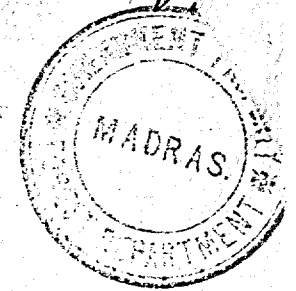


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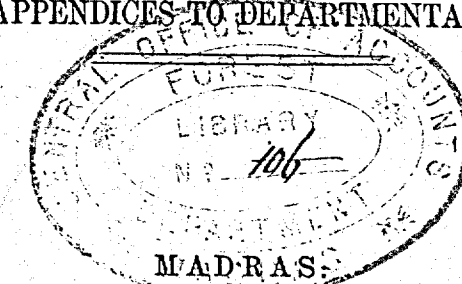
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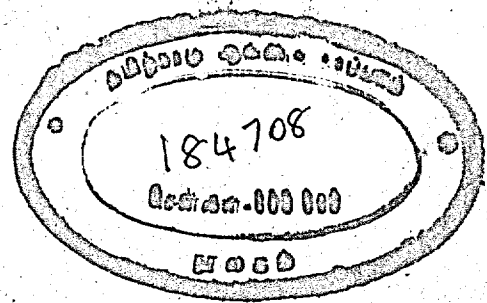
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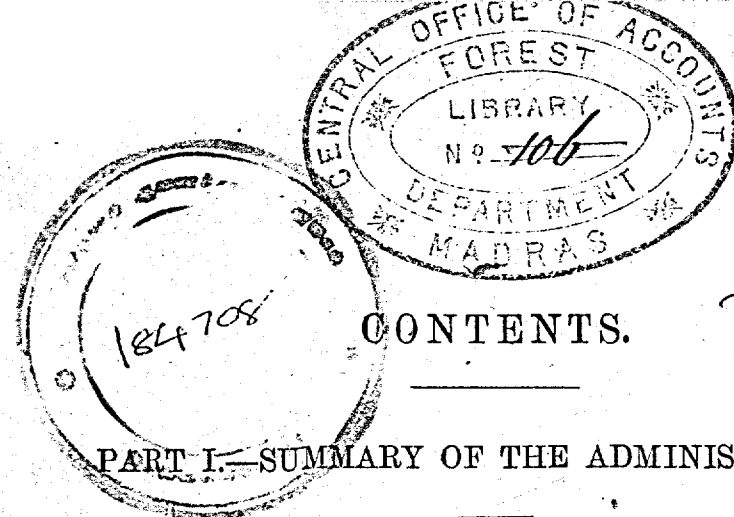
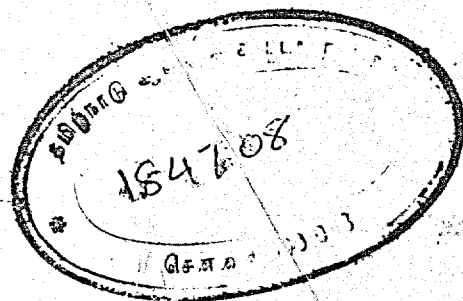
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- PART I.—SUMMARY OF THE ADMINISTRATION.
 - PART II.—DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.
 - PART III.—APPENDICES TO DEPARTMENTAL CHAPTERS.



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PART I.

SUMMARY OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

SUMMARY OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

HIS GRACE the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos continued to occupy the office of Governor. Her Majesty was graciously pleased to confer on His Grace the order of G.C.S.I. during the year. The command of the Military forces was held by Sir Neville Chamberlain, G.C.B., G.C.S.I. The Ordinary Members of Council were the Honorable Sir William Robinson, K.C.S.I., and the Honorable R. S. Ellis, C.B., since deceased. The latter gentleman, however, vacated his seat on the 12th March 1877, and proceeded to England to take up his appointment as a Member of the Council of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India. There being no Provisional Member to supply the vacancy, His Grace the Governor in Council, under the powers vested in him by the provisions of Section XXVII of the "Indian Councils' Act, 1861," appointed the Honorable W. Hudleston, Chief Secretary, to be a Temporary Member of the Council, the Honorable D. F. Carmichael succeeding him as Chief Secretary. On the 7th June 1877 a warrant under Her Royal Sign-manual having been received from Her Majesty the Queen and Empress of India, appointing, under the authority vested in Her by the 32 and 33 Vict., Chapter 97, Section 8, William Hudleston, Esq., Temporary Member of Council, to be an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor of the Presidency of Fort Saint George, that gentleman took his seat accordingly on the 12th June 1877 under the usual salute. On Mr. Ellis's retirement the Government were pleased to express in the official *Gazette* their appreciation of his services in the following terms:—

"In accepting this resignation, His Grace the Governor in Council desires to record his sense of the loss to the administration of government in this country by Mr.

SECTION I.
GENERAL AND
POLITICAL.
Personal
Administra-
tion.

Ellis's retirement, and of the high value of the important services rendered by Mr. Ellis to the State during a long and distinguished career."

Legislative
Council.

The Honorable Mr. O'Sullivan was nominated an Additional Member of the Legislative Council on the Honorable H. S. Cunningham, Advocate-General, proceeding on leave to England. The Honorables V. Ramengar, C.S.I., G. N. Gajapathi Row, and J. G. Coleman were re-appointed Members.

Government
on the Hills.

The annual movement of Government to the Nilgiris was made in April 1876, and the Government returned to the Presidency Town in October of the same year. Twenty-one councils were held at Ootacamund, exclusive of extraordinary meetings. The first Council was held on the 21st April and the last on the 12th October.

The Governor's
Tour.

During the sojourn of the Government on the Nilgiris His Grace the Governor, accompanied by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, proceeded on a tour to Mysore and Bangalore towards the end of August and returned to Ootacamund about the middle of the following month. His Grace left the Hills for Madras on the 28th September and embarked on a lengthened tour, calling at Cocanada, Vizagapatam, the Andaman Islands, Rangoon, Colombo, Mangalore, Cannanore and Calicut; and returned thence to Madras on the 8th November. On the 16th December, His Grace proceeded by sea in the steam ship "Tenasserim" to Calcutta *en route* to Delhi, in order to be present at the Imperial Proclamation ceremony, and returned to the Presidency by rail on the 18th January 1877.

Imperial
Assemblage
at Delhi.

Pursuant to an Act of Parliament passed on the 27th April 1876, intituled "An Act to enable Her Most Gracious Majesty to make an addition to Her Royal Style and Titles appertaining to the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom and its Dependencies," Queen Victoria, by a Proclamation signed at the Court of Windsor the day following, in the 39th year of Her reign, assumed the title of "Empress of India."

Her Majesty was induced to make this addition to her titles as a formal recognition of the transfer of the Government of India from the East India Company to the Crown, as well as to mark in a special manner her interest in this great and ancient Dependency of India, and her confidence in the loyalty and affection of its princes and peoples.

To proclaim this august event to her numerous subjects scattered throughout India in a manner befitting the occasion, His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General, under instructions from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, held on the 1st January 1877 an Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, the ancient capital of the Mogul Empire, inviting thither from all parts of India, Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, Heads of Administration, and Princes, Chiefs and Nobles. From this Presidency His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, Governor of Madras, and the Members of Council, the Maharaja of Travancore and the Raja of Cochin were invited to attend the ceremonial by His Excellency the Viceroy; and invitations to the following Princes, Rajahs and Zemindars were issued by the Local Government under the general authority vested in it by the Governor-General:—

His Highness Azim Jah, Prince of Arcot.
The Princess of Tanjore.
His Highness the Maharaja of Vizianagram.
The Maharaja of Jeypore.
The Raja of Sandúr.
„ Venkatagiri.
„ Kálahasti.
„ Pudukóta.
„ Zamorin of Calicut.
„ Zamindar of Pittapur.
„ Karyetnagar.
„ Shivaganga.
„ Ettiapuram.

His Highness Azim Jah, Prince of Arcot, the Princess of Tanjore, and the Zamindar of Ettiapuram alone availed themselves of the invitation. The famine which was

daily growing in intensity in this and the Bombay Presidency was a bar to the acceptance of the invitation in several cases, and, in a few instances, the Chiefs concerned were excused on the ground of ill-health. His Grace the Governor and Staff, with the Honorable D. F. Carmichael as Secretary in attendance, proceeded to Delhi; also the Honorables J. G. Coleman and V. Ramengar, C.S.I., in their capacity of Members of the Madras Legislative Council.

—Decorations, &c.

In commemoration of the occasion, besides conferring titles and decorations on several persons, the Viceroy declared that it was Her Majesty's intention to institute an entirely new order, to be called the "Order of the Indian Empire." The following gentlemen of this Presidency received the titles and decorations shown below:—

To be Counsellors of the Empress.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.
The Maharaja of Travancore.

To be a Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India.

His Highness Azim Jah, Prince of Arcot.

To be Companions of the same Order.

The Nawáb of Banganapalli.
George Thornhill, Esq., M.C.S.
Seshia Sastri, Dewan of Travancore.

Also lesser distinctions were conferred on some Native Chiefs and gentlemen. Further, the table of salutes to Native Princes and Chiefs was revised. The Maharaja of Travancore is now entitled to twenty-one guns, and the number of guns formerly prescribed for the other Chiefs has been raised.

—Rejoicings at Mofussil stations.

It being essential to the object in view that the significance of the occasion should be brought home, as far as possible, to the people of this country, due publicity was given to Her Majesty's Proclamation in Durbars held

on the same day, with appropriate rejoicings, by the chief Civil Officers of Government at the head-quarters of every division or district throughout India. At several stations in this Presidency the popular manifestations took the form of feeding and clothing the distressed poor, who, owing to the famine, flocked in large numbers to the principal town of each district. Displays of fire-works also took place. On this occasion Certificates were distributed to those Native gentlemen, whether in Government employ or otherwise, who had distinguished themselves by good service and loyalty to the British Government, or who, for other reasons, were considered worthy of the honor. Moreover, those ruling Chiefs who though invited were unable to proceed to Delhi, were requested to convene Durbars in their own territories on the same day for a like purpose. The Maharaja of Travancore and the Raja of Cochin were the only Chiefs in this Presidency who were thus called upon, and both readily complied with the requisition.

The ceremony at the Presidency town was similar to that at the mofussil stations. A spacious pavilion was erected on the Island opposite Sir Thomas Munro's statue. Sir William Robinson, K.C.S.I., as the President of the Council in the absence of His Grace the Governor, accompanied by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the Honorable R. S. Ellis, C.B., and the Principal Officers of Government, Military and Civil, the Members of the Board of Revenue, and the foreign Consuls and other leading inhabitants of Madras, occupied the dais. All the troops in garrison, including the Madras Volunteer Corps and a body of Veterans from Palaveram, were paraded in full dress. The Proclamation was read by the Chief Secretary. After the reading the Royal Standard was unfurled, the troops presenting arms, while the bands played the National Anthem. Also an Imperial salute and *feu de joie* were fired by the horse artillery and infantry regiments respectively. Sir William Robinson next briefly addressed the assembly. The Commander-in-Chief addressed a few words to the soldiers, and then, decorated with the Imperial medal the non-commis-

—Rejoicings at Madras Town.

(8)

SUMMARY.

sioned officers and men selected to receive the honor. In the evening a reception was held at the Banqueting Hall, which was numerously attended.

—Rejoicings
at Military
stations.

At Military Stations a full dress parade of all the troops in garrison or cantonment was held, and an Imperial salute of 101 guns was fired. Further to mark the occasion, a day's pay was issued to every non-commissioned officer and soldier, British and Native, and a silver medal was presented to a soldier selected by the commanding officer in each regiment or corps, British or Native, and in every battery of artillery. Moreover, certain boons as regards pay and allowances were conferred on the Native armies of India with a view to the improvement of the condition of Native commissioned and non-commissioned officers and men; and further, as an incentive to good behaviour on the part of the Native officers, Her Imperial Majesty was pleased to authorize an increase to the Order of British India, the establishment being raised from its present strength to 175 members, distributed amongst the armies in the three Presidencies. Finally, it was declared that the usual allowance would be made for the support of a band in every regiment of Native infantry in which the officers might express a desire for one.

—Prisoners
released.

As an act of clemency and grace, a certain proportion of the well-conducted convicts in the jails were released, the exceptions being only such as had been more than twice convicted, or had been committed to jail as security for keeping the peace. The concession also was withheld from murderers and leaders of mutiny. Moreover, the prisoners continuing in confinement came in for a share of the indulgences meted out on the occasion. Partial remissions were granted them of periods extending from fifteen days to one month for each year of incarceration. The number of prisoners liberated in this Presidency amounted to over two thousand persons.

The Famine. • It is not proposed to give here any detailed notice of the calamity which befell the greater portion of this Presi-

Section I.]

GENERAL AND POLITICAL.

(9)

dency during the year under review through the loss of the harvests in consequence of the failure of the south-west and north-east monsoons of the year 1876, following on a bad north-east monsoon in 1875, and which was daily growing in intensity as the year closed. The area affected was 84,367 square miles with a population of 19,377,132 souls. The time for reviewing the several measures taken by Government to mitigate the horrors of this terrible visitation has not yet arrived, and belongs more fitly to the history of the year now passing. The effects, however, of the famine were felt in every branch of the administration, and are noticed in connection with each. The whole administrative machinery of the province was taxed to the uttermost, but despite the great efforts of the Government and the untiring devotion of its officers in every grade, the loss of life both of man and beast through famine and disease has been terrible, especially in the early months of the distress.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council having had a personal conference with His Grace the Governor of Madras at Delhi regarding the afflicted state of the Madras Presidency, and considering it expedient that a high officer, fully acquainted with the views of the Supreme Government, should visit the Presidency for the purpose of inspecting for himself the distressed districts and communicating with the Local Government as to the measures which were being adopted to afford relief, as also of offering for the consideration of Government any suggestions he might deem suitable, deputed to this special mission the Honorable Sir Richard Temple, Bart., K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Sir Richard accordingly arrived at Kurnool on the 14th January 1877. Thence he visited the famine-stricken districts of Bellary, Cuddapah and Trichinopoly, and reached Madras on the 26th idem. Leaving Madras on the 28th, he proceeded to Chingleput and North Arcot, and was joined by His Grace the Governor on the 12th February following at Bellary, where His Grace and the Delegate conferred. Sir Richard returned to Madras

—Sir Richard
Temple's visit
to Madras.

on two subsequent occasions, viz., on the 9th March and 18th April 1877, visiting and re-visiting in the interval the afflicted districts; and he finally quitted this Presidency on the 20th April for Bombay, to assume charge of the Governorship of that Presidency, to which he had been gazetted on the 28th February 1877.

The Ex-
Guicowar of
Baroda.

This deposed prince continues to occupy Doveton House, under the charge of a selected officer. His health is good.

Travancore
State.
Legislation.

The administration of public affairs in this State, as well as the commercial and educational progress of the people, continues satisfactory. Under the head of legislation an enactment was passed prohibiting public lotteries, a step which shows the beneficial effects of legislation in British India on the policy of an independent Native State. Royal proclamations having the force of law were also issued constituting a Court for hearing appeals against the decisions of special Magistrates for the trial of European British subjects; defining the jurisdiction of ordinary Courts in cases of contempt committed by the same class; and, lastly, enunciating the policy of the State in regard to the schism in the Syrian Church.

—Adminis-
tration of
Justice, Jails
and Registra-
tion.

In the Central and Southern Coffee Districts the administration of justice was promoted by the appointment of a special Magistrate, to be aided by a subordinate Magistrate. The administration of criminal and civil justice was on the whole satisfactory, though a large number of unexecuted decrees encumber the file in the Civil Courts. Crime was slightly on the increase. Attention was drawn last year to the increasing mortality in the jails. The increase continues, having risen to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which is very high when compared with the mortality in British Jails on the West Coast. It is attributed to the prevalence of cholera. The returns of registration show a satisfactory advance both in regard to the value of the property involved and the number of deeds registered.

—Revenue.

There was a slight falling off in the land revenue due to the unfavorable character of the season. In the

Southern Districts large remissions were granted. No land was sold for coffee planting, but the survey and demarcation of estates already sold were progressing rapidly. The demarcation of the frontier line between the British districts and Travancore was continued, the distance run being 24 miles. The trade returns exhibit a satisfactory increase both as regards exports and imports. The rise in the latter however was proportionately much greater than in the former. The increasing activity of trade may in a measure be attributed to the revision of the tariff. It has now been assimilated to that in British India, no less than one hundred and twenty petty articles having been struck out of the export schedule, and the export duty on coir-matting, an important item, abolished. The revenue from Salt also increased, though the quantity sold decreased. Important reforms have been carried out with highly satisfactory results. Under Abkari and Forests there was also an increasing revenue. This increase as regards Forests was wholly due to large sales of cardamoms. The timber transactions on the other hand show a falling off which seems to point to the defective administration of the valuable State forests. The total revenue of the State, in spite of the relief granted to trade, shows an advance of more than half a lakh of Rupees, having reached the unprecedented sum of Rupees 55,91,882.

The expenditure on Public works was Rupees 8,94,165, which is less than that of the preceding year. No new works were undertaken, and consequently the total outlay was on original works already begun and on repairs. The most important work, the Warkally Junction Canal, was not pushed on so rapidly as might be wished. A more liberal policy in regard to Public works is much to be desired, and would doubtless result in the increased prosperity of the State. The building of the Napier Museum at Trevandrum, a work which is perhaps destined to mark the revival of native architecture in South India, progressed satisfactorily. Under Education steady progress was made. The attendance at the High

—Public
Works,
Education
and Health.

School improved, and the success obtained in the University Examinations was much greater than in the preceding year. The position of female education is probably better than in the neighbouring British districts. District and village schools show an increasing attendance. The grant-in-aid system was extended to elementary vernacular schools, and is generally much approved by educationists resident in the country. Two hundred and eighteen schools obtained aid under the rules. Under Health, it is satisfactory to note that there was an increase in the number of operations performed by the Vaccination Department, but there is a decrease in the number of patients treated at the several hospitals. The Maternity hospital is working satisfactorily.

—Expenditure.

The total expenditure of the year was Rupees 55,94,811, being Rupees 2,71,274 in excess of that of the preceding year. It however included Rupees 3,15,549, extraordinary disbursements connected with the Maharaja's tour to Calcutta, the Moorajabun ceremony, and the census operations. Considering also the large remissions of land revenue made in consequence of the unfavorable character of the season, it is highly satisfactory to find that the expenditure exceeded the receipts of the year by Rupees 3,000 only.

Cochin State.

No new legislative enactments were passed during the year. The administration of Civil justice appears to have improved as regards the average duration of suits, but the number of cases filed and disposed of in the several Courts of different grades has also decreased, whilst the number of decrees pending execution has increased. The administration of Criminal justice seems to call for reform. The percentage of acquittals of the persons charged was no less than 68, whilst of 4,479 persons charged or arrested by the Police only 944 were convicted. No capital punishments took place.

—Revenue.

The revenue from all sources during the year was Rs. 12,72,777 and exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 21,231. Under Registration there was an improvement. The surplus receipts amounted to Rupees 11,824, or nearly

double the sum of the preceding year. There was also a slight increase under Land revenue, due to the more extended cultivation of the Trichoor lake lands in consequence of the abnormally low level of the water. The Customs revenue exhibits a slight falling off, but there was a slight increase in the revenue derived from Abkari and Opium. The Salt revenue still continues to decrease, the receipts having been Rupees 30,102 less than those of the preceding year. This is probably due in part to the loss of a market in Malabar consequent on the equalization of prices. To this fact the Salt Commission have attributed in the main the falling off, and not to the decreased consumption of salt by the Cochin people. The enhanced price forced on the State by the Interport Convention can scarcely be regarded as a true cause, in the face of the fact that in Travancore, where the same restriction is in force, this branch of revenue has steadily increased under the Convention. The causes however are not quite satisfactorily explained, and the question is still under consideration. The Forests have yielded a much larger revenue than in the preceding year. A special officer was placed in charge of the cardamom plantations, the revenue from which has been falling off. The Educational Department shows moderate progress. A Director of Education has been appointed. The number of pupils in the High School rose considerably. This school now educates up to the standard of the University F. A. Examination. The expenditure on Public works was greater than in the preceding year. Several works were completed, of which the Civil Dispensary, the Zillah Court-house at Trichoor, the Zillah Court-house and Post Office at Ernacollum were the most important. There has been a falling off in the number of patients treated at the Ernacollum Hospital, but the number of vaccinations performed in the State has increased. The postal returns exhibit a satisfactory increase.

The financial administration appears to be fairly satisfactory. The revenue as stated above increased, the expenditure on the other hand decreased by the sum of —Finances.

Rupees 1,47,352, leaving a cash balance at the close of the year of Rupees 5,14,817. The funded capital now amounts to 22 lakhs against 29 lakhs in Travancore.

Pudukōta
State.

The settlement of the Raja's debts noticed last year progressed, though many vexatious delays have occurred in consequence of the complicated nature of some of the claims, and also of the natural reluctance of creditors to accept any compensation short of full payment. Another and principal cause of delay is the difficulty of disposing of certain jewels to be sold for the benefit of the unsecured creditors. The Agent hopes that the transaction will shortly be closed.

—Police
organization.

The new Police organisation was introduced into the State in September 1875, and though the difficulties to be encountered were great, still, on the whole, it has worked fairly. Shortly after its constitution it was found necessary to reorganise the force, and greater efficiency has been secured at a moderate increase of cost by increasing the number of Inspectors and doing away with the lowest grade of Constables on Rupees 4 per mensem, a rate of pay too low to attract suitable men to the service.

—Registra-
tion.

The Registration Act was introduced during this year and is working well. The collections amounted to Rupees 3,648, and the expenditure, which includes the first outlay on books, almirahs, &c., to Rupees 3,162. The only complaint as to the working of the Act is that all bonds, without any exception, however small the value, are required to be registered. This restriction is said to press heavily on the poorer classes. On this point there was a difference of opinion between the Raja and the Sarkel, and the question was referred to Government, who decided that all bonds should be registered. The Agent considers that it will be a matter for future inquiry whether this rule should not be partially relaxed.

