Burma. The average duration of contested cases in Lower Burma fell slightly, but rose considerably in Upper Burma. In both cases the Judges of the Chief Court and the Judicial Commissioner expressed their dissatisfaction with the figures. Committals to jail of judgment-debtors fell in Lower, but rose again in Upper Burma. There is reason to suppose, however, that the provisions of the Provincial Insolvency Act are becoming better known. The number of appeals preferred increased in the District Courts, but decreased considerably in the Divisional Courts of Lower Burma. The volume of work was well dealt with in the former, but in the latter the average duration made a big stride upwards. In the Chief Court work on the Original Side increased and this combined with the pressure of work on the Criminal Side affected adversely the duration of appeals, though the actual number of appeals preferred was somewhat less than in 1911. The volume of appellate work which came before the Judicial Commissioner of Upper Burma increased by 20 per cent. and had the inevitable result of swelling the arrears left over in that Court at the end of the year.

Registration.

19. Two new registration offices were opened on the formation of the new District out of the Hanthawaddy and Pegu Districts. The total number of compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property and the total value of the instruments registered rose by 13.0 and 7.7 per cent. Instruments of sale of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards and instruments of mortgages both increased in number and value. The high price of rice in Lower Burma, a bad harvest in the Arakan Division which caused enforced sales, and the expansion of the mining industry in the Tavoy District were all contributory causes of the rise. A slight improvement discernible in the figures for Rangoon Town leads to the hope that land values are recovering from the depression from which they have suffered since the collapse of the land boom.

Joint Stock Companies.

20. Only sixteen Joint Stock Companies were floated during the year, representing a nominal capital of Rs. 42.05 lakhs. The public are being given time to forget past misfortunes. In contrast to the previous year the new ventures included only one oil company and no mining companies at all. The most important of the flotations was the Buthidaung-Maungdaw Tramway Company, Limited, formed to construct and work a steam tramway in the Akyab District. Thirteen companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 80.27 lakhs were wound up. Among them was the Burma Rivers Transport Company, Limited, with a paid-up capital of Rs. 14.98 lakhs, which was finally bought up by the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Limited.

Rangoon Municipality.

21. The income of the Rangoon Municipality during the year rose, but so did the expenditure. No fresh taxes were imposed. The improvement of the roads in the town was seriously taken in hand. The town suffered severely from

conflagrations, and the Fire Brigade proving unsatisfactory was reorganized. Street-lighting, the water-supply, the disposal of rubbish, the milk supply, and the establishment of new bazaars were all matters that received close attention from the Committee during the year. The reclamation of town lands progressed but slowly owing to lack of funds. The health of the town was on the whole better than in 1911-12. Deaths from cholera increased, while small-pox and plague show a much reduced mortality. The birth and death-rates fell correspondingly, but the rise in the infantile death-rate is recognized as necessitating special measures.

22. Other Municipalities showed no change in numbers. The boundaries of a few were revised. The incidence of taxation rose slightly, but no fresh taxes were levied during the year. In them too the year was a healthy one, though several towns suffered from visitations of plague, cholera, and small-pox and the prevalence of malaria. A Provincial Sanitary Service is to be inaugurated, and will it is hoped do much for the improvement of the health of the Province. Large sums were expended on sanitary works, roads and bazaars. Expenditure on public instruction increased. The state of the accounts of the Municipalities as disclosed at audit was generally satisfactory. One new area was added to the already existing areas notified under the Municipal Act.

Minor Municipalities.

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year, the decline being attributed to the diversion of the exports of rice from European to Eastern destinations. A feature of the year was the increase of Japanese vessels, due to the entry of the steamers of the Japanese Company, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, into the Rangoon-Calcutta trade.

(4) Production and Distribution.

Agriculture.

26. The progress of the Agricultural Department continued to be encouraging. The superior and subordinate scientific staffs remained unchanged, and the departmental report points out that the growing needs of the department demand their increase. Experimental work was carried on at the Mandalay and Hmawbi Stations and at Tatkon in the Yamethin District. Much teaching and advice was disseminated through the medium of co-operative societies. Efforts were made in different Districts to push the cultivation of wheat, groundnut, castor and sugar-cane, and to improve the cotton, paddy and tobacco already grown. The question of the experimental gardens was considered during the year, and measures for their abolition, or retention and transformation were decided on. The work of the chemical branch of the department increased, and the entomological and botanical sections were also busy.

