

REPORT

ON THE

MARITIME TRADE AND CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION
IN BURMA

FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR

1914-15
3

BY

J. A. STEVENS

CHIEF COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, BURMA



RANGOON

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, BURMA
1915

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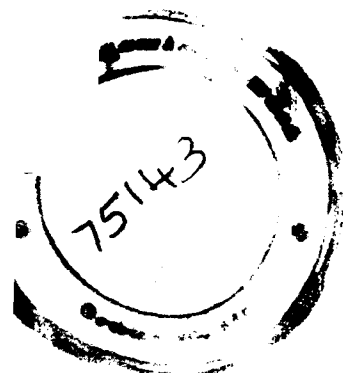
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REPORT

ON THE

MARITIME TRADE AND CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA

FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR

April 1st 1914 to March 31st 1915.

INTRODUCTION

I. General Summary.—The following statement shows the value of the aggregate sea-borne trade of the whole province of Burma with foreign ports, with Indian ports and between Provincial Ports :—

	Average for the five years ending 1910-11	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Increase or decrease in 1914-15 as compared with 1913-14.	
						More.	Less.
I.—Trade with Foreign Ports.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
IMPORTS, PRIVATE—Merchandise	11,670,389	11,68,29,885	13,87,10,322	16,00,13,192	10,54,72,110	...	5,46,41,082
EXPORTS, PRIVATE { Foreign merchandise	6,07,707	8,01,483	8,26,875	9,77,851	5,45,222	...	4,32,659
{ Indian merchandise	16,50,32,941	25,34,25,186	28,64,55,979	28,81,00,071	16,80,86,539	...	7,60,18,532
Total, Exports	16,56,40,648	26,40,29,619	28,72,82,854	28,90,77,922	16,26,31,761	...	7,64,46,191
Total Trade, Private Merchandise	27,62,17,028	37,08,59,504	42,60,05,276	39,90,91,114	26,81,08,871	...	13,09,87,273
GOVERNMENT STORES. { Imports	5,72,069	9,87,954	11,28,166	15,62,344	13,63,878	7,899	1,88,971
{ Exports	7,573	5,670	15,225	10,751	18,150	...	62,91,222
TREASURY* { Imports	15,15,079	55,78,840	65,93,362	78,08,204	15,11,972	...	27,22,570
{ Exports	2,00,843	2,79,930	83,475	37,14,785	8,81,110	...	...
Total Trade with Foreign Ports	27,85,72,800	37,77,11,993	43,87,75,604	41,21,73,728	27,19,78,976	...	14,01,98,752
II.—Trade with Indian Ports (outside Burma). †							
IMPORTS, PRIVATE { Indian merchandise	6,91,69,914	7,52,20,838	9,05,18,027	8,77,14,851	7,04,02,815	...	1,78,12,036
{ Foreign merchandise	63,00,898	61,95,130	63,30,256	63,30,415	60,78,989	...	12,51,416
Total, Imports	7,45,60,812	8,04,15,968	9,68,48,283	9,40,45,266	7,64,81,814	...	1,85,63,462
EXPORTS, PRIVATE { Indian merchandise	13,73,40,303	8,21,14,304	9,61,31,200	14,81,49,453	17,90,86,300	3,09,36,847	...
{ Foreign merchandise	18,27,656	19,21,236	17,77,414	18,91,097	17,26,661	...	1,64,436
Total, Exports	13,91,68,019	8,40,35,539	9,79,08,614	15,00,40,550	18,08,12,961	3,07,72,411	...
Total Trade, Private merchandise	12,37,38,831	16,44,51,507	19,48,06,927	24,40,85,816	25,82,94,775	1,22,08,959	...
GOVERNMENT STORES. { Imports	28,23,404	27,20,923	40,19,297	27,06,822	31,31,968	4,25,846	...
{ Exports	5,79,807	7,71,991	7,31,712	6,66,061	15,98,768	9,32,762	...
TREASURY* { Imports	2,79,07,319	4,01,92,561	4,96,05,500	4,26,45,263	1,01,74,477	...	8,34,73,785
{ Exports	69,76,827	63,01,067	1,90,41,277	1,99,80,091	6,01,118	...	1,93,78,979
Total Trade with Indian Ports	25,10,16,083	21,47,38,033	26,73,93,713	31,10,86,852	27,18,01,101	...	3,92,85,751
III.—Trade between Provincial Ports.							
PRIVATE { Indian merchandise	1,62,52,137	2,24,30,356	2,39,29,757	2,75,46,458	2,48,68,634	...	26,79,324
{ Foreign merchandise	1,63,55,112	1,75,21,625	2,01,08,379	2,44,51,103	1,71,02,506	...	73,48,603
Total Trade, Private Merchandise	3,26,07,249	4,03,42,481	4,40,38,136	5,19,97,567	4,19,69,140	...	1,00,28,427
GOVERNMENT STORES	7,86,673	8,03,894	8,98,092	9,66,400	9,76,673	...	9,727
TREASURY*	1,21,97,189	1,03,15,426	1,26,62,464	46,75,518	26,43,560	...	20,31,968
Total Trade between Provincial Ports	4,56,31,111	5,11,64,801	5,75,98,693	5,76,59,485	4,55,89,363	...	1,20,70,122
GRAND TOTAL, PRIVATE MERCHANDISE	52,25,53,108	67,56,53,492	66,45,50,339	69,51,74,527	58,63,97,788	...	12,88,06,741
AGGREGATE, INCLUDING TREASURY AND GOVERNMENT STORES.	57,82,79,993	64,39,14,838	75,92,67,910	78,09,19,065	59,93,63,440	...	19,15,49,625

* For details of Treasury, see Statement on page 3.

† The actual value of goods carried between Provincial ports is about half that shown here since these figures cover both export and import of the same goods.

The aggregate value of the total trade of the Province was returned at Rs. 58,93'81 lakhs. This figure represents a decrease of Rs. 19,15'38 lakhs or 24.5 per cent. on the trade of 1913-14. The combined value of Imports and Exports of private merchandise (exclusive of all treasure and Government stores) declined by 18.5 per cent. to Rs. 56,63'80 lakhs. Excluding the interport trade the combined value of the total trade in private merchandise decreased by Rs. 11,87'67 lakhs to Rs. 52,44'10 lakhs. The foreign imports by themselves were in defect by Rs. 5,45'41 lakhs. The decrease was distributed among almost all the important commodities and the fluctuations in the different importations as compared with those of the previous year are dealt with under their respective heads. Practically all these fluctuations can be traced either directly or indirectly to the worldwide upheaval of trade consequent on the war in Europe. It is obvious also that for the same reason statistical comparisons of this year's figures with those of previous years cannot have the same importance as similar comparisons of figures of normal years.

In the report for 1913-14 it was pointed out that the prospects of the import trade for 1914-15 were distinctly unpromising. As compared with 1913-14 statistics for the first four months of the year showed a fall of Rs. 30'01 lakhs in foreign imports, Rs. 84 lakh in re-exports, and Rs. 2,47'67 lakhs in exports. There were some hopes of a recovery, but these were shattered by the outbreak of war in August and the consequent unparalleled dislocation of trade. The prospects of trade in the coming year depend entirely on the duration of the war: but it seems likely that the demand in some lines of import will be restricted until stocks are reduced and credit becomes easier. As regards exports the question will be mainly one of shipping. The extent of the shortage in shipping can be gauged from the abnormal rise in the rates of freights during the year. There is no prospect of a fall till the war is finished, and so long as there is a lack of tonnage, exports can scarcely be expected to move freely. The statement below gives some idea of the effects of the war on the Burma trade.

FOREIGN TRADE—BURMA.

Periods.	Entries and clearances of vessels.		Imports.	Re-exports.	Exports.	Duty realized.
	Nos.	Tons.				
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1912-13: August-March	708	1,781,051	10,26,13,000	5,39,071	16,59,79,918	1,37,81,080
1913-14: August-March	756	1,833,230	11,16,40,141	6,53,773	11,3,81,719	1,37,37,263
1914-15: August-March	573	1,192,821	6,01,01,822	3,05,251	9,18,33,061	86,35,201

The main effects of the war were (i) the closing of the German and Austro-Hungarian markets, (ii) the necessary restrictions and prohibitions affecting import to and export from neutral ports, (iii) the temporary cessation of all sea-borne trade owing to the vagaries of the "Emden" and above all (iv) the lack of tonnage. In the foreign import trade Burma's share of the total trade of British India exceeded 50 per cent. in the following articles:—*Wheat flour in bags* (95 per cent.), *fish, dry, salted* (91 per cent.), *butter* (78 per cent.), *mining machinery* (64 per cent.), *cocoanuts* (58 per cent.), and *condensed milk* (53 per cent.): whereas in the Indian foreign export trade Burma supplied 100 per cent. of the shipments of *tin ore, mineral oils, lead, and jade stone*: and her share exceeded 90 per cent. in *zinc* (99 per cent.), *candles* (98 per cent.), *ores, unenumerated* (98 per cent.), *cutch* (97 per cent.), *paraffin wax* (95 per cent.), and *teakwood* (95 per cent.).

2. Balance of Trade: Movements of Treasure.—In the external trade of the province, the excess in the value of exports over imports during the year was nearly 15 crores, as against 10½ crores in the previous year, the increase being due to the great decline in imports. The trade of Burma with India was responsible for nearly 9½ crores of this excess.

Only in one previous year has the balance of trade in Burma's favour been so large; and in that year (1912-13), the excess was set off to the extent of 4 crores by imports of treasure. In the year under review, however, the net imports of treasure (after deducting exports) amounted to 1 crore only, a much smaller figure than in most previous years. Thus an unusually large excess of exports in merchandise is accompanied by unusually small remittances of treasure in return. There has at the same time been a reduction in the amount remitted from India by currency transfers. To explain this, it appears that funds to finance the exports have become available in the province itself in consequence of two conditions arising out of the abnormal state of trade in the year. In the first place, the large stocks of imports, already paid for, which were held at the beginning of the year were considerably reduced during the year, while new orders by importers have been severely curtailed: in this way considerable funds were furnished for employment in other directions. Secondly, the local market has been provided with funds by the action of Chetties and Marwaris in withdrawing their capital by means of remittances through banks and purchases of trade paper redeemable in India.

The table below gives the imports and exports of gold and silver, whether consigned privately or by Government in the periods shown. As regards the figures for *gold*, it may be

mentioned that Rs. 76,50,000 in sovereigns were imported from Calcutta and Queensland in April and July: Rs. 9,00,000 were also imported by banks from the Straits in April, but the same amount was sent back in May. The outbreak of war put a stop to all movements of sovereigns and in the remaining months only small quantities of other gold coin and bullion were imported, presumably for use in the arts.

		Average for the five years ending 1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
TREASURE.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—From or to Foreign Ports.						
Gold—Imports, Private	...	15,08,548	55,40,791	65,97,502	78,02,837	15,11,065
Silver—Imports, Private	...	11,356	34,169	860	377	907
Gold—Exports, Private	...	1,30,818	1,35,630	3,610	36,60,285	9,04,110
Silver—Exports, Private	...	1,39,000	1,44,350	29,875	54,500	77,000
Gold and Silver (Government)—nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...
II.—From or to Indian Ports (outside Burma).						
GOLD—IMPORTS	{ Private ... Government ...	39,498 61,20,000	1,13,541 2,13,00,000	37,500 NIL	2,75,062 1,20,00,000	90,477 75,00,000
	Total	61,59,498	2,14,13,541	37,500	1,22,75,062	75,90,477
SILVER—IMPORTS	{ Private ... Government ...	64,32,721 1,53,25,000	13,94,000 1,76,85,000	16,53,000 4,79,15,000	65,33,300 2,48,40,000	20,84,000 5,00,000
	Total	2,17,17,721	1,91,79,020	4,95,63,000	3,13,73,200	25,84,000
GOLD—EXPORTS	{ Private ... Government ...	6,750 1,503	NIL 7,500	NIL 15,000	NIL 7,500	
	Total	8,253	7,500	15,000	7,500	
SILVER—EXPORTS	{ Private ... Government ...	1,08,371 58,60,202	38,646 62,64,911	7,68,500 1,82,61,777	4,98,000 1,94,79,591	84,600 5,46,618
	Total	59,68,573	63,93,557	1,90,25,277	1,99,72,591	6,01,118
III.—Between Provincial Ports.						
GOLD	{ Private ... Government ...	6,200 5,54,235	1,050 6,02,820	6,000 21,60,906	NIL 17,10,000	NIL 4,50,000
	Total	5,60,435	6,03,870	21,66,906	17,10,000	4,50,000
SILVER	{ Private ... Government ...	47,67,150 69,63,231	7,31,469 89,83,036	28,51,560 77,04,004	1,96,050 27,69,468	1,20,050 20,73,500
	Total	1,17,36,761	97,14,556	1,05,55,864	29,65,518	21,93,550

NOTE.—Imports of silver overland from Western China represented Rs. 53'75 lakhs against Rs. 32'06 lakhs in 1913-14. Imports of silver from Siam were Rs. 16'53 lakhs and Exports of silver to Western China were Rs. 4'61 lakhs.

3. Division of Trade between the Ports.—The following table shows in what percentages the total trade in *private merchandise* was shared between the different ports in the Province.