—Education
and Health.

The progress of Education is satisfactory. The attendance at the Raja's school increased, and a school was opened in each of the three taluqs. The number of patients treated at the Hospital increased considerably.

The preliminary survey of the territory has been progressing during the year. The advantages which will result both to the State and to the ryots when a regular survey and settlement is completed cannot be over estimated. —Survey and Settlement.

The revenue shows a slight falling off owing to a somewhat unfavorable season. —Revenue.
The actual money collections, including arrears, amounted to Rupees 3,82,018-3-1. The current expenditure was Rupees 6,14,347-5-0 or Rupees 3,78,863-13-5 in excess of the schedule, but the net excess was Rupees 3,71,849. Out of this Rupees 3,12,811 were paid towards the liquidation of the Raja's debts. The above remarks have reference to the fasli year, but it seems proper to notice briefly the distress which was prevailing in this State after its close in the official year under review. The country resembles in its physical features the north-eastern part of the Madura District, and distress has been about as severe as in that locality. In January a public meeting was held at the Residency Bungalow, at which the Raja presided, and a Committee was formed to collect subscriptions for relief of distress. A sum of Rupees 15,008 was raised by this means, which was supplemented by a grant from State funds of Rupees 2,100. This, however, was almost entirely expended by the close of the year, when it became necessary for the State to undertake the entire charge. Useful relief-works were opened out, such as repairing the main lines of road, which need it greatly, repairing tanks, digging wells, clearing prickly-pear from village sites, &c. Up to the close of the year Rupees 6,130 had been spent under this head. Notwithstanding this measure there was considerable mortality, and a large number of ryots left the country, some to find work in neighbouring districts, but the greater number to seek employment on coffee estates in Ceylon. Most of them will doubtless return as the season improves.

The history of the year's administration presents no features of exceptional interest, beyond a slight disturbance in the Bodigudah Maliahs, certain Khonds having —Ganjam Agency.

resisted arrest by the Police, believing that they had been falsely charged. The rising extended to five villages. It was due to a want of judgment and prompt action on the part of the Native Magistrate at Ramagiri, that what was only a grievance at first became so serious a matter to the wild hill people that they determined on an armed resistance to the authority of Government. The Agent, who was fortunately in the neighbourhood, called out the Police, and with their assistance and by judicious arrangements secured the submission of the people by occupying their chief village. The ringleaders in the affair were duly punished. Otherwise peace prevailed, crime decreased, trade advanced, and the people were generally contented and prosperous. The expenditure on Public works was almost exclusively connected with roads and bridges; a satisfactory result in the administration being the efficient and intelligent nature of the work performed by the Khonds. An emblem of civilization, to wit the umbrella, has found its way into the country. The Agent remarks that a Khond dressed in his national costume; is often now seen at the occasional fairs with his battle-axe on one shoulder, whilst on the other rests an umbrella. The Abkari system, by which good liquor at a fair price is secured to the Khonds, and which prohibits the manufacture of inferior and cheaper stuff by the Ooriya distillers, leaving to each Khond the privilege of making his own liquor if he likes, is maintained and is still found to work well. The Hill Schools continue to do good work, the Khond children attending numbering 153 in the Special Assistant's division. In some schools the sons or nephews of Headmen are employed as assistant teachers. Little progress has been made in vaccination as the Khonds have a strong repugnance to the operation. The boundary between the Ganjam Maliahs and Jeypore has not yet been agreed on. The ryotwary lands in the sub-ghât mootah known as Chokapad were re-settled, the result being a slight increase of revenue. The re-settlement of the Inam lands has not yet been carried out.

The year's administration was marked by no event of special importance. The harvest was good, although the rainfall is believed not greatly to have exceeded 70 inches or about two-thirds of the average fall. A good deal of rice was sent down to the plains, the high prices having tempted the grain-dealers to contract with Brinjaries. The quality was approved at Gajapatinagram where it was sold. The Maharaja has been unable to contribute liberally to the construction and maintenance of roads in his dominions, but it is hoped that more satisfactory arrangements may be made in the course of the present year. The excise revenue from spirits and palm-wine in the very extensive taluq of Koraput has been leased to an experienced renter, and this change is regarded by the Agent as an improvement in the administration of this branch of revenue. The Deputy Magistrate had hitherto managed the revenue accruing under this head. This duty entailed his being absent frequently from his head-quarters, which caused great inconvenience in connexion with Treasury business. The Conservator of Forests visited the taluq of Malcangiri during the year and recommended the adoption of some measures of conservancy, but there are no funds available for the purpose. The only hope of preventing the gradual destruction of these forests lies in the fact that the Raja may perhaps in course of time see that his interests are concerned in their preservation. An officer of the Geological Survey Department also passed through part of Jeypore during the cold weather. The report which is promised of his tour on the northern border will be interesting, as it will deal with a tract of country of which but little is at present known.

The administration of this little State though simple in its nature, appears generally to be efficient. The Raja, who had the title of Nawáb conferred upon him on the occasion of the visit to India of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, devotes himself with assiduity to public affairs. He is aided by a Vakeel, a Tahsildar;

and a Sub-Tahsildar. Criminal justice is executed expeditiously. The police force is serviceable. The country has suffered greatly from famine, the demand, which relates chiefly to land revenue, having fallen from Rupees 2,34,000 to Rupees 62,900, whilst the collections amounted to Rupees 51,000 only. The expenditure however under administration is small, amounting to Rupees 19,000 only. The condition of this State was so critical that the Government deemed it necessary to consider the expediency of granting a loan to the Nawáb. A loan of Rupees 50,000 was sanctioned by the Government of India after the close of the year, but owing to the improvement in the condition of the country in consequence of the rains of the south-west monsoon having fallen abundantly though late in coming, the Raja has not taken advantage of the liberality of Government. Apart from this special loan, a loan of Rupees 3,00,000 has been recently granted to the Nawáb to pay off the debts incurred by his father. The loan is repayable by annual instalments within thirty years, and bears interest at the rate of 6 per cent. An Anglo-Vernacular School is maintained by a land-cess of 2 Pies in the rupee.

Sandur State.

The failure of the south-west monsoon at the beginning of the official year, following a deficient crop in the preceding season, caused much distress among the poorer class of ryots and laborers, and but for the prompt aid afforded by Government in opening relief-works and in establishing other measures of succour, the consequences must have been most disastrous, as the Raja was totally unable to cope with the difficulties of the situation. In addition to many minor works of local utility, the work on two important lines of road was completed. The road through the Kannavypully gorge was opened for traffic early in January, and was of great benefit throughout the subsequent months of famine in facilitating the export of grain from Bellary to the western taluqs. While the works lasted employment was afforded to a large number of persons from the neighbouring taluqs as well

as to the inhabitants of Sandúr. About 37·8 per cent. of the nett land revenue was collected during the fasli, a formal remission of half the demand on all dry cultivation having been made. Of the amount collected the larger proportion was from garden puttahs. This year has seen the end of all imposts on grain, whether imported or exported, and of exactions on merchandise of whatever description *in transitu*. The mortality during the twelve months under review amounted to 47·5 per thousand per annum as compared with 25, the average of the four preceding years. As, however, this computation has been made on the basis of the last census, and as the population may have decreased from emigration, it is not an improbable supposition that the actual death-rate was somewhat higher than the quotation here given. It is estimated that upwards of 5,000 cattle died from want of food, but there is no doubt that many of them were of a very inferior stock, and many others old and unserviceable animals.

In consequence of the prevailing scarcity the distress of some of the poorer stipendiaries and their kindred was great. With a view to relieve some of these sufferers, allowances from the stipends of their deceased husbands were continued to 167 destitute widows. The monthly sum of such allowances was Rupees 612. The Prince of Arcot moved from his old residence in Triplicane to the new abode provided for him by Government in Royapetta. Compensation for loss of free quarters has been granted to some members of the family.

Carnatic Stipends.

After much discussion the Government finally resolved to annex the tracts known as the Namblakôde, Charangode and Munnánád amshoms, which hitherto formed the south-eastern portion of the Wynaad Taluq in the district of Malabar, bordering on the district of the Nilgiris, to that district. The necessary notification transferring the territory from the jurisdiction of the Civil and Sessions Judge of South Malabar to that of the Commissioner of the Nilgiris from and after the 31st March 1877 was

Annexation of South-East Wynaad.

published on the 8th idem. The transfer was unanimously desired by the lessees of estates in the tract concerned, who are practically the proprietors, and upon whose enterprise its prosperity mainly depends, though the natives of the country were opposed to the change. The difficulties in the way of climate and caste prejudices were not regarded as of importance. Moreover, as tending to promote the material prosperity and the extended cultivation of the tract in question, and economy in the administration of the rest of Wynaad, the good policy of the measure seemed manifest in the interests of the immigrant as well as of the native proprietors of the land. Of 1,342 holdings, 59 appertained to Europeans and Eurasians. The assessed area and revenue of the latter were nearly double that of lands belonging to the natives.

Disturbance
in Bustar.

In the month of March 1876 a disturbance occurred in the Native State of Bustar in the Central Provinces, on the border of Jeypore in the Vizagapatam District. Though not strictly appertaining to this Presidency, it demands notice on account of the part taken by the Madras Military and Police forces. Numerous bodies of ryots rose in demonstration against the oppression of the Dewan, and surrounded the Raja in his capital, Jagdalpore. Captain Eastall, Acting Special Assistant Agent, and Mr. Ross, Acting Superintendent of Police, Jeypore, at the instance of the Raja, proceeded to Jagdalpore with a Police force, which ultimately numbered 200 men. Though the rioters abstained from open hostilities, yet their attitude was so menacing that a wing of the 7th Regiment N. I., under Colonel Keyes, was summoned from Vizagapatam; but before the troops reached Jagdalpore, the Deputy Commissioner, Seroncha, arrived there and restored order without violence. The troops and the Police force accordingly returned to their respective stations. The season was hot and unhealthy. The Commandant of the detachment died of dysentery shortly after his return. The Government approved the conduct of Captain Eastall and Mr. Ross, observing that "much of the satisfactory result of the

affair was due to the temper and forbearance manifested by these officers and the Police under their command." Inspector Saladay Naidoo was presented by Government with a sword as a mark of approval.

A violent outbreak of organised dacoity took place in Malabar in the early months of 1876, which, from the fact that it seems to have been in a measure connected with the ill-feeling prevailing amongst the Moplahs against the Nairs since the occurrence at Kalatur in 1875, deserves special notice. The Moplahs took a leading part in the commission of these dacoities against the Nairs. Various other causes however were at work, more especially the weakness of the police force, the poorness of detection, and the mildness of punishments inflicted upon convicted offenders. Many of the dacoities were of a savage nature and showed evident signs of determined combination. This outbreak of crime was suppressed with much energy by the Police, who succeeded in the course of a few months in restoring peace and security to the community, which had been cruelly harassed and outraged. The several preventive measures proposed by the Inspector-General of Police were approved, which consisted of permanent increase to the strength of the Malabar Police force, the formation of two fresh Police divisions, and the establishment of three new stations in these divisions; also the employment temporarily of two special dacoity Inspectors. The excellent service rendered by two Sub-Magistrates and a Police Inspector at the time was duly acknowledged.

A violent hurricane swept over the towns of Vizagapatam and Chicacole in October 1876. At the former place forty-two persons perished. The Police rendered valuable service in rescuing the people from drowning and in preventing the prisoners from escaping from the temporary jail, the greater portion of which was blown down by the storm. Not a man escaped. Much property was destroyed at Chicacole, where the bridge was carried away and the town inundated. It is gratifying to note

Hurricane in
Vizagapatam
and Ganjam.

that the Police force subscribed no less than Rupees 583 to feed the starving poor.

The Govern-
ment Civil
Service.

The prospects of those members of the service who joined it between the years 1864 and 1868 have been for some time past attracting attention. Their unfavorable position is due to over-recruitments in the years 1862, 1863, and 1864. There are still on the list no less than fourteen officers who joined in 1862, twenty-four who joined in 1863, and nineteen who joined in 1864, or, in other words, five officers more than there are first-class appointments in the service, including in this number the Secretaryship of the Board of Revenue. The short-recruitments of the four years preceding 1862 unduly accelerated the promotion of the officers belonging to that year and, to some extent, that of those belonging to the year 1863; but the position of many officers of the four succeeding years, though perhaps not so unsatisfactory as to demand an immediate remedy, may before long require the serious consideration of Government, unless promotion is accelerated in a more rapid degree than the present condition of the senior ranks of the service promises. The suspension of the ordinary furlough rules in consequence of the famine has also pressed hardly on these officers in that it has still further retarded their promotion. The strength of the service at the beginning of the year was 156 and at its close 155; the number joining was 6; and that of retirements 5.

District
Manuals.

The great pressure of work on revenue officers has interfered with the progress of the Manuals now in course of preparation, though several are gradually passing through the press, one or two of which may perhaps be published during the current year. The slow progress of these compilations is also in a measure due to the plan on which they are being prepared, which whilst it promises originality in treatment and variety in form, makes far greater demands upon the compiler than is the case where the District Statistical Accounts are prepared on one uniform plan in a central office from rough district notices. The character of the work

produced, however, has so far been very satisfactory, and the final results will, it is hoped, fully outweigh the objections on the score of slowness of progress, which is inseparable from production of good literary work.

The details recorded in Part II regarding the administration of Government and alienated lands relate to the fasli year ending the 30th June 1876, the question of the abolition of the fasli year still remaining in abeyance. There were no territorial changes in districts and taluqs. In the number of puttahs there was a considerable increase, caused chiefly by the subdivision of existing and the occupation of new holdings. The area occupied exceeded that of the previous year by 63,372 acres, the total being more than 20,020,000 acres, of which 3,742,000 acres are classed as dry cultivation. The assessment on these ryotwari holdings was above 355 lakhs, exhibiting an increase of Rupees 1,60,950 on the assessment of the preceding year. This increase appears chiefly in South Arcot, Madura, Tinnevely, Nellore, Kistna, and Salem. In the district first mentioned it was merely nominal, being due to the inclusion in recognized holdings of land occupied without permission in previous years, and which appeared under the head "Miscellaneous." In Nellore and Tinnevely the favorable rates of the new settlement led to numerous applications for dry lands previously excluded from assessment. In the other districts it resulted from good seasonal prospects at the beginning of the year, prospects which were doomed not to be fulfilled. In some districts, however, especially those which have since suffered so severely from famine, large relinquishments took place, notably in Bellary, Chingleput, and North Arcot. Of the entire area occupied,—Canara

SECTION II.
ADMINISTRATION OF THE
LAND.
Land
Revenue,
Yearly Settlement and
Collections.

excepted, the revenue system of that district not admitting of accurate statistical returns,—87·2 per cent. was actually brought under the plough, a percentage slightly below that of the previous year. The falling off, as might be expected, was chiefly in Bellary, Cuddapah, Chingleput, and North Arcot, Bellary alone exhibiting a decrease of 115,684 acres. The decrease, it is further observed, appertains entirely to the dry lands, the wet lands showing an increase approximating $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Of the 17,462,111 acres cultivated 14,095,856 acres fall under dry, and were consequently wholly dependent on local seasonal rains. There was a large decrease, amounting to nearly 40 per cent., under assessment from second crops grown on one-crop land due to the failure of the late rains. The revenue derived from the water-tax on Government lands, which is chiefly levied in the Kistna and Godavery Deltas, where the land assessments are separately fixed and the irrigation from the anicuts is charged for at a uniform rate, decreased by nearly one and a half lakhs, after allowing for an increase of upwards of half a lakh in the Godavery and Kistna Deltas, the decrease occurring chiefly in North and South Arcot, Chingleput, Bellary and Cuddapah. Including these two items and the revenue of South Canara, the total assessment on ryotwar holdings was 385 lakhs, or Rupees 3,39,000 less than the preceding fasli, in which this income had risen by nearly $9\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. From this gross demand under the ryotwari settlement unusually large deductions have to be made on account of fixed and fluctuating remissions. In ordinary seasons no remissions are allowed on dry lands, but the exceptional character of the year under review necessitated indulgent treatment in many cases, the area of waste so treated having risen from twenty thousand to nearly ninety thousand acres. But in consequence of the great increase in the area intended for cultivation there was a considerable increase in the area of waste on which no remissions were allowed, the figures being 2,093,739 against 1,975,875 in the previous fasli. Under wet

lands the result was naturally the opposite, the area of waste charged having decreased by 22,855 acres, whilst that of waste remitted increased by 183,897 acres. The total loss of revenue under waste of both descriptions approximated 36 lakhs, about one-third of which fell to the share of Government. The proportion of waste charged to waste remitted generally follows the line of scarcity in the several districts, but in one district in which the distress was ultimately very severe it was otherwise. The district was Coimbatore, where, against Rupees 28,000 remitted, Rupees 2,15,000 were charged. Remissions, which are technically spoken of as dependent on the season, rose from less than seven to nearly fourteen and a half lakhs. Including fixed remissions and deductions for village servants, road-cess, &c., the latter deductions aggregating Rupees 11,63,000, the total remissions reached the sum of Rupees 38,94,609, or nearly seven lakhs more than in the preceding fasli. Thus the aggregate ryotwari settlement shows a net decrease of nearly nineteen and a half lakhs of rupees, leaving the revenue under this head at Rupees 3,46,12,000 against Rupees 3,65,54,000 in the previous fasli. If to this be added the revenue or peishcush paid by permanently settled estates amounting to Rupees 51,38,877, the quit-rent on Inam villages amounting to Rupees 6,20,814, and the revenue after deducting remissions under miscellaneous revenue, amounting to Rupees 38,06,207, the total land revenue demand was Rupees 4,41,78,112, exhibiting a decrease of Rupees 23,12,167. The total realizable demand during the fasli, including arrears to the extent of Rupees 58,43,286, amounted to Rupees 5,00,21,398, of which Rupees 4,42,05,343 were collected, and Rupees 1,70,542 written off as irrecoverable, leaving a balance of Rupees 56,45,513 or nearly 4 lakhs less than the balance of the previous year. As far as can be ascertained, this revenue is derived in nearly equal proportions from irrigated and unirrigated lands; though, as already remarked, the area of dry is probably at least four times greater than the area of wet lands. The

average assessment of dry lands was Rupees 1-0-11 per acre, and that of wet lands Rupees 4-8-11. The land revenue charges bear to the total receipts the ratio of 7-52 per cent. against 6-98 in the previous year.

Coercive
processes.

The collections of revenue were very satisfactory, considering the adverse nature of the season; but Collectors had to resort to coercive processes to a much greater extent than in the preceding year, the number of defaulters having risen from 336,226 to 1,242,772, and the amount of arrears from about thirty to over eighty-three lakhs, or 19-04 per cent. of the total demand. The value of the property actually attached, however, did not increase proportionately, being only about nineteen and a half against sixteen and a half lakhs in the previous year, whilst the amount of arrears for which land actually came to the hammer was six and a half lakhs, the defaulters concerned numbering 37,098. The demand was 1-49 per cent. of the total demand, against 1-20 in Fasli 1284 and 1-11 in Fasli.1283. The sum actually realised by the sale of property was 4,49,012 against 5,59,978 in the previous year. The districts chiefly concerned were Chingleput, Tinnevely, Godavery, and Tanjore; districts in which, Chingleput excepted, the harvests had been fair. Chingleput contributed no less than 1,16,697 of the above amount, which is nearly double the amount appertaining to the district of Tinnevely, which stands next in the order of remissness. The causes especially affecting Chingleput were discussed in this chapter last year and need not be repeated here. It is to be hoped that the revision of settlement now in progress will put an end to this state of things.

Curnams in
Zemindaries.

In the report of last year the obstacles to successful administration which the present legal position of these village accountants in zemindaries causes, were referred to, as well as the legislation contemplated to remedy the evil. The heavy work however which the famine involved prevented any further action being taken in the matter.

The question of the revision of village establishments had the serious attention of Government during the year under review, more especially in connection with the system of clubbing villages together for purposes of survey and settlement. The settlement in whole or in part has already been extended to some districts. In many of these clubbing had been carried out to a considerable extent, and had formed the basis of revenue operations for years past, whilst maps had been lithographed, registers printed, puttass issued, and village and taluq accounts prepared in accordance therewith. Whilst, therefore, there were strong objections to the ancient and immemorial constitution of village society being impaired by administrative changes, still the separation of villages which had already been clubbed together, and their resuscitation as they existed of old, appeared impracticable. The expense also involved in a return to the old village limits, as well as the annoyance to the ryots, would have been great. The acceptance, therefore, of changes already effected was imperative both as a matter of good policy as well as of financial expediency. Rules however for future guidance were laid down, to the effect that clubbing should be avoided wherever possible, the exceptions being uninhabited villages and villages where the lands are inextricably intermingled. It was further laid down that villages clubbed should not, as a rule, be more than a mile from the head-quarters of munsifs; that this restriction should not apply to the case of curnams, though the accounts should be kept separately for each village; and that amalgamation should not affect immemorial and prescriptive rights of the villages concerned. As the cess under the Village Cess Act was being levied in some districts in anticipation of the revision of the village establishments, which revision had been for various reasons delayed, special measures were deemed necessary to ensure speedy revision and thus to justify the levy of the cess. Mr. Puckle, the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, was, towards the close of the year, entrusted with the duty

Revision of
Village Estab-
lishments.

of revising village establishments in such districts, and rapid progress was being made with the work. The Collectors of all other districts in which the settlement was in progress were instructed to proceed with the revision of establishments on the principles approved by Government.

Revision of
Taluq Estab-
lishments.

The scheme for the revision of revenue establishments in taluqs, which was under consideration at the close of 1875-76, has been ordered to lie over, it being impossible to proceed with it whilst the restrictive orders necessitated by the financial pressure consequent on the famine continue in force. The proposals of the Board of Revenue, however, were regarded favorably.