No incident of note marked the administration of the Veterinary Department during the year. But the educational record of the Insein Veterinary School was somewhat disappointing, and the educational qualifications of the candidates as yet show no signs of improvement.

Stock and Cattle Disease.

27. The mortality in the Province from cattle disease fell considerably. In Lower Burma an increase of 5,000 deaths is more than accounted for by an outbreak of rinderpest that carried off 9,000 head of cattle in the Mergui and Thaton Districts, and is further counterbalanced by a decrease of 66 per cent. in the number of deaths in Upper Burma. The decrease was appreciable in every kind of contagious disease, but particularly in the case of anthrax. There was a serious outbreak of surra in the Myitkyina District among the mules brought in from China. Preventive inoculation was carried out in thirteen Districts, and the results were satisfactory. Proposals for extending facilities for inoculation against rinderpest were under discussion during the year, and the use of segregation camps was further extended. The growth in the numbers of agricultural stock was general and normal, with the exception of sheep that are in insignificant numbers in the Province, and again show a slight decrease.

Weather and Crops.

28. The season of 1912-13 was marked by excellent crops. The rainfall was good over Lower Burma, and in Upper Burma the uplands in the dry zone benefited by favourable early and late rains. In irrigated areas the water-supply was ample and a fair harvest was also gathered in riverine tracts. The occupied area increased, while the area left fallow fell by 9 per cent. and the area on which crops failed to mature fell by as much as 49 per cent. All Districts, both in Lower and Upper Burma, shared in the general prosperity, and decreases where they occurred were slight and unimportant. The area under rice increased greatly, and likewise the area under every kind of crop save wheat rose. Even groundnut and sesamum enjoyed a coincident expansion, all the more remarkable as generally

the gain of the one is the loss of the other. The area under cotton showed a substantial increase. The irrigated area increased, government irrigation works contributing largely to the increase. Of this area 94 per cent. was under rice.

29. The outturns for the Province reflect the figures given above. The estimate of the rice outturn placed it at 97 per cent. of normal, and the exportable surplus was calculated to be 2.6 million tons, as against actual exports of 2.4 million tons, in 1911-12. To the great benefit of the cultivator the magnitude of the crop did not keep prices down. Speculation based on a strong foreign demand from the Straits, China and Japan raised them to Rs. 220 per hundred baskets in July, when paddy was actually imported from Bengal. Prices subsequently broke and at the end of November 1912 they hovered round Rs. 140, to drop to Rs. 125 by the end of February 1913, rallying however towards the end of the year. Better storage accommodation in the Districts strengthened the position of stock holders, and for the first time prices in the Districts for considerable periods stood higher than in Rangoon. The yield of the other crops was also plentiful and generally higher than in the previous year. Natural causes operated to keep down the price of sesamum, maize and millet, but in spite of heavy crops, the price of groundnut remained at the previous year's level, while the price of cotton tended to rise where combination

introduced. Proposals for the establishment of a Central Re-insurance Society are now being examined. The inclusion of death from rinderpest in the risks covered by cattle insurance is advocated.

Horticulture.

32. Of the two Agri-Horticultural Societies of the Province, the Agri-Horticultural Society of Burma in Rangoon improved its financial position and enlarged its Committee by the introduction of representatives of the native communities. The annual exhibition of flowers, plants and fruits was successfully held. The Tenasserim Agri-Horticultural Society had no history during the year of report.

Forests.

33. A net area of 887 square miles was added to the area under forest reserves in the Province during the year and the total area covered by forest reserves in the Province now stands at 27,023 square miles. Work was done on the survey of forests and the settlement of proposed new reserves, but large areas still remain to be surveyed and settled. A special forest survey is required as well as a supply of officers to examine and report on the areas still available for reservation. Working-plans were drawn up for large areas in the Bhamo and Ruby Mines Divisions, but the areas awaiting operations in the Province is still very large.

Offences against the Forest Laws increased. The exhaustion of the supplies of timber and fuel on public lands in parts of the country led a population impatient of control and of the Forest Laws to commit offences in reserved forests. Greater activity too is alleged on the part of the forest staff. Protection from fire was successfully carried out during the year. Cattle grazing in reserved forests is but scantily allowed, and no damage is reported to have been caused by it, save in a few reserves in the plains of Lower Burma, where the total disappearance of trees and scrub jungle on public lands is driving the cattle into the reserves. The amount of teak extracted by Government agency declined, but extraction by purchasers increased by 3 per cent. The high price of teak is leading to attention being paid to other kinds of timber, the increase in the extraction of reserved timbers being most marked in the Tenasserim and Pegu Circles.