	Foreign Trade.	Coasting Trade.		Foreign and Coasting Trade.	
		1914-15.		1913-14.	1914-15.
	1914-15.	Indian.	Provincial.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Moulmein	3'63	5'61	21'93	7'06	5'86
Akyab	2'19	8'53	7'69	5'15	5'46
Bassein	5'87	2'66	2'29	5'08	4'00
Tavoy	7'3		19'07	1'24	1'52
Mergui	7'0	0'1	10'60	1'05	1'12
Kyaukpau		0'3	1'16	1'1	1'0
Victoria Point	0'8		2'8	0'8	0'6
Sandoway		0'9	7'1	0'6	0'6
Total Subordinate ports	13'20	16'80	55'68	19'89	17'98
Rangoon	86'80	83'20	44'32	80'17	82'02
GRAND TOTAL	100'00	100'00	100'00	100'00	100'00

The figures call for little comment: 86'80 per cent. of the foreign trade was taken by Rangoon as against 82'72 per cent. in 1913-14 and 81'95 per cent. in 1912-13. There was no material difference in her share of the Indian and Provincial trades. A deep channel was kept throughout the year at the Hastings Shoal, thanks to the successful working of the new suction dredger imported by the Port Trust for the purpose.

Moulmein's share of the total trade was less than that of last year, though the value of her share in the Indian trade was greater. Akyab took a larger share of the total trade, whereas Bassein's share was less than that of the last two years. Administrative approval has been obtained to a proposal to extend the accommodation for bonded goods at the Custom House in Akyab. It is hoped that the new joint Customs and Port Office at Kyetsabin near Tavoy will be opened in June next. The extension of the landing jetty at Mergui was completed during the year and further improvements are contemplated. There was a large exodus of coolies from Victoria Point owing to the partial shutting down of a rubber plantation and a tin mine.

Textiles—Cotton.

Foreign Trade	1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.		1913-14.		1914-15.	
	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.
I.—TWIST AND YARN—										
From United Kingdom	2,533,858	24.47	2,459,388	24.45	4,554,918	41.89	2,688,954	26.15	1,888,319	19.11
„ Other countries	231,500	1.77	474,000	3.47	799,016	5.42	261,300	2.08	204,804	1.93
Total	2,765,358	26.24	2,933,388	27.92	5,353,934	47.31	2,950,254	28.23	2,118,183	21.04
II.—PIECE-GOODS—										
Grey—										
From United Kingdom	12,859,382	12.78	17,150,766	30.41	19,213,547	85.83	18,816,083	35.85	11,585,896	22.54
„ Other countries	810,336	1.80	1,274,598	3.00	227,467	2.43	1,196,001	3.12	576,801	1.40
Total	13,669,718	14.58	18,425,364	33.41	19,441,014	88.26	20,012,084	38.97	12,162,697	23.94
White—										
From United Kingdom	30,107,801	62.66	41,090,038	85.46	43,817,815	95.13	45,640,866	105.63	27,497,666	62.78
„ Other countries	1,865,190	8.95	1,337,984	2.98	2,687,748	5.72	2,021,153	5.96	1,623,780	3.48
Total	31,972,991	71.61	42,428,022	88.44	46,505,563	100.85	47,662,019	111.59	29,121,446	66.26
Coloured, printed, or dyed—										
From United Kingdom	3,122,388	91.32	44,598,181	1,09.09	56,466,174	1,24.33	66,596,250	1,71.05	29,708,049	75.59
„ Holland	12,227,654	35.38	10,518,880	28.29	10,795,055	30.26	10,420,866	31.19	7,999,083	23.29
„ Other countries	3,938,179	15.82	4,734,600	21.11	3,937,777	16.87	6,450,228	25.6	2,718,906	9.31
Total	54,288,221	142.92	59,849,661	1,39.49	71,199,006	1,51.36	83,467,344	2,07.92	39,426,038	1,08.19
Total, Piece-goods (including fents) and piece-goods of cotton and artificial silk.	99,637,238	233.54	120,708,027	281.84	137,930,206	320.40	152,027,104	378.58	81,661,812	198.60
III.—OTHER COTTON MANUFACTURES										
Total, Cotton manufactures	2,717.71	38.17	3,277.66	46.42	3,797.54	59.14	4,617.67	83.09	2,888.80	40.20
Total, Cotton Goods, Foreign Trade (including raw and waste cotton).	2,717.71	38.17	3,277.66	46.42	3,797.54	59.14	4,617.67	83.09	2,888.80	40.20
Coasting Trade (from India).										
I.—TWIST AND YARN	9,409,888	49.32	7,434,989	41.50	13,417,779	78.17	9,915,293	49.06	10,895,397	49.74
II.—PIECE-GOODS—										
Grey	9,276,703	16.45	10,016,713	18.45	9,338,738	16.74	7,348,104	13.33	7,204,957	18.57
White	5,780,210	12.39	4,887,177	10.61	6,201,723	18.53	5,785,266	18.0	4,149,173	8.98
Coloured, printed, etc.	12,736,122	27.96	15,205,946	34.37	17,878,352	38.34	16,437,890	31.76	10,978,818	22.41
Total, Piece-goods	27,792,935	56.80	30,089,837	63.43	33,418,808	68.71	29,571,260	58.09	22,332,948	43.96
III.—OTHER COTTON MANUFACTURES	2.75	4.69	6.18	6.18	5.04	5.04	5.04	5.04	2.84	2.84
Total, Cotton manufactures	2.75	4.69	6.18	6.18	5.04	5.04	5.04	5.04	2.84	2.84
Total, Cotton goods	1,08.87	1,08.87	1,09.42	1,09.42	1,48.01	1,48.01	1,12.19	1,12.19	96.04	96.04
GRAND TOTAL, COTTON GOODS	4,06.82	4,06.82	4,66.10	4,66.10	5,75.86	5,75.86	6,02.31	6,02.31	3,56.29	3,56.29

The year opened with heavy stocks resulting from the over-trading done during the previous two years. Business was, however, proceeding along normal lines until the outbreak of war when everything was upset. As a result the year has been one of stagnation and congestion. There has however been some improvement in the later months and the hope that this will be maintained and lead to a revival of trade on healthy lines appears to be justified, but in any case, a great falling off in the imports of all coloured goods, both yarn and cloth, must be anticipated, owing to the shortage of supplies of dyeing materials as a result of the war. The combined foreign and coasting trade under this head, though it declined by Rs. 2,46.02 lakhs, represents 20.9 per cent. of the aggregate value of private merchandise imported into Burma as compared with 25.2 per cent. in the previous year.

TWIST AND YARN.—If the year 1912-13 which was unquestionably a year of over-trading be excepted, the value of the annual imports of *twist and yarn* have generally averaged some Rs. 30 lakhs. Financial troubles in the Chinese bazaar, and the result of the over-trading in previous years, assist in accounting for the decline in the value of the imports of the year under review to Rs. 21.04 lakhs. The foreign imports are practically all derived from the United Kingdom and this year they show a decline of 27.2 per cent. in quantity and 25.3 per cent. in value. The imports of Indian yarn improved by 914,713 lbs. and Rs. 47 lakh to 10,800,287 lbs. and Rs. 49.30 lakhs. Calcutta shipped Rs. 32.16 lakhs and Bombay Rs. 14.38 lakhs. Despatches of Indian yarn to Western China overland *via* Bhamo aggregated 4,946,518 lbs. valued at Rs. 26.11 lakhs as against 4,971,045 lbs. valued at Rs. 27.63 lakhs.

PIECE-GOODS (FOREIGN TRADE).—The large importations of 1912-13 and 1913-14 were the result of over-trading; and had conditions been normal, their figures would not have been reached by this year's importations. As it was the arrivals during the year under review totalled 81,661,872 yards valued at Rs. 198.60 lakhs. These figures, considering the economic depression of the year, compare favourably with the average of the five years ending 1909-10 namely, Rs. 212.11 lakhs. The decline under the head as a whole as compared with last year was 46.3 per cent. in quantity and 47.5 per cent. in value. Of the total decline of Rs. 179.98 lakhs coloured goods accounted for 66.5 per cent., white goods for 25.2 per cent. and grey goods for 8.3 per cent. Coloured goods comprise a large range of "fancies" and as a class "fancies" have felt the effects of the war more than any other class of cotton textiles. The United Kingdom supplies practically all the grey goods, the predominant line being *shirtings*, nearly all the white goods, the chief lines being *shirtings*, *jaconets* (including *lawn*s, *mulls*, etc.) and *trills* in the order stated, and the bulk of the coloured goods, the larger items being *lungyis*, *unspecified descriptions*, and *prints and chintz* in the stated order. Holland is the only other country which contributes a small portion of the white goods; in the year under review her share was 4.9 per cent. She also sends an appreciable portion of coloured goods: Italy and Switzerland

are also suppliers on a small scale; their individual contributions in the year were 21.5 per cent., 3.7 per cent., and 2.0 per cent. respectively. The chief importations under the head *unspecified descriptions* were *Italians*, *sateens*, *flannels* and *coatings and trouserings*.

The leading item of *other cotton manufactures* has been *blankets*. This line was considerably overdone last year with a value of Rs. 38.77 lakhs. Added to this some heavy importations arrived before the outbreak of war and the result is that there are heavy stocks still in the market. The value of this year's imports were Rs. 16.56 lakhs as compared with Rs. 19.22 lakhs of 1912-13. There was a further falling off under the heading *handkerchiefs and shawls in the piece* and *sewing thread*. The remaining item of importance is *hosiery*, and this head shows a contraction of Rs. 12.78 lakhs. The chief supplier has hitherto been Germany, with Japan as a close second. Japan's contribution in the year under review was Rs. 6.21 lakhs as against Rs. 9.64 lakhs in the previous year, while Germany's contribution during the first five months was Rs. 2.04 lakhs as against Rs. 4.53 lakhs in 1913-14.

PIECE GOODS (INDIAN TRADE).—The total imports of *piece-goods of Indian manufacture* from India showed a further drop by 4,623,966 yards and Rs. 12.15 lakhs to 16,522,083 yards valued at Rs. 33.62 lakhs. This is due entirely to the effects of the war. Bombay contributed Rs. 14.65 lakhs, Madras Rs. 11.46 lakhs and Bengal Rs. 7.50 lakhs.

The arrivals of *piece-goods of foreign manufacture* declined by 621,846 yards and Rs. 1.99 lakhs to 5,803,365 yards worth Rs. 10.33 lakhs. Bengal's contribution was Rs. 6.07 lakhs as against Rs. 7.33 lakhs. Imports from Pondicherry were about the same as last year.

Textiles—Silk.

		1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.		1913-14.		1914-15.	
RAW SILK—	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.
From Straits Settlements ..	117,588	5.90	135,118	6.18	96,930	4.68	90,485	4.25	62,476	2.37	2.37
" Hongkong ..	81,191	4.44	100,975	6.55	118,703	8.30	56,751	3.98	26,617	1.38	1.38
" China ..	60,083	3.19	153,190	9.44	302,453	17.16	272,259	14.89	83,982	5.03	5.03
" Other countries ..	13,040	.65	2,805	.15	31,659	1.30	32,053	1.19	14,181	.49	.49
Total ..	271,832	14.18	392,088	22.57	549,750	31.44	451,548	24.31	177,266	9.77	9.77
Silk yarn noils, etc. ...	14	...	4,400	.09	7,318	.20	9,805	.31	150	.01	.01
MANUFACTURES—											
Piece-goods, mixed—	Yds.										
From United Kingdom ..	162,225	1.71	188,468	1.95	493,514	4.38	557,452	4.78	943,608	2.41	2.41
" Other countries ..	287,980	1.81	99,225	.70	118,465	.81	316,753	1.90	289,604	.91	.91
Total ...	450,205	3.52	287,693	2.65	611,979	5.19	874,205	6.68	1,233,212	3.32	3.32
Piece-goods, pure—	Yds.										
From United Kingdom ..	25,900	.28	65,848	.47	43,074	.35	46,057	.42	92,814	.90	.90
" Japan ..	8,151,482	42.33	9,716,526	50.41	11,345,421	61.86	9,132,675	51.37	4,038,112	20.88	20.88
" Straits Settlements ..	52,775	.55	23,933	.38	34,668	.41	62,669	.55	35,077	.25	.25
" Other countries ..	64,145	.78	82,876	1.10	121,860	1.46	145,166	2.15	114,227	1.59	1.59
Total ...	8,304,392	43.94	9,894,188	52.36	11,545,128	64.04	9,337,567	54.49	4,280,230	23.62	23.62
(b) Other sorts	lbs.	7,767	14,254	23	21,175	32	8,603	58	1,998	36	36
TOTAL VALUE OF SILK ...	...	61.80	...	77.90	...	101.68	...	86.33	...	36.98	...

Silk is so generally used by the Burman for personal adornment that the trade in that commodity furnishes to some extent an index of the material prosperity of the province. This year when the purchasing power of the people was considerably restricted, imports naturally fell off. In addition to this the large importations of 1912-13 and 1913-14 resulted in there being considerable stocks in hand, and the very poor figures of this year, which are far smaller than any in the last quinquennium, are due to these causes.

RAW SILK.—Imports were valued at Rs. 9.77 lakhs as compared with Rs. 24.31 lakhs in 1913-14. Supplies are derived from China, Hongkong, and the Straits; in the year under review those from China dropped by 66.2 per cent., those from Hongkong by 52.8 per cent., and those from the Straits by 44.2 per cent., there having been no importations at all from the last country since October. The arrivals overland from Western China were 171,319 lbs. valued at Rs. 9.15 lakhs as against 199,920 lbs. with a value of Rs. 10.99 lakhs in the previous year.

PIECE-GOODS OF SILK MIXED WITH OTHER MATERIALS declined by 44.7 per cent. in quantity and Rs. 48.7 per cent. in value. As in previous years the bulk of the imports was from the United Kingdom, the value of whose share, however, fell from Rs. 4.73 lakhs to Rs. 2.49 lakhs. Last year a marked increase in the imports of *piece-goods of cotton mixed with artificial silk* was anticipated, but the anticipation was not realised owing, it is said, to the discovery that the material, because of its inefficient wearing qualities, was not good value for the money. The importations amounted only to 20,371 yards valued at Rs. 16 lakh as against 161,115 yards valued at Rs. 1.00 lakh; even so, considerable stocks have had to be carried over.