Conservancy
of Rivers.

The proposed legislative action in regard to the conservancy and regulation of rivers is still under the consideration of Government.

Survey.

The outturn of work in this department, except under boundary and field demarcation, and in regard to the lithographing of maps, compares unfavorably with the results of the preceding year, but this in a measure is due to the system in force for bringing work to account which is spoken of as defective. Moreover, four Assistant Superintendents and two hundred and eighty-seven subordinates were detailed during the year to famine work. Rather more than four thousand and seven hundred square miles of country were mapped. The cost of mapping is reported as 6 Annas a mile less than in former years. Much progress has been made in the application of modern scientific improvements to the work of the department, especially that known as photo-zincography. A scheme for the reorganisation of the department was matured during the year, and after some alterations in view to bringing it within the financial limit fixed by the Government of India, it has in the current year been finally sanctioned by that Government. Its rationale is the combination of the two separate establishments heretofore maintained for survey and demarcation, with the view of securing the performance of these two distinctive processes by the

same men. By this reform it is anticipated that the rate of progress will be much more rapid than hitherto. Another feature in the scheme is the revision of the scale of salaries fixed for superior officers and a reduction in their number. In these schemes, as originally sketched, a large addition was proposed for the Central Office, with a view to the more rapid and efficient utilisation of the geographical material accumulated by the department. Financial reasons have, however, necessitated the partial abandonment for the present of this portion of the scheme. Moreover, it has not been forgotten that the primary object of the department is the working out of those details of boundary and area which render the re-settlement on exact data of the land revenue in this Presidency practicable. It is in the highest degree necessary that the work should be accomplished rapidly, and the energies of the department will be devoted to completing the districts in the order of their importance. Heretofore its parties have been widely distributed over various portions of the Presidency, instead of finishing the work in one district before proceeding to another. There still remain 1,268,189 miles of village and 31,473 square miles of topographical survey to complete the work in the districts of this Presidency.

The revision of the land settlement which is finished Settlement. in five districts has been continued during the year, though in consequence of the distress in several districts where operations were in progress, and the transfer to famine relief work of some of the superior and subordinate officers of the department, the progress of work has been interfered with. The operations extended to eleven districts, including Kistna and Salem, in which the work is now complete. In the former the establishment has been dispensed with, in the latter it was retained temporarily for certain demarcation work. The classification of lands in Coimbatore and their demarcation in North Arcot were finished. In Chingleput the Sydapet and Poneri taluqs were settled, and in Tinnevely the Ambasa-

mudrum and Nanguneri taluqs. The settlement of the latter district will, it is thought, be completed in the current year. Schemes for the settlement of the Chingleput and Conjeveram taluqs were submitted to Government for sanction, also those for the Cumbum and Markapur taluqs in Kurnool and the Chicacole taluq in Ganjam. In the latter district the classification of lands in the Berhampore taluq was completed. Every effort is being made to complete the settlement of this district, also that of Chingleput, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, leaving Coimbatore and North Arcot to stand over until they are completed. With this purpose parties have been concentrated. Satisfactory progress was made in printing, and the registers of Kistna, Kurnool and Salem were completed; the printers are now turning out 300 pages per diem, and the manuscript registers of Nellore and of the settled taluqs of Cuddapah were prepared for printing. The expenditure, viz., Rupees 3,73,306, was slightly in excess of that of 1875-76.

Inam Commission.

There is nothing of special note to record in regard to the work of the Commission in the year. There was, however, a large increase in the number of title-deeds issued; but the quit-rent thereon shows a considerable decrease, as the lands concerned chiefly appertained to religious institutions in South Canara on which no quit-rent is charged. Only thirty Inamdars took advantage of the extension of time allowed for enfranchising their inams on terms rather less favorable than those originally offered. This indifference is attributed to the prevalent distress. The Commission has cost Rupees 13,28,148, and has dealt with lands measuring 6,241,945 acres with an assessment of Rupees 98,42,511, on which the old jodi charged amounted to Rupees 8,99,494, the new quit-rent to Rupees 13,58,792. Of the latter amount Rupees 3,45,908 appertain to village service inams which have been enfranchised.

Court of Wards.

There were thirty-four estates under the Court's management during the fasli ending 30th June 1876.

The number of wards concerned is 41, of whom 35 are males and 6 females. Of the total number two are of unsound mind. Of the estates under the Court, Ramnad in the Madura District, with a revenue of nearly 8 lakhs, is by far the most important. Parlakimedi in Ganjam has a revenue of between $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 lakhs; Ettiapuram nearly 3 lakhs; and Salur 1 lakh. There are four estates with a revenue of between half a lakh and one lakh, eight with a revenue of more than Rupees 10,000 but less than Rupees 50,000. The area of cultivation is reported to have been approximately 790,385 acres against 739,954 acres in the preceding fasli. The revenue demand for the year on account of estates under the charge of the Court amounted to Rupees 21,82,000, of which Rupees 15,36,000 were collected within the year and Rupees 4,95,000 subsequently, leaving a balance of Rupees 1,51,000. Of the arrears outstanding at the beginning of the year, amounting to Rupees 10,41,000, Rupees 5,22,000 have been collected. A considerable portion of the balance consists of old arrears, which will finally have to be written off as irrecoverable. The total receipts on account of the estates amounted to about Rupees $22\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, and the charges to $20\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs. Including previous accumulations, of which about 30 lakhs are in Government securities, the balance to the credit of the estates at the end of the fasli amounted to Rupees $37\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs. Of this amount nearly 22 lakhs belong to the Parlakimedi Estate alone. The debts due by the estates amounted to 16 lakhs, and the debts due to them to a little more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. Ramnad alone owes 13 lakhs to Government, for the payment of which the estate has been hypothecated. As regards works much attention has been paid to agricultural repairs, especially in the case of the large estates of Ettiapuram, Ramnad and Parlakimedi, the expenditure being nearly double that of the preceding year. The conservancy of the important forests of Parlakimedi is receiving attention. In Ramnad no steps were taken in consequence of the adverse character of the season towards the substitution of a money assessment for the

present waraput, or sharing system. The survey of estates is under consideration. In Ettiapuram the survey operations progressed satisfactorily. The result so far has been an increase in area of 7,710 acres, yielding probably an increased revenue of Rupees 11,000. There is nothing of importance requiring notice in regard to the other estates. Much attention is paid to the education of the wards by the Court. The wards, speaking generally, appear to have made fair progress in their studies. The progress made by the sons of the Zemindar of Parlakimedi and of the young Zemindar of Ramnad have been favorably reported on. The former are under European tuition, though in some cases it is not possible to give the wards the benefit of an educational training of high order, especially as regards the females. To remedy this evil it was proposed to bring together at Madras the more important Zemindars under the charge of the Court, and to place them under the care of a competent and well-paid European Superintendent, who would give them a liberal education and train them to habits of manliness and self-denial. The scheme, however, had to be abandoned owing to the cost, which would have precluded the majority of the wards at present under the Court's charge from taking advantage of the institution.

SECTION III.

PROTECTION.

Madras
Canals and
Ferries Act
Amendment
Bill.

Of the bills pending at the close of 1875-76 not one was passed into law, and only one bill, that to amend Madras Boat Act of 1840, was introduced. This bill and also the bill to amend the Madras Canals and Ferries Act I of 1870, with the view of providing for the appropriation of the funds levied under the Act for the construction, improvement, and maintenance of the roads, bridges and approaches leading to channels and ferries, have been passed by the Council since the close of the year. The former measure has already become law, having

received the assent of the Governor-General on the 16th June last; the latter is in course of being submitted for the Viceregal assent.

The Madras Municipal Bill is now undergoing final consideration by the Council. Its provisions were minutely criticised during the year, and engrossed much public attention. They formed the subject of several petitions to the Council from the inhabitants of Madras.

In preceding paragraphs the action of the Police in connection with the rising in Bustar, dacoity in Malabar, and the hurricane at Vizagapatam has already been referred to; but other and greater demands were made on this department in consequence of the famine, which seriously affected its working. With regard to dacoity in particular the famine at once turned the tide of successful, though gradual repression, so that the distressed districts were inundated with this crime. Premonitory signs of the outburst were felt in August, and by the end of November, on failure of the north-east monsoon rains, great lawlessness was rife. A panic of hunger seized the people. They went to the villages at night in crowds and plundered houses of grain and other property. The grain merchants withheld their stores, or were induced to sell with difficulty, and showed in the early days of the famine no disposition to import. Matters were worst in the Ceded Districts, where distress was soonest experienced. The importation of Government grain, however, restored confidence to a certain extent and stimulated private trade. The organization of relief-works also soon had a marked effect on the classes who had resorted to crime to supply themselves with food. Known depredators took little part in these dacoities. Kurnool in particular, which had been in a most lawless condition, became comparatively quiet by the end of the year. This district and the Kistna suffered not only from the violence of their own starving population, but also from the inroads of armed Lumbady gangs from the Hyderabad territory.

These robbers committed some heavy dacoities. The strain on the police was great: not only was the duty of investigating and working out cases incessant, but the number of prisoners to be guarded in district and sub-jails was very great. Grain and treasure had to be escorted over the country; special patrols to check dacoity to be maintained; whilst often relief-works had to be looked after by police officers. To meet this pressure extra police were employed wherever and whenever the emergency demanded. This force consisted of 15 Inspectors, 314 Head Constables, 2,157 Constables, and 816 Watchmen; or in all 3,302 men. The special watchmen or taliaries received Rupees 5 per mensem, and worked in conjunction with the regular police, and thus helped to overcome the heavy pressure of extra duty at a cheap rate. The guarding of several jails was undertaken by the Military, and thus a number of trained policemen were set free for other duties. As prices reached famine rates in each district a special famine allowance was granted to the police, and thus the force was kept contented and in health. Early in the famine night police patrols were organized in each taluq of the Ceded Districts, and the system was extended, as required, to other affected districts. These patrols gave confidence to the villagers, and otherwise diminished crime, and it is satisfactory to note that the high-roads in almost all districts were comparatively safe. Considering the vast quantities of Government treasure and grain passing through the midst of starving populations, it is remarkable that few grain thefts occurred, and no treasure was lost. Detective results generally also kept pace with the increase of crime, although the police and magistracy were overworked. Few escapes took place among the enormous number of under-trial prisoners. Many casualties among the police occurred from cholera and small-pox which were raging, but the men were not in any way demoralised, all, constables and officers alike, exposing themselves readily to disease and death. No additional officers in the superior grade were employed during the famine. Several

riots took place in connection with the famine, but none of them, it is noteworthy, were in districts where distress was great, but in the South Arcot, Godavery and Tinnevely districts, where the suffering of the people was comparatively light. In these districts such outbursts were unexpected, and consequently the Police were not so much on their guard as elsewhere. In all the cases of riot many of the rioters were arrested and punished. The improvement in discipline is indicated by the decrease in departmental punishments. The death-rate was 19 per mille, which is a great increase on the average of recent years. The number of extra police provided for the service of processes has been reduced from 716 to 400 in consequence of an objection with regard to the application and sufficiency of the Court fees levied for the purposes. District and range inspection was generally efficiently performed, though the rates of travelling allowance are regarded by the Inspector-General as insufficient, and as pressing hardly on the officers. Seventeen Inspectors were especially commended during the year.

As regards the salaried Village Police, it is observed that they, in some instances, rendered valuable aid to the regular force both in the prevention and detection of crime. This was especially the case in Kurnool. The ghát taliaries or watchmen established in Cuddapah in 1875 out of funds provided by the enfranchisement of certain inam lands, were brought under the operation of the Police Act of 1859. Though some of these ghát taliaries were concerned in robberies, yet, doubtless, much crime was prevented by the presence of these men, who are likely to be very useful when brought into complete order, and distributed more exactly according to ascertained local requirements. In Trichinopoly the salaried village police rendered excellent service on several occasions. In Tanjore it has not been found possible to provide the money for a village police force.

The total cost of the force was Rupees 40,12,353, of which Rupees 3,49,721 appertained to State services, and ^{Cost and strength of} Village Police.

Rupees 26,867 to Village Police. The extra famine charges included in the above amounted to Rupees 2,22,965. The force numbered 26,684 men, and the proportion of Police to population was one to 1,355, and to area one to five square miles, whilst the average cost of each policeman was Rupees 152, or two annas per head of population.

Madras
Town Police.

There was no serious increase of crime in the capital town in consequence of the pressure of high prices, nor was its peace disturbed, though vast multitudes of starving people flocked to Madras in November. To Colonel Drever, the Commissioner, was entrusted the conduct of the whole famine relief operations of the town, also the construction and maintenance of camps, &c., &c., in addition to his own duties.

Vagrants.

Ninety-nine vagrants were confined in the Work-house during the year, of whom eleven remained at its close. Thirty-seven were discharged on obtaining employment, 28 were removed from British India, whilst 6 absconded, the remainder being variously disposed of. Of those deported 13 were sent to Australia and 14 to England. Of these vagrants 55 were European British subjects and 17 Eurasians. Nineteen were railway men, tentradesmen, and eight mechanics; three only were sailors. The expenditure connected with the Work-house was Rupees 16,127. The presence of Eurasians is due to the action of the town magistracy.

Results in
Criminal
Justice.

The increase in crime following in the wake of the famine resulted in an increase of 19,563 in the number of offences and of 35,428 in that of offenders; whilst the value of the property concerned rose from nearly twelve to above sixteen and a half lakhs. This increase was about equally distributed between offences punishable under the Penal Code and Special and Local Laws. There were 15,780 convictions more than in the preceding year, whilst the percentage of persons convicted to persons tried rose from 71.1 per cent. in 1875 to 71.9 per cent. In cases cognizable by the Police the percentage of convictions to prosecutions has improved, whi

in non-cognizable cases it is otherwise. There was a considerable increase in offences against sanitation, the number having risen from 25,866 to 30,823; but whilst of these 23,469 cases were convicted in the Presidency generally, in the town of Madras 295 cases only were convicted out of 4,582 committed. There has been a considerable increase in the number of summary trials, but fewer cases were disposed of by the village magistracy, the total being only 15,636 cases with 24,284 offenders against 18,091 cases with 29,000 offenders in 1873. The reports of these magisterial proceedings are probably defective, as according to the above return there was only about one case disposed of by every two village magistrates, the number of such officers performing judicial functions being reported as 31,723. If these returns are correct, it evidences the gradual cessation of the exercise of magisterial functions by village magistrates, a tendency the opposite of that which good policy approves. The returns are, however, generally of comparatively little value. It is in the southern districts that the village magistracy more generally exercise their magisterial powers. As regards the operations of the higher courts, 16 cases were disposed of by Subordinate Judges, 1,751 by the District Courts, and 79 by the High Court; in the last named court only is the number less than in the preceding year. The appellate work, however, shows a considerable increase, 937 appeals from persons convicted having been on the file against 880 in 1875. In the courts subordinate to the High Court also the appellate work has risen considerably, 8,051 persons having appealed against 7,633 in the preceding year. Of these appeals 15.25 per cent. were rejected. The ratio of appeals to convictions has improved considerably in all courts, especially as regards Sessions Judges, the percentage having fallen from 41.00 to 27.78. The system of trial by jury is in force in five districts, and 793 persons were so tried, of whom 425 were acquitted. In trials where the Judges were aided by assessors, the Judges agreed with the assessors in the case of 3,567 persons and differed from them in the case of 719 persons. Of the 151,841 persons convicted

139,347 were males, 10,950 females, and 1,544 juveniles. There were 15 Europeans convicted, four being for serious offences, and 54 East Indians, eleven of whom had committed serious offences. As regards grave crime, murders were most numerous in Vizagapatam, dacoities and house-breaking in North Arcot, and cattle-thefts in Coimbatore. The High Court during the year under review modified the rules framed by them in the previous year for the superintendence and revision of the proceedings of the Courts of Session and of the Magisterial Courts of all grades. Under the earlier rules Courts of Session and Magistrates of the first class were required to forward calendars of trials and copies of all judicial proceedings to the High Court, whilst Courts of Second and Third-class Magistrates submitted copies of similar proceedings through the District and Divisional Magistrates. The latter Magistrates are now relieved of this duty, and the supervision and control of their work now devolves entirely upon the District Magistrate, aided by the Divisional Magistrates. A revised calendar of trials, as also another statement of appeals were prescribed for the use of the Courts of Sessions and of First-class Magistrates. Thus the High Court has ample means of judging of the work of the Judges, and the higher Magistracy of giving an opinion on the work of the inferior Magistracy. As a tentative measure the District and Sessions Courts of North and South Malabar have been combined. The Whipping Act is reported by the High Court to have worked satisfactorily. The number of offenders flogged rose from 2,317 in 1875 to 3,457 in the year under review.

The pressure on the jails in consequence of the famine has already been referred to. The average daily number of convicts was 10,378.51 against 9,489.44 in the preceding year, whilst 41,704 prisoners of all classes passed through the jails against 31,749 in 1875. Thus the jail population rose by nearly 30 per cent., and the number of admissions by 32 per cent. The increase took place in the second half of the year. For this

influx extra accommodation had to be provided. Jail camps were established at Vellore, Salem, Kurnool, Bellary, Cuddapah and Nellore, whilst the fort at Palghat in Malabar was re-occupied as a jail. The number of convicts shows a steady increase. It stands now at 33,119 against 21,975 in 1872. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a decrease in the proportions of Hindu, Christian and Mahomedan criminals to the total number of criminals compared with the proportions of 1875, the corresponding increase being under Pariahs and other low castes.

There was an increase in the number of juveniles —Juveniles. imprisoned—399 against 368 in 1875—whilst the number of re-convictions rose from 77 to 119. The question of the reformation of juvenile offenders has had the consideration of Government, and they have resolved to establish a Reformatory School for male juveniles in the vicinity of Madras, so as to be under their immediate observation. The school will be located in the Government Farm, which affords facilities for training the boys in agricultural and other industries and trades connected with the farm. Fifty-five boys were confined in the Madras Penitentiary. They are employed in book-binding, &c. A schoolmaster is provided for their instruction, and the boys are reported to have made fair progress.

The ratio of punishments to the daily average strength of the jails was 68.88 per cent. in the case of males, and 61.33 per cent. in the case of females, against 59.53 and 82.01 respectively in the preceding year. The proportion of offences to the daily average strength was 34.12 per cent. in the Central jails, 46.68 per cent. in the Presidency town jail, and 10.16 per cent. in the District jails. Little progress took place in the education of convicts, though an hour a day is still devoted to the purpose. Questions connected with the remission system have been under consideration during the year, especially as regards its application to life convicts and convicts in district jails; also regarding the segregation of prisoners at night. This latter system

is being tried in the Central Jail, Coimbatore, and the Penitentiary, Madras. It is intended to provide for the segregation of prisoners in the three district jails about to be built.

—Jail manufactures.

Considerable attention has been bestowed on this branch of jail administration, both with a view to profit and to providing prisoners on leaving the jails with a means of livelihood. The year's operation closed with a balance in favor of the manufactures of Rupees 1,40,646 against Rupees 1,14,772 in 1875. The average profit per head of effectives however remained unchanged.

—Cost of Jails.

The gross cost of the prisons in the year was Rupees 11,64,012. If from this amount be deducted the cash receipts from manufactures sold, viz., Rupees 1,02,549, the net cost of each prisoner was Rupees 97; and if, again, the value of articles supplied to Government departments amounting to Rupees 2,54,765 be deducted, the actual cost to Government was Rupees 8,06,698, and of each prisoner Rupees 74.

—Health.

There was an increase in the death-rate, though not so great as might have been expected considering the unusual insalubrity of the season. The deaths numbered 464, or 42·4 per mille of daily strength, against 39·0 in the preceding year. This rate is precisely the rate of 1867-68. Although the mean of the triennial period ending 1875 is largely in excess of that of the three years ending 1872, viz., 31·3 per mille against 22·6 per mille, yet it is only one-fourth of that of the triennium ending 1866-67, which reached the astounding figure of 124·0 per mille, and only half of that of the triennium ending 1860-61, in which it was 74·7 per mille. This improvement in the health of the prison population is very satisfactory, the death-rate in Central, compared with that of District jails, being in the year under review 2·43 in favor of the former. In Subsidiary jails the health returns are not so satisfactory, the death-rate being 3·77 against 2·60 in 1875; but three out of every four deaths were from cholera. Most of the buildings used are now suitable for the purpose, and provide for the

separation of the sexes. There was an increase in the average daily population of these jails of 655·30 males and 46·22 females, but the accommodation provided was largely in excess of requirements.

There was a slight increase in the number of suits filed in the High Court on the original side. The number of suits filed for sums not exceeding Rupees 1,000 was about 22 per cent. of the total number filed. Seven hundred and sixty-eight suits were pending at the close of 1876; of these 617 cases were for settlement of issues, 42 for final disposal, 28 for the return of commissions, whilst 81 were under reference to a Judge in chambers. Of the suits waiting settlement of issues, 70 belong to years preceding 1870, and 354 to the five years ending 1874. The accumulation of suits has been receiving the attention of the Honorable Judges, who contemplate taking steps to remove old suits from the file, as they regard the power that is supposed to exist of evading the Limitation Act by merely filing a plaint, and then taking no further steps, an abuse of privilege; but for the present they purpose confining their attention to suits which have been upwards of five years on the file. The Government, however, have drawn the attention of the High Court to the provisions of Section 41 of the Civil Procedure Code and to Sections 64 and 68 of the new Code, which appear to require the Court itself to take action to compel the parties to proceed with the suit, with the view of steps being taken to dispose of suits which have long encumbered the files of the Court on its original side.

In the Subordinate Courts 216,484 suits (the highest figure during the last seven years, which is remarkable considering the prevalent distress) were filed, of which 122,759 were ordinary and 93,725 Small Cause suits. Of the total suits 53,600 appertain to the petty courts of Village Munsifs, 141,293 to the courts of District Munsifs, whilst only 291 belong to the District Courts. While the proportion of suits filed in the regular courts has been falling, it is noteworthy that that of the Village Courts has been steadily rising. It was 22·88 per cent.