Mines and Quarries.

34. There was a slight lull in the mining activity in the Province, and applications to prospect and explore for minerals declined slightly in number, though the number of applications actually made was very far from insignificant. The scramble for wolfram ore and other minerals in the Tenasserim Division and particularly in the Districts of Tavoy and Mergui continued, but no new discoveries of wolfram were made, and the actual production of wolfram fell in the Tavoy District, though it increased in Mergui. The exploitation of the oil-fields in Upper Burma continued apace, and the output of petroleum in the Province during the year constitutes a record. Oil is being won at greater depths in the Yenangyaung field, and the development of petroliferous areas in the Minbu and the Upper Chindwin Districts is being pushed on with vigour. Exploration for oil is also being conducted in other parts of the Province. The gold dredging in the Irrawaddy River in the Myitkyina District again proved disappointing, but the local market for rubies was good, and the Burma Ruby Mines Company is extending its operations into fields where new discoveries of stones have

been made. In the Northern Shan States the production of lead slag and silver ore declined slightly.

35. The Indian Factories Act, 1911, came into force during the year and a whole-time Inspector was appointed to enforce its provisions. The Act applies to factories in Upper Burma as well as factories in Lower Burma; hence a large increase in the number of the registered rice and saw-mills. Industries connected with rice and timber, together with the oil industry and a few engineering yards are the only industries that have attained to any large dimensions in the Province. The number of cotton mills also increased. The average daily number of operatives engaged in factories rose, the greater portion being employed in the Rangoon Town and Hanthawaddy (Syriam) Districts. The rate of wages for unskilled labour remained unchanged; it is liable to fluctuations as the country is dependent on India for its supply of labour.

Manufactures and Factories.

36. The total value of the sea-borne trade of the Province exceeded that of the preceding year by nearly 18 per cent., and the balance of trade amounted at the end of the year to over 11 crores of rupees. The advance was marked both in the case of imports and of exports. Rice accounted for only 62 per cent. of the

Salt.

45. The Salt establishment was amalgamated with the permanent Excise establishment during the year, and its strength increased, the percentage of the cost of the establishment to the revenue realised rising from 6.86 to 9.39 per cent. The local salt industry is said to have supported with ease the imposition of a duty of 10 annas per maund made in 1911, and it has been decided again to raise the direct duty rate and the composition rates in 1914. The total output of local salt in the Province increased, but while Districts under direct taxation show an increase, Districts under composition duty reveal a slight decrease. Imports of foreign salt decreased by slightly over 17 per cent., but a comparison with the figures of 1911 only would be untrustworthy, as the figures of that year were abnormal. The total revenue derived from salt during the year fell by just over Rs. 2 lakhs in comparison with the previous year. The imports of salt from Germany were as usual the largest, but the figures for importation from the United Kingdom compare favourably with those of the years 1909 and 1910.

Excise.

46. The draft Excise Bill for Burma was considered during the year and its provisions are under examination. The reorganization of the Excise, Opium and Salt establishments took effect from the 1st June 1912. It is surmised that the sanctioned cost of the Excise establishment will in future years absorb about 10 per cent. of the gross receipts of the Excise revenue, being proportionately three times as much as for the whole of the rest of India in 1911-12. It has been decided to debit 3½ per cent. of the total cost of the combined establishment to the Imperial head "Salt." The increase in the gross Excise revenue during the year was Rs. 8.34 lakhs and was largely due to an advance of nearly seven lakhs of rupees in the receipts from opium. The consumption of the drug fell during the year by just over 10 per cent. but the advance of 25 per cent. in the wholesale price made at the end of the previous year counterbalanced the effect of smaller issues. This decline in the issues of opium was very marked in the four northern Districts of the Mandalay Division and considerable in Akyab and Rangoon. The number of registered Burman opium consumers continued to diminish and now stands at 11,080. In spite, however, of this apparent falling off in the opium consumption of the Province, the contraband trade in opium and drugs still bulks large, and there is much reason to fear that opium is merely giving way to drugs even more deleterious. The cocaine habit is spreading slowly but surely over the whole of Lower Burma, while morphia dens in Rangoon constitute a serious and growing evil, under present conditions almost impossible to eradicate.