PIECE-GOODS (PURE) is the largest sub-class under this heading and it showed a deficit of 54.5 per cent. in quantity and 56.8 per cent. in value as compared with the figures of the previous year. Japan was again the largest supplier, but her share declined by 59.4 per cent.

9.

Textiles—Wool.

		1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.		1913-14.		1914-15.	
			Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.
Yarn and knitting wool	lbs.	49,823	1-11	64,286	1-5	61,510	1-38	77,285	1-76	34,261	57
Carpets and rugs	"	350,416	4-03	265,097	3-11	570,503	6-4	725,567	7-75	517,424	5-46
Hosiery	"	64,179	1-58	81,862	2-58	115,768	2-96	162,590	2-98	88,392	2-82
Piece-goods	Yds.	1,540,958	18-00	1,985,159	23-93	1,621,787	17-96	2,970,202	34-52	1,644,467	19-92
Shawls	No.	200,722	2-73	445,621	5-58	729,397	9-08	151,633	7-32	36,801	87
Other goods...	lbs.	126,250	8-1	117,161	1-02	144,825	1-17	254,379	2-78	32,111	84
Total	...	...	28-29	...	36-77	...	39-59	...	57-11	...	30-18

As was only to be expected, the steady improvement seen during the last five years received a set-back: but considering the enormous demand in the United Kingdom for coarse wool for army clothing and the fact that German trade was only of some five months' duration, the figures of the year under review cannot be considered unsatisfactory. The value of importations compares favourably with the average value of importations during the three years 1910-11 to 1912-13, the former being Rs. 30-18 lakhs and the latter Rs. 31-00 lakhs. This is a branch of trade in which the United Kingdom generally predominates, and it does much more so this year because of Germany's absence as a supplier of *shawls* and *piece-goods*. *Yarn and knitting wool* is exclusively a German line and had reached the value of Rs. 5-1 lakh when further business was stopped by the war. The demand for *hosiery* was steady and imports aggregated Rs. 2-82 lakhs as against Rs. 2-98 lakhs in 1913-14 and an average of Rs. 2-27 lakhs during the preceding three years. The United Kingdom supplied almost the entire quantity. *Carpets and rugs* fell by Rs. 2-29 lakhs to Rs. 5-46 lakhs. The United Kingdom and Italy are the two suppliers and their shares were 50 per cent. and 48 per cent., respectively. In normal years the greater part of the trade in *shawls* comes from Germany. This year the United Kingdom took the first place, but even so her supplies were considerably less than those of last year. *Piece-goods* is the largest sub-head of this class. The value of importations was Rs. 19-92 lakhs and, although this figure falls far short of the Rs. 34-52 lakhs recorded in 1913-14, it compares not unfavourably with that of other years in the last quinquennium. The United Kingdom, as usual, was the principal supplier and her share of the total *woollen piece-goods* imported was 71-03 per cent. Holland came next with 12-4 per cent., followed by Germany with 10-1 per cent.

10. Apparel (excluding Hosiery, etc.)—The year was naturally not a favourable one for the trade in commodities of this kind and as compared with 1913-14 imports, which were valued at Rs. 9-64 lakhs, dropped by Rs. 7-26 lakhs or 42-9 per cent. The two principal sub-classes under this heading are *apparel (including drapery, etc.)*, and *hats, caps, bonnets, etc.*, the former fell from Rs. 11-71 lakhs to Rs. 6-32 lakhs and the latter from Rs. 4-30 lakhs to Rs. 2-21 lakhs. The only item which showed an increase was *water-proofed clothing*: its value advanced from Rs. 6-2 lakh to Rs. 9-1 lakh. The United Kingdom was the principal supplier, her share in the year under review was Rs. 7-53 lakhs or 78 per cent. as against Rs. 11-22 lakhs or 66-4 per cent. in the previous year.

11. Haberdashery and Millinery.—Like *apparel, etc.*, *haberdashery* and *millinery* have also suffered in the year under review, imports having been returned at Rs. 13-02 lakhs as against Rs. 22-61 lakhs, a decline of Rs. 9-59 lakhs or 42-4 per cent. One of the features of the trade under this head last year was the considerable business done in *cotton towels*, the value of which rose from Rs. 8-36 to Rs. 12-03 lakhs; in the year under review imports have reverted to the level of previous years and of the total decrease of Rs. 9-59 lakhs, this item accounts for Rs. 6-24 lakhs. The share of the United Kingdom of importations under this heading was 51-2 per cent. as against 52-3 per cent. last year, while that of Japan stood at 31-9 per cent.

12. Boots and Shoes.—The value of importations in the year under review was Rs. 13-42 lakhs against Rs. 19-21 lakhs in 1913-14 and Rs. 15-19 lakhs in 1912-13. With the exception of small importations valued at Rs. 45 lakh in the early part of the year from Austria-Hungary the whole supply came from the United Kingdom.

13.

Metals and Ores.

			1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.		1913-14.		1914-15.	
				Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.
BRASS	...	... Cwt.	2,917	1-50	1,951	1-47	1,589	1-42	2,149	1-78	2,154	1-66
COPPER	...	...	4,459	2-36	2,684	1-54	2,555	1-56	4,345	2-77	3,885	2-17
IRON—	...	...										
Pig	...	... Tons.	1,395	97	612	42	208	15	862	26	487	28
Manufactures of Iron or Steel—												
Beams, pillars, girders, etc.	"	"	2,583	3-56	3,227	4-91	1,279	1-38	1,661	2-71	1,325	1-90
Nails, rivets and washers	"	"	4,189	7-23	3,478	5-92	4,459	7-87	4,789	8-73	2,911	4-08
Pipes and tubes and fittings	"	"	7,812	17-55	4,216	9-22	9,730	19-90	12,805	28-54	19,901	28-81
Sheets and plates all kinds	"	"	20,473	42-82	19,872	43-64	22,416	51-11	30,803	67-01	22,416	47-64
Other manufactures	"	"	20,100	34-58	17,148	31-05	19,391	41-45	18,723	31-41	14,912	20-44
Total Manufactures of Iron or Steel			54,561	1,05-74	47,936	94-74	50,854	1,01-11	68,369	1,37-10	54,814	1,11-19
LEAD	...	... Cwts.	3,973	59	2,751	42	2,819	42	2,281	37	2,458	42
QUICKSILVER	...	... lbs.	2,385	05	163	01	118	...	94	...	90	...
TIN	...	... Cwt.	277	34	148	22	155	25	305	43	580	61
ZINC OR SPALTER	...	...	5,817	1-26	5,605	1-45	7,435	1-89	8,631	1-97	8,268	84
OTHER SORTS OF METALS	...	"	3,493	1-23	2,680	1-59	2,178	1-60	2,720	1-97	4,580	2-81
TOTAL OF METALS AND ORES TONS			67,004	1,14-88	49,338	1,01-86	51,356	1,08-40	69,959	1,47-24	68,522	1,30-68

Although the total value of the imports was 18-6 per cent. less than that of the previous year, it was higher by 10-6 per cent. than that of 1912-13 and by 17-7 per cent. than that of 1911-12. *Brass and copper* showed a small decline while *pig iron* showed a slight advance. Imports of *beams, pillars, girders, etc.*, reverted to the level of 1912-13. Diminished activity in the building trade accounted for a decrease of 43-5 per cent. in the value of importations of *nails, rivets and washers* and of 29-8 per cent. in that of *sheets and plates* of all kinds. *Other manufactures of iron or steel* were, however, practically on the level of the previous year, the value being Rs. 30-44 lakhs as against Rs. 31-41 lakhs. The activity in the oil industry, as reflected in the imports of *pipes, tubes and fittings*, continued to be maintained. The head *other sorts of metals* was marked by an increase of Rs. 84 lakh or 42-6 per cent.

The following is the distribution of the trade according to the principal countries of consignment during the past three years:—

	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.
United Kingdom	70-40	95-83	78-97	10-99	16-63	6-70
United States	20-50	23-63	29-27	4-46	7-53	2-89
Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	...
Germany	...	...	...	...	...	...

The proportion in which each country participated in the total value under this head is 66, 24, 5 and 2 per cent. in the order stated. In the coasting trade the imports of *metals* dropped by Rs. 1-19 lakhs to Rs. 27-82 lakhs. *Zinc ore* to the extent of 4,887 tons valued at Rs. 3-42 lakhs was exported from Rangoon to foreign countries as against 7,627 tons with a value of Rs. 4-71 lakhs. Shipments to the United Kingdom and Australia declined, whereas those to Belgium between the months of May and July amounted to 4,877 tons as against 3,716 tons during the whole of the preceding year.

14. Hardware.—The values of the articles imported under this heading during the past three years were as follows:—

	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.		1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.
1. Agricultural implements	92	1-06	23	7. Lamps, metal	3-38	4-28	1-77
2. Buckets of tinned, etc., iron	1-11	1-78	89	8. Lamps, glass	1-13	1-13	1-4
3. Builders' hardware, etc.	2-23	1-81	95	9. Parts of lamps, etc.	66	60	38
4. Domestic hardware, etc.	6-19	7-32	3-20	10. Safes and strong boxes of metal	1-80	1-87	53
5. Enamelled ironware	11-23	10-90	3-06	11. Other sorts	11-51	15-08	12-02
6. Implements and tools, etc.	5-94	8-83	7-04	Total	45-09	53-05	30-20

As Germany and Austria are usually amongst the principal suppliers it was natural that this year's importations should be restricted. The total value under the head was returned at Rs. 30-20 lakhs as against Rs. 53-05 lakhs in 1913-14, a decline of 43-1 per cent. The principal decrease was under the head *enamelled iron ware* which declined from Rs. 10-90 lakhs to Rs. 3-06 lakhs. This is exclusively an Austro-German line. *Metal lamps* have hitherto come mainly from Germany, and *safes and strong boxes* of metal from Austria-Hungary; the former showed a deficit of 58 per cent. and the latter one of 72 per cent. The United Kingdom was the chief supplier of the other items, namely, *agricultural implements, buckets, builders' hardware, domestic hardware* and *implements and tools* in general. There was a falling off in each of these items amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 7-93 lakhs. The head *other sorts* was valued at Rs. 12-2 lakhs as against Rs. 15-02 lakhs in 1913-14; the United Kingdom contributed the largest share, namely, Rs. 8-36 lakhs or 69-6 per cent.

15. Machinery and Millwork.—Imports under this head were valued at Rs. 41-57 lakhs as against Rs. 46-30 lakhs in 1913-14 and Rs. 31-38 lakhs in 1912-13. This result is due to an increase of 89 per cent. over the figures of last year in the imports of *mining machinery* to meet the demands of the oil-fields. All the other major items under this head, with the exception of *electrical machinery* and *boilers*, which show no variation, showed a decrease. The value of *rice and flour mill machinery* declined by Rs. 4-32 lakhs to Rs. 2-37 lakhs. There was a drop of 29 per cent. in imports of *sewing and knitting machines*. *Oil crushing and refining machinery* declined from Rs. 2-40 lakhs to Rs. 88 lakh, due to smaller importations of *seed-crushing and oil-refining machinery*. As in the previous years, the largest supplier of *machinery and millwork* was the United Kingdom. The second place is taken by America, which supplied practically all the *mining machinery*.

16. Railway Plant and Rolling Stock.—The total value of the importations under this head were about average (Rs. 21-48 lakhs as against Rs. 22-20 lakhs in the previous year). There were however marked variations in the imports of some of the sub-heads. For instance *locomotive engines* declined from Rs. 9-32 lakhs to Rs. 69 lakh, whereas *rails, chairs, and fish plates of steel or iron* advanced from Rs. 02 lakh to Rs. 6-93 lakhs. *Carriages and Wagons and parts thereof* rose by Rs. 2-00 lakhs to Rs. 10-92 lakhs, whereas *other kinds of materials for construction* dropped by Rs. 1-29 lakhs to Rs. 1-60 lakhs, mainly under *switches*

and crossings, signal materials, and steel galvanized fencing materials. The variations are due to the requirements of the Southern Shan States Railway which was opened towards the end of the official year. The United Kingdom contributed 98.7 per cent. of the total value

17. Provisions and Oilman's Stores.

	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.
Biscuits	3,135,863	3,152,875	4,119,794	2,081	3,693,713
Butter	212,155	242,455	248,336	29,671	251,204
Canned and bottled provisions	24,923	25,729	19,64	20,1	2,693
Farinaceous foods	49,191	51,318	67,422	69,918	47,037
Milk, condensed and preserved	5,187,547	6,258,193	7,573,425	9,083,913	6,191,038
Other kinds of provisions and oilman's stores	661	671	906	899	766
Total of provisions and oilman's stores	5211	5426	7718	8932	5966

As most of the articles included in this heading are rather articles of luxury than of necessity, their importation is naturally affected by the spending power of the people. The importations of this year are 33.3 per cent. less than those of 1913-14 and 23 per cent. less than those of 1912-13. They, however, approximate the figures of 1911-12 and are some Rs. 12 lakhs in excess of the average figures of the quinquennium ending with that year. The largest decrease is to be found under the head of *canned and bottled provisions*, due mainly to a decrease in value of Rs. 8.48 lakhs in the importation of *canned sardines* from Portugal. The importations of *milk, condensed and preserved*, though not reaching the figures of the two previous years, were extensive. During the last ten years the value of importations under this head have considerably more than doubled themselves. In 1905-06 the value of imported *condensed milk* was Rs. 8.99 lakhs; in 1910-11 Rs. 12.77 lakhs and in the year under review Rs. 19.29 lakhs. The other important articles distinguished under this heading are *biscuits, butter* and *farinaceous foods*. *Biscuits* (practically all from the United Kingdom) showed the large decline of Rs. 7.56 lakhs or 37 per cent. *Butter* from Denmark—the main source of supply—was in defect by 65,766 lbs., but the contribution of the United Kingdom was better by 44,923 lbs., due to importations of *fresh butter* in connection with the cold storage enterprise started in Rangoon during the year. The decline of Rs. 3.90 lakhs in the imports of *farinaceous foods* was caused by the decrease in the importations of *vermicelli* from the Straits and Hongkong. The share of the United Kingdom was 50 per cent. as against 45 per cent. in the previous year. The Straits Settlements and Holland provided 12 per cent. each as against 11 per cent. and 9 per cent. respectively in 1913-14.