—Subordinate Courts.

of the total litigation in 1874 against 43·66 per cent. in the year under review. Of the 267,630 suits on the files for disposal during the year no less than 222,465 were disposed of, which is the highest number disposed of in any one year; whilst the number of suits on the files at the close of the year was only 28,691 against 33,006 in 1874. Of the suits disposed of, 68·95 per cent. were uncontested and 31·05 contested. Under the latter 74·46 per cent. were decreed for plaintiff. The proportion of contested to uncontested suits has fallen.

—Appellate jurisdiction.

There were 1,268 regular and special appeals on the file of the High Court, of which 1,133 were disposed of. In the Subordinate Courts 6,872 appeals were preferred against 7,364 in 1875. The proportion of appeals to appealable suits continues at about 10·50 per cent. There were in all 11,717 appeals on the file in these courts, of which 62 per cent. were disposed of, which is an improvement on the work of the two preceding years.

—General administration.

The rules of the Calcutta High Court for service of process, &c., were introduced during the year, with a few modifications, and have worked satisfactorily. The new table of fees for the Sheriff's office came into operation. A scheme for the reorganization of the Establishments of the Judicial Courts of the Presidency was submitted to Government and approved, but the sanction of the Government of India was withheld on financial grounds. The propriety of introducing into this Presidency Government of India Act XX of 1863, relating to pleaders and other agents, was under consideration, the High Court having expressed the opinion that an amendment of Regulation XIV of 1816 would not meet all the necessities of the case. The amendment of Act III of 1873, with the view of placing the ministerial officers of all courts subordinate to a District Court under the District Judge was also under consideration.

—Changes in Courts.

The abolition of the North Tanjore Court has already been alluded to, the Government having reserved to themselves the right of re-establishing it within two years if it

should be necessary. The abolition of the Vellore Small Cause Court with the view to provide funds for the reorganisation of judicial establishments, was under the consideration of Government at the close of the year.

The "Indian Law Reports Act" came into force at the beginning of the year. The Government have authorised the distribution of the new Indian Law Reports to all District Munsifs' Courts: hitherto few of these Courts were supplied with the Madras High Court Reports. —Law Reports.

The number of suits filed in the Madras Court of Small Causes for the calendar year 1876, including the 51 suits brought under the Bills of Exchange Act, was 28,367, a number in excess of that of 1874, which is the highest year on record, by 887 suits, and of that of 1875 by 2,012 suits. The amount litigated was Rupees 8,30,729 against Rupees 8,44,951 and Rupees 7,95,442 of 1874 and 1875 respectively. The income of the court was Rupees 1,06,596 as compared with Rupees 1,06,947 in 1874 and Rupees 1,01,290 in 1875. The amount carried to the credit of the Government was Rupees 23,860 against Rupees 18,760 and Rupees 25,396 in the two previous years. Including 3,079 suits pending from 1875, the total number of suits for disposal in the year under review was 30,429. Of these 1,684 were pending at the close of the year and 1,027 cases instituted during the year were made returnable in 1877. The remaining 28,745 were disposed of in the following manner: Decreed ex-parte 10,525; dismissed ex-parte 34; decreed on confession 2,290; compromised 8,802; struck off for default 2,831; withdrawn 4; grand total uncontested 24,486. Out of the remaining 4,259 contested suits, there were 3,103 judgments in favor of plaintiffs and 718 in favor of defendants and 438 non-suits. The average duration of an uncontested suit was 16 days, and of a contested suit 47 days. There were 56 motions for new trial or pursuant to leave reserved. Of these 18 were refused, 28 made absolute, 6 discharged, and the remaining 4 were pending at the close of the year. Of the 2,047 prisoners arrested, 636 were brought before the court and 224 —Madras Small Cause Court.

applied for their discharge under Section 273 of the Civil Procedure Code. One hundred and thirty-three were discharged under Section 8 of Act XXIII of 1861, but there were no absolute discharges under Section 282. No applications were filed on behalf of persons undergoing incarceration under Section 280, nor were there any recommittals for fraud. There were 47 commissions issued to this court under Section 175 of Act VIII of 1859, under which the evidence of 48 witnesses was taken. Fifty applications were made under the Distress Act I of 1875 for recovery of rent amounting to Rupees 1,675; of these only one was refused. In 39 cases warrants were issued and Rupees 539 realized. Two warrants remained unexecuted at the end of the year.

Progress of
Registration.

The condition of registration in this Presidency is one of steady advance. It was stated in the last report that registration had increased one hundred per cent. within the preceding seven years. During the year under review it has advanced by 5·7 per cent. With the exception of Bellary, Kurnool, Godavery and Madras, every other district has shared in this increase, which is ascribed in part to the natural expansion which has characterized the operations of this department from the commencement. The increase is, perhaps, in part due also to the adversity of the season, which has doubtless obliged many who, in ordinary times, live upon their own earnings, to resort to transactions requiring registration. On the other hand, however, it must not be forgotten that the failure of the harvests and the distress consequent thereon must have greatly interfered with the ordinary operations of trade, and therefore with registration. This was undoubtedly the case in Bellary and Kurnool, where famine was rife. The aggregate value of the transactions registered in the past official year was Rupees 783,58,867. The value of immoveable property transferred by gift has increased by three-quarters of a lakh. That of transfers by sale is very nearly the same as in the previous year; but land encumbered with mortgages is about 50 lakhs of Rupees in excess of that

in 1875-76, a result due most probably to the pressure of the famine. The value of land leased out was less than in the previous year. The registration of open wills continues to increase. The total expenditure for the year amounted to Rupees 3,11,504, while the receipts were Rupees 3,92,194. The net financial result of registration from its first introduction is a clear balance of receipts over expenditure, at the close of the past year, of Rupees 77,641. The year's expenditure is 79·4 per cent. on the receipts against 74·2 in 1875-76.

Fifteen companies have been registered during the past year. Eight of them are Mutual Loan Societies, two are Provident Societies for defraying funeral expenses, and the remaining five are Commercial Companies, one being a Tobacco and Cigar Company, two Companies for pressing cotton, one a Spinning and Weaving Company, and one a Timber Trading Company. The two companies for pressing cotton, viz., the Adoni Cotton Press Company (Limited) and the Tadputri and Proodatore Press Company (Limited), within nine months from the date of their being registered, and before the close of the year, arranged for being voluntarily wound up. The Mutual Loan Societies in the mofussil have increased from one in 1874-75 and 1875-76 to six in 1876-77. Two of the fifteen companies registered, viz., the Provident Societies, are of the class which have not a capital divided into shares, being registered for 150 members each. The capital registered in 1876-77, excluding that of the two companies which are, as above stated, to be wound up, was Rupees 15,58,790, which is less than half the capital registered in the preceding year. Of the sixty-five companies existing at the end of the year 1875-76, nine ceased operations during 1876-77. The companies working at the end of this year were sixty-nine, eighteen being commercial companies, forty-nine mutual loan, and two provident societies; their capital, Rupees 148,66,154, is Rupees 7,11,210 less than the registered capital of the working companies at the end of the preceding year. The fees collected amounted

to Rupees 2,787, which is less than the preceding year's collections by Rupees 898.

Military
Department.

The strength of the Army, British and Native, was 42,660 against 42,093 at the close of the preceding year. The important movements of the year are detailed in Part II. Apart from the ordinary relief changes, certain movements took place in connection with the Delhi Assemblage, the Yunan Mission, the Bustar outbreak, and, in connection with the famine, for duty on relief-works. One regiment of Madras Native Infantry was withdrawn from Saugor. The European Infantry Veteran Company was armed with snider rifles, also nine regiments of Native Infantry, making a total of twenty-two regiments so armed. Thirty-three field officers of the Staff Corps and local Army retired. Pay to the lance ranks of British regiments was authorised, and the pay and allowances of the Native Army were raised. Bands also were sanctioned for all regiments of Native Infantry. As regards the health of the troops the death-rate shows a slight advance: among the British troops it was 16.47 per mille against 13.97 in the previous year. Cholera, enteric fever, and sunstroke were prevalent. From the first named disease there were 72 admissions and 48 deaths, to which Wellington contributed 16 admissions and 6 deaths. The disease broke out among young recruits *en route* to this dépôt.

—Ordnance
Department.

Radical changes were ordered to be carried out in this department in accordance with the recommendation of the Special Ordnance Commission. The dépôts at Trinichinopoly, Cannanore and Thyetmyo are to be abolished, the Bangalore magazine is to be reduced to a first-class dépôt, Rangoon to a second-class arsenal, and Tonghoo to a second-class dépôt.

—Commis-
sariat,
Transport,
Remounts.

The contracts for the supplies of meat to the troops have generally been satisfactorily performed. The sheep-breeding experiment on the Karen hills, for the supply of mutton to the troops at Tonghoo, gives promise of success, though it has been conducted on too small a

scale to test the scheme fully. The gardening operations at Thyetmyo and Tonghoo were successful, and the cultivation of potatoes on the Karen hills seems securely established. The consumption of tea was 130,929 lbs. The rates at which Indian tea was purchased were more favorable than those at which China could be provided. The consumption per head was 12½ lbs. Owing to the great drought in Mysore the percentage of deaths among breeding cows at Hoonsoor rose from 5.92 to 17.05, whilst that of births decreased from 58.04 to 3.44. There were also several outbreaks of murrain, but the disease was kept well under. Eight hundred and eighteen horses were purchased at an average rate of Rupees 519-15-10, of which 504 were Australians and 21 Northerns, only 15 being Arabs and 25 Persians. The Australian horses generally showed better breeding. The small supply of Persians is due to the large demand for these horses in Bombay by the Government of India. The average price is below that of the preceding three years. The actual cost of feeding and contingencies for each horse, exclusive of establishment charges, was Rupees 14-13-3. The health of the horses was very good, notwithstanding the severity of the season. As the hay crop failed in the drought, the horses were chiefly dependent on the remainder of the large hay crops of 1874-75.

The tonnage of vessels entering at all ports in the Marine. Presidency has been steadily increasing, having risen from 956,492 tons in 1870-71 to 1,248,965 tons in 1876-77, the steamers numbering 288 against 145 in 1870-71. The largest number of vessels entered and cleared at the ports in Tanjore, Madura and Tinnevely, but these were chiefly small craft engaged in the trade with Ceylon. The tonnage of the shipping visiting Madras was 392,357, carried in 361 bottoms, against 407,486 tons carried in 434 bottoms in the previous year. There was an increase in the number of foreign vessels, steam and sailing. As regards the coasting trade with ports outside the Presidency, the tonnage has more than doubled itself within

the last seven years, whilst the number of vessels employed in this trade has increased by about 18 per cent. only, showing that much larger vessels are engaged in the trade than formerly. The coasting trade within the Presidency also shows considerable increase, the number of sailing vessels having risen from 30,175 to 33,282, and of steamers from 1,490 to 1,603 in the years 1875-76 and 1876-77 respectively. Measures have been taken to ensure the correctness of ships' registers. A quarantine station has been established north of Madras near Ennore. The survey of the Madras roadstead was completed in October 1876. Considerable progress was made with the north groyne of the Madras Harbour, also to some extent with the south groyne; but the work caused great accumulation of sand. For this and other reasons some doubts have been entertained of the success of the scheme. There was an increase in the number of registered masulah boats and crews in consequence of the heavy grain trade. The traffic through the Paumb passage decreased considerably. Plans for the erection of beacons at Shingle Island, Keelakerry and Velad, in the Gulph of Manaar were under consideration. The port limits at Calicut and Beypore were revised. The increase to the salaries of the First and Second Assistant Master Attendants, Madras, was sanctioned, but no increase has been granted to out-port officers. The building of the new lighthouse, Cocanada, was progressing satisfactorily. Paumben, Keelakerry, Tondi and Devapatnam have been added to the list of ports for the landing and shipment of passengers.

Municipalities,
Mofussil.

The number of Municipalities continues to be 47. That of Cumbum was abolished, but Mettapolium was constituted a municipal town. There was a decrease of nearly one lakh of rupees in the aggregate income of Municipalities. This was partly due to the arrangement which was carried out during the year for a fair distribution between Local Fund Boards and Municipalities of the receipts from tolls on through traffic, which resulted in a falling off of Rupees 60,321 in the amount of

revenue from tolls credited to Municipalities. But leaving this item out of the calculation, the revenue from direct taxation shows a decrease of less than one per cent. on the returns of the previous year. This is noteworthy considering the distress prevailing in several districts. The tax on trades and professions is in force in only twelve Municipalities, whilst in four no tolls are levied. The income from miscellaneous sources shows a falling off, but that derived from rents of markets, &c., &c., and fees from private persons for service of scavengers shows a considerable increase; but though this increase is satisfactory so far as it goes, it is thought that the revenues of many Municipalities may be developed under these heads, especially the latter, without increasing apparently the public burthen. The incidence of taxation was 6 Annas 2 Pies per head of the population, excluding tolls. The averages in the several Municipalities differ widely, viz., from Rupees 1-15-7 in Ootacamund to 2 Annas 6 Pies in Chicacole. The total expenditure was Rupees 10,89,954, and though less than that of 1875-76, was nearly half a lakh of rupees in excess of the income. The average expenditure on public works was 22 per cent. of the total, which is 4 per cent. below the average of the previous year, a result due to increased expenditure on conservancy and other objects concerning the health of the populations in the famine districts. The improvement of supply of drinking-water has been claiming attention in several Municipalities, notably Ootacamund, Tanjore, Negapatam, and Trichinopoly. A great improvement in the latter town was perfected during the year in the completion of the work of filling in the moat which surrounds the great rock. There was a slight increase in the expenditure on education; the average percentage of this charge to the total charges was, however, only 6. The tendency of most Municipalities appears to be to undertake the elementary education of the people themselves, and although there are drawbacks to this policy, yet the balance seems to be in its favor, as it enlists the active sympathy and co-operation

tion of the leading citizens in the work of education. The increasing interest which Commissioners are unquestionably taking in the establishment of schools and hospitals, and other subjects connected with the comfort and well-being of their fellow-townsmen, is an evidence that the policy of Government in developing local self-government in towns is gradually finding a response in the feelings of the people.

Madras
Municipality,
Receipts,

The income of the Municipality from rates, assessed taxes, and tolls amounted to Rupees 4,92,257, being Rupees 38,764 in excess of the receipts from the same sources in the preceding year. There were also, in addition to the above, miscellaneous receipts amounting to Rupees 99,925, making a total revenue of Rupees 5,92,182 as against Rupees 5,98,934 in 1875-76. The excess of gross income in 1875-76 is due to accidental causes affecting the miscellaneous receipts. The balance on hand at the commencement of the year was Rs. 4,883, and this sum, with the amounts credited in the accounts as advances recovered and deposits, bring up the total receipts of the year to Rupees 6,54,232-6-11.

—Charges.

The disbursements are as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Interest on Debt	51,323	0	1
Salaries and Establishments	94,271	0	8
Conservancy and Cleansing	1,43,761	5	2
Registration of Births and Deaths.	4,265	9	2
Lighting	18,636	7	0
Maintenance of Roads	1,05,129	1	7
Watering Roads	3,094	0	5
Drainage	6,511	5	2
Water Works	18,328	8	10
Buildings	5,375	14	9
Other public works, including gardens and similar improve- ments	22,061	13	2
Hospitals, Vaccination, and for working the Contagious Diseases' Act	38,898	13	4

Education—	RS.	A.	P.
Results grants	14,168	8	7
Miscellaneous	13,469	5	10
* Cost of materials, &c., for supplying water to Government buildings and private houses	25,571	4	1
Repayment of Debt	25,661	8	2
Total	5,90,527	10	0
Refunds of Deposits and Advances.	60,381	3	3
Total	6,50,908	13	3
Balance	3,323	9	8

The incidence of taxation (including tolls) per head of the population, on the basis of the census of 1871, was Rupees 1-3-10, or six pies higher than in the preceding year. —Incidence of taxation.

Towards the close of the year 1876 the starving inhabitants of the neighbouring districts, more especially Chingleput, began to flock into the Presidency town in search of food, and thus the pauper population of the city was greatly increased. To feed such of these paupers as were unable to obtain employment, the Government in December inaugurated relief-measures on a liberal scale, but prior to this private charity, Native and European, had stepped in to aid and feed the homeless and unemployed people, and by this means the lives of large numbers were saved. A Special Health Officer, with a sufficient staff, was appointed in February, with instructions to set on foot a system of house-to-house visitation, to afford medical aid to the sick, to send those who were suffering from want of food to the Government relief-houses, and to bring to the notice of the Municipality any sanitary defects which he was unable to remedy with the means at his disposal. Notwithstanding these efforts, the mortality in the last four months of the year was very great. —Famine relief.

In the eight months of scarcity which preceded the famine there was an increase over and above the average of the previous ten years of 998-7 deaths, and in the four —Mortality.

months of absolute famine the increase was 10,698. Thus the total increase due to scarcity and famine was 11,695. The death-rate rose from an average of 33.0 to 36.7 in the months of scarcity, and from 34.2 to 114.9 in the months of famine. For the whole year the death-rate rose from an average of 33.4 to 62.8 per mille per annum.

-General.

Progress was made with the Municipal Bill mentioned in the last report. A large increase was made in the Conservancy staff of the Municipality to meet the extra work caused by the immigration of persons from the mofussil. Except in the town divisions, where the traffic was excessive owing to the large importation of rice and other food-grains, the roads were maintained in good order, an unusually large amount having been expended under this head. The scarcity of water caused the Municipal authorities and the Government much anxiety. There was reason to fear the total failure of the supply from the Red Hills. The Red Hills water is brought to Madras in an open high-level channel fed by a sluice which is about 6 feet above the general level of the bottom of the lake. In August this sluice ceased to draw, and it became necessary to raise the supply for the Municipality by pumping. By these means sufficient water was obtained to feed all the taps in the town for about an hour and a half in the morning and an hour and a half in the evening, and though the water was of very inferior quality, it was preferred generally by the natives to water from wells. In February the Government found it necessary to make an advance to the Municipality to enable them to repair and cleanse all public and private wells, and to sink new ones wherever required. Three hundred and sixty-seven public and 105 private wells were cleansed and repaired, and 22 new wells were sunk. The Municipal Water Works were maintained in good order, and a few cisterns and stand-pipes were erected. The attention of the Government having been absorbed by more pressing needs, no progress was made in the matter of the town drainage, but the subject has not been lost sight of and will be taken up as soon as circumstances will permit.

Full information regarding the transactions of Local Fund Boards during the past year is not yet available, but in Chapters III and V of Part II will be found a brief account of the administration and of the financial results. The receipts from the Local Fund taxation was 32 lakhs of rupees, being at the rate of Annas 1-9 per head of the population. The resources of Local Funds were much crippled by the adverse season and the withdrawal of a considerable portion of the provincial grant on account of roads. The working of the Boards may, however, be said to have been fairly satisfactory. Three hundred and ninety miles of road were newly constructed and 16,293 miles of road maintained. Three hundred and eighteen new schools were opened, of which three had masters paid fixed salaries and 310 were on the combined salary and results grant system. Seventeen new dispensaries were opened, and that at Cumbum was taken over, the Municipality in that town having been abolished. Sixteen new toll-gates were established. The scheme alluded to in last year's report of using the powers conferred by law for tolling the traffic throughout the country with a view to the maintenance of roads, and thus setting free funds for other purposes which are now set apart for this object, is still under the consideration of Government.

Local Funds
Administra-
tion.

The history of agriculture in this Presidency during the past year is one continuous record of disaster, due chiefly to the unpropitious character of the weather. Hence the operations on the Government Farms were not so extensive as they would otherwise have been. Nevertheless, a good deal of useful work was done, and numerous facts were gathered, which cannot but prove useful in giving a direction to the efforts which should be made towards averting from our agriculture such calamities as those which have recently befallen Peninsular India.

SECTION IV.
PRODUCTION
AND DISTRI-
BUTION.
Government
Farms.

—Tours.

No district tours were undertaken by the Superintendent or his Assistants, as from the almost entire cessation of agricultural work it was thought that no benefit could arise therefrom.

—Agricultural School.

The organization of the Agricultural School necessarily occupied much time and attention. It was opened in October in a building on the Sydapet Experimental Farm temporarily set apart for the purpose. A very large number of applications for admission were received from all parts of India, but the accommodation being as yet very limited, only thirty candidates could be accepted, as these, with the twenty students of the Normal School, would constitute a class sufficiently large for the accommodation available. Of the men admitted, fully one-third are from other Presidencies. Admission was granted first to candidates who had passed the Matriculation or the General Test Examination, and afterwards a special entrance examination was held for those not possessing the qualifications just mentioned. The original scheme did not contemplate the residence of the students on the Farm, but applications having been received from them for such residences, and it being highly desirable that they should reside on the Farm, arrangements are being made to accommodate 24 on the premises, each of whom will be called upon to pay a moderate rent for the rooms occupied. The work of the institution has proceeded steadily, and at the sessional examinations held in March, the majority of the students acquitted themselves very creditably. The necessity for proper house accommodation is very urgent; and until this is provided the work of the institution cannot be efficiently conducted.

—Sydapet Experimental Farm.