The revenue from liquor license fees and duty increased by over one lakh of rupees but it is believed that the increase arises from the displacement of illicit liquors and not from a spread in the habit of drinking. Nearly half of the receipts from excisable liquors were contributed by the country beer shops. There was a decline of Rs. 1.32 lakh in the revenue from the sale of imported liquors and locally produced spirit excised at the tariff rate, counterbalanced by a very large increase in the imports of foreign liquors, especially ale, beer and porter, reflecting the prosperity of the people consequent on the good harvests of the year. In pursuance of the policy experimentally adopted in the previous year, the contract distillery system was extended and 24 new shops were opened for the sale of distillery-made spirit. The total revenue from the spirit so produced more than doubled itself, although a reduction in the rate of duty was made in some parts of the Province to enable it to compete with the product of illicit distillation.

Stamps.

47. The stamp revenue again declined, but the decline was small, being under three-quarters of a lakh of rupees, and the receipts under the Stamp Act actually showed an increase. A recovery in this branch of the revenue would seem to be imminent, for though depression in the money and stock markets consequent on the failures of 1911 still prevailed in Rangoon, the external trade of the Province continued to expand and land as an investment showed signs of regaining popularity.

Assessed Taxes.

48. The yield from the income-tax was slightly larger than in the previous year. In the Districts outside Rangoon the collections responded to the favourable trade conditions and were the highest recorded. Tavoy stands out conspicuously with an increase of 40 per cent. in the number of assesseees and of 151 per cent. in the amount of the tax, while in Prome the amount of the tax rose by 55 per cent. In Rangoon Town the receipts were seriously affected by the depression in the petroleum industry, four oil companies alone between them paying in as tax nearly one lakh of rupees less. There was an increase of nearly 6 per cent. in the number of persons paying tax on salaries,

the subordinate inspecting staff of 9 Deputy Inspectors and 4 Sub-Inspectors. Other important changes were the formation of the Arakan Division into a separate charge under an officer of the Indian Educational Service, and the introduction of the teaching of English reading and writing which had hitherto been begun in the fourth standard, in the third standard of Anglo-Vernacular Schools. The question of establishing a University for the Province was finally decided in the affirmative. A draft Bill was submitted to the Government of India and an assignment was made from Imperial Funds. A definite advance has thus been made in the direction of realizing the policy laid down at the close of the quinquennial period terminating at the end of 1911-12. The total expenditure on Education rose by nearly Rs. 6 lakhs and amounted to Rs. 53.36 lakhs. Of this Rs. 22.32 lakhs were contributed from Provincial Funds, the balance being supplied from Local Funds and private sources. School fees increased by nearly Rs. 1½ lakhs. The number of educational institutions increased during the year by 1.6 per cent., and the attendance improved by 3.2 per cent. Public primary schools increased slightly in number and attendance. Private institutions greatly outnumber public, but the large majority of private schools are monastic and the average attendance at them was only 11 against an average attendance of 34 at primary public schools. Secondary education prospered, both Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular Schools increasing their numbers and improving their attendance. This improvement is manifest at every stage of instruction. The results of the Vernacular seventh standard examination were even poorer than in the previous year. Collegiate education continued to attract an increasing number of students and the results at the examinations of the Calcutta University improved considerably.

The Government School of Engineering at Insein continued to be poorly attended, but steps have been taken to enhance its popularity with Burmese students. The number of Normal schools remained unchanged, but students were more numerous. Schools for Europeans increased. The attendance of Mahomedans at schools improved and more Mahomedan schools were opened. Schools for special classes increased, and attendance at them rose considerably, the advance being chiefly among the Karens, Talaing and Shans. About two-thirds of the total number are Karens, who, as a race, evince a deep interest in and a strong desire for education. Female education continued to make rapid progress. The increase in the number of girls under instruction at public institutions during the year exceeded the average annual increase of the last quinquennium.

**Literature
and Presses.**

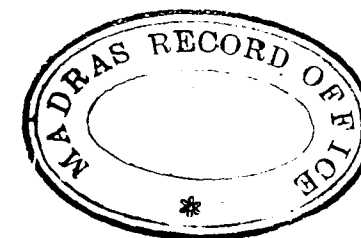
60. The literary output of the Province differed but little from that of previous years. It was mainly religious and dramatic, and the languages employed were chiefly Burmese, Pāli and English. The works themselves are not of arresting interest. Newspapers are numerous, and the number of printing presses increased.