Imports coastwise of *provisions* declined by Rs. 23.53 lakhs to Rs. 56.06 lakhs or by nearly 30 per cent. The principal items were *ghi*, Rs. 20.36 lakhs (mainly from Bengal) as against Rs. 22.51 lakhs; *dry meat*, Rs. 18.16 lakhs (chiefly from Bengal) as against Rs. 41.04 lakhs; *eggs*, Rs. 5.50 lakhs (mainly from Chittagong) as against Rs. 7.95 lakhs and *butter*, Rs. 3.67 lakhs (principally from Bombay) as against Rs. 4.43 lakhs in the previous year.

18. Fish (excluding canned fish).

	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.
Foreign Trade.					
Fish, dry, unsalted	13,289	15,177	13,754	11,708	13,310
Fish, dry, salted	77,665	81,216	86,772	99,021	83,812
Fish, wet, salted (<i>ngapi</i>)	89,753	36,379	37,220	28,976	37,141
Fish, other sorts (including fishmaws, etc.)	21	20	17	19	20
Total Fish, Foreign Trade	1,3,721	132,792	137,763	140,724	133,983
Coasting Trade.					
Fish, dry, unsalted	75,704	70,223	81,712	98,814	67,696
Fish, dry, salted	3,820	3,651	5,945	8,051	7,919
Fish, wet, salted (<i>ngapi</i>)	43,042	46,631	62,979	77,711	72,011
Fish, other sorts (including fishmaws)	550	413	485	452	542
Total Fish, Coasting Trade	123,115	110,957	151,121	185,631	148,168
Total Fish, Foreign and Coasting Trade	1,49,836	243,749	288,884	326,355	282,151

As compared with last year there was a decline in both the foreign and the coasting imports, the figures of which approximated those of 1912-13. *Dry salted fish* from the Straits and *dry unsalted fish*, mainly from Madras, were again the principal items.

19.

Salt.

	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.
From United Kingdom	2,159	15,433	6,993	11,075	12,767
Germany	647	549	5,745	2,561	2,561
Spain	3,739	1,73	6,745	5,705	1,24
Aden	4,893	11,324	3,46	12,34	2,72
Egypt	2,85	4,04	99	5,478	1,26
Turkey, Asiatic (Salif)	...	5,50	5,893	6,114	1,07
Other countries	4	01	...	...	1
Total	53,534	72,627	66,018	65,187	66,385

Imports were higher than in any previous year. German salt retained its leading position until the outbreak of the war, when the supply naturally ceased. The deficiency was made good by Egypt and Salif which sent two cargoes each instead of one each as in 1913-14.

The year opened with a balance of nearly 20,000 tons in bond. In the first four months of the year imports were rather larger than in the corresponding period of the preceding year, but consumption did not keep pace and the stocks in bond when war broke out exceeded 25,000 tons. With the outbreak of hostilities, conditions changed entirely: buyers of salt shared the anxiety which for a time agitated the Rangoon bazaar, and heavy purchases were made. During August, September and October, owing to the scarcity of tonnage, no supplies came except the usual part cargoes by liners from England and (in August only) Germany. Abnormal buying combined with greatly reduced arrivals brought the stocks in bond down to 10,000 tons by the end of October, and there was some talk of importing Madras-made salt, and even of extending the production of salt in Burma. The arrival of three full ship loads in November, one each from Salif, Egypt and Spain put an end to such misgivings and since then supplies have been regular and consumption not abnormal. Prices have, however, continued to rise and at the close of the year stood at Rs. 92 to 94 per thousand viss as against Rs. 74 to 79 at the opening of the year, and it is obvious that in view of the recent phenomenal rise in freights, they must go higher yet. The Bonding accommodation is open to improvement and the question is now under consideration.

Importations of Burma-made salt into Rangoon declined by over 1,000 tons to 2,081 tons. The decline is solely due to the reduction of the number of licenses issued in the Amherst District. The whole amount was promptly sold on arrival at very good prices.

20.

Sugar.

	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.
REFINED SUGAR—(16DS AND ABOVE).	432,088	391,032	595,769	671,778	378,605
UNREFINED SUGAR (16DS AND UNDER).	44	257	...	...	...
MOLASSES	3	455	10,811	21,503	24,852
CONFECTIONERY	8,678	8,380	12,742	11,375	4,441
SACCHARINE	1,411	2,302	3,308	5,371	2,773
GRAND TOTAL, SUGAR	440,824	400,176	619,342	694,698	408,923

Foreign imports of *refined sugar* amounted to 373,605 cwts. valued at Rs. 42.44 lakhs: it is ten years since they were on so limited a scale. As compared with 1913-14 the decrease in quantity was one of 198,167 cwts. or 34.7 per cent., but owing to higher prices the decrease in value was only 18.4 per cent. The local market is practically entirely supplied by Java and her share in the year under review was 84 per cent. representing 313,751 cwts; in addition to this 31,860 cwts. of *Java refined sugar* were received from the Straits Settlements and 22,222 cwts. of *Java sugar refined in China* from Hongkong. The year opened with normal stocks and up to August 122,184 cwts. had been received as against 128,275 cwts. in 1913-14 and 125,043 cwts. in 1912-13. When war broke out, Great Britain found her self with her usual sources of supply entirely cut off and the Government Committee of Food Supplies promptly secured the bulk of the unsold Java and Mauritius stocks. As a result, supplies, which in normal years would have come to India, were diverted to the United Kingdom, and Burma, in common with many other British Possessions, had to be content with what she could get. The extent of the shortage in supplies will be easily realised from the fact that in the four months, September to December, arrivals amounted to only 97,737 cwts as against 228,496 cwts. in 1913-14 and 275,581 cwts. in 1912-13. Imports from India were also considerably smaller, some 26,000 cwts. having been received during the year in place of 48,000 cwts. in the previous year. This shortage naturally resulted in prices being forced up. At the beginning of the year, 23 D.S. and above was quoted at Rs. 9-0-1 per cwt. and 16 to 22 D.S. at Rs. 8-3-7; in September prices went up to Rs. 10-5-6 and Rs. 9-8-5 respectively. Succeeding months recorded further increases and at the close of the year stocks were very low and the rates were Rs. 16 for 23 D.S. and above and Rs. 13 for 16 to 22 D.S. with an upward tendency. Some 8,000 cwts. arrived towards the end of March and this addition to stocks had the effect of easing prices. There was an increase of 3,300 cwts. or 1.5 per cent. in the imports of *molasses* which also came from Java. *Confectionery* comes mainly from the United Kingdom and the total imports declined from 11,375 cwts. to 4,441 cwts., the decrease in value being one of Rs. 2.30 lakhs or 57.6 per cent. *Saccharine* is usually supplied by Germany and she sent 1,802 lbs. valued at Rs. .06 lakh before the war as compared with 3,266 lbs. in 1913-14.

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Liquors.

		1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.		1913-14.		1914-15.	
		Galls.	Rs. Lakhs.	Galls.	Rs. Lakhs.	Galls.	Rs. Lakhs.	Galls.	Rs. Lakhs.	Galls.	Rs. Lakhs.
ALE, BEER AND PORTER ... Liquid		876,272	14.94	915,300	15.79	1,223,070	22.87	1,412,993	25.03	730,511	12.48
CIDER AND OTHER FERMENTED LIQUORS. ... "		1,379	.05	966	.04	1,175	.04	1,555	.06	632	.03
SPIRIT—											
Brandy ... Liquid		84,375	0.63	80,252	0.58	93,196	0.75	101,088	0.88	69,150	0.51
Gin ...		12,809	.47	11,794	.47	14,214	.56	17,047	.62	8,455	.31
Rum ...		22,753	.26	31,544	.32	38,984	.39	33,405	.35	23,153	.24
Whisky ...		76,459	4.99	70,611	5.12	80,565	5.25	89,895	6.30	86,181	5.86
Liqueurs ...		1,323	.13	1,059	.15	1,327	.20	1,299	.19	679	.10
Spirit, present in drugs, etc. ...		6,290	1.09	6,689	1.11	8,427	1.44	8,413	1.55	6,466	1.13
Spirit, perfumed ...		3,291	2.02	3,598	2.35	3,831	2.43	4,955	4.39	1,921	1.96
Spirit, methylated ...		7,650	.18	3,984	.07	3,707	.06	1,461	.02	1,693	.03
Other sorts of spirit ...		11,816	.76	11,431	.77	15,811	1.02	16,153	1.17	13,000	1.03
Total of Spirit ...		226,877	16.53	226,967	16.77	260,013	18.91	278,717	22.11	211,264	16.80
WINES—											
Champagne ... Liquid		5,969	.80	2,644	.08	2,457	.65	2,781	.69	1,189	.25
Port ...		11,815	.69	11,512	.70	11,731	.79	10,955	.72	8,867	.60
Sherry ...		2,011	.14	2,170	.11	2,655	.15	2,706	.15	1,183	.08
Other sorts ...		19,114	.73	17,583	.75	20,977	.83	19,275	.83	19,018	.80
Total of Wines ...		35,709	2.36	33,963	2.22	37,243	2.43	33,217	2.39	31,255	1.73
Total Liquors ...		1,140,237	39.88	1,177,201	34.82	1,521,599	44.24	1,658,562	49.53	972,682	30.84

ALE, BEER AND PORTER.—The importations were the lowest in the last quinquennium. The record imports of the two previous years resulted in considerable stocks being in hand at the commencement of the year under review. The importations in the earlier months of the year were consequently smaller: whereas those in the later months were affected by the war generally and also by the withdrawal of the European troops from Burma. Of the total quantity imported, the United Kingdom supplied 618,765 gallons or 84.7 per cent. There has been a considerable increase in the importations of *bottled beer* from Japan and 20,925 gallons were sent this year to Burma as against 4,724 gallons in 1913-14.

SPIRITS.—The value of the importations under this head, though less than that of the previous year by Rs. 5.31 lakhs, was practically on a level with the values recorded in 1910-11 and 1911-12. The quantity imported was 211,264 gallons as against 278,717 gallons in 1913-14. The United Kingdom supplied 83,470 gallons of *whisky* and 5,405 gallons of *gin*; France 60,131 gallons of *brandy* and 406 gallons of *liqueurs*; Germany 6,437 gallons of *brandy* and 1,864 gallons of *whisky* before the outbreak of war as compared with 13,371 gallons of *brandy* and 4,501 gallons of *whisky* in 1913-14; Holland 1,395 gallons of *brandy* and 1,473 gallons of *gin*; and Java 21,968 gallons of *rum*. There was a general decline in the *clearances for consumption* as will be seen from the following figures, all of which represent proof gallonage: *brandy* decreased by 21,780 gallons to 57,052 gallons, *whisky* by 3,144 gallons to 71,171 gallons, *gin* by 5,254 gallons to 7,360 gallons, and *rum* by 8,149 gallons to 34,252 gallons. The stock in *bond* at the end of the year was 13,975 liquid gallons as against 28,817 liquid gallons at the commencement of the year. The quantity of *spirit present in drugs, etc.*, fell by 23.3 per cent., and *perfumed spirit* by 61 per cent. The latter is due to the tightness of money during the year. The quantity of *methylated spirit* imported was slightly larger than in 1913-14, but *Java rum denatured* locally in *bond* advanced from 8,854 gallons to 10,375 gallons. *Other sorts of spirit*—Chinese *shamshoo* and *flavouring essences* for aerated waters did not reach the figures of 1913-14, but were considerably higher than those of 1910-11 and 1911-12.

WINES.—As was to be expected there was a general decrease in all items shewn under this heading; and the total imports fell by 14.3 per cent. to 30,255 gallons.

22. Tobacco.—The figures of the combined foreign and coasting imports of *manufactured* and *unmanufactured tobacco*, declined by 8,308,489 lbs. and Rs. 19.30 lakhs to 11,777,088 lbs. valued at Rs. 46.39 lakhs, the foreign imports being 501,100 lbs. with a value of Rs. 14.27 lakhs and the coasting 11,275,988 lbs. valued at Rs. 32.12 lakhs. Importations of foreign *cigars* and *cigarettes* fell off; the latter declined by 178,529 lbs. and Rs. 1.83 lakhs to 444,018 lbs. and Rs. 13.08 lakhs. The United Kingdom supplied the bulk, but her supplies in comparison with those of last year were short by 179,436 lbs. and Rs. 1.74 lakhs. The importations of American *cigarettes* were rather more than double those of last year. *Other sorts*, mainly *pipe tobacco*, represented 48,700 lbs. and Rs. 1.09 lakhs as against 48,906 lbs. and Rs. .97 lakh.

The quantity of tobacco cleared for *consumption* was 577,316 lbs. as compared with 667,978 lbs., but the balance remaining in *bond* at the end of the year was only 1,408 lbs. General apprehension lest the new financial year might see an enhanced rate of duty on tobacco undoubtedly contributed towards this low balance. The clearances of *cigarettes* of the cheaper quality, i.e. *weighing less than 3 lbs. per thousand* amounted to nearly 200 million in number; this was some 40½ million less than the clearances of the previous year.