Though the drought of 1876-77 proved highly detrimental to the general work of the Farm, several useful experiments were carried out. One crop of Sorghum saccharatum yielded per acre 5,100 lbs. of ripe straw and 924 lbs. of grain without irrigation. Several crops of yellow cholam (*Sorghum vulgare*) and Planter's frierd (a variety of sorghum), also unirrigated, yielded from 300

to 450 lbs. of grain and from 2,500 to 4,000 lbs. of matured straw per acre. Crops of indigo, cotton, a variety of pulses, and Guinea grass yielded very satisfactorily considering the character of the season. These results were obtained entirely through the influence of deep tillage and the liberal use of manure. The experience gained during the drought showed in a marked degree the great superiority of deep tillage over shallow tillage. In short the most casual observer could not have failed to note the superior growth of the plants where the tillage was good compared with that of the plants on the headlands of the fields and other portions of land less deeply cultivated. The efficacy of saltpetre as a top-dressing in a dry season has again been shown, a dressing of about 100 lbs. per acre having increased the yield of crops 10 per cent. in the grain and about 20 per cent. in the straw. The period of the year at which cotton produces the greatest percentage of lint is being investigated, and some interesting facts have already been recorded: thus, the yield of lint has been found to vary from 17 per cent. to as much as 36 per cent. of the weight of the seed cotton, the higher percentage being obtained in hot dry weather and the lower percentage in dull and showery weather. It is hoped that the investigation will throw a good deal of light on cotton culture, chiefly in showing in what months of the year the largest percentage of lint may be expected. With a view to cattle-breeding experiments, four bulls and three heifers were obtained from the Amrut Mahal herd. As, however, the Commissariat slaughter-houses have not yet been vacated and transferred to the Farm, but little progress can at present be made in the experiment. It is worthy of notice that though the Farm is heavily stocked, it was able during the past season, by the fodder crops produced, to maintain its live-stock in good condition, the death-rate during the past year having been even less than that of other years. The experiments in sheep breeding progress satisfactorily. There are now a large number of rams ready for distribution, but it was thought

inexpedient to distribute any under the present circumstances of the country. A number of ploughs of different kinds of Swedish manufacture were obtained for the Farm; but their merits are not superior to those made by British manufacturers, except that they are cheaper. A large quantity of maize, *Sorghum saccharatum*, Planter's friend, Carolina paddy, New Orleans cotton, and other seed was distributed to various parts of the Presidency. The seed was supplied and distributed to experimenters free of all charge. Several models of water-lifts and farm implements were also distributed.

—Model
Farm.

This experiment was brought to a close in March 1876. The experience gained during the five years in which it was in operation has shown that, owing to the unsatisfactory conditions under which the experiment was placed, it could not yield the special information it was expected to afford, chiefly from the necessity of carrying out, along with the ordinary work of the Farm, some very extensive land improvements. If, however, to the original cost of the land the expenses incurred in carrying out the experiment be added, it will be found that the total amount falls short of the price per acre that can now be obtained for the land. The whole of the land used in this experiment has been added to the Sydapet Experimental Farm, with which it will be worked as a branch for stock-breeding and stock-acclimatizing purposes.

—Implement
Workshops.

In the Workshops attached to the Sydapet Experimental Farm, twenty-one ploughs of various kinds, three chaff-cutters, and a number of other implements were manufactured and sold.

Agricultural
Exhibition.

The Agricultural Exhibition, which was to have been held in February last, was again postponed owing to the unfavorable character of the season.

Inspection of
Cattle
Diseases.

The appointment of Inspector of Cattle Diseases was vacant during the year, Veterinary Surgeon Western who held it having vacated the appointment for other

duties. Veterinary Surgeon Adams was temporarily employed in connection with the outbreak of cattle disease in the Wynaad and Coorg. Efforts are being made in Europe to procure the services of a qualified Veterinarian for the vacant post.

The following statement exhibits the receipts and charges of the Department for the year:—

Receipts.			Charges.		
	RS.	A. P.		RS.	A. P.
Provincial grant ...	20,000	0 0	General supervision ...	19,685	15 3
Receipts from the Surplus Pound Fund during 1876-77.	71,707	9 6	Sydapet Experimental Farm and Workshops.	14,464	2 6
Sydapet Experimental Farm and Workshops.	5,099	2 7	Agricultural College, &c.	6,951	1 10
			Permanent estate improvements on the Sydapet Farm.	6,373	12 10
			Other charges being transfers made in the Accountant-General's Office.	2,344	11 1
Total ...	96,806	12 1	Total ...	49,819	11 6

The receipts from the *Ootacamund Botanical Gardens* during the official year 1876-77, including the opening balance of Rupees 802 and a Government grant during the year of Rupees 10,862, amounted to Rupees 13,881, and the expenditure to Rupees 12,509. The gardens were kept well stocked with ornamental trees and shrubs, but owing to the continued prevalence of drought there was no demand for them. Several new varieties of potatoes were planted and a small quantity of the seed was distributed to private individuals for cultivation. A pamphlet on the cultivation of potatoes, prepared by the Superintendent, has been translated into Tamil, printed, and distributed gratis to Native cultivators together with a small quantity of seed. The cultivation of medicinal plants, such as the rhubarb, jalap, &c., was carried on vigorously. A plot of land measuring about 5 acres was enclosed for the purpose. During the year 65 lbs. of *Berberis cartex*, 12 lbs. of *Digitalis folio*, and some jalap tubers were supplied to the Medical Department. The cultivation of *ipecacuanha* has been attended with great success. The stock now numbers

Botanical
and other
Gardens.

2,698 plants. Among the rare and useful plants introduced during the year were prickly comfrey (*Symphytum asperrimum*), Santung cabbage, and the mahogany tree. A new green-house is under construction for the gardens. The fruit trees in the *Burliar Gardens* were leased to a contractor. During the year two plants of the true Liberian coffee were put out and fresh seeds were planted. One thousand and thirteen plants of various kinds of fruit trees were issued from these gardens. ~~The Kuthutti Garden~~ suffered much from the drought which prevailed during the year. Among improvements effected in *Sim's Park, Coonoor*, were the formation of a miniature lake two acres in extent and the construction of nearly half a mile of new road, whilst four acres of scrub were cleared and laid under hariali grass and a shola or wood was cleared of its undergrowth and formed into a pleasant pic-nic resort. In a few years this garden promises to be the most beautiful on the Hills, as it has the advantage of some fine natural woods which the other gardens on the plateau do not possess. The Government grant for the gardens was Rupees 3,000, all of which was expended. Rupees 1,200 were expended upon improvements to *Stone-house Park*. Several hundred ornamental trees were planted. The laying out of the grounds which surround the Government Offices, and which occupy an imposing eminence in the valley of Ootacamund, will ultimately add greatly to the appearance of this portion of the town.

Weather,
Crops, Wages,
Prices.

In the preceding remarks on the administration of the land, the condition of the agriculture of the Presidency during the fasli year, which embraces the first three months only of the year under review, has been referred to. The prospects at its close, the 30th June, were gloomy, and in the nine following months they grew daily darker and darker. Thus the seasons of 1876-77 were unprecedentedly disastrous. The Presidency depends for the cultivation of its food grains on the sufficiency of the rains of the south-west and north-east

monsoons, and a failure of either must necessarily be accompanied by a considerable amount of distress. But during the year under review both the monsoons almost utterly failed in many parts of the country. In the Ceded Districts and Kurnool, North Arcot, Salem, and the West Coast Districts, the ryots depend for the greater part of the cultivation on the south-west monsoon. Bellary and Cuddapah had less than half, and Kurnool less than one-third of the ordinary rainfall of this monsoon. The deficiency in regard to other districts was not quite as great, but was still sufficiently serious to affect injuriously the condition of the crops. The failure of the north-east monsoon was almost complete throughout the districts named, as well as in Nellore, Kistna, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Tinnevely. Not only was the rainfall deficient in quantity but it was also generally unseasonable and unequally distributed. Ganjam and Vizagapatam, which had the usual supply of rain, suffered on the other hand from floods. Nearly 1,300 houses were washed away in Chicacole in the Ganjam District, and the whole town was for three days under water. Other parts of the country also suffered, but only partially. The effects of this calamitous season on cultivation were very great. The acreage of wet cultivation diminished from a little over 3 millions to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions, and the area of unirrigated lands from $13\frac{1}{2}$ millions to $10\frac{1}{2}$ millions. In particular districts the proportion of decrease was much greater. In Bellary alone the decrease was above half the total area cultivated, or considerably more than a million of acres. Of the lands cultivated in Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool only a small portion yielded even a trifling crop. The failure of crop was also extensive in Chingleput, North Arcot, Nellore, Coimbatore, Madura and Salem; but Ganjam, Vizagapatam, South Canara, Malabar and the river-irrigated portions of Godavery, Kistna, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Tinnevely had a fair crop. Cotton and indigo cultivation decreased by nearly 48 and 54 per cent. respectively, and little or no crop was obtained. Thus the year on the whole was one of extreme misery and

suffering to the poor and of great anxiety to all classes of the population.

Prices and
Wages and
Markets.

Owing to the indifferent harvest of 1875-76, prices began to rise at the beginning of the year under review. The failure of the south-west monsoon in that year accelerated the rise, which proceeded with such rapidity that in the month of October prices had risen so high as to render it impossible for the poorer classes to purchase their necessary supplies of food. When the north-east monsoon also completely failed, prices rose still higher and continued, with some slight fluctuations, at famine rates until the close of the year and subsequently. In the month of April 1877 prices were nearly three hundred per cent. above the usual rates. The principal markets were, however, generally sufficiently supplied with food grains, private trade having been stimulated to extraordinary activity by the high prices ruling. The facility of communication between different parts of the country by sea as well as by railways and roads has had the effect of equalizing the prices throughout the Presidency to a remarkable extent, and thus it has come to pass that distress has been felt even in districts which had tolerable harvests. Wages were almost stationary, but as in several districts no employment was to be had except such as was provided by Government for the preservation of life, the rates afford no indication of the condition of the laboring classes. The native population whose livelihood depends on manufacturing industries and the weavers in particular suffered severely.

The Land
Improvement
Act.

The exceptional action taken by Government under this Act belongs rather to the history of the famine than to the ordinary administration of the year, and will not therefore be noticed at length here. Early in the year, and before the pressure of famine became severe, the Government, in consequence of financial difficulties, were unable to sanction large advances under the Act, no budget provision having been made for the purpose. But later, or in January 1877, in order to facilitate the making of advances for digging wells, the Board of Revenue were authorized to instruct Collectors of districts to which

they might think it desirable to extend the concession, to make advances to landlords, not exceeding in any one case Rupees 300, on their executing agreements in a simple form acknowledging receipt of the money, agreeing to repay it by instalments within a limited time, and mortgaging to Government as collateral security the lands to be improved by the wells. Mortgages were to be registered when the advances exceeded Rupees 100. The minimum limit of grants was meanwhile reduced from Rupees 100 to Rupees 50. Ultimately certain Tahsildars received the powers of a Collector under the Act to sanction advances, and by this arrangement much unnecessary delay and hardship was avoided. A revision of the rules with a view to greater simplicity was under consideration at the close of the year. The ordinary advances amounted to Rupees 4,435; while those debited to the famine account were Rupees 44,538: Rupees 31,158 of this amount appertaining to Nellore, and Rupees 10,800 to Chingleput.

In consequence of the failure of the rains and the ^{Forests.} general distress among the people, the operations of the department have been considerably curtailed and the revenue prejudicially affected, the receipts having fallen from Rupees 4,26,359 to Rupees 4,15,312. The value of the timber, &c., felled was Rupees 1,61,084, which is Rupees 51,454 in excess of the returns of the previous year; but the value of timber sold was Rupees 1,93,863, or Rupees 12,841 less than in 1875-76. The Public Works Department took less teak than was indented for. In the Annamallay forest a large quantity of curved teak was prepared for the British Admiralty, and now awaits despatch. There is also a diminution under sandalwood, which is attributed by the Conservator to the fact that mature trees are growing scarce. The area of fuel reserves shows little change, being 132,767 acres, the outlay on which was Rupees 14,738 and the receipts therefrom Rupees 12,979. There was a slight increase in the area of plantations. The area planted was 8,259 acres and that unplanted 7,225 acres, the cost having been Rupees

39,311 against receipts amounting to Rupees 26,815. The plantations, especially those of casuarina in North Arcot, however, have suffered much through the drought and also from the consequent scarcity of labor. A large proportion of the timber, &c., felled is on the license system. This system is not compatible with strict conservancy and forest management, but its continuance is almost unavoidable in unreserved forests. Considerable relief was afforded to the agricultural population in some districts by throwing open the reserves and forests for the grazing of cattle during the famine months when the grass of the open country was burnt up by the excessive heat and drought. The cultivation of the carob tree and giant bamboo has been receiving attention; but the year was unfavorable for experimental arboriculture. The health of the Forest establishments was bad. Fever, dysentery, small-pox, and cholera were very prevalent during the year.

—Forest Bill,
&c.

The Government from pressure of work and other causes have been unable to proceed with the Forest Bill, but a forest law is admittedly much needed to protect the woods and forests for climatic and agricultural as well as financial considerations. The inquiries into forest rights in South Canara were continued during the year; and the result will probably not diminish the area of Government forests so greatly as was at first expected. The Conservator prepared and submitted a list of all forest acquisitions from the first formation of the department. Some progress has been made with forest surveys, especially in Wynaad. The position of jungle conservancy operations entrusted to the Revenue authorities in connection with the Jungle Conservancy Fund has also been under consideration during the year. The number of prosecutions and convictions for forest offences in the Tinnevely range is very much greater than in the other divisions.

—Financial
results.

The total revenue from departmental working was Rupees 1,84,824, and the working expenses Rupees 1,07,861. It is difficult to state how much of the expenditure for roads and bridges, buildings and offices, and

purchase of stock, which are nearly all extraordinary outlay, should be debited to departmental working; and the Conservator has omitted these items in calculating the working expenses. Although the total receipts compared with total charges under "Conservancy and Works" and "Establishment and Contingencies" leave only a small surplus, yet, taking the total valuation of stock in favor of the department into consideration, the net result is satisfactory. The value of stock at the commencement of the year under review was Rupees 3,26,648, and the balance at the close of the year Rupees 3,49,695. The increase is attributable to more felling of timber required to meet the indent of the Public Works Department above referred to. The system of valuing stock was the same as in former years.

During the year under review the railways in this Presidency performed an important part in the relief of the famine in Southern India, and fully justified their cost to the State. The work performed by the Madras Railway severely taxed the resources of all departments. Owing to the drought, great difficulty was experienced in providing a sufficient supply of water for locomotives, and considerable anxiety was felt on this point. Additional wells were sunk where possible, and, as a last resort, temporary watering apparatus were erected at all the large rivers. A large addition to the stock of locomotives was found necessary, and the railways in Northern India were drawn upon. Ten additional goods engines were also ordered from England. The drivers were for some time overworked. All spare men from other lines were accordingly engaged, and a considerable number were obtained from England on short engagements. In the month of January 1877, a block of traffic took place at Raichore owing to the inability of the Madras Railway to work off the daily receipts from the Great Indian Peninsula line. This arose from the high prices ruling at Bellary and Adoni; and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway having the greater command of engine power and rolling stock, was able to throw

Railways—
Special
arrangements
for Famine
traffic.

into Raichore a quantity of grain which the weaker line was unable to carry forward in the absence of any special arrangements. An increase of power on the northern section of the Madras Railway was arranged for; but, owing to a general decline in prices, the deliveries soon fell to quantities which could be easily dealt with. For greater convenience in working this traffic to Adoni and Bellary, additional crossing-places were made so as to divide the long distances between certain stations. At Madras the railway was unable to cope with the large demands for carriage that were made, and a system of registering the holders of grain and allotting them wagons in turn was adopted. In order to avoid a block in the station-yard, those persons registered were furnished with forwarding notes which had to be presented before the grain was admitted. Though numerous complaints were made regarding the allotment of wagons, and a trade in forwarding notes resulted from non-holders of grain managing to get themselves registered, the results were on the whole satisfactory. The system of registering was also adopted at Beypore. In December 1876 fifty-nine thousand tons of grain were carried by the Madras Railway, of which a little more than one-half was from Madras, the other principal sources of supply being Beypore and the Great Indian Peninsula and South Indian Railways. The bulk of the grain was absorbed by the districts of Bellary, Cuddapah and North Arcot, and the province of Mysore. On the South Indian Railway the grain traffic was worked chiefly from the ports of Negapatam and Tuticorin, where it was found necessary to adopt the system of registration, and from the Tanjore District. In February 1877, the through rate for grain from Negapatam to Bangalore was equalised with that from Madras to Bangalore, it being considered advisable to supplement, as far as possible, the supply which the Madras Railway was able to pour into the Mysore territory. It was also anticipated that imports at Beypore would be small during the south-west monsoon. The first result of this measure was a diversion of traffic from the Madura

District and a block at Trichinopoly, where transshipment takes place; and it was found necessary to make temporary arrangements on a large scale for dealing with the altered flow of traffic. Prices, however, soon fell at Bangalore, and after the first rush, the amount of grain which took this route from Negapatam was inconsiderable.

In consequence of the heavy grain traffic, it was decided to double the line of the Madras Railway as far as Arconum (42½ miles from Madras). The second line had been previously sanctioned from Perambore to the Ambatoor quarries, 10 miles from Madras, but no portion of this was opened for traffic during the official year 1876-77. The total length of the Madras Railway system remains at 858 miles.

On the South Indian Railway 172 additional miles were opened for traffic during the year, viz., from Madras to Tindevanum, a distance of 76 miles, on the 1st September 1876; from Tindevanum to Cuddalore, a distance of 52 miles, on the 1st January 1877; and from Tanjore to Mayaveram, a distance of 44 miles, on the 15th February 1877, making the total length open on 31st March 1877, 570 miles. The cost per mile of these sections has exceeded that of the southern extension, and the average cost of the open line stands at £6,300 per mile, including the old broad-gauge sections, which cost £8,500 per mile. Some of the large bridges between Madras and Cuddalore are unfinished, and the traffic has been worked across the beds of the rivers on temporary road-ways. Owing to the exceptionally dry season no inconvenience resulted from this arrangement. All the bridges, except that over the Palar, will be completed by 31st December 1877. At the end of the official year the break in through communication between Madras and Tanjore was 46 miles, and it is not probable that the line will be open throughout until the beginning of 1879. At Madras an extension was made from the Egmore temporary terminus to the beach for the con-

veyance of material for the south pier of the Madras Harbour.

Accidents.

An unusually large number of serious accidents occurred during the year. On 25th December 1876, the mail train from Beypore came into collision with a special goods train near Amboor Station, when ten persons were killed and fifteen injured. The collision was caused primarily by the driver failing to stop at Amboor, which was a meeting station; but his forgetfulness was not checked, as it should have been, by the station officials. This accident drew attention to the want of means of communication between guards and drivers of trains in motion, as laid down in the rules and regulations, but which has hitherto not been carried out on the lines in this Presidency. Instructions were given for the adoption of the "cord system," but certain difficulties were met with in applying it to mixed trains, and the efficiency of this method is more than doubtful. Further experiments with Mr. Winter's apparatus, which is referred to in last year's report, confirm the high opinion originally formed regarding it.

On 6th November 1876, six wagons in a goods train were wrecked by a log of wood from the tender falling on the rails. On 2nd November 1876 a following collision occurred near Vaniembady Station between two goods trains; and on 13th December 1876, twelve derelict wagons came into collision with an approaching train near Jollarett Station. Several attempts to throw trains off the line by obstructions placed on the rails are recorded. On the South Indian Railway no accident occurred to passengers from causes beyond their own control. There were three slight collisions, four cases of uncoupling of trains in motion, and eight cases of obstructions placed on the line.

Electric
Telegraph.

Agreements were drawn up during the year for transferring the maintenance of the railway telegraphs to the Government, the companies paying a mileage rate for this service. This measure is tentative only, the agree-

ment lasting for two years; and the actual transfer has not yet taken place. The Government have long wished to adopt this arrangement, which was opposed by the companies on the ground that the work could be more efficiently performed by their own agency. In other Presidencies the arrangement has been found to work satisfactorily, and there is reason to believe that the same result will follow here. On the extension of the South Indian Railway the telegraph was erected by Government. In consequence of the large number of messages required in working the heavy traffic on the Madras Railway, it was decided, towards the close of the official year, to discontinue the transmission of private messages. Sanction was at the same time given for the erection of a station-to-station wire for working the "block system" between Raichore and Adoni, and its extension over the whole of the line is contemplated.

On 1st July 1876 the first-class passenger fare on the Madras Railway was raised from 15 pies to 18 pies per mile; and the second-class fare was altered from 8 pies by night and 5 pies by day to 7 pies per mile by all trains. First and second-class return-tickets were made available for one month, irrespective of distance, on payment of a fare and a half. These changes have resulted in increased receipts from these two classes with diminished numbers. During the year various alterations in the goods classification and reductions in rates were introduced in accordance with the recommendations of the Railway Commission. On the South Indian Railway no alteration was made in the passenger fares; but from 1st September 1876 local goods, which had up to that date been conveyed at the first-class rate of 12 pies per ton per mile, were carried at a reduced rate of 8 pies, foreign traffic being charged as before. The third-class fare of 2 pies per mile, which has been in operation since 1st July 1872, has produced a great development of numbers. This line has always had a better traffic in passengers than the Madras Railway, and during the past official year, with less than

Rates and
Fares.

half the open mileage, it booked more passengers than the latter line; but owing to the lower fares, and to the smaller average length of journey, the receipts were not much more than one-half. The filling of the South Indian carriages is very good, and the average number in a *whole* passenger train was higher than on any line in India.

Train service. No interruption to traffic occurred during the year. On the Madras Railway the train service remained as before until 1st July 1876, when a goods train in each direction between Arconum and Cuddapah was converted into a mixed train, with a view to the greater convenience of third and cooly-class passengers. It has long been thought that something might be done to enable passengers of the latter class to make longer journeys without halting, and under the altered arrangements of last year, they can perform a through journey in one day between any two of the following places—Madras, Cuddapah, and Jollarpett. From 4th February 1877, the local passenger trains, between Madras and Vellore and between Arconum and Tirupetty, were discontinued, and the engine power thus set free was utilised in the transport of grain. On the South Indian Railway two passenger trains were run in each direction between Negapatam and Erode until the month of November 1876, when one of these trains between Trichinopoly and Erode was, owing to failure of broad-gauge engine power, reserved entirely for goods. On the new lines the service was limited to one passenger train each way daily until 1st November 1876, when a second train was put on between Madras and Palaveram.