**Arts and
Sciences.**

61. Three exhibitions of Art Handicrafts were held during the year. These included local exhibitions at Bassein and Mandalay, of which the latter is a new venture, as well as the Annual Provincial Exhibition in Rangoon. All three were successful.

(8) Archæology.

62. Excavations were continued during the year at Pagan and Hmawza. At the latter place a further discovery was made of inscriptions in the Pyu language, and hopes run high that light will now be thrown on the forgotten language and history of the Pyu people. It has also been decided to carry on excavations round Pegu, a neighbourhood that is rich in the relics of the Talaing epoch.



PART II.

DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.

NOTE.—The departmental reports and other references, on which this *Report on the Administration of Burma* is based, are noted at the beginning of each chapter. The departmental reports do not all cover the same period. The Reports on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice, the Police, Prisons, the Registration Department, the Salt Revenue, the measures adopted for the extermination of Wild Animals and Poisonous Snakes, Lunatic Asylums, the Report of the Chemical Examiner and Bacteriologist, the Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, and the Resolution on the Reports on Village Administration deal with events which took place within the calendar year 1912; the Shan States, Chin Hills and the North-Eastern Frontier Reports, the Land Revenue, Land Records, and Forest Administration Reports, the Season and Crop Report, the Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act and the Report of the Department of Agriculture are concerned with the agricultural year from the 1st July 1912 to the close of June 1913. All other reports cover the twelve months of the official or financial year that ended on the 31st March 1913.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

REFERENCES:—

- Report on the Administration of the Shan and Karenni States for the year ended the 30th June 1913.
- Report on the Administration of the Chin Hills for the year ended the 30th June 1913.
- Report on the Administration of the North-Eastern Frontier for the year ended the 30th June 1913.
- Season and Crop Report of Burma for the year ending the 30th June 1913.
- Land Records Administration Report of Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1913.

PHYSICAL.

Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples

POLITICAL.

Historical Summary

Form of Administration

Character of Land Tenures: System of Survey and Settlement

Civil Divisions of British Territory

Details of the last Census; Tribes and Languages

For information on the foregoing subjects, a reference should be made to paragraphs 1 to 76 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Changes in the Administration.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson, M.A., LL.D., Kt., K. C.S.I., I.C.S.,
was Lieutenant-Governor of Burma throughout the year. The
Lieutenant-
Governor.
2. A new District, called the Insein District, with headquarters at Insein, was formed with effect from the 1st April 1912, by the incorporation of the Insein Subdivision of the Hanthawaddy District and the Hlègu Township of the Pegu Administra-
tive terri-
torial
changes.

collections of tribute amounted to Rs. 66,117 in the main Chin Hills. In the Pakôkku Hill Tracts the amount was Rs. 3,085.

(iii) *The Kachin Hills.*

[Tracts in the Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha Districts.]

9. Explorations of unadministered territory were the principal feature of the year. Hpimaw was occupied and a post established there. An expedition was made through Hkânti Lōng to explore the headwaters of the Malikha, while a second expedition explored the Mekh and 'Nmai valleys. The two columns effected a junction across the divide between the Mali and 'Nmai valleys, and explored together the Ahkyang valley. The exploration of the headwaters of both branches of the Irrawaddy is now practically complete. Relations with the Chinese authorities and with transfrontier tribes continued satisfactory. Only one transborder raid was committed, and overtures were made by the 'Ngan Chief which may result in the Laban-'Ngan feud being brought to a close. A meeting was held at the instance of the *Taotai* of Têngyüeh at Lweje between the Assistant Superintendent at Sinlunkaba and the local Chinese officials and *Sawbwas*, and 43 cases were disposed of.