TRADE IN BURMA AND INDIAN TOBACCO—RANGOON—UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO.—Following on the abnormal expansion of the previous year there was a very substantial decrease in the coasting imports under this heading in the year under review. They declined by 8,340,287 lbs. and Rs. 22.16 lakhs to 10,277,968 lbs. and Rs. 23.05 lakhs. As usual Bengal was the principal source of supply: but imports from there were rather less than half as much as those of 1913-14, though they exceeded those of 1912-13. The imports from Madras declined

by about 27 per cent. The actual figures for 1914-15 are, Bengal 6,264,639 lbs. and Madras 3,972,236 lbs. as against Bengal 13,116,733 lbs. and Madras 5,478,389 lbs. in 1913-14.

As was the case last year, coasting exports again declined by about 19 per cent.: out of the 3,223,725 lbs. thus exported, Bengal took 1,873,110 lbs. and the Provincial ports practically the rest. Exports in the foreign trade fell by 6,687,797 lbs. and Rs. 7.32 lakhs to 4,966,105 lbs. and Rs. 4.80 lakhs. Hongkong, which is the largest market, required only 3,095,861 lbs. as against 7,123,172 lbs. in the previous year. The enhanced rates of freight and the fact that the local consumption of *Burma tobacco* has increased contributed to this result. France was next with 1,645,500 lbs. as against 3,121,955 lbs.

CIGARS.—In the coasting trade imports rose by 26,388 lbs. and Rs. 1.05 lakhs to 314,934 lbs. worth Rs. 1.95 lakhs. Madras supplied 184,504 lbs. as against 264,600 lbs. and the Provincial ports 110,741 lbs. as against 3,150 lbs. Exports to foreign countries advanced by 210,664 lbs. and Rs. 2.14 lakhs to 469,050 lbs. valued at Rs. 4.59 lakhs, the Straits Settlements as usual took the bulk, her share this time being 94 per cent. of the whole. Thanks to the generosity of the Burma public, considerable quantities were sent to the United Kingdom for the use of the soldiers and sailors fighting in the war. The coasting exports, mainly to the Provincial ports, increased from 168,216 lbs. to 202,841 lbs.

CIGARETTES.—Importations of *Indian cigarettes* coastwise into Burma showed a very substantial increase: the total imports being 478,729 lbs. worth Rs. 6.25 lakhs, i.e., an increase of 278,335 lbs. and Rs. 3.67 lakhs. As usual the bulk came from Bengal, which supplied 412,603 lbs. valued at Rs. 5.40 lakhs. *Foreign cigarettes* to the extent of 15,863 lbs. valued at Rs. .32 lakh were imported from India as against 11,336 lbs. with a value of Rs. .38 lakh.

MOULMEIN—UNMANUFACTURED.—The importations from Bengal and Madras dropped from about 5½ million lbs. valued at Rs. 18.26 lakhs to about 4½ million lbs. valued at Rs. 14.85 lakhs.

CIGARS.—Shipments both to foreign countries and to India declined.

23. Mineral oils.—The total imports as compared with those of last year increased by over two million gallons in quantity and Rs. 1.00 lakh in value. This increase was due solely to the importation of *fuel oil*. There was no appreciable difference in the quantity of *kerosene oil* shipped from the United States of America. The head *other kinds* shows a decline of 151,517 gallons or 66 per cent. Of the several oils classified under this head, the two principal ones are *white oil* and *mineral colza oil*. *White oil*, though shipped from Antwerp, came mainly from Germany and there have been no importations since September: up to that month the importations were 76,901 gallons as against 195,078 gallons in 1913-14. Imports of *mineral colza oil* also dropped from 28,700 gallons to 90 gallons.

24. Motor cars, etc.—The recorded values of the foreign imports under this head during the previous five years were:—

		Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.
1909-10	...	2.09	1911-12	4.62
1910-11	...	4.69	1912-13	7.70
			Rs. Lakhs.	
	1913-14	...	12.76	

In the year under review the total value was Rs. 7.96 lakhs. As compared with the figures of 1913-14 *motor cars* declined from 264 to 157 in number and from Rs. 8.37 lakhs to Rs. 5.12 lakhs in value. The United Kingdom supplied 86 *cars* valued at Rs. 3.44 lakhs and the United States of America 63 with a value of Rs. 1.43 lakhs. *Motor cycles* decreased from 233 valued at Rs. 1.68 lakhs to 147 worth Rs. 1.12 lakhs, 139 *cycles* valued at Rs. 1.07 lakhs being supplied by the United Kingdom. Ten *motor wagons* valued at Rs. .49 lakh were imported as against 14 worth Rs. .59 lakh. Of these 10 wagons, 6 valued at Rs. .24 lakh came from the United States of America. Imports of *parts of motor cars, etc.*, mainly from the United Kingdom, were valued at Rs. 1.23 lakhs as against Rs. 2.12 lakhs in 1913-14.

25. Miscellaneous.—Imports of *arms, ammunition* and *military stores* were valued at Rs. 2.53 lakhs as against Rs. 3.77 lakhs, the United Kingdom's contribution being Rs. 2.38 lakhs. The total number of *fire arms* of all kinds dropped from 1,501 to 1,188. Sixty-five per cent. of the importations came from the United Kingdom and 24 per cent. from the United States of America. Fewer *guns, rifles* and *pistols*, but more *revolvers* were imported. *Gunpowder* showed a further drop from 17,100 lbs. to 11,352 lbs. and *explosives* also fell from 1,867 cwt. to 872 cwt. *Air rifles and guns* again declined.

The importation of building material with the exception of *tiles*, which remained about the same, decreased in value by Rs. 4.80 lakhs of which Rs. 2.15 lakhs was on account of *cement*.

The decline in the value of *asphalt* from Rs. 2.02 lakhs to Rs. .31 lakh is due to the temporary suspension of road reconstruction work in Rangoon.

Sulphuric acid is one of the articles, the exportation of which has been prohibited from the United Kingdom, and the importations into this country accordingly were restricted to the value of about Rs. 2.00 lakhs, the United Kingdom being the sole supplier. The importations of *sulphur*, which comes almost entirely from Japan, also decreased.

There was a slight decrease of Rs. .72 lakh in the foreign imports of *coal*. New South Wales was again the largest supplier, followed by the United Kingdom and Japan. Coasting imports decreased by Rs. 4.38 lakhs: as in 1913-14, about 99 per cent. came from Bengal.

The value of the export trade of *rice* from Burma represented in the year under review 63 per cent. of the total value of all merchandise (excluding re-exports) exported from the Province. Although the total exports, which amounted to 2,348,400 tons, fell short of the record figures of the previous year by 395,836 tons, they were higher by 20,410 tons and 173,812 tons than those of 1912-13 and 1911-12 respectively. On the outbreak of war difficulties in the disposal of the Burma crop were anticipated owing to the closing down of the German and Austro-Hungarian markets and the partial restriction of shipments to neutral countries. These fears were not however realized, and as soon as things settled down a bit, it was seen that the difficulty which the trade had to face was a scarcity of tonnage and not a decline in demand. Indeed, had this difficulty not existed, it is likely that the record figures of 1913-14 would have been exceeded. Certain markets have in the past drawn on the Continental markets for their requirements: many of these now came to Burma direct. This was particularly noticeable in the case of Cuba which took 27,338 tons as against 5,233 tons in 1913-14; Denmark after a lapse of three years again came to Burma, whereas new customers were found in Portugal and Greece. The Dutch East Indies have also taken larger quantities, but it is understood that this is mainly due to the fact that imports of Burma rice have had as a rule to compete with those from Saigon at a great disadvantage with respect to the price. So far at any rate as the year under review is concerned the inequality in price between the two countries appears to have been adjusted. Burma's share of the total foreign trade in rice of the whole of India was 72 per cent. in quantity and 62 per cent. in value.

There was a substantial increase of about 37 per cent. in the quantities exported to India, although the conditions prevailing throughout India were not as a whole worse than those of last year. It is probable that Indian buyers took full advantage of the lower prices ruling for Rangoon rice. Bengal, Bombay and Madras took 63, 16 and 11 per cent., respectively, more than last year. In the case of the first named the local crop appears to have been poor.

Rangoon's share of the total quantity of rice (excluding paddy) exported to foreign countries amounted to 75 per cent. as against 67 per cent. in the previous year. Bassein's contribution was 14 per cent. as against 17 per cent., Akyab's was 4 per cent. and Moulmein's 6 per cent. Last year Akyab's share was 10 per cent. and that of Moulmein 9 per cent. The falling off in the case of the former is said to be due to a partial failure of the local crop caused by drought, and the damage done by cyclonic storms: in that of the latter to the scarcity of tonnage.

The end of the last financial year found the price of paddy high (about Rs. 130 per 100 baskets of 46 lbs. each) and nothing was doing until June and July when sales were effected on a gradually falling market. The outbreak of war caused a slump in the price. There was some recovery towards the end of the calendar year, but when the supplies came in freely towards the end of January prices again gradually declined. They rose again in March and the end of the financial year saw the market in the neighbourhood of Rs. 93-95 with an upward tendency. The prices of *white rice* (*specials*), remained fairly steady till the outbreak of war, when there was a drop, and in September they were in the vicinity of Rs. 270-280 per 100 baskets of 75 lbs. each. There was some recovery in November and early in December the price rose to about Rs. 295. After that the market gradually sagged, and by the end of February the price had dropped to Rs. 240. In March the price fell as low as Rs. 222-8, but there was subsequently a slight improvement, and the end of the financial year saw the price at about Rs. 230 or just about Rs. 100 less than the market price at the commencement of the year.

Difficulties of transport in the Province and lack of storage at distributing centres are two important questions which have yet to be settled in connection with the trade. It is satisfactory to learn that considerable progress was made in the extension of the scheme for direct dealing between the cultivator and the miller.

28. Rice Bran.—The total exports from the Province showed a further decline by 25,233 tons and Rs. 8.59 lakhs to 183,697 tons valued at Rs. 56.11 lakhs. Prices ruled practically on the level of the previous year, namely Rs. 31 per ton. Shipments from Rangoon fell by 27,691 tons to 169,276 tons or 14.1 per cent., but those from outports showed an advance of 2,468 tons due to Bassein having recovered the ground lost in the previous year. The United Kingdom took 116,798 tons as against 120,657 tons and the Straits Settlements 35,384 tons as against 43,699 tons. Germany bought 20,091 tons before the war, that is, just half of the quantity she took in 1913-14, and Denmark, which in ordinary years drew on Hamburg for her supplies, entered the market for the first time and took two consignments aggregating 8,654 tons.

29.

Teak-wood.

	1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.		1913-14.		1914-15.	
Foreign Trade.	C. Tons.	Rs. Lakhs.	C. Tons.	Rs. Lakhs.	C. Tons.	Rs. Lakhs.	C. Tons.	Rs. Lakhs.	C. Tons.	Rs. Lakhs.
From Rangoon	42,857	70.59	40,777	61.86	49,954	77.21	42,416	68.98	37,280	70.39
„ Moulmein	7,538	11.81	5,200	7.85	8,856	13.06	6,192	9.80	8,068	10.80
Coasting Trade (To India).										
From Rangoon	89,700	77.25	98,472	85.56	94,899	84.99	78,761	74.04	69,000	81.45
„ Moulmein	46,853	48.16	31,988	30.07	39,312	36.63	84,888	87.71	28,779	27.28
GRAND TOTAL (FOREIGN AND INDIA).										
From Rangoon	133,057	147.84	139,249	147.42	144,853	162.20	121,160	152.97	107,130	151.84
„ Moulmein	54,391	60.97	37,278	37.92	47,868	51.69	90,460	97.51	29,867	27.98

The heavy fall of exports during 1913-14 has been followed by a further decline in the year under report, though prices again show a considerable advance. Last year the result was due to shortage of supplies, whereas in the year under review it is due to a curtailment of markets and other circumstances incidental to the outbreak of war. The United Kingdom took slightly more than last year and over 60 per cent. of the total quantity exported, the normal demand having been subsidized by a demand for teak for military purposes. Germany, usually the second largest foreign consumer, was of course closed as a market after August. Shipments to Natal and Cape Colony, Victoria, the United States of America and France showed an increase, whereas those to all the other countries which usually take supplies declined. The coasting exports also showed a decline as regards quantity and a rise as regards value. The curtailment of expenditure by Government on Railways and Public Works no doubt contributed to this result, but there was a great fall in exports for private consumption. Despite the reduction in the quantities exported, the prices both in the foreign and the coasting trade show a marked increase. The war and the entire or partial closing of many of the Continental markets consequent thereon had no adverse effect upon the prices in the United Kingdom, where the market remained steady throughout the year and closed strong. There has been some weakening in the Indian market, although it is not apparent from the figures owing to the practice of forward selling in the Teak trade.

Importations of teak wood from Siam were valued at Rs. 11.17 lakhs as against Rs. 10.63 lakhs in 1913-14.

WOOD—OTHER TIMBER.—The combined exports from the Province to both foreign countries and coastwise amounted to 40,267 cubic tons as against 44,080 cubic tons in 1913-14. The exports from Moulmein showed an increase, whereas those from Rangoon decreased. India, as usual, took the bulk of the shipments, most of which went to Bengal. Those to Bombay showed a great advance.

30.

Mineral Oils.