Financial transactions. The net profits of the Madras Railway for the official year were Rupees 33,05,877, giving a dividend at the rate of 3·10 per cent. on the total capital expenditure. The working expenses formed 59 per cent. of the gross earnings. The guaranteed interest from the commencement of the company up to 31st December 1876 amounted to £7,646,676, and the net profits for the same period

to £3,346,946, leaving a balance of £4,299,730 as a charge against the State in addition to the expenditure on land and control. On the South Indian Railway the net profits of the official year were Rupees 10,27,289, giving a dividend at the rate of 2·6 per cent. on the total capital expenditure. The working expenses formed 53·6 per cent. of the gross earnings. The guaranteed interest from the formation of the company up to 31st December 1876 amounted to £1,625,076, and the net profits for the same period came to a total of £521,958, leaving a balance against the State of £1,103,118. The cost of land for the Madras Railway is estimated at 18 lakhs, and for the South Indian Railway at 20 lakhs of Rupees. The expenditure on control of the two lines has been about 13½ lakhs.

The Commission which was appointed by the Govern- Salt. ment of India to inquire into the system of salt manufacture and administration prevailing in this Presidency, especially with the view of introducing the excise system, brought their work to a close during the year and submitted their report to the Supreme Government. The report deals exhaustively with the question in all its branches, and subjects the facts to a most careful scrutiny, beginning with a resumé of the history of the administration of the salt revenue of Madras from the institution of the monopoly in 1805, when the revenue amounted to Rupees 19,94,439 only, to the close of the year 1874-75, when it had reached the sum of Rupees 1,36,57,787. During this period the monopoly selling price had risen from 9½ Annas per maund of 82½ lbs. to Rupees 2; the West Coast and Ganjam excepted, where special rates ruled. Meanwhile the quantity sold was not twice as great in the latter year as it was at the beginning of the century, though the value has increased sevenfold. It is not necessary here to review the report further; suffice it to say that the Commission favor the excise system, and recommend its gradual adoption, though they regard the change as fraught with many difficulties and demanding great care and caution in its execution. The excise system

seems to promise possible improvement in the quality and also cheapening of the article to the consumer. These results have been attained in Bombay, and may be wholly attributable to the excise system in force there, which introduces a wholesome rivalry between private manufacturers and traders. To work out the suggestions of the Commission and to secure efficient control and a uniform system of administration, the creation of a separate salt department, under a superior officer, is recommended, with a suitable establishment and staff of subordinates. The present system, under which Collectors are responsible for the salt administration of their districts, is not suitable for effective control and general efficiency of administration. Moreover the salt establishments are now insufficient, and the remuneration of the subordinate officers too low to ensure always hearty and honest service. The Commissioners' report was still under the consideration of Government at the close of the year.

Fish-curing
industry.

This experiment, which consists of the establishment of yards at certain localities in salt-manufacturing districts, where fish might be cured with salt supplied at cost price, was in progress during the year, and on the whole showed a fair promise of success, especially when it is remembered that the objects in view relate to sanitation and prevention rather than to revenue. In Ganjam the number of applications increased and the fishermen generally are said to appreciate the benefits offered. In Malabar and Madura also the results were fairly satisfactory, but in South Arcot, Chingleput, and South Canara the experiments were regarded as failures.

Minerals.

A license was granted to a Mr. Lavelle to prospect for minerals within a space of ten miles in the neighbourhood of Cuddapah. The result is not yet known. Experimental workings of gold quartz reefs in Wynaad continue. The prospects are sufficiently good to induce speculators to venture capital in the hope of ultimate success. The Government have deemed it expedient in

the interests of the State to prohibit the sale of lands known to possess quartz reefs or alluvium containing gold.

The long-continued drought and consequent famine Trade. have variously affected the trade of the Presidency. Both the exports and imports of foreign trade suffered greatly owing to the diminution in the production of the principal articles of export in the country and the decrease in the purchasing power of the poorer classes, resulting in diminished demand for foreign articles. The trade with other Presidencies and the interportal trade within the Presidency on the other hand were stimulated to extraordinary activity in furnishing food for the famine-stricken populations. The value of exports and imports to and from foreign countries fell by Rupees 46,00,000 and Rupees 57,00,000 respectively, while the imports from other Presidencies rose by Rupees 3,97,00,000. There was a slight increase of Rupees 29,00,000 in the exports to other Presidencies.

The Imperial assignment for Public Works from funds, Public Works the proceeds of loans raised by the Government of India, assignments and outlay. amounted to Rupees 3,66,282, of which Rupees 2,85,887 were expended exclusively on works of irrigation. The assignment from ordinary revenue was for Imperial works Rupees 35,84,917, against which an expenditure of Rupees 33,93,514 was incurred; and for Provincial works Rupees 16,60,420, the outlay being Rupees 19,84,543. Detailed still further, the ordinary grant for Imperial works appears divided into Rupees 28,63,750 for Irrigation, Rupees 6,53,000 for Military, and Rupees 68,167 for other services, the outlay against the grants being severally Rupees 26,47,662, Rupees 7,24,778, and Rupees 21,074. Sub-divided in a similar manner, the Provincial grant was to the credit of Civil Buildings Rupees 5,54,948, grant-in-aid of Local Funds Rupees 2,43,390, Communications Rupees 3,06,598, and Miscellaneous Public Improvements Rupees 35,506, the outlay booked at the end of the year under these several heads being Rupees 6,57,446, Rupees 2,43,390, Rupees 3,32,035 and Rupees 47,522.

—Chief
works.

The more important works in execution during the year 1876-77 are detailed in Part II of the report. The most important of the Military works in progress were a large hospital at Poonamallee and barracks at Bellary and Wellington; and of the Provincial buildings, the senate house and the new departmental stores and workshops at Madras.

—Communi-
cations, &c.

The most noteworthy works falling more or less under the head of Communications, were the harbour works at Madras, the East Coast and Junction Canals, which latter were taken up to relieve the famished people of the Ceded Districts of Nellore and of the Presidency, and the tracing and partial opening out of an excellent ghât-road from the plains of Madura to the Upper and Lower Pulneys.

Irrigation
Works.

The dryness of the season of 1876-77 was rather favorable than otherwise to the extension and repairs of irrigation works, and consequently the funds allotted for this purpose have been fairly utilized. Of the eight systems for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept, three only had works going on during the year from loan funds, viz., the Godavery Delta system, Kistna Delta system, Strivaikuntum Anicut system. The utilization in full of the grants made for these works was prevented by the delay in obtaining sanction for the following estimates for the Kistna Delta System:—

Western Delta.

	rs.
Main Canal	5,83,700
Nizampatam Canal	29,300
Bank do.	4,83,800
Commamur do.	11,99,100
Ramparu Drainage	2,35,080

Eastern Delta.

Eastern Delta Project	27,21,270
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—Expendi-
ture on Delta
Systems.

On the Godavery Delta System, which includes the irrigation of the entire delta of the Godavery river, a

sum of Rupees 2,71,255 was expended during the season, making a total of Rupees 76,35,698 expended since the commencement of the works.* The area irrigated under the Godavery Anicut was 519,705 acres in 1875-76, yielding a revenue of Rupees 22,51,992, divided into Water-tax Rupees 15,29,909, and Land assessment Rupees 7,22,083. Of 495 miles of canal throughout the delta that will ultimately be navigable, 431 miles have been completed. The total expenditure on the Kistna Delta System has been Rupees 47,29,729, and of this Rupees 93,831 were laid out during the past season. This system is intended to irrigate 4,070,000 acres. Of this 226,226 acres were irrigated in 1874-75, yielding a revenue of Rupees 8,90,598. And out of 320 miles of canal proposed for navigation in this delta 286 have been opened, though the navigation is not yet good throughout. The Cauvery Delta, which is the largest system of irrigation in the Madras Presidency, irrigates an area of 835,208 acres, yielding a revenue of Rupees 35,30,336. This system has had a sum of Rupees 13,39,641 expended on it by the British Government, which it is estimated has yielded a return of ~~85.81~~ ^{85.81} per cent. The principal rivers of this delta have been provided with efficient regulators; and a great deal of good work has been done in training and embanking the rivers. The principal works still required in this delta are

- (1.) The construction of regulation sluices on the Cauvery at the grand anicut, to prevent excessive floods entering the delta, with the provision of a new head to the Vennaur.
- (2.) The completion to a safe level of the several river flood-embankments.
- (3.) The improvement of distribution arrangements.
- (4.) The drainage of the south-eastern point of the delta.

The grant from the loan funds for the Pennair Anicut system was withdrawn by the Government of India, —Pennair Anicut System.

* These figures are the most recent, and are taken from the returns printed with G.O., P.W.D., No. 514-I, of 22nd November 1877.

pending the submission and sanction of the revised estimates, as the sanctioned estimate, amounting to Rupees 4,20,060, had been exceeded. All work on this project was therefore stopped.

—Expenditure on Tanks and Madras Water-works.

Of the irrigation works carried out from ordinary revenue, considerable progress was made on the Nandial Tank, on which a sum of Rupees 13,890 was expended during the year. Also on the works connected with the Cumbum Tank and its channels. The work at the Madras water-works was confined to what was essential to security. The total grant for irrigation works carried out under the head Ordinary Agricultural (new works and repairs included) was Rupees 14,08,959, and this sum was fully utilized.

—Postponement of works owing to Famine.

In addition to the execution of budget works, Public Works Officers in the famine districts were extensively employed in estimating for laying out, and to a greater or less extent supervising works on which famine labor was employed under civil agency. The extra labor thus imposed on the members of the department necessitated the postponement of the grouping of irrigation works, a matter of much importance to the effective and systematic treatment of the works. Many other questions of importance relating to statistics, practical data, &c., had for the same reason to be postponed.

Guaranteed works.

The Guaranteed Madras Irrigation and Canal Company up to 1876-77 had been unable to obtain sufficient revenue from their canal to cover working expenses. The impetus given to irrigation by the failure of monsoon rains led in this year to so considerable an extension of irrigation, that it raised the revenue receipts to Rupees 1,72,183.

—Receipts and working expenses.

The following figures show the revenue receipts and working expenses for each year from the commencement of operations by the Company up to the end of December 1876.

Year.	Revenue Receipts.		Charges.	
	RS.	A. P.	RS.	A. P.
1863			1,168	3 11
1864	73	6 3	2,540	3 8
1865	851	15 9	2,495	6 6
1866	4,056	10 9	1,923	13 0
1867	11,091	8 11	2,986	0 9
1868	11,522	3 9	2,004	9 11
1869	12,284	7 9	6,732	2 2
1870	25,460	4 7	24,571	1 8
1871	553	10 10	41,046	11 5
1872	35,027	6 4	89,215	0 1
1873	61,259	3 9	1,41,850	2 4
1874	69,889	6 6	1,82,457	9 6
1875	56,916	8 6	1,95,548	2 10
1876	2,10,475	0 11	1,55,053	1 2
Total ...	4,99,461	14 6	8,49,597	4 11

The total capital outlay has amounted to Rupees 1,61,00,896 up to the same date. —Capital outlay.

The causes of the continued financial failure of the scheme are stated to be the unprofitable outlay, amounting to about 37 lakhs of Rupees, on works of navigation which, owing to the want of capital on the part of the Company, are not utilized; the scarcity of labor in the district, and the high rates necessary in order to attract it from a distance for the construction of the canal, whereby the capital outlay was increased; and finally the want of communications, by which the surplus produce from cultivation under the canal can be removed to a market. The provision of funds for opening the canal for navigation was under consideration, and has, since the close of the year, been sanctioned. —Cause of financial failure.

During the year under review an important change was made in the relations of Government with the Presidency Bank. The shares which Government had held in the Madras Bank, amounting to Rupees 6,18,750, were sold, and with them the Government surrendered the power which they had to appoint and remove certain of the Directors. A revised agreement was made for the conduct of Government business at the Presidency Bank. SECTION V. REVENUE, FINANCIAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE. Audit and Account. Government relation with Presidency Bank.

Bank and some of the mofussil Treasuries; but the conditions of this agreement did not materially differ from those of the previous one.

Marine Store
Accounts.

During the same year the Marine Store Accounts were placed under the audit of the Accountant-General, while he was relieved of taking stock of the Government Press and plant.

Embezzle-
ment.

The only embezzlement of importance reported during the year was a misappropriation of Rupees 309-3-5 in the School of Arts. The Head Clerk, who made away with the sale proceeds of the work turned out in that school, was convicted and punished, and steps have been taken to prevent the recurrence of such losses.

Revenue and
Finance.
—General.

The finances of this Presidency for the year under review were considerably affected by the unusual failure of rain. The total gross revenue of the year was Rs. 8,70,38,303. In the different items constituting the revenue there were, compared with the estimate, increases amounting to Rupees 10,06,365 and decreases amounting to Rupees 1,45,90,471, causing a net decrease of Rupees 1,35,84,106. The total gross expenditure was Rupees 9,83,55,573. In the different items constituting the expenditure there were increases over the estimate amounting to Rupees 2,12,48,087, and decreases under the estimate amounting to Rupees 17,85,159. There was consequently a net increase of Rupees 1,94,62,928 in expenditure over the estimate. Omitting Provincial Services, Local and Special Funds, the total Imperial revenue stood at Rupees 7,00,68,425. In this again, compared with the estimate, the increases in some of the items amounted to Rupees 7,46,156, while the decreases in others amounted to Rupees 1,39,51,991, giving thereby a net decrease of Rupees 1,32,05,835 on the whole. The total Imperial expenditure in the same way stood, including the approximate outlay of one crore on famine relief works, at Rupees 7,91,47,136. The different items constituting this total show on the estimate increases amounting to Rupees 1,99,24,544, and decreases amounting to Rupees 11,56,788, giving a net increase of Rupees 1,87,67,756.

The collections of land revenue were for the year returned at Rupees 3,29,65,750, showing a decrease of Rupees 1,24,84,378 below those of the previous year. Large remissions of ryotwar revenue were rendered necessary on account of decrease of cultivation and failure of crops. The ryots were further very slow in paying their dues, and coercive measures were not resorted to as usual owing to the general distress of the country. In some cases, notably the Ramnad estate, the payment of the peishcush of permanently settled estates was postponed in consideration of heavy losses sustained and of expenditure by certain proprietors for providing famine relief. Great difficulty has been experienced in realising from Zemindars and Inamdars the Government dues, as owing to the adverse season they had not been able to realise the rents of their tenants. Out of the 21 districts of this Presidency, the land revenue for 1876-77 fell in four districts much below half, in four others below one-third, and in three more below one-fourth of the collections of the previous year.

Of the abkari revenue only 44½ lakhs inclusive of arrears were collected in the provinces out of a fixed rent of 52¾ lakhs. This was due to the falling off in the yield of cocoa-nut toddy in consequence of the failure of the usual rains; and also to the impoverished condition of the people. The renters were therefore allowed time to pay their dues. At the Presidency, however, there was no great decrease in revenue. The total revenue from this source was Rupees 55,83,686, or about 7½ lakhs less than in the previous year.

The Sea Customs revenue, exclusive of the duty on salt imported, which is credited to the salt revenue, amounted to Rupees 22,84,052 or about 5 lakhs less than in the previous year. There was a decrease of somewhat more than ¼ lakh under imports, and of nearly 4½ lakhs under exports. The decrease under exports is partly the result of the new tariff, which abolished the export duties on several articles from August 1875, but is chiefly the effect of the diminished production of food-grains and

the diversion of trade from foreign ports to ports within the Presidency or British India. The import revenue has suffered from the absence of demand for cotton twist, cotton goods and other articles, owing to the impoverishment of the people and depression of the weaving industry.

Land Customs.

The Land Customs revenue decreased from Rupees 2,85,762 to Rupees 1,83,346, owing to the operations of the same causes as those which influenced the Sea Customs revenue.

Salt.

The salt revenue showed a decrease of nearly $6\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, being Rupees 1,29,19,528 against Rupees 1,35,37,890 in 1875-76. The decrease is mainly due to the expansion of private trade in salt in Malabar and South Canara, the duty for which is for the most part paid at Bombay. It is also ascribed to the increase of smuggling on the west coast owing to inadequate preventive establishments, and the manufacture of earth salt, the weather having proved unusually favorable for the purpose. It is partly also the result of the prevailing distress, carts which used to take salt from the coast being engaged in the transport of food grains. The Salt Commission, which was appointed to consider and report on the advisability of substituting a system of excise to the present Government monopoly, came to a close, and their report is now under the consideration of Government. The immediate application of the excise system to the districts of Malabar and South Canara, and the discontinuance of sales on account of Government were resolved upon, and the system has been in operation from the commencement of the revenue year beginning with 1st July 1877.

Stamps.

The stamp collections amounted to Rupees 49,93,366 against Rupees 50,19,708 in 1875-76. Of late years this revenue has been steadily increasing, and the decrease of a quarter of a lakh in the year under review can only be attributed to the effect of the prevailing distress.

Forests.

The revenue from forests decreased from Rupees 4,27,723 to Rupees 4,14,763 in consequence of the adverse nature

of the season. The expenditure was little short of the revenue.

The postal revenue shows an advance—more than Post. three-quarters of a lakh of rupees, due mainly to the increased correspondence necessitated by the famine.

The land revenue collections per head of the population amounted to Rupees 1-0-10; of excise of spirits and drugs Rupees 0-2-9; of customs Rupees 0-1-3; of salt Rupees 0-6-7, and of stamps Rupees 0-2-7. The total average incidence was Rupees 1-14-0 per head. These rates are below those shown in the report for the previous year, the revenue having fallen in consequence of famine. Incidence of taxation.

The approximate expenditure on account of famine up to 31st March 1877 is ascertained to be nearly 183 lakhs. It consists of about one and one and a half lakhs of Rupees on account of *batta* to Imperial and Provincial Establishments respectively, $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakh on account of special officers and establishments, $67\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs on purchase and carriage of grain, 11 lakhs on gratuitous relief, $\frac{3}{4}$ lakh on miscellaneous purposes, besides about one crore on Public Works. Famine Relief.

The amount written off on account of the difference of exchange in the Secretary of State's bills exceeded that of 1875-76 by more than four lakhs, the amount drawn from this Presidency having been larger and the average rate of exchange less than in the preceding year. Loss by Exchange.

The year 1876,77 commenced with a cash balance of Rupees 2,82,22,000 against Rupees 2,81,34,000 of the previous year. At the beginning of October 1876 when the pressure of famine was first felt, the cash balance was Rupees 1,39,58,000 against Rupees 2,22,50,000 on the same date in the previous year. This fall of nearly 83 lakhs was however almost entirely the result of an increase in the sum of remittances sent to other Presidencies and in the Secretary of State's bills paid as compared with the figures of the corresponding period in the previous year. But from October 1876 the effects of the famine on the finances of the Presidency became very apparent. The Monetary arrangements.

surplus revenue over expenditure from October 1875 to March 1876 was Rupees 1,99,41,000, while for the corresponding period of 1876-77 the expenditure exceeded the income by Rupees 77,10,000, so that the latter half of 1876-77 was, in a financial point of view, Rupees 2,76,51,000 worse off than the corresponding period of the previous year. It was further necessary to increase the cash balance (to meet the extraordinary expenditure which was being incurred), and it therefore rose from Rupees 1,39,58,000 on the 30th September 1876 to Rupees 2,55,73,000 on the 31st March 1877, thus showing an increase of Rupees 1,16,15,000. This with the excess expenditure of Rupees 77,10,000 above adverted to had to be met by remittances from other Presidencies.

—Coins.

This increase of the cash balance included large quantities of small silver and copper coins required for famine payments; but notwithstanding the orders that were issued to ensure their exchange at Government Treasuries, in some cases the issues were so rapid and large, that even small silver became temporarily depreciated, and was brought back for exchange to the Madras Currency Office from the mofussil. The total amount of small silver and copper coin supplied to Treasuries during the year amounted to Rupees 38,02,100, (small silver coins Rupees 25,74,000, copper Rupees 12,28,100) against a supply of only Rupees 4,71,100 in the previous year.

—Currency Notes.

Currency Notes to the value of Rupees 60,00,000 were supplied during the year, and this abnormally large increase in the demands of mofussil Treasuries was due to the grain traffic and to the employment by the merchants of Currency Notes as a medium of remittance. Where possible, facilities were afforded to the public for the movement of money by supply bills, which at once strengthened the balances of Government Treasuries, where money was required, and afforded great help to trade. Moreover at Kurnool, Cuddapah, Bellary, Nellore, North Arcot, South Arcot, and Salem, bills on Madras were sold to a very considerable extent.

But notwithstanding these arrangements it is believed a very considerable portion of the money movements connected with the grain trade was conducted by remittances of Currency Notes, which were generally available at Taluq Treasuries not empowered to draw bills, and which perhaps could be procured even from an Hoozoor Treasury with less delay than supply bills.

The average circulation of notes during the year was larger than the circulation during any of the past eight years. The highest circulation in the year, Rupees 2,07,17,315, was on the last day of April, and the lowest Rupees 1,53,45,510 in October. In Madras there was a considerable increase in the circulation in 1876-77, the average being Rs. 1,31,95,178, or Rupees 23,68,065 greater than the circulation in 1875-76. During the last six months of 1876-77 there were marked fluctuations in the circulation under the influence of the prevailing distress. The circulation in the Calicut Circle was lower than in 1875-76, the average being Rupees 25,66,071 against Rupees 29,52,223 of 1875-76. There was also a falling off in the Cocanada Circle, the average having been Rupees 2,63,244 below the average of 1875-76.

The operations of the Exchange Department show an increase under all heads as compared with 1875-76. The aggregate transactions amounted in 1876-77 to Rupees 19,27,53,835 against Rupees 14,10,59,140 in the preceding year.

—Exchange Department.

The coin reserve at the beginning of the year 1876-77 was Rupees 1,12,35,264, and fell at the close of the year to Rupees 83,69,285. The Government securities held by the three circles on the last day of the year amounted to Rupees 70,00,000.

—Coin reserve.

The profit to Government upon Madras Currency Notes after defraying all expenses during the year was Rupees 2,66,874 against Rupees 2,68,032 in 1875-76.