Violent crime increased from 6 to 8 cases in the Myitkyina District, but cases in the Bhamo District fell from 8 to 1. The Katha District showed one case as in the previous year. All these cases were murders or attempts at murder. Compensation according to Kachin custom was paid by Government for the murder of two Kachin girls said to have been committed by natives of India. A conviction had not been secured at the trial and failure to pay compensation would have led to a blood feud, in which the Kachins would have wreaked their vengeance on Indians. In the Myitkyina hills the number of ordinary criminal cases instituted during the year was 109, showing a decrease of 7 on the figures of the previous year. Twenty-five cases were pending at the end of the year. In the Bhamo hills 83 cases were instituted as against 94, and 11 were left pending. Cattle theft decreased from 15 to 7 cases. In the Katha District there were 13 cases. The civil cases were all of a petty nature and were generally of an elementary type, consisting of claims on account of the birth of illegitimate children, demands for customary wedding presents from the bridegrooms' families and for compensation on account of the death of women in child-birth. In Bhamo several suits were filed by Kachin villagers against Indian contractors for the recovery of wages due. The collections of tribute rose from Rs. 49,049 to Rs. 50,549. To the increase of Rs. 1,500 Myitkyina alone contributed slightly over Rs. 1,000. Several seizures of opium were made in the Myitkyina and Bhamo Districts. In the Myitkyina hills it is reported that nearly every Kachin village has a small plot of poppy cultivation, and in the Bhamo District it is said that opium and liquor smuggling from the hills to the plains appears to be on the increase. Steps have been taken to discourage poppy cultivation by Kachins and to restrict the area so cultivated. The reservation of three new forest areas in the Myitkyina District was under consideration. The Namme Forest Reserve was notified in the Bhamo District, and the reservation of the Wapyudaung area was considered. In Katha proposals were made to make a new forest reserve on the western slopes of the range of hills to the east of Mawlu. Royalty on rubber decreased from Rs. 11,147 to Rs. 7,490; the trees in the Hukong valley are said to have been injured by over-tapping. There was a revival in the trade in jade-stone owing to the improved state of affairs in China. The quantity of jade-stone exported was 104,909 viss valued at Rs. 1,52,927 as against 16,745 viss valued at Rs. 49,060. On the other hand no amber was exported from the Hukong valley. The outturn in the preceding year was 890 viss valued at Rs. 2,880, and the reason for the cessation of the supply is not known. The value of the gold won by the Burma Gold Dredging Company was Rs. 2,89,751 as against Rs. 3,64,038. No work was done at the Nanyaseik ruby mines, the corundum mines in Kamaing or the Taungbalaung copper

mines near Pinlôn. Progress was made in road-making. A graded and bridged mule road from Htawgaw to Hpimaw, constructed by the Public Works Department, neared completion, with a branch road

CHAP. II.—
ADMINIS-
TRATION OF
THE LAND.

1,000 more. Seven Districts, Bassein, Henzada, Myaungmya, Ma-ubin, Pyapôn, Toungoo and Amherst, report an increase of over 10,000 acres in the area let to tenants at full rates, without counting the newly formed Districts of Hanthawaddy (Syriam) and Insein, which with Pegu show a combined increase of over 47,000 above the figures for the same area in 1911-12. On the other hand, the area in Tharrawaddy was 26,000 acres less and in Thatôn 8,000. Though the area rented in Tharrawaddy fell, the average rent per acre rose to Rs. 17½ and is now the highest paid in Lower Burma. After it come Hanthawaddy (Syriam) and Myaungmya with an average of Rs. 17; in the former the enhanced rates notified after the third settlement have made landlords raise their rents.

Six Upper Burma Districts, in only three of which the area let at full fixed rents exceeded 10,000 acres, report average rents in excess of Rs. 10. The highest is in Minbu, Rs. 20½. In Shwebo the rate, Rs. 10, is double that of the preceding year, but the area let is small, being under 400 acres.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

REFERENCES:—

- Report on the Police Administration of Burma for the year 1912.
- Report on the Rangoon Town Police for the year 1912.
- Resolution on the Reports on Village Administration in Burma for the year 1912.
- Report on the measures adopted for the extermination of Wild Animals and Poisonous Snakes in Burma during the year 1912.
- Reports on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Burma for the year 1912.
- Report on the Prison Administration of Burma for the year 1912.
- Reports on the Administration of Civil Justice in Burma for the year 1912.
- Note on the working of the Registration Department in Burma for the year 1912.
- Report on the working of the Indian Companies Act in Burma for the year 1912-13.
- Report on the working of the Rangoon Municipality for the year 1912-13.
- Resolution reviewing the Reports on the working of Municipalities in Burma during the year 1912-13.
- Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Burma (Buildings and Roads Branch), excluding Irrigation, for the year 1912-13.
- Administration Report of the Commissioners for the Port of Rangoon from the 1st April 1912 to the 31st March 1913.
- Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of Burma with Foreign Countries and Indian Ports for the official year 1912-13, Part III, Shipping.
- Report on the Maritime Trade and Customs Administration of Burma for the official year 1912-13.
- Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries, Volume II.
- Annual Statement of Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India.
- Statistics of British India, Parts II, V, VI and VIII.
- Report on Government Steamers, Vessels and Launches in Burma for the year 1912-13.
- Report on the working of the Government Workshop, Rangoon, for the year 1912-13.