	1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.		1913-14.		1914-15.	
Foreign Trade—	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.
KEROSENE	391,858	1.96	32	...	96	...	...	...	800	...
Benzene, Benzol, Petrol and other motor spirit.	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	21,538,245	20.82
OTHER KINDS (b)	2,165,111	2.59	14,806,740	13.82	21,484,786	20.55	22,303,134	21.37	4,801,865	4.44
Total, Mineral oils (Foreign Trade)	2,556,969	4.55	14,806,772	13.82	21,484,882	20.55	22,303,134	21.37	26,340,110	25.26
Coasting Trade—										
KEROSENE	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.	Gals.	Rs. Lakhs.
To Bengal	80,881,452	2.15.80	50,872,587	1.77.70	59,093,447	1.96.30	59,162,091	1.96.14	56,808,844	1.88.26
„ Bombay	16,662,597	61.84	16,222,991	55.53	15,413,917	50.83	20,761,873	68.11	21,258,207	69.05
„ Sind	2,426,224	11.79	4,434,435	15.44	3,955,195	16.87	4,883,143	18.91	5,815,392	20.08
„ Madras	14,305,165	48.84	16,267,776	56.08	21,804,374	71.05	20,220,690	70.40	19,749,568	68.00
Total Presidencies	94,628,788	3.37.77	87,897,769	3.04.69	103,266,863	3.43.84	105,017,602	3.50.58	103,886,601	3.45.24
To Provincial Ports	1,280,704	5.45	1,288,792	5.46	1,135,204	5.03	1,541,062	6.85	1,349,444	5.90
„ Marmagao	2,607,979	8.97	2,957,117	10.16	2,984,235	10.26	4,266,800	14.67	2,912,700	13.66
Total	98,517,421	8.62.19	92,083,678	3.20.31	1,17,436,302	3.59.12	110,825,164	3.71.58	108,549,045	3.64.80
Petrol	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
OTHER KINDS (b)	4,734,983	30.69	6,114,310	41.33	6,539,937	44.93	7,969,810	54.88	5,143,161	28.29
Total, Mineral oils (Coasting Trade)	103,252,404	38.88	98,197,918	3.61.64	118,946,239	4.04.04	118,794,974	4.26.46	117,692,206	4.26.68
GRAND TOTAL, MINERAL OILS (FOREIGN AND COASTING TRADE).	105,809,373	3.87.43	113,904,693	3.75.46	125,481,121	4.24.59	141,991,098	4.47.63	124,841,161	4.60.84

(a) Included with "Other kinds" prior to 1st April 1914.
(b) "Other kinds"—includes fuel oil, petrol, lubricating oil, etc.

The figures of this year show a steady progress in the exports of *mineral oils* and the combined total of the foreign and coasting trade was the highest yet recorded, being better than last year's figures by 1.9 per cent. in quantity and 3 per cent. in value.

The total output of *petroleum* in the Province during the calendar year 1914 was 254,652,963 gallons as against 272,865,397 gallons, showing a decline of 18.2 million gallons or nearly 7 per cent. This is more probably due to the general upheaval of trade caused by the war than to any decline in the productive qualities of the oil fields.

KEROSENE OIL.—Shipments of the local product to foreign countries were negligible and the Indian demand, fell by about 2 million gallons in quantity and Rs. 5½ lakhs in value. Of the total quantity exported (including Provincial transactions) Bengal took 52 per cent., Bombay 20 per cent. and Madras 18 per cent.

BENZENE, BENZOL, PETROL AND OTHER MOTOR SPIRIT.—Previous to the year under report, these petroleum products have been included in the sub-head *other kinds*. This year a separate heading has been introduced for them in the foreign trade, but *petrol* only has been shown separately in the coasting trade. Despite the fact that early restrictions were imposed on the export of *benzene* to foreign countries, 21,559,105 gallons valued at Rs. 20.21 lakhs were thus exported: of this quantity 20,626,754 gallons valued at Rs. 19.34 lakhs went to the United Kingdom, and the remainder was shipped to Holland in April. In the coasting trade, 3,902,932 gallons of *petrol* were exported to meet the requirements of the growing trade in motor driven vehicles.

OTHER KINDS.—*Lubricating oils* showed a further improvement, the recorded quantity being 154,385 gallons as against 96,041 gallons in the previous year. In the coasting trade the exports of *crude oil, lubricating oil* and *jute batching oil* were well maintained.

31. Paraffin Wax.—The prohibition on the export of *paraffin wax* to places other than the United Kingdom or a British Possession, which is in force now, was introduced practically at the end of the official year and it did not therefore affect the trade of the year. Further the closing of the German market made no impression on the shipments of the year, which showed a substantial increase over the record figures of last year. In the year under review 351,288 cwts. valued at Rs. 78'27 lakhs were exported against 284,666 cwts. valued at Rs. 63'50 lakhs in the previous year. The United Kingdom continued to be the largest buyer, taking 94,303 cwts. as against 82,353 cwts. in 1913-14. The United States of America and China more than doubled their demand of the previous year, 33,150 cwts. being shipped to the former and 30,074 cwts. to the latter. The exports to Hongkong and Japan also showed a substantial increase and the latter country was the best customer after the United Kingdom.

32. Candles.—FOREIGN TRADE.—Exports aggregated 7,838,221 lbs. valued at Rs. 22'04 lakhs and these figures are second only to the record figures of the previous year. China continued to head the list of buyers, her takings being 35'9 per cent. of the whole exports as against 34'3 per cent. in 1913-14. Last year Ceylon was second: but this year the value of the exports there declined, and Australasia, with an increase roughly of the same value as Ceylon's decrease, took second place. The exports to the Straits Settlements showed an increase, whereas those to the United Kingdom and Siam declined.

COASTING TRADE.—Shipments to India showed a further expansion from 4,767,462 lbs. valued at Rs. 13'30 lakhs to 5,174,968 lbs. of the value of Rs. 14'55 lakhs. Exports to Provincial ports also improved by 149,328 lbs. and Rs. 46 lakh to 652,329 lbs. and Rs. 1'89 lakhs.

33. Hides and Skins.—The following table gives the exports from *Rangoon* only and to foreign ports only:—

		1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.		1913-14.		1914-15.	
		Cwt.	Rs. Lakhs.	Cwt.	Rs. Lakhs.	Cwt.	Rs. Lakhs.	Cwt.	Rs. Lakhs.	Cwt.	Rs. Lakhs.
RAW HIDES ...	Cwt. No.	105,819	60'73	121,638	58'29	121,916	63'58	113,132	78'68	90,729	52'29
		786,971		906,998		892,879		821,208		591,287	
RAW SKINS ...	Cwt. No.	17	'03	28	'04	1,013	'97	506	'41	102	'07
		1,074		4,863		57,949		80,736		6,183	
TOTAL OF HIDES AND SKINS, RAW (EXCLUDING CUTTINGS OF HIDES, ETC.).	Cwt. No.	105,866	60'76	121,666	58'33	122,929	64'53	113,637	79'12	90,831	52'36
		788,045		910,861		890,865		864,943		597,400	

There was a considerable falling off in the foreign exports of *hides and skins (raw)*, due to the closing of certain markets (particularly that of the Levant, on account of the war, and the restrictions placed on the shipments to other markets. There were naturally large demands from the United Kingdom and her takings amounted to 37,143 cwts., valued at Rs. 19'86 lakhs as against 13,005 cwts. with a value of Rs. 5'82 lakhs. Italy was second with 8,129 cwts., valued at Rs. 7'21 lakhs as against 23,344 cwts., with a value of Rs. 17'16 lakhs. The United States of America came next with 12,733 cwts., worth Rs. 6'96 lakhs as against 19,559 cwts. valued at Rs. 11'69 lakhs. *Cow hides* were valued at Rs. 40'65 lakhs and *buffalo hides* at Rs. 11'61 lakhs as compared with Rs. 60'43 lakhs and Rs. 18'22 lakhs respectively in 1913-14. The overland arrivals of *raw hides* from Western China represented 8,193 cwts. with a value of Rs. 2'79 lakhs as against 12,266 cwts. valued at Rs. 5'72 lakhs.

Exports of *raw hides* to India improved by 2,514 cwts. and Rs. 1'17 lakhs to 5,276 cwts. valued at Rs. 2'19 lakhs, all to Madras and Bombay.

Shipments of *raw skins* declined in the foreign trade and were approximately the same as last year in the coasting.

34.

Cotton (Raw).

	1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.		1913-14.		1914-15.	
	Cwts.	Rs. Lakhs.	Cwts.	Rs. Lakhs.	Cwts.	Rs. Lakhs.	Cwts.	Rs. Lakhs.	Cwts.	Rs. Lakhs.
To United Kingdom ...	35,718	14'99	61,271	24'39	60,906	13'73	104,333	37'43	119,869	33'39
" Straits ...	5		3,332	1'17	1,016	'49	13		17	
" Hongkong ...							4,697	1'68	7,373	2'63
" Germany ...	5,295	2'20	3,952	1'57	22	'01	12,865	4'70	8,647	3'18
" Austria-Hungary ...	3,112	1'03	411	'15			1,543	'55	5,801	1'97
" Belgium ...	1,443	'61	2,423	'93	1,342	'50	13,699	4'74	2,667	'90
" Italy ...	1,729	'82					711	'28	1,566	'47
" Japan ...	6,067	3'17	28,598	8'69	63,419	22'87	30,492	11'06	12,405	4'47
" Spain ...	1,961	'90							6,957	1'90
" Other countries ...	1,911	1'04	441	'30			2,419	'88	2,619	'68
Total Foreign Trade ...	60,202	24'79	95,136	36'80	116,781	42'51	189,797	61'33	187,521	47'88
Total Indian Trade (excluding Burma).	87,682	13'03	81,739	30'11	133,336	45'00	78,073	28'51	87,483	19'97
GRAND TOTAL ...	97,884	40'82	176,875	66'91	249,100	87'51	247,870	89'83	238,003	67'85

The combined exports, foreign and Indian, dropped by 5 per cent. in volume and by 25 per cent. in value as compared with the figures of 1913-14. About half of the exports were of 1913-14 cotton, and the yield of cotton in 1914-15 was more disappointing than the figures would lead one to suppose. Had the large quantities of 1913-14 cotton not been exported (chiefly before the outbreak of war), prices would have shown an even greater reduction. After August prices were very low: there was however some recovery after January, and at the end of the year the market ruled about 15 per cent. below its normal.

Exports to India declined, as there was a large crop to be disposed of there. Bengal as usual took the bulk of the Indian shipments.

The United Kingdom took a larger quantity than ever before. Japan took less. Exports to other countries were well maintained, but it is interesting to find that only one-third of the total quantity has been exported since August and the bulk of this was taken by Spain. The area under cotton was estimated at 282,208 acres as against 289,737 acres in 1913-14.

The despatches overland by caravans to Western China aggregated 21,002 cwts. valued at Rs. 4'78 lakhs as against 5,454 cwts., valued at Rs. 1'94 lakhs in the previous year.

35. Cotton Seed.—The foreign exports of *cotton seed* from the Province developed suddenly from 1 cwt. in 1905-06 to 45,353 cwts. in 1906-07 and in 1909-10 the total exports rose to 148,686 cwts., all to the United Kingdom. Since then the trade has declined and in the year under review only 162 cwts. were exported as against 10,094 cwts. in 1913-14. The Indian demand also fell, the total recorded exports being 40,071 cwts. valued at Rs. 1'13 lakhs as against 93,567 cwts. valued at Rs. 2'18 lakhs, all from Rangoon. Bombay continued to be the largest buyer, but her takings were 57 per cent. less than those of the previous year.

36. Groundnuts.—Both 1912-13 and 1913-14 were record years, the exports of this product to foreign countries in the former year being 286,363 cwts. valued at Rs. 19'61 lakhs and in the latter 538,254 cwts. with a value of Rs. 37'02 lakhs. In the year under review the total shipments from Rangoon dwindled to only 37,993 cwts. valued at Rs. 2'67 lakhs, which is about half of the exports of 1904-05 when the product first came into prominence. The reason for the decline is to be found in the closing of the Continental markets and the heavy freights to Hongkong, which is the leading market. Exports to Hongkong fell from 202,236 cwts. to 24,966 cwts., whereas the United Kingdom took 10,229 cwts. which is the largest amount ever taken by her. There were no exports to France, which in normal times was the second largest consumer. The area under cultivation and the estimated outturn of the Province are said to be appreciably larger than those of last year. The yield of the groundnut crop throughout India was very satisfactory and the coasting exports from Burma declined from 21,952 cwts. valued at Rs. 1'71 lakhs to 3,740 cwts. with a value of Rs. 37 lakh. Bengal, which is usually the largest consumer, took practically nothing and the Provincial ports about half as much as last year's supply. With the Province so amply supplied, there was no necessity for imports from India. The exports of *groundnut oil* to foreign countries dropped from 4,010 gallons to 1,840 gallons, the bulk going to the Straits Settlements. Java took none this year, while New South Wales came into the market for the first time. There were no shipments to India. Imports of the oil from India, mainly from Madras, rose by 125,194 gallons and Rs. 2'25 lakhs to 280,179 gallons valued at Rs. 5'23 lakhs, and the quantities received from the Far East also showed an increase. Exports of the by-product *groundnut oil-cake* advanced by 233,577 cwts. and Rs. 6'02 lakhs to 841,873 cwts. valued at Rs. 23'37 lakhs, the bulk, as usual, going to the United Kingdom. There is reason to believe that the check on foreign exports has given an impetus to the indigenous manufacture of *groundnut oil* for local consumption, and the expansion in shipments of *oil-cake* supports this view.

37. Beans.—There was a great advance in the foreign exports in the year under review as compared with those of 1913-14, 31,421 tons having been shipped this year against 19,565 tons last year, an increase of 61 per cent. For the last two years Japan had been the best customer, but in 1914-15 the United Kingdom occupied the premier position, her takings having amounted to 21,662 tons as against 5,967 tons in 1913-14. Japan came next, her share being 7,178 tons or 23 per cent. Shipments to India were also better by 4,387 tons, an increase of 57 per cent.; of these, as in the previous year, almost all (97 per cent.) were to Madras.