—Government profit.

The number of Money Order Offices at work during the past was the same as at the close of the preceding year, viz., 72. Some extension was however made in the work-

—Money Order Department.

ing of the department by arranging for the issue of orders on the United Kingdom and interchange with Ceylon Government with a view to afford facilities of remittance to British seamen and the planters and Indian laborers in Ceylon. The number and amount of inland Money Orders were exceptionally large during the year under review owing to increased grain traffic consequent on famine. Both the issues and payments within the Presidency increased nearly by half, while the issues on Bengal rose from Rupees 83,839 to Rupees 3,10,940. The drawings on Pooree and Balasore, two important rice ports in Bengal, had towards the close of the year to be stopped owing to the demand on their treasuries having proved embarrassing. The net earnings of the department amounted to Rupees 10,772-3-4.

Provincial
Services.

The receipts, including Imperial allotments amounting to Rupees 81,13,735 were Rupees 92,69,466, or Rupees 85,401 less than the transactions of the previous year. The expenditure on the other hand was Rupees 99,77,175, or Rupees 5,16,877 in excess of that of 1875-76. There was a decrease in the allotments from Imperial funds of Rupees 2,41,966, due chiefly to withdrawal of the grants for salt guards, which has become an Imperial charge. There was a large increase in departmental receipts, aggregating Rupees 1,56,565, in consequence of the increasing revenue from Jail manufactures, Registration and Marine Police, and refunds by the Public Works Department. But this increase was more than counter-balanced by enhanced expenditure, chiefly in consequence of the famine, which under Jails and Police alone amounted to Rupees 7,30,428. Delay in adjustments of expenditure in 1875-76 also swelled the accounts of the year under review.

Local Funds.

The aggregate income of Local Funds constituted under Act IV of 1871, exclusive of a balance of Rupees 17,60,315 brought over from the accounts of the previous year, amounted to Rupees 45,94,194. Of this amount Rupees 6,56,535 formed the State contribution, Rupees 31,92,180 were derived from taxation, and Rupees

2,48,547 were the income of endowed institutions designed for special purposes. The remainder was made up of fees in schools, &c., contributions of Municipalities to Local Fund Boards towards common objects, and other miscellaneous items. The expenditure amounted to Rupees 57,38,416 or nearly 11 lakhs in excess of current receipts. Public Works absorbed 40 lakhs, or more than 71 per cent. of the entire expenditure. Education cost a little over $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs and Sanitation $9\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs.

The aggregate receipts of Special Funds amounted to Rupees 33,42,237 and the aggregate charges to Rupees 36,12,294. The deficit was made good from the previous year's balance, which was reduced from Rupees 17,86,385 to Rupees 15,16,328.

The population which comes under the operation of the rules for the registration of vital statistics is 29,157,056, or nearly two and a half millions less than the population of the Presidency according to the returns of the Census of 1871. In India, where a vast proportion of the population live by culture of the soil, and where the food supply has hitherto been in most provinces so little in excess of the requirements of the people, seasonal disturbances must seriously affect the numbers both of births and of deaths, but at present there are no trustworthy data on which to calculate the ratios of increment of population.

The number of births registered in 1876 was 632,113, or 21.6 per mille, whilst the number of deaths was 693,654 or 23.7 per mille against 18.1 per mille, the average of the five years preceding. These figures are higher than any recorded since the introduction of registration in 1866. The normal excess in the number of deaths over the number of births recorded points to the fact that the registration of births is still defective.

At present it is not difficult to conceal births, and the registering officers are not as yet alive to the responsibilities of their office, nor supported in the rural tracts by adequate police provisions. In municipal towns, where such provisions are in a measure in operation, registration is more satisfactorily performed. This is indicated by the fact that the ratio of births to one thousand of the people is nearer the figure which is assumed to be the true birth-rate, being 27·6 against 29·9 in 1874. This decrease accords with what might be expected in a year of scarcity. The registration of deaths, though more satisfactory than that of births, is still very unequally performed in the several districts, being in Vizagapatam only 13·9, and in Coimbatore 14·8 per mille.

The remarkable effect of scarcity of food on the health of some of the districts in 1876 is indicated by the fact that in Madras the death-rate rose from 34·8 to 38·9 per mille, and in Kurnool from 23·4 to 41·3 per mille. The total of deaths registered rose rapidly from 45,053 in October to 88,027 in the December following. Cholera, which had broken out in Tanjore in April 1875, continued its fatal course, numbering 148,322 victims against 94,657 in the preceding year. This epidemic was probably greatly aggravated by the congregation of people at relief works and famine camps, where also a severe and fatal form of diarrhoea prevailed.

Public Health
generally.

To alleviate distress consequent on the famine, medical agents with supplies of medicines were sent out to organise hospitals for the sick. Towards the close of the year 1876 the suffering of the poorer and working classes became very severe. There was also at one time in some districts a great scarcity of potable water, and what was procurable was often of very bad quality. In short, what with starvation and disease, the sufferings of the people were, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of Government, almost without a parallel in the history of the country.

Cholera.

The history of this epidemic exhibits widespread prevalence of the disease, with severe local invasions, recurrent

outbreaks, and, generally speaking, a high rate of mortality. Famine being so widely prevalent prepared victims for the pestilence. Reckoning the population of the Presidency at 32 millions, and allowing for the inaccuracy of the death returns, and calculating the mortality at 50 per cent. of attacked, it appears that about 1 in every 107 of the entire population was attacked. The districts showing the largest mortality from cholera in 1876-77 are Bellary 16,129, Cuddapah 11,759, North Arcot 14,975, and Salem 14,759.

This disease was epidemic throughout 1876 and Small-pox. added considerably to the aggregate mortality of the year. It was most prevalent and fatal in the Bellary, Ganjam, Cuddapah, and Madura Districts, and the total deaths throughout this Presidency from this cause amounted to 23,478.

Speaking generally, malarial fevers do not appear to Fevers. have prevailed to the usual extent—a result owing probably to the absence of rain and to prolonged drought. The greatest mortality from fevers occurred in the Cuddapah, Godavery, Kurnool, and Salem Districts, and the total deaths in the entire Presidency in 1876 amounted to 230,181.

The effect of sanitary operations on the health of the towns is satisfactory, though in many cases the work Sanitation, Municipal and Local Fund. performed and the money available are inadequate to the requirements of the case. It appears that in the towns where sanitary expenditure is high the death-rate is low, and *vice versa*. In twelve towns which expended 35·7 per cent. of their income on sanitation the death-rate was 28·7, whilst in twelve other towns, whose average expenditure for this object was only 15·7 per cent. of their income, the death-rate was 37·7 per mille. This result remains good, though in a less degree, when deaths from cholera are excluded from the calculation. Little improvement has been effected in the sanitary condition of towns and villages which are not under municipal government. A scheme for the organization of a simple sanitary reporting establishment was submitted

to Government by the Sanitary Commissioner, but was not approved, except as regards medical subordinates attached to the establishments of Collectors and other revenue officers, who are now required to submit short sanitary reports on the places visited by them when on tour.

Health of the
Town of
Madras.

The health of the town was in a very unsatisfactory state, more especially during the latter months of the year. At this time thousands of starving poor from the surrounding districts crowded into the city, and from their reduced condition became ready victims of epidemic disease. Successful efforts were made to house them in relief camps, but their numbers were so great and fresh arrivals so constant that it was very difficult to separate the strangers from the permanent population and bring them immediately under control. Cholera and small-pox raged with such severity towards the end of the year that it was found necessary to engage a Special Health Officer as a temporary measure. This official was assisted by a number of students of the Medical College, who, with supplies of medicines, were engaged in house-to-house visitation. The total deaths from small-pox in the town during the year 1876 amounted to 421, and those from cholera numbered 2,105.

Jails.

The health of the prisoners during the year under review has already been the subject of remark. Towards the close of the year the jails were generally overcrowded, and temporary accommodation had to be provided to meet the influx, many of the prisoners being also ill-nourished and emaciated persons. Hence it followed that the mortality amongst under-trial prisoners was four times as great as amongst those convicted. The causes of the increased mortality were chiefly (1) cholera, (2) bowel-complaints, (3) diseases of innutrition. Cholera prevailed very slightly in the central jails, no cases at all having occurred at Vellore, Rajahmundry and Cannanore. In Coimbatore there were nine cases. The results in district jails were naturally not so satisfactory as under-trial prisoners were comprised therein; they were

also more crowded than central jails, and not so well protected against epidemic disease. The mortality in the latter was only 29.0 per mille against 54.4 per mille in the former. The remarkable exemption of the central jails from attacks of cholera seems due to the isolation of jail sites and the non-reception of criminals from affected localities.

*Since the passing of the Towns' Improvement and Local Fund Acts of 1871 the cost of maintaining these institutions has, with a few exceptions, devolved on Local Fund Boards and Municipalities. At the close of 1875-76 there were 134 charitable hospitals and dispensaries in operation, and during 1876-77 twenty-two new institutions were opened, making a total of 156. A larger number of new hospitals would have been established but for the want of suitable medical agents. The education of a class of subordinates for civil duties only and the proposed extension of medical schools will, however, in course of time permit of the more rapid development of the medical relief system. A good many subordinates were during the year employed on cholera duty, so that the portion of the staff allowed for emergent work, as well as others who could be spared from ordinary duties, were fully engaged. The total of *in* and *out* patients for 1875-76 was 754,348, and for the year under review 767,451. There was thus an increase of 13,103 patients, which affords satisfactory evidence of the growing value of these institutions and of the estimation in which they are held by the public. Of the above increase 8,867 were in-patients and 4,236 out-patients. The daily average of sick in hospital was 2,170, and the death-rate amongst these was 12.96 per cent. Of out-patients the daily average was 5,104, and the percentage of deaths to total treated 0.57.

The experiments referred to last year in the treatment of leprosy with gurjun balsam were continued, and the

Treatment
of Leprosy.

* The statistics above given relate to the calendar year; those in the following paragraph to the official year 1876-77.

additional experience gained only further confirms the opinion that this remedy has no specific influence on the disease. Its use, however, is associated with various hygienic requirements, which render the treatment more effective as a palliative measure than any remedial course hitherto known to the profession.

Vaccination.

Owing to various causes, among which the presence of epidemic small-pox is perhaps the most important, the number of vaccinations was greater than any on record, being 483,192 against 381,412 in the preceding year and 279,893 in 1871-72. The responsibility of rural vaccine operations being thrown on the Local Boards without provision for systematic inspection and general supervision it was found necessary, for the effective working of the department, that a new code of rules should be provided, the code defining distinctly the relative position and functions of the officers and employes of the department as regards the Local Boards, the Inspector of Vaccination, and the Sanitary Commissioner, to whom the Inspector is now subordinate. These rules further regulate the tests and qualifications of vaccinators and their duties generally. There is good reason for thinking that this improved organisation will affect beneficially the working of this important branch of public health operations. The popular prejudices against the operation are growing weaker, and consequently some officers consider that the time has come for making vaccination compulsory by law in any locality in which a District or Municipal Board may consider it desirable. The expenditure of the year was Rupees 1,34,945, and the average cost per case Annas 4-11.

Lunatic Asylums.

The total number of insanes under treatment in the three Asylums during 1876-77 was 516, or 7 more than in the previous year. The total admissions during the year numbered 172, of whom 126 were males and 46 females. As remarked last year, the small number of female admissions is due mainly to social customs, which prevent Eastern women of certain castes from being sent to public hospitals. The results of

treatment were not so favorable as in 1875-76, as the percentage of recoveries to admissions fell from 51·97 to 32·55, while the percentage of deaths to daily average strength increased from 11·27 to 19·90. These unsatisfactory results were all the more noticeable, owing to the exceptionally favorable nature of the returns of 1875-76. With regard to the ages of those admitted in the year under review, 68·60 per cent. were between 20 and 40, a result quite in accordance with the Asylum experience of other parts of the world. The percentage of recoveries was largest in cases of acute mania, melancholia, and acute dementia, and smallest in chronic mania and dementia, the chances of recovery lessening in the direct ratio of the chronic character of the disease. Only 30 per cent. of the entire Asylum population came under treatment in hospital for bodily ailments. Taking credit for all recoveries, the gross cost of the three Asylums in 1876-77 was Rupees 91,902-12-4, or Rupees 10,169-3-9 more than in 1875-76. The increase was principally due to additions made to the establishment of the Madras Lunatic Asylum, to increased expenditure on diets, to increased outlay on clothing, and to the increased cost of bazaar medicines. The average cost per annum of each patient in the three Asylums was as follows:—

			RS.	A.	P.
Madras	...	...	168	4	7
Vizagapatam	...	...	128	12	10
Calicut	...	...	82	5	9

During past years there has been a steady increase in this class of insanes, the numbers having risen from 71 in 1872-73 to 125 in 1876-77. During the same five years the number remaining under treatment at the end of each year rose from 52 to 92. This continuous increase may in time necessitate the provision of a distinct institution for criminal lunatics. In 1876-77 the number of this class under treatment aggregated 125, and was therefore 7 in excess of the total in 1875-76. The discharges of criminal lunatics were in the ratio of 40·90

per cent. on the admissions, and the deaths at the rate of 12 per cent. to total treated.

Lock Hospital
and Contagi-
ous Diseases
Act.

The Lock Hospital in the Town of Madras is the only civil institution of the kind in this Presidency, and is worked under the Contagious Diseases Act No. XIV of 1868. A Special Health Officer has charge of the hospital, and is also entrusted with the working of the Contagious Diseases Act. The great area and the large and scattered population of Madras render it very difficult to carry out preventive measures, and there are also difficulties connected with the registration and detection of prostitutes. Owing to lax notions of morality and the toleration of prostitution in connection with religious institutions, venereal disease is very widely diffused amongst the native population. During the year under review there were 826 admissions into the Lock Hospital, and of these 37·89 per cent. were cases of primary syphilis. The disease was generally of a mild type amongst registered women. The total number of registered prostitutes in the city of Madras at the close of 1877 was 763, and of this number 56 were Europeans and East Indians and 707 Natives.

Military Lock
Hospitals.

There were ~~none of these~~ in operation during 1876-77, in which ~~of~~ 1,605 women came under treatment. The number of registered women is from various causes decreasing. Defective registration and clandestine prostitution are still the chief obstacles to the good results likely to ensue from these hospitals. Syphilis, both primary and secondary, is, however, diminishing amongst the European troops, as well as amongst the registered women.

Health of
the British
Troops.

The health of the British troops in the Madras Command during the year was satisfactory, though cases of cholera, enteric fever, and sunstroke were more numerous than in the previous year, but cholera did not assume an epidemic form. This is very satisfactory considering how rife this disease was in the populations of some of the native towns where the troops are stationed. Although the strength of the army was slightly above

that of the preceding year, the average number of daily sick per mille was nearly the same, showing an increase of 0·23 only. The increase in the ratio of deaths per mille of strength was 2·50 compared with the figures of the preceding year.

The health of the Native troops was less favorable in 1876-77 than in 1875-76, the ratio of deaths to strength having increased from 1·11 in the latter to 1·23 in the former. On the whole, however, there is reason for congratulation, as, considering the sickly nature of the season, a total mortality of 340 out of an average strength of 27,572 men may be regarded as moderate. The administration circles which showed the largest percentages of sickness were the British Burmah Division, Southern Districts, Presidency Division, and Northern District. Health of the
Native Army.

Emigration to the British Colonies, regulated by Act VII of 1871, increased, but not to a very great extent. The emigration to Ceylon was considerably more than double that for the previous year, the increase being the result of distress in the Madura and Tinnevely districts. The climate of Cayenne was found to be prejudicial to the health of Indian emigrants, and arrangements were accordingly made under the orders of the Government of India for stopping emigration to that colony. With a view to increase emigration to Natal, which cannot get a sufficient supply of labor from Calcutta, an agency has been established at Madras. Two Acts were passed for regulating emigration to Burmah and the Straits Settlements, and an agency has been established at Negapatam for facilitating emigration to the latter colony. Emigration.

SECTION VII. The number of candidates who came up in 1876-77 for the Matriculation Examination was 2,469 against 2,120 in the previous year, and of this number 1,250 passed against 662 last year, while the number of first-class men rose from 68 to 185. The standard of the examination seems, however, to have been unusually low. In the First Examination in Arts only 131 out of 418 candidates passed against 187 out of 396 last year, but 36 were placed in the first class against 27 last year. The examination was severer than usual, and there was a large increase of failures in English, History, and the optional subject. The number of candidates who appeared for the B.A. degree rose from 105 to 129, but the number of passed men was only 70 against 67 last year, only one candidate being placed in the first class. Of the candidates who passed, ten brought up Sanscrit and two Latin as their optional language. Five candidates appeared for the degree of Master of Arts, all in the fourth branch, viz., History and Moral Science. Three passed, two in the second class and one in the third. Last year one out of two candidates passed. Seven out of sixteen candidates passed for the degree of Bachelor of Laws against eight out of thirteen last year. Of these three were placed in the second and four in the third class. There was no candidate for the degree of Master of Laws. Three out of four candidates passed for the degree of Bachelor of Civil Engineering against three out of five last year. One was placed in the second and two in the third class. In the Faculty of Medicine two candidates appeared for the Preliminary Scientific Examination and both passed. Two also appeared for the first M.B. and C.M. Examination, but only one passed. The question of making the University more self-supporting has been under consideration, and certain changes have been made which will effect a saving of about Rupees 6,680 per annum. With this view the length of the Matriculation Examination has been curtailed and the *viva voce* portion of the B.A. Examination has been abolished. Hitherto there has been a general meeting of examiners for the Matri-

culatation and also for the First Arts and B.A. Examinations, and the examiners have possessed the power of altering by a general vote the questions proposed to be set in any subject or the value assigned to any question. This arrangement has not worked well, and in future each examiner will be required to submit his questions and the marks which he proposes to assign to each question to his colleagues in the same subject and not to the general body of examiners, and it will be left to his own discretion to adopt any suggestions which he may receive from them. The only other change which has to be noticed is one relating to the degree of Bachelor of Laws. A candidate for this degree must attend certain courses of lectures for two consecutive years, and he must also be a graduate in Arts. It was, however, contended that he might study simultaneously for both degrees, but this was never intended, and bye-law 95 has been altered in such a way as to render this construction of it impossible. The net cost of the University was Rupees 11,535-1-9 against Rupees 12,684-6-4 last year.

The attendance in the Presidency College showed a slight falling off, the number on the rolls being 154 against 165 in the previous year, but this institution never distinguished itself so much in the University Examinations as it did this year. Seven of the graduates who passed took up Physical Science as their optional subject. The law class was attended by 55 students in the second course of 1876 and 71 students in the first course of 1877, and all the successful candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Laws came from this class. This department is now more than self-supporting. The attendance in the Provincial College of Combaconum has risen from 165 to 200, but the B.A. classes are still small compared with the F.A. classes. As usual the institution greatly distinguished itself in the two lower University Examinations, while in the B.A. Examination only one candidate failed, and not one was placed in the third class. During the year the question

of raising the Provincial School of Rajahmundry to the status of a College has been under the consideration of Government. When the Provincial schools were first established it was intended that they should grow into Colleges, but as yet the Provincial School of Combaconum is the only one which has attained that status. The portion of the Presidency in which a College is at present most required is the Northern Circars. This province, with a population twice as great as that of Scotland, and an area one-fourth greater, has as yet derived no benefit from the introduction of railways into this Presidency, and although the establishment of coasting steamers has rendered the northern districts less inaccessible than they used to be to Europeans, the prejudices of the Hindus against sea voyages have not been overcome, and very few students come down to Madras to prosecute their studies. In twenty years scarcely half a dozen young men have graduated from the Northern Circars. Under these circumstances sanction has been given for the opening of a preparatory B.A. class in the Provincial School of Rajahmundry, and the strength of the College Department has already risen from 18 to 51. This school was very successful in the Matriculation Examination, but did not do so well in the F.A. Examination. Some important changes have been made in the constitution of the Central Institution of the Free Church of Scotland. The Church Missionary Society and the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society have agreed to give pecuniary help to the institution, and the funds available are expected to secure as a minimum staff for the Collegiate Department five Professors, with two Assistant Professors and such Pundits as may from time to time be required. The College is to be regarded as representing more or less directly all the Churches of the Reformation, and will henceforth be known as the "Free Church Institution and Madras Christian College." The attendance in the College has risen from 179 to 245, and the results in all the University Examinations were good. In the B.A. Examination, although the Christian College still stands

far below the Presidency College, it had the honor of passing the only man who took a first class. In the Doveton Protestant College the attendance has fallen from 26 to 20, and the results of the University Examinations were far from satisfactory. The Seminary at Sullivan's Gardens is a small theological institution in connection with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, from which two or three young men generally matriculate every year and occasionally appear for the higher examinations. It contains at present 17 students preparing for the B.A., F.A., and Matriculation Examinations, and may be regarded as a small College. Four pupils matriculated and one passed the F.A. Examination this year. The strength of the College Department of this Society's High School has risen from 42 to 68, of whom 12 are preparing for the B.A. degree. This institution took a high position in the Matriculation Examination, but passed only five men for the First Examination in Arts and none for the B.A. degree.

There are eight Collegiate schools, or schools educating Collegiate Schools. up to the First Examination in Arts, the place of the Provincial School of Rajahmundry having been taken by the Samasthanam High School of Vizianagram. The Provincial Schools of Bellary, Calicut and Mangalore, the Propagation of the Gospel Society's High School, Trichinopoly, the Noble High School, Masulipatam, and St. Joseph's College, Negapatam, were not very successful in the First Examination in Arts, the number passed being 19 against 34 last year, and ranging between 5 and 2 in each school. The High Schools at Coimbatore and Vizianagram have not yet sent up any candidates for this examination. In the Matriculation Examination the numbers passed ranged from 51 in the S. P. G. High School, Trichinopoly, to 10 in the High School, Vizianagram; and taking all the schools together, amounted to 199 against 132 last year. With one exception all these schools are in good order. The strength of the College Departments in the eight schools has risen from 161 to 229.