Legislative Authority.

The history and constitution of the Legislative Authority of the Province are described in paragraphs 103 to 106 of the *Report on the Administration of Burma* for the year 1911-12.

Course of Legislation.

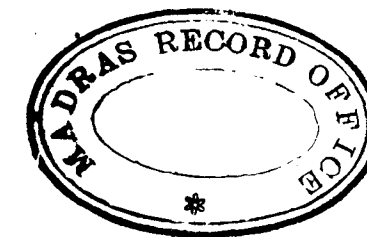
27. The Legislative year which ended on the 31st March 1913 was one of no great activity. The two Bills—the Rangoon Port Amendment Bill and the Rangoon Hackney Carriages Bill—referred to in the Report on the Administration of Burma for 1911-12 as having been introduced during that year, became law during the year of report as Burma Acts III and IV of 1912. Another Bill—the Burma Land and Revenue Amendment Bill—was introduced during the year, but did not pass into law till after the 31st March 1913.

Work of
Legislative
Council.

The Rangoon Port Amendment Act (Burma Act III of

CHAP. III.—
PROTEC-
TION.

respectively. Additions and alterations to the steamer wharf at Akyab were in progress. The work at the Alghunda Reef Light-house has already been mentioned. The R. I. M. S. "Investigator" commenced the survey on the scale of $\frac{1}{4}$ " to one sea mile of the outside portion left over from the season of 1911-12 latitude $12^{\circ}50'N.$ to $13^{\circ}30'N.$ and longitude $97^{\circ}40'E.$ to $98^{\circ}05'E.$; this takes in the area required on the projected new Admiralty sheets. On completion she continued south, working out the Mergui Archipelago on a scale of one inch to one mile, as far as $97^{\circ}25'E.$, the western limit of the new Admiralty sheets.



CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

REFERENCES:—

- Report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture, Burma, for the year ended the 30th June 1913.
- Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Burma, for the year ended the 31st March 1913.
- Season and Crop Report of Burma for the year ending the 30th June 1913.
- Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Burma during the year ended the 30th June 1913.
- Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies Act in Burma for the year ended the 30th June 1913.
- Administration Report of the Irrigation Department, Burma, for the year 1912-13.
- Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.
- Area and Yield of certain Principal Crops in India.
- Annual Report of the Agri-Horticultural Society of Burma, for the year 1912.
- Report on the Forest Administration of Burma for the year 1912-13.
- Report on the Census of Burma, 1911.
- Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in Burma for the year 1912.
- Report on the Maritime Trade and Customs Administration of Burma for the official year 1912-13.
- Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of Burma with Foreign Countries and Indian Ports for the official year 1912-13, Part I, Foreign Trade, and Part II, Coasting Trade.
- Review of the Trade of India.
- Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign Countries, Volumes I and II.
- Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India.
- Note on the Transfrontier Trade of Burma and the adjoining Foreign Countries during the year 1912-13.
- Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Burma (Buildings and Roads Branch), excluding Irrigation, for the year 1912-13.
- Statistics of British India, Parts I, II, III and IV(b).

Agriculture.

81. The area taken up in the year for agricultural, industrial and residential purposes exceeded 250,000 acres, and the occupied area of the Province is now 17,682,362 acres. In Thayetmyo the increase was as much as 34,393 acres, in Thaton it amounted to 22,082 acres, and in ten other Districts it exceeded 10,000 acres. The total area left fallow fell 9 per cent. to 3,825,447 acres; the area on which crops matured increased by 1,132,419 acres to 13,231,473 acres, while the area in which they were destroyed fell as much as 49 per cent. from 1,064,605 to 560,443 acres. This is the lowest figure for the area on which crops were destroyed recorded for the past ten years. Ample rain, the abnormally high prices for paddy that ruled during the year and the absence of floods explain the excellence of these figures. The total area brought under cultivation, inclusive of areas which failed, amounted to 14,295,499. This is 674,062 acres more than in 1911-12. The number of acres, lying almost entirely within the dry zone, which were cropped more than once was 438,584. In Lower Burma in all the Districts with three exceptions there was a large increase in the area put under crop and a large drop in the area left fallow. The exceptions were In