38. Rubber.—In spite of the uncertainty as to arrivals, the restrictions on shipping facilities and the monetary situation, the market in England remained surprisingly steady, and the demand throughout the year was good. The United Kingdom and the Straits Settlements, the usual markets for *Burma rubber*, were not affected by the prohibition on the export of rubber, and full advantage was taken of the opportunities offered. In consequence the exports in the year under review were the highest yet recorded. They amounted to 987,392 lbs. valued at Rs. 20'15 lakhs as against 765,072 lbs. valued at Rs. 16'55 lakhs in the previous year. The value per lb. averaged Rs. 2-0-8 as against Rs. 2-2-7 in 1913-14. The United Kingdom took 892,304 lbs. and the Straits Settlements 82,992 lbs. as compared with 664,048 lbs. and 75,264 lbs. in the previous year.

39. Cutch.—There was an increase in both the foreign and coasting exports, the former of 9'6 per cent. and the latter of 12'3 per cent. The United Kingdom was again the largest consumer and her share advanced by 8,689 cwts. valued at Rs. 1'52 lakhs to 42,288 cwts. valued

or steel, and decreases in all other articles, the chief decrease being in *instruments*. Imports coastwise advanced by Rs. 4.50 lakhs to Rs. 29.88 lakhs. *Arms, ammunition and military stores* rose by Rs. 2.67 lakhs to Rs. 9.17 lakhs. *Opium* was slightly higher with a value of Rs. 2.58 lakhs. *Apparel, boots and shoes and paper and pasteboard* increased, while *metals, stationery and telegraph materials* decreased. The largest increase was under the heading *all other articles manufactured*, which rose by Rs. 3.54 lakhs to Rs. 9.45 lakhs, the chief items being *ghi, wheat-flour, cotton twist, blankets and oils* from Bengal. The exports of stores coastwise rose by Rs. 10.00 lakhs to Rs. 19.88 lakhs, *arms, ammunition, etc.*, accounting for more than half of the increase. *Rice, paddy and instruments, apparatus, etc.*, also increased and there was a shipment of *mules* valued at about half a lakh of rupees to Madras.

SHIPPING.

47. **Shipping.**—The following table shows the entries and clearances at the various ports in the province :—

	1913-14.				1914-15.				1914-15.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
RANGOON ... { Foreign	354	1,028,837	426	1,278,866	386	1,001,256	395	1,189,169	283	775,819	318	909,897
Coasting ...	1,210	1,838,183	1,140	1,808,010	1,260	1,947,195	1,204	1,743,861	1,066	1,612,357	1,007	1,499,145
Total ...	1,564	2,867,020	1,576	2,886,876	1,591	2,948,451	1,599	2,933,030	1,349	2,411,176	1,325	2,409,042
ARUN ... { Foreign	41	75,582	57	69,117	57	60,515	80	61,781	53	85,221	66	80,080
Coasting ...	912	170,022	720	186,037	802	160,101	766	184,366	902	184,606	680	193,213
Total ...	953	245,604	777	255,154	859	220,616	846	246,147	955	269,827	746	273,293
BASSEIN ... { Foreign	49	110,099	78	193,011	27	78,596	52	119,064	15	40,228	28	69,484
Coasting ...	80	105,611	60	111,601	105	111,689	72	14,863	153	106,019	135	61,069
Total ...	129	215,710	138	304,612	132	190,285	124	133,927	168	146,247	163	130,553
MOULMEIN ... { Foreign	38	89,305	10	18,178	49	102,572	13	28,110	16	88,686	8	16,431
Coasting ...	527	221,621	502	217,180	521	231,468	480	310,250	480	269,619	516	197,415
Total ...	565	310,926	512	235,358	570	334,040	602	338,366	496	358,305	624	213,846
MINOR PORTS ... { Foreign	51	48,079	51	46,028	53	48,796	44	46,989	45	46,989	45	46,989
Coasting ...	1,084	491,156	1,129	494,390	1,004	483,104	999	487,602	775	826,980	810	824,591
Total ...	1,135	539,235	1,180	540,418	1,057	531,900	1,043	534,591	820	873,969	855	871,580
GRAND TOTAL ...	4,344	4,165,347	4,171	4,222,206	4,209	4,331,987	4,122	4,362,922	3,166	3,855,634	3,606	3,825,936

The total decrease in the *entries* and *clearances* of vessels engaged in trade at the various ports of Burma is due solely to the effects of the war on shipping. The total entries and clearances fell short of those of last year, the former by 443 vessels and a tonnage of 976,453 tons and the latter by 617 vessels and 1,037,696 tons. The total number of entries of vessels engaged in the *foreign* trade of the Province was 391 only with an average tonnage of 2,345 tons per vessel as compared with 506 vessels with an average tonnage of 2,542 tons last year. The clearances were 457 vessels of an average tonnage per vessel of 2,312 tons against 592 vessels of an average tonnage of 2,453 tons in 1913-14.

At Rangoon with the exception of one *sailing* ship of 172 tons burthen, all the vessels were *steamers*.

In the coasting trade, the number of entries of *sailing craft* increased from 1,372 vessels in 1913-14 to 1,509 in the year under review; but the actual tonnage entered was slightly less than that in the previous year. There was no material change in the number of sailing craft cleared, though the tonnage of this year's clearances is appreciably less than that of last year.

In the case of *steamers* in the coasting trade, both entries and clearances show an appreciable falling off: 1,885 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,387,387 tons entered and 1,807 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,224,347 tons cleared, as compared with 2,331 vessels of 2,994,023 tons and 2,283 vessels of 2,863,466 tons in the previous year.

In the foreign trade of Rangoon 188 vessels entered under *British* colours as against 235, and 75 under *foreign* colours as against 91 in 1913-14. Of the latter, Japan again entered most vessels, 29 as against 48 last year; Norwegian vessels came next with 23 as against 11 last year, followed by Dutch 8 against 11. Two hundred and twenty vessels cleared under *British* colours as compared with 280 in the previous year, and 93 under *foreign* colours as against 115. Of these, 27 were Japanese, 22 Dutch and 23 Norwegian. In the coasting trade of Rangoon 973 British vessels (including 97 native crafts) and 93 foreign entered as against 1,149 and 116 respectively in 1913-14. The foreign included 36 Japanese, 28 Dutch and 13 Norwegian. Nine hundred and thirty British vessels (including 92 native crafts) and 77 foreign cleared as against 1,112 and 92 respectively. The foreign clearances comprised 36 Japanese vessels, 14 Dutch and 13 Norwegian.

In the foreign trade 49 vessels entered in ballast at Rangoon as against 93 vessels, and 6 vessels cleared in ballast as against 2 vessels in 1913-14. In the coasting trade the entries in ballast at Rangoon were 137 vessels as against 125 vessels of last year, while the clearances in ballast showed 97 vessels as against 87 vessels in the previous year.

FREIGHTS.—The commencement of the year saw a weak freight market, and the rates continued steadily to drop until August. On the outbreak of war the position rapidly changed. Government made large demands for ships for trooping, etc. The German Mercantile Fleet

was absolutely removed from active trade; and enormous tonnage became laid up in various parts of the world. In the absence of competition rates rose rapidly, and since January 1915 there has been a strong demand for tonnage in all directions. Freights have now reached an abnormal level, as much as 80s. per ton having been paid for a steamer to load homewards from Rangoon.

The following is a comparison of the open chartered rates of freight of *rice* from Rangoon to London per ton of 20 cwts. in March of each year :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1911	...	...	1 3 6	1914	...	...	1 2 6
1912	...	...	1 12 6	1915	...	...	4 0 0
1913	...	...	1 5 0				

BHAMO.

48. **Bonded Warehouse, Bhamo.**—The total value of the foreign merchandise dealt with at the Warehouse for despatch to Têngyüeh declined by Rs. 3.56 lakhs to Rs. 3.62 lakhs or by 49.6 per cent. The total number of consignments and packages forwarded from Rangoon decreased by 330 and 1,371 respectively to 417 consignments representing 1,227 packages of duty-paid goods. These were converted into 3,568 packages as against 7,088 packages in the previous year. Three hundred and two re-export certificates were granted at Bhamo as compared with 562 in 1913-14. The amount disbursed on account of drawback of import duty was Rs. 13,254 as against Rs. 22,367 in the previous year. *Cotton piece-goods* absorbed 88.8 per cent. of the aggregate trade; but the total value under this head fell by 47.5 per cent. Eighty-eight per cent. of the total trade came from the United Kingdom.

ADMINISTRATION.

49. The statement below shows in detail under the several heads the *Receipts and Disbursements* of the Rangoon Custom House for the year 1914-15 as compared with those for the year 1913-14.

Receipts.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Increase or decrease in 1914-15.	Disbursements.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Increase or decrease in 1914-15.
REVENUE.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Import duty on salt ...	17,57,169	18,97,049	1,39,880	Salaries of Gazetted Officers ...	47,893	57,831	9,938
Import duty on goods ...	88,76,365	61,25,072	27,51,293	Permanent establishment ...	3,19,610	3,19,668	58
Export duty ...	64,55,833	43,56,388	20,99,445	Temporary establishment ...	6,936	8,188	1,252
				Overtime and holiday allowances ...	77,885	59,844	18,041
				House allowances ...	20,983	20,912	71
				Travelling allowances ...	1,269	1,262	7
				Value of stores and equipment for boats ...	992	878	114
				Purchase of and repairs to boats ...	1,220	908	312
				Petty construction and repairs ...	1,862	...	1,862
Commission (7 1/2 per cent.) on collections of "Little Boats" and "Mincioy" light-dues ...	558	478	80	Steam launch charges—			
Warehouse rent ...	62,166	50,015	12,171	Salary of crew ...	8,146	8,139	7
Overtime and holiday fees ...	4,511	6,681	2,170	Hire of launch and other charges ...	20,670	23,017	2,347
Receipts on account of Customs confiscations and penalties ...	4,109	3,679	430	Purchase of and repairs to scales and instruments ...	858	729	129
Transshipment fees ...	12,867	15,196	2,329	Rewards to seizing officers ...	1,811	3,990	2,179
Fees charged for services of Preventive Officers and Salt peons ...	2,894	2,269	625	Rents, rates and taxes ...	21,880	22,096	216
Other items ...				Contingencies ...	5,197	5,984	787
					5,88,051	5,31,731	566,320
Total Revenue ...	1,71,77,353	1,24,56,821	47,20,532	Refunds of Salt duty ...	14,521	19,428	4,907
Total Disbursements ...	7,80,219	7,71,211	9,008	Drawback on goods re-exported ...	14,841	6,209	8,632
Net Revenue ...	1,64,47,034	1,16,85,610	47,61,424	Refunds of import duty ...	44,578	61,368	16,790
				Refunds of export duty ...	1,17,915	1,63,688	45,773
				Other refunds (Miscellaneous) ...	818	862	44
				Total Disbursements ...	7,80,219	7,71,211	9,008
MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS NOT CREDITED TO CUSTOMS.				MISCELLANEOUS DISBURSEMENTS.			
Deposits ...	4,788	2,431	2,357	Repayments of deposits ...	2,149	3,909	1,760
Sunday labour, special fees ...	39,550	84,300	44,750	Payments out of Sunday labour, special fees ...	27,850	5,150	22,700
Sale-proceeds of Custom-House publications ...	11,875	13,098	1,223	Printing of Custom-House publications ...	21,439	15,814	5,625
Barges and Mincioy light-dues ...	8,880	6,818	2,062	Refunds of subscription to Customs publication ...	...	602	602
Burma coast light-dues ...	2,47,956	2,08,422	39,534	Refunds of light-dues ...	8,294	2,039	6,255
Madras coast light-dues ...	6,108	6,177	69	Refunds of royalty on cutch ...	4,142	6,904	2,762
Royalty on exports of cutch ...	1,02,193	1,10,588	8,395	Refunds of royalty on lac ...	108	109	1
Royalty on exports of lac ...	12,869	4,477	8,392	Refunds of royalty on Kalaw seeds ...	31	...	31
Royalty on exports of Kalaw seeds ...	5,180	301	4,879	Refunds of Cess on tea ...	12	...	12
Cess on exports of tea ...	6	...	6				
Total ...	4,81,875	3,82,801	99,074	Total ...	59,022	34,573	24,449

RECEIPTS.—There was a decrease of 29 per cent. in the net revenue. The variations in the duty collections have been explained under their several heads in the report. The increase under the heading *Madras Coast Light dues* is due to the frequent changes of vessels on this line and the consequent inability of a particular vessel to take advantage of the rule allowing dues to be collected once in every 30 days of a vessel's run. There was more Sunday work, as it was essential that vessels in the absence of adequate tonnage should work as quickly as possible. The advance in the salt revenue accounts for the increase under the head *Fees charged for services of Preventive Officers and salt peons*. The confiscation and subsequent sale of smuggled tobacco and cigarettes and the somewhat heavy penalties imposed in certain cases of misdeclared cotton yarn account for the increase under *Receipts on account of Customs confiscations and penalties*.

DISBURSEMENTS.—The increase under the head of *Salaries of Gazetted Officers* is due to officiating allowances drawn both by the Chief Collector and the Assistant Collector, and also to the increase of the gazetted staff by one Assistant Collector. A rise in the price of coal accounts for the increase under the head *Hire of launch and other charges*. The increase under *Refunds of import duty* is due to the abnormal sale of firearms by licensed vendors after the declaration of war, and also to a change in the method of dealing with cases where two bills of entry are presented for the same goods. Both parties now pay duty and a refund is given to the party who does not get delivery. The increase under *Refunds of export duty* is owing to the re-landing of rice cargoes from vessels which were chartered by Government.