Higher-class
Schools.

The number of Higher-class schools last year was 49. Of these Sullivan's Gardens Seminary now ranks as a College, and the Maharajah's High School, Vizianagram, as a Collegiate school; while the Subscription School, Tuticorin, and the Breeks' Memorial School, Ootacamund, have become Middle-class schools, and the Mission school at Salem has given up its grant and withdrawn from inspection. On the other hand, the American Mission School, Guntoor, and the Hindu School, Palamcottah, have become Aided schools, and the Church Mission and Hindu schools of Bezwadah, the Balura Patasala, Triplicane, and the S. P. G. High School, Poreyur, which ranked as Middle-class schools last year are now returned as Higher-class schools. There are thus fifty Higher-class schools, but six of these, viz., the Hindu School, Bezwadah, the Church Mission School, Bezwadah, the Balura Patasala, Triplicane, the Town School, Combaconum, the Hindu School, Caroor, and the Anglo-Vernacular School, Shevagunga, have no class higher than a Preparatory Matriculation Class. Owing to the low standard of the Matriculation Examination this year, the number of passed candidates was in every division larger than usual, but the increase was most marked in the Tamil districts and least so in the Telugu districts, especially in the Northern Circars. During the year a revised curriculum has been issued for the guidance of the Headmasters of Government schools, the work to be done in every class has been defined, and arrangements have been made for enforcing more attention than has been hitherto paid to copy-writing, dictation, exercises and translation, all of which have been very much neglected. Some steps have also been taken with a view to encouraging the introduction of physical training into Government and Aided schools. A few grants have been given for the purchase of gymnastic apparatus, a gymnastic teacher has been entertained in the Zillah School of Madura, and a small grant has been given for a gymnastic teacher at Chedumbrum. The question of establishing a gymnasium open to all the Madras schools is under the consideration of a Committee.

Middle-class
Schools.

A more rigid classification of Middle-class schools than had previously existed was carried into effect last year, but Results schools which passed six pupils in Arithmetic and four other heads of the fourth standard were still treated as Middle-class schools. This year all Results schools have been transferred to the list of Lower-class schools, and the returns accordingly show 193 Middle-class boys' schools against 281 last year. All the Government Middle-class schools, except the Anglo-Vernacular School, Mylapore, and a few schools in the Sixth Division, have been remodelled during the year. These schools are now divided into three classes, in which the curriculum, so far as it goes, exactly corresponds with that of a Zillah school, the purely vernacular class which formerly existed in most of these schools having been abolished. The first grade comprises eight Anglo-Vernacular schools, in which the highest class is the upper fourth; the second contains ten Taluq schools, in which the highest class is the lower fourth; and the third contains thirty-one Taluq schools, in which the highest class is the third. One of these has however failed to reach the prescribed standard, and has therefore been transferred to the list of elementary schools. Under the new scheme the masters have salaries which rise by progressive increments, and men with higher attainments are now coming forward for employment in the schools. Not only are First Arts men more common than they were, but even a few graduates have been appointed to some of these schools. On the other hand the fees, which were too high, have been lowered in all but a few favorably situated schools. On the whole it may be said that the general condition of Middle-class schools is improving except in the Kurnool District, in which there is only one Middle-class school. The only school of which any special mention need be made is the Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum. The staff of this school has been strengthened by the appointment of an additional teacher, and better reading books have been introduced. Attention continues to be paid to industrial training.

A Survey class has been established during the year, and altogether there are 125 boys attending various industrial classes. The drought has affected the success of the farm. The results, however, so far have been satisfactory. Thirty acres have been added to the area under cultivation. The sickness and mortality have been above the average, owing to an exceedingly dry season and defective drainage.

Lower-class
Schools.

The number of Lower-class schools, including Mixed schools, was 9,502 with an attendance of 239,613 pupils, against 9,528 with an attendance of 231,535 pupils. The number of Local Fund schools has risen from 654 with an attendance of 19,755 pupils to 851 with an attendance of 24,573 pupils. The number of Municipal schools has risen from 41 with 2,699 pupils to 69 with 3,919 pupils. In October Government reviewed the new rules for results grants and directed them to be re-submitted with some modifications. The revised rules were submitted in January, and were passed with some further alterations soon after the close of the official year. The main objects of the new rules are to improve the character of the instruction imparted in Results schools, and to make the limited sum available go as far as possible. The scale of grants has been reduced to two-thirds. Vernacular poetry, history, the laws of health, and agriculture have been added to the old curriculum. No further action has been taken with reference to the scheme for the extension of elementary education noticed in the last report in consequence of general distress.

Girls' Schools.

The number of girls' schools has risen from 304 to 328, and the total number of girls under instruction, including those who attend Normal schools and Mixed schools, has increased from 23,793 to 28,151. At the request of the Managers two girls' schools at Oosoor and Vellore have been taken over by Government. The number of Government Girls' schools has risen from nine to eleven, and of Municipal Girls' schools from five to seven. Some years ago it was remarked that seven-eighths of the female education given in this Presidency was in

the hands of missionary and religious organizations. The proportion is now much smaller, the number of girls in schools of this class being 15,619. Of the girls under instruction 16,448 are Hindus, 7,956 Native Christians, 1,781 East Indians, 978 Mahomedans, 730 Pariahs, 251 Europeans, and 7 are Parsees. The number under instruction is highest in Tinnevely, viz., 6,957, and lowest in Kurnool, viz., 148; but every district except Bellary shows some advance. The Teachers' Certificate examination has, in the absence of any other middle-class examination, become a sort of general test of the work done in the more advanced schools. The total number of teachers and pupils who passed these examinations was 190 against 144 last year.

At the final examination of the Medical College held in June 1876 nine students of the Second Department passed for the grade of Assistant Apothecary, and 23 Military and 3 Mysore Pupils of the Junior Department passed for the grade of Hospital Assistants. Three pupils failed and were removed from the College. One student passed the first M.B. Examination. Two others passed successfully the Preliminary Scientific Examination of the Madras University. The attendance was 143 distributed as follows:—The numbers in 1874-75 and 1875-76 were 88 and 116 respectively. Senior Department 24, Second Department including female students 37, Junior Department 82.

The 16 Civil Hospital Apprentices and 34 Civil Medical Pupils in College received instruction in accordance with the course prescribed for the second and junior departments in the College respectively. In consequence of the urgent necessity for the services of medical men in the districts of Madras, eleven students of the Civil Apprentice class and three Civil Medical Pupils have been specially detailed for house-to-house visitation duty. The female students under the orders of Government have had their course of study extended over another year and assimilated with that of the Second Department.

—Operations
of the year.

Of the 24 students who form the Senior Department, 4 are Government and 20 are Private students; 10 are studying for the M.B. and C.M. Degree, and 14 are studying for the degree of Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery. Of the 37 of the Second Department, 9 are Military, 15 Civil, and 8 Colonial apprentices. In the Junior Department there are 82 lads, of whom 26 are Military, 34 Civil, and 22 Medical Pupils from Mysore.

Civil Engi-
neering
College.

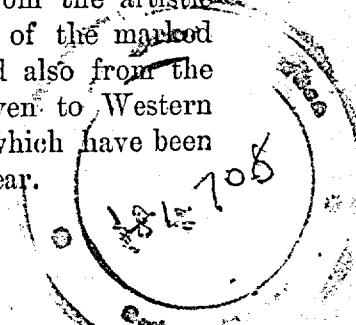
The Civil Engineering College began its session with 191 students. Four men in the first department passed for the grade of Assistant Engineer, and three of them also passed for the degree of Bachelor of Civil Engineering. In the Second Department two men obtained certificates as Supervisors and 21 as Taluq Overseers. In the Special Department 15 men obtained certificates as Surveyors, and 13 as Draughtsmen and Estimators.

Normal
Schools.

Eleven students of the Madras Normal School were examined for certificates in December and all passed, two in the first class and nine in the second. Of these three were graduates, three were First Arts men, and five were Matriculates. Arrangements have been made for the Normal students attending the lectures on agriculture at Sydapet, but the session of the Normal School commences in February or March, when the results of the University examinations are known, while the session of the School of Agriculture does not begin until some months later. These arrangements have not as yet worked well, and the question of revising them is under consideration. The Government Normal Schools in the mofussil sent in 21 candidates for examination in method only, and of this number fifteen passed. Thirty-three students were sent in from these schools for the fourth grade and sixteen passed, and 117 for the fifth grade, of whom 57 passed. The aided Normal Schools passed 14 pupils for the Matriculation examination, ten out of 19 for the fourth grade, and 49 out of 64 for the fifth grade. Thirteen students of the Government Female Normal School appeared for the Teachers' Certificate examination and two passed for the first grade, four

for the second, and three for the third. Four pupils of the Practising School also came up and two passed, one for the second and one for the third grade. A teacher also passed for the first grade. Fifteen out of eighteen candidates passed for the third grade from the Sarah Tucker Female Training Institution. The usual examination for teachers' certificates was held at 34 stations. Out of 350 male candidates 171 obtained certificates, 34 for the fourth grade, 118 for the fifth grade, and 19 in method. Of 380 female candidates 14 passed for the first, 22 for the second, and 154 for the third grade.

There is little to record in regard to the progress of art Art Educa-
tion. The erection, however, of several buildings pretending to a high order of architectural art, and especially designed to revive, under the guidance of a professional European artist, many of the nobler and purer forms of South Indian art, as well as the restoration of some buildings, notably the palace at Madura, of acknowledged architectural beauty, have undoubtedly exercised a beneficial influence on many of the native skilled workers in wood and stone, by resuscitating an interest in the architecture of this country, and by giving them a field in which to exercise and educate their skill and taste. These buildings are under the supervision of the Government Architect, who has since the close of the year been also temporarily appointed to the charge of the School of Arts. This institution continued to work on the lines which had been marked out for it, in which the industrial studies were carefully distinguished from the artistic. The results achieved, however, were not so satisfactory as might have been reasonably looked for, more especially from the fact that the students of the artizan class benefited but slightly from the artistic teaching, as the natural consequence of the marked division of artistic and industrial, and also from the fact that an undue preference was given to Western forms of arts. The reforms, however, which have been inaugurated, belong to the subsequent year.



Architecture.

The position of architecture in the South of India may be said to have advanced during the past year. Although the only two new works of any importance finished are the new Library and Lecture Hall of the Central Museum and the new Laboratory and Lecture Hall for the Physical Science branch of the Presidency College, yet both of these (and more especially the former) are marked by a higher finish than has been hitherto attempted, without at the same time entailing additional cost beyond the actual increase due to the enhanced value of labor and materials. In the Senate House now drawing to completion the arts of glass painting and sgraffito have been brought to a certain degree of excellence, and both arts will, it is hoped, shortly compete successfully with European importations. A more liberal expenditure on public buildings, in which respect much has been done in the other Presidencies, would probably do much to introduce the useful arts and so improve both the wealth and prosperity of South India.

Registration of Books.

The number of works registered under Act XXV of 1867 was 823 against 748 of the previous year, the decrease being due to the publication of fewer pamphlets and translations. There was a large increase, however, in the more important items of books and periodicals and in the number of original works, chiefly in the vernacular languages of the Presidency. Of the entire number of works 592 were published in the town of Madras, 54 in Cochin, and 47 in Mangalore, these latter showing a considerable increase over the numbers of last year. Hindustani publications, which had declined during the preceding two years, showed a slight advance. Of the total of registered works 386 or nearly half are of a religious character, 113 are works classed under languages, relating to grammars, dictionaries, vocabularies, and the like, 116 under miscellaneous, 96 under poetry, and 27 under fiction, while the entries under the other heads are comparatively small, indicating no material change. The number of applications for the registration of copyright, which is optional, rose from 57 to 81,

showing that more attention is paid to this important branch of registration by native publishers and authors.

The aggregate value of stock at the close of the year under review was Rupees 7,797 less than the value at the close of 1875-76. This decrease was caused mainly by the unavoidable clearance by auction sale, under arrangements sanctioned last year, of a large number of obsolete and unserviceable books and maps which were chiefly the accumulations of by-gone years. The number of books printed increased; the value also was greater. Pending the issue of the new series of English and Vernacular Readers, some of which are now passing through the press, caution had to be exercised in bringing out the reprints of the present reading books which are destined to be superseded. Of the twenty-four editions of books brought out during the year two were new poetical anthologies in Tamil and Telugu, compiled for the use of elementary and middle-class schools. A slight improvement took place in the demand for the new wall maps of Europe and Asia in Tamil, but their use is not sufficiently appreciated by the managers of Aided schools and Local Fund Boards. The total number of books and maps purchased both locally and in England also shows an increase, being 78,459 copies against 63,937 copies in 1875-76. The sales for the year were likewise larger than in the preceding year, being 322,951 copies against 302,184 copies. The department continues to be self-supporting, the ordinary earnings of the year under review (Rupees 64,917-9-10) having more than covered all the ordinary expenses (Rupees 62,210-14-2), including the salary charges.

Government Book Department.

Owing to the famine the total number of colleges and schools fell from 10,236 to 10,121, but the number of pupils nevertheless increased from 284,480 to 287,948. Of these 1,082 were in the College Department, 3,847 in the Upper Department of colleges and schools, 12,844 in the Middle Department, and 268,208 were in the Lower Department. 649 were Normal students, 1,094 were

General Statistics.

(104)

SUMMARY.

pupils in practising schools, and 224 were pupils in technical schools. The districts which show the largest increases are Tanjore, Malabar, Godavery, South Arcot, Ganjam, and Trichinopoly. There are large decreases in Coimbatore, Madura, Chingleput, Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, and smaller decreases in Nellore and Madras. About 25 per cent. of the pupils connected with the department are in Municipalities, and 75 per cent. in Local Fund Circles. These figures must be regarded as only very roughly representing the town and rural population respectively, as there are many tolerably important towns which have not been constituted Municipalities.

School Fees. The school fees collected in Government institutions fell from Rupees 1,22,552-6-9 to 1,22,421-7-9, and in private schools from Rupees 5,53,166 to Rupees 5,45,237-0-4. In schools under the management of Local Fund Boards and Municipalities they increased from Rupees 30,000-13-8 to Rupees 36,431-2-7. In some of the Aided schools the school fees and the Government grant cover the whole of the expenditure and leave the managers with a surplus.

Expenditure. The gross expenditure on Education was as follows :—

	RS.	A.	P.
By Government	12,76,368	7	2
By Local Fund Boards	3,97,037	13	1
By Municipalities	67,725	15	1
By Private agency	10,33,994	5	0
Total	27,75,126	8	4
Expended by Government from charitable funds	62,040	0	0
Grand Total	28,37,166	8	4

The percentage of expenditure under each head is shown below :—

Superintendence	9.61
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Section VII.]

INSTRUCTION.

(105)

General Instruction.

Superior instruction	6.05
Secondary do.	21.73
Primary do.	48.72
Miscellaneous	5.93

Special Instruction.

Superior instruction in Law, Medicine, and Civil Engineering	48
Secondary instruction in Professional Colleges and Technical Schools	3.90
Normal Schools	2.91
Scholarships	61

In the Madras Observatory nothing occurred during the year unusual or of especial public interest. Steady progress was made in the reduction of the observations taken with the Meridian Circle since 1862, and they are now nearly all completed up to date, and will be published in due course. Researches upon the Variable Stars and ordinary observations were carried out on a reduced scale, and nearly six thousand star positions were determined with the large equatorial towards the completion of the Variable Star Atlas so long in hand.

The record of meteorological observations was steadily carried on as usual throughout the Madras Presidency, and another year will suffice to yield a ten-year standard of comparison for several of the stations. The most remarkable features of the year were the general deficiency of the rainfall and the excessive amount of solar heat. At the close of the year there was no promise of early mitigation of either in the season following. The rainfall at Madras was only 21.6 inches, or 44 per cent. of the annual average; while the mean solar heat of the year was 9.5 degrees in excess of average mean.

The interest taken by the public in the Museum, which is free to all classes, is on the increase, the number of visitors during the year having been 206,877, a total largely in excess of the attendance in any recent year, excepting that immediately preceding in which the admissions were,

Government
Central
Museum.

abnormally high, owing to the crowds attracted to Madras by the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Of the visitors 48,440, or 23 per cent. were able to sign their names in the door-keeper's books. It is satisfactory to note that 87,730 or 43 per cent. were women and girls. During the year 3,049 specimens were added to the collections, being 1,516 in excess of the acquisitions in 1875-76. A brisk exchange was established with Naturalists and Museums in various parts of the world. Works on the Flora Medica of India and Neilgherry Cinchonas were under preparation, and one catalogue was published, one sent to press, and others under compilation. The general work for the year was chiefly in the direction of naming, arranging, and labelling new and old specimens, upwards of 5,000 beetles alone having been arranged and labelled. Thirteen popular lectures on scientific subjects were delivered in the new Museum Theatre. They were well attended by both Europeans and educated Natives. The new Reading Room and Library were much appreciated, the average monthly attendance of persons coming to read having been 223. The total number of volumes of scientific and general literature is now 8,863.

SECTION VIII.

Archæology.

The Collector of Tinnevely in company with the well-known scientist Dr. Jagor of Berlin, made some interesting examinations of one of the ancient burial-places existing in that district. The discoveries consisted chiefly of very large earthen pots or urns of various shapes, in most cases the forms being more elegant and the manufacture better than the pottery now manufactured in the district. Upwards of fifty kinds of earthenware utensils, also iron weapons and implements and a great quantity of bones and skulls were found. The Reverend Dr. Caldwell, Missionary Bishop of Tinnevely, also made explorations at Korkei and Kayal, places well known to ancient Greek

geographers. At Korkei no traces of the Greeks were found, but at Kayal specimens of China and Arabian ware were picked up, and two old copper coins, one of which was Singhalese. Some further explorations were proposed by the Collector at the burial-places, but the Government did not think the present time a fitting one to incur expenditure thereon. Meanwhile the Collector was instructed to see that the sites were not disturbed. The appointment of a qualified officer to conduct the archæological survey of the Presidency was under consideration, but owing chiefly to financial reasons nothing was settled.

The most important event connected with the Ecclesiastical administration was the consecration of two Missionary Bishops of the district of Tinnevely under a royal license from Her Majesty the Queen to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Two clergymen of great missionary experience were selected, the one the Revd. Dr. Caldwell, in connection with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the other the Revd. Dr. Sargent with that of the Church Mission Society. The Bishops are for the control of the Native Church. They have no territorial dioceses, but exercise their episcopal functions under the control of the Lord Bishop of Madras. The number of the clergy was two hundred and twenty-two, of whom forty are Government Chaplains. The contributions, including school-fees, which were entrusted to the clergy by the several congregations of the Presidency were Rupees 1,34,373, or Rupees 11,152 in excess of the preceding year's returns.

Revised rules were introduced during the year for shipping and landing Government stores. Shipping bills, &c., are now furnished to the Master Attendant of the value and contents of each parcel received or despatched. This arrangement affords a better check. The establish-

SECTION IX.
MISCELLANEOUS.
Ecclesiastical.

Stationery.

ment charges are very light considering the large aggregate value of stationery dealt with, *viz.*, Rupees 8,24,125, being at three-eighths of a rupee per cent. of this amount. The value of stationery issued was Rupees 24,834 in excess of that of the preceding year, which was again Rupees 43,913 above that of 1874-75. There has been a steady increase in the quantity of stationery used. The consumption of paper manufactured in the country is increasing.

Government
Press.

The outturn of work at the Government Printing Department was considerably in excess of that of the preceding year, arising mainly from the large number of famine papers printed. There was a decrease of one anna and three pies on the page in the actual cost of printing. In all but the Book and Secret Departments the increase in the number of pages printed was great. There was a decrease of Rupees 1,058-5-11 in the value of the work done in the Binding Department. In the Stereotyping and Letter-casting Department material was manufactured to the value of Rupees 11,084 against Rupees 7,050 in the preceding year. The Penitentiary branch of the Press showed a profit of Rupees 18,275 in the Printing and of Rupees 7,227 in the Book-binding Department. Inclusive of the value of material, the profit in both departments was Rupees 23,370. The average number of convicts, men and boys, employed daily during the year was seventy-eight.

District
Presses.

The receipts on account of the District Presses diminished owing to the gratuitous supply of the village sheet published as a supplement to the District Gazettes to village officers, and the falling off in the number of subscribers in consequence of the recent rule requiring the payment of postage in addition to subscription. There was, on the other hand, an increase in the charges, owing to the purchase of a large amount of type and other press materials, and to the inclusion, for the first time, of cost of stationery in the District Press accounts.

The Lawrence
Asylum Press.

The value of the work performed was Rupees 78,914, or Rupees 23,226 in advance of that of the preceding

year. The nett profit of the Press amounted to Rupees 12,708. Of this sum Rupees 9,000 were contributed to the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund, exclusive of Rupees 5,000, the balance of the receipts of the preceding year. Twelve apprentices were under instruction at the Press. Seven left during the year, and their places were filled by drafts from the Asylum at Ootacamund.

The principal institutions of this description are the Civil Orphan Asylums and the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylums at Madras. Each contains male and female branches. They are generally efficiently managed, and render important service to the poor of the Eurasian community in South India. They receive an annual grant from Government on certain conditions; the former of Rupees 1,200, and the latter of Rupees 4,800. A short account of their working will be found in Part II, as also of the Orphanages in Ganjam, which care for the orphans left on the hands of Government after the Orissa famine of 1866.

Aided
Orphanages.

This valuable institution has been of great service during the year in connection with the famine relief. At the Rajah of Venkatagiri's Choultry 63,110 persons received relief at a cost of Rupees 4,847. At the Foundling Asylum nine children were maintained. At the Infirmary the average daily number of patients was 91, whilst 177 paupers were fed daily at the Choultry. The institution received several liberal bequests during the year, including the sum of Rupees 2,000 given by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

Government
Charities—
Monegar
Choultry.