50. Inspection.—Urgent work in connection with trade questions arising in consequence of the war necessitated the presence of the Chief Collector at headquarters. Inspections were therefore curtailed. However the Custom Houses at Moulmein, Tavoy and Mergui, also the Bonded Warehouse at Bharno were inspected during the year.

51. Cases adjudged under the Sea Customs Act—RANGOON.—Excluding minor cases of undervaluation where amendment was allowed without penalty and also petty breaches of the landing and shipping rules, the total number of cases reported during the year was 153 as against 292 in the previous year. The amounts realised as penalties and extra duty were Rs. 1,757-2-0 and Rs. 5,348-6-0, respectively, as compared with Rs. 1,213-3-0 and Rs. 6,490-1-0 in the previous year. In addition to this, the amount realised from the sale-proceeds of confiscated goods was Rs. 1,547-8-0, of which Rs. 605-13-0 were credited as duty. No cases of undervalued goods were taken over under section 32.

There was one case of undervaluation in which *Bioscope films* and *posters* imported by the parcel post were confiscated, and the importer was given the option of redeeming them on payment of Rs. 300. The penalty was paid under protest and an appeal is now pending before the Financial Commissioner. No other cases of undervaluation are deserving of special mention.

An important seizure of 528 tolas of *egret feathers* was made during the year at the Rangoon Post Office on information received by the 1st Assistant Postmaster. The feathers were found enclosed in 24 unregistered letters and consigned to three different addresses in London. The sender could not be traced and the feathers were confiscated and destroyed. A special reward of Rs. 3,000 was sanctioned by the Local Government.

There were 19 cases in which attempts were made to smuggle in dutiable goods chiefly *cigarettes* and *tobacco*. These articles are obtained free of duty at the ports of Penang and Singapore: and there is consequently a large profit to be made by sales in the local bazaar of cigarettes and tobacco which manage to evade customs duty. It was discovered that the men chiefly involved were the Chinese crews of vessels coming from the Far East. Early measures were taken to deal with this form of smuggling and they have met with some success.

Unauthorised importations of *arms* during the year (of which five were by the post) were mainly confined to *air rifles* and *springs for air rifles and air guns*. They were either confiscated and destroyed or were allowed to be re-shipped.

There were 16 cases of importations of prohibited or restricted goods. Four *hypodermic syringes* and one *spinal syringe* which were imported by the post were detained and subsequently delivered under the Financial Commissioner's orders on payment of duty. There were three importations of prohibited *drugs* by post. These were confiscated. In one case 35 gross *brass buttons* re-simbling current coin and bearing an effigy of the late Queen Victoria were imported. There were also two other cases in which 5½ gross *imitation gold coins* and 5,000 *bronze coins* were imported. In all these cases, re-shipment of the goods was permitted. In another case, 7 numbers of a *proscribed newspaper* were brought in by a passenger from Calcutta. The papers were confiscated and a fine of Rs. 1,000 was imposed. An appeal to the Financial Commissioner was rejected.

SUBORDINATE PORTS.—The number of cases dealt with and the total amount of penalties imposed were as follows:—

Moulmein	...	8 cases, Rs. 50.	Mergui	...	21 cases, Rs. 306.
Akyab	...	31 cases, Rs. 1,135.	Tavoy	...	4 cases, Rs. 45.
Bassein	...	1 case, Rs. 50.	Victoria Point	...	10 cases, Rs. 216-8.

Two of the cases at Akyab relate to the export of *egrets' feathers*; one was detected by the Customs authorities at Rangoon and the other by those at Chittagong on information sent by the Customs at Maungdaw. In the former case a penalty of Rs. 1,000 was inflicted, which was reduced on appeal to Rs. 750. An application to the Local Government for revision under section 191 of the Sea Customs Act, is now pending. All the other cases were petty and do not call for any special remark.

52. Cases under the Opium and Excise Acts—RANGOON.—Fifty-three seizures were made during the year, as against 92 in the preceding year. The total quantities seized were—

Opium	...	9,722 tolas.	Cocaine	...	743 ozs.
Bhang, charas and ganja	...	527 "	Morphia	...	160 "

In 34 cases arrests were made, and in 32 cases convictions were obtained, two cases being undecided at the close of the year.

The quantities of *cocaine* and *morphia* seized compare not unfavourably with previous years, but in the case of *opium* the year was markedly unsuccessful. This is solely attributable to the absence of information. Informers were seriously alienated in the previous year by the

cutting down of the scale of rewards and by delay in disbursement. Rewards have again been on a more liberal scale in the year under review (totalling Rs. 10,590 against Rs. 10,124 for considerably larger quantities in 1913-14), but in the absence of a fund from which to pay immediate advances of reward money, it has not yet been possible to regain the lost confidence of informers. Only nine seizures were made on information. The most important seizure was one of 550 oz. of *cocaine* and 160 oz. of *morphia* on a vessel from China; this was secured by a watchful patrol officer when it was about to be put overboard. Twenty-seven seizures were made by officers examining baggage, or patrolling the landings and foreshore. In 12 cases the contraband was found in parcels passing through the post.

SUBORDINATE PORTS.—There were 10 seizures of *opium* at Akyab representing 5,828½ tolas, in connection with which rewards amounting to Rs. 1,734 were sanctioned. In five cases accused were sent up for trial and four ended in conviction. In three cases the opium was found in earthenware pots with false bottom. In the largest seizure made, the contraband was concealed in one of four cases of biscuits; and in another it was found on board hidden in coils of coir yarn. Three cases of *ganja* were also detected at that port, the quantity seized being 180½ tolas. In one case there was no accused: the others ended in conviction. At Bassein there was a seizure of 172 tolas of *raw* and 119 tolas of *prepared opium*, the accused being convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 200. At the other outports no cases were detected.

53. Working of the Merchandise Marks Act—RANGOON.—There was a great decrease in the number of infringements of this Act in the year under review, only 138 cases being reported as compared with 363 in 1913-14. The statement below shows briefly their nature and the manner in which they were dealt with:—

Class of case.	I Passed without correction of marking or penalty.	II Passed on correction of marking with- out penalty.	III Passed with nominal penalty.	IV Passed with heavier penalty, or reshipped or confiscated subject to fine in redemption.	Total.	Remarks.
A.—Application of counterfeit trade mark or false indication in respect of the person by whom goods were made or produced.	4	2	...	1	7	
B.—Application of false trade description or other indication in respect of the country in which the goods were made or produced—						
(1) As between the United Kingdom or British India and a Foreign country.	33	13	46	1	93	
(2) As between two Foreign countries.	1	1	...	1	3	
C.—Application of trade description that is false in other respects, namely—						
(1) As to the number, quantity, measure, gauge or weight of the goods.	6	8	1	6	16	
(2) As to the time at which goods were made or produced.	...	...	...	...	...	
(3) As to the mode of manufacture or production.	...	...	...	...	...	
(4) As to the material of which the goods are composed.	2	1	...	2	5	
(5) As to the goods being the subject of an existing patent, privilege or copyright.	...	...	...	...	...	
D.—Length not properly stamped on piece-goods.	1	5	9	...	15	
Total	46	25	56	11	138	

CLASS A.—COUNTERFEIT TRADE MARK, ETC.—There were seven cases in this class as against 24 in the previous year. With one exception the goods were detained at the instance of the prior user of the trade mark alleged to be infringed. Three consignments of *perfumed spirit* (two of German and one of Japanese manufacture) bearing trade marks in imitation of that of a well-known Parisian firm were detained. The goods in one case were passed after the offending mark had been obliterated and in one case reshipment was allowed. In the other case the goods were released. Three cases concerned *gunny bags* from Calcutta, *cotton loongyees* from the United Kingdom and *gramophone records* from Hongkong. The goods were released: in one case after the removal of the offending label. In the case of a consignment of *paints* bearing an imitation of the trade mark of a well-known English firm the goods were detained by the Customs on their own initiative.

CLASS B.—FALSE TRADE DESCRIPTION IN RESPECT OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—The large decrease referred to above was mainly in this class, the number of cases being only 95 as against 260 in 1913-14 and 313 in 1912-13. Although the importations from Germany were restricted to about six months of the year, Germany was the chief offender with about 39 per cent. of the cases. About 23 per cent. of the cases came from Japan. None were of a very serious nature. Reshipment was permitted in the case of a consignment of *hats* from Italy and a consignment of *cigarettes* from Bombay. Five cases related to *cotton umbrellas* of Indian make tied with paper marked, "Made in Germany." The goods were passed on payment of penalties.

CLASS C.—TRADE DESCRIPTION, FALSE IN OTHER RESPECTS.—There were 21 cases in this class as against 38 in the previous year. An attempt was made to deal with the practice of importing *short reeled yarns* into Burma particularly from India. Seven cases (six from India and one from the United Kingdom) of this nature were detected: in five deterrent penalties amounting to Rs. 2,108 were imposed in addition to which orders were passed either to reship the goods out of India or break up the bundles before being passed into consumption. In three of these cases the latter course was adopted, in one case the goods were reshipped to the United Kingdom and in one case, in which an appeal to the Financial Commissioner was unsuccessful,

the owner abandoned the goods. Of the remaining two cases, one was passed after removal of the offending label and in the other case the goods were confiscated.

Two consignments of *Kananga Water* from Japan without an indication that the contents were non-spirituous and also bearing labels in imitation of Messrs. V. Rigaud & Co.'s trade mark, were ordered to be reshipped. Other offences related to untrue statement of weight of cakes of *camphor* and the omission to indicate that *water perfumes* made up to resemble spirituous perfumes were free from alcohol and that *condensed skimmed milk* was prepared from skimmed milk.

CLASS D.—PIECE-GOODS, WITH THE LENGTHS NOT PROPERLY STAMPED.—The number of offences in this class were 15 as against 41 in 1913-14. The bulk of the cases concerned *cotton piece-goods*, chiefly from the United Kingdom.

Penalties: The penalties realised during the year in all classes under this Act amounted to Rs. 2,237-8-0 as against Rs. 2,705 in 1913-14.

SUBORDINATE PORTS.—At Moulmein there was only one case and that under class C (1). A fine of Rs. 360 was imposed and the *cotton twist* passed after destruction of the labels which showed a false count number. The case was of interest, as it transpired in the course of enquiry that the yarn was really meant for Rangoon: it had been sent to Moulmein, to be railed on to a merchant at Rangoon, who had lately been heavily penalised at this port for a similar offence. One case was reported from Akyab under class B (1) and two cases from Mergui under class D. No cases were detected at the other outports.

54. *Appeals*.—During the year under review, seven appeals were preferred to the Financial Commissioner against the orders of the Chief Collector of Customs—six under the Sea Customs Act and one under the Merchandise Marks Act. The original orders were upheld in six cases and the remaining case is still pending. There was one appeal to the Chief Collector of Customs from the orders of an Assistant Collector, and three appeals against those of the Collectors of Customs at outports. In all these cases the orders were upheld, but in one case the penalty imposed by an outport Collector was reduced on appeal. Two cases were referred to the Local Government under section 191 of the Sea Customs Act. In one case the Local Government reversed the decision of the Chief Collector of Customs which had been upheld by the Financial Commissioner: and in the other final orders had not been passed at the close of the year. Besides these, there was one departmental appeal by a Customs officer which was rejected by both the Financial Commissioner and the Local Government.

55. *Establishment*.—The office of the Chief Collector of Customs, Burma, was held by me during the year under review with the exception of a period of three and a half months (from 7th July to 21st October 1914) when I was absent on privilege leave and Mr. A. H. Lloyd, I.C.S., officiated as Chief Collector.

Messrs. A. H. Lloyd, I.C.S., and W. J. Ward held the posts of Assistant Collector and Assistant Collector and Superintendent, Preventive Service, respectively, throughout the year. The gazetted staff was increased during the year by the addition of one Assistant Collector, Mr. E. Sequeira, who joined the department on the 10th October 1914.

56. *Miscellaneous*.—Considerable progress has been made with the building of the new Custom House, which is expected to be ready for occupation by the beginning of the next official year.

The casualties for the year were:—three deaths (2 officers and 1 menial), five resignations (2 officers and 3 menials), two dismissals and seven removals (all menials), and four retirements (all officers).

Preventive Officers have been employed continuously since the outbreak of war on the examination vessel in the Rangoon river.

CUSTOMS DOCUMENTS.—The total number of *bills of entry* and *shipping bills* dealt with in the Rangoon Custom House was 99,646 showing a decline by 43,568 or 30 per cent. as compared with the previous year. Bills of entry dropped by 29,377 to 66,500, mainly for *dutiable imports*, which fell by 16,098 to 36,619. *Shipping bills* decreased by 14,191 to 33,146 principally for *free coasting exports*. The total number of *import* and *export manifests* was 2,652, showing a decline of 546 as compared with the previous year.

MERITS OF OFFICERS.—The staff in every department worked well throughout the year. Mr. Manook did very well as Head Appraiser and Mr. Thompson also did specially good work. Mr. Manook again proved himself a very capable and hardworking officer. Other Superintendents who are especially deserving of mention are Messrs. Kraal, Arnall, Vengoo Pillay, and Charles. In the Preventive Service, Messrs. Branson and Thomas did very good work. The services of an experienced officer at the outports have been lost by the retirement of Mr. Nelson, Assistant Collector of Customs, Moulmein, after 39 years' Government service. The work done by Mr. Woodsell at Mergui deserves special recognition.

I am indebted to Mr. Sequeira, Assistant Collector of Customs, for the assistance which he has given in the preparation of this report.

J. A. STEVENS,

Chief Collector of Customs, Burma.

RANGOON, 19th May 1915.

